Phuket Gazette

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FREE MAGAZINE **INSIDE**



Ahoy! It's Phuket All At Sea

INSIDE this week's Phuket Gazette you'll find our all-new, completely free issue of All At Sea. It's a 16page glossy magazine crammed full of stunning photos, news and feature stories dedicated to the latest marine happenings in Phuket and Thailand.

The magazine comes as the Phuket International Boat Show (PIMEX) takes top priority on Phuket's yachting calendar. The show, one of Asia's must-see marine events, is on right now and continues through Monday until 6pm, at the Royal Phuket Marina.

The Phuket Gazette is proud to sponsor PIMEX and hopes you enjoy our latest magazine, All At Sea. Expect many more special publications in the coming months.

'Trouble by mid-year

Anchalee rallies on Constitution change, red-shirt compensation

By Warisa Temram

LESS than a week after Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra held her "mobile Cabinet meeting" on the island, Phuket Democrat Party MP Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr last Sunday publicly raised a slew of concerns about the national government.

Among her "concerns" were the current redrafting of the Constitution, the multi-million-baht compensation to be paid to the families of red-shirt protesters killed in the May 2010 uprising, right down to rising prices of basic consumer goods.

Mrs Anchalee even warned that she "foresees trouble by the middle of this year" if these issues were not addressed.

"What is frustrating people lately is the Constitution amendment issue. I hear that it has been continually worked on and will be sent back to Cabinet for their approval at the end of April or around the beginning of May," Mrs Anchalee told a small gathering of supporters at the opening of the new Democrat Party office in Srisoonthorn, Thalang, in the north of Phuket.

"This amendment to the Constitution is contrary to the feelings of the people," she said.



Phuket Democrat Party MP Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr delivered the foreboding prediction to a small crowd gathered for the opening of the second Democrat Party office in Phuket. Photo: Warisa Temram

compensation being rolled out by the Pheu Thai government, Mrs Anchalee stressed the role of the Truth for Reconciliation Commission of Thailand (TRCT).

"Research by the King Prajadhipok's Institute identifies that reconciliation requires the people of the nation to agree and accept the same thing.

"If, however, the Commission

On the contentious red-shirt [TRCT] decides on their resolution and abandons the wishes of the rest, I believe there will be an explosion, especially when this issue comes at the same time as the amendments to the Constitution," she warned.

> "This includes the 7.5-millionbaht compensation package to each of the families of the redshirt protesters killed. I am concerned that all this will cause

problems in the middle of this year," she said.

"Add to that the expansion of the 'Red Shirt Village' [project] throughout Southern Thailand. This is not reconciliation. It is to divide people and create disharmony," Mrs Anchalee said.

"Opposition Party leader Abhisit Vejjajiva presented this problem to PM Yingluck. He said that she is a government leader and as such she should be aware of these problems. Just talking about reconciliation does not work, not when her followers keep working on disharmony," she added.

Broadening her focus from political to household issues, Mrs Anchalee raised the issue of rising prices of household goods.

'The Phuket economy is facing the same problem as other provinces in Thailand. The high cost of living is hurting the whole nation. With low season now here, Phuket residents just have to try to survive and get through this period," she said

"The nationwide inflation issue must be resolved before fixing the Constitution or changing the whole political process for just one person," she added.

See 'Battle lines drawn over coup inquest' on page 7

Speed cameras, booze buses ready for Songkran

SPEED cameras are expected to be installed across Phuket in time for the Thai New Year Songkran festival next month, when nightlife venue operators will be asked to provide transportation home for drunken patrons over the holidays.

The news was announced by Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Peerayut Karajedee on Monday.

"The budget request for 17 million baht to acquire and install radar speed cameras was approved by Cabinet during their recent visit to Phuket," said Col Peerayut.

"We are now procuring the equipment

and believe it will be installed next month,"

"The cameras will automatically take photographs if a vehicle exceeds the speed limit, and we will send a fine to the registered owner of the vehicle according to the license plate number," he added.

However, Col Peerayut stressed that the focus of the speed cameras was not on fining drivers, but making Phuket roads safe for everyone.

He also announced that the "Seven Days of Danger" road-safety campaign for Songkran will run from April 11 to 17.

"We will be targeting drunk drivers...We also plan to have entertainment businesses provide transportation for patrons who get drunk. They should not drive for the sake of everyone's safety," Col Peerayut said.

We have a tentative plan to install an automatic speed camera at the Kho En curve, but we will discuss that in detail later.

"We will discuss this matter again at the Governor's 'Meet the Media' meeting next week, when we will probably have a Memorandum of Understanding signed concerning the drunk-driving matter," he added.

- Chutharat Plerin



Industry Office chief Apichai explains how the 300-baht minimum wage starting on April 1 will affect Phuket - see page 11.

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Pushing the limits: IronKids train for the triathlon. Page 47



Blaze engulfs store

Police estimate B10mn in damage caused

By Atchaa Khamlo

A FIRE at a construction equipment store in downtown Cherng Talay on Tuesday caused an estimated 10 million baht in damages, according to Phuket Police.

Cherng Talay Police at 6am were informed of a fire at the Cherng Talay Ruam Wassadu store, near the police station on Srisoonthorn Road.

Some 10 fire trucks and 40 officers arrived, dispatched from Cherng Talay Municipality, Patong Municipality, the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Phuket (DDPM-Phuket), and the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organization (OrBorJor).

A water truck from the nearby Laguna Phuket resort complex also assisted in the effort to extinguish

Access to the fire was made difficult by power cables suspended across the front of the building. Firefighters also had to break though a wall on the upper floors to douse the flames.

The fire appeared to have started on the first floor of the three-story shophouse, which was vacant at the time, a witness told the Gazette.



A water truck from Laguna Phuket resort assisted. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

It took about half an hour for Cherng Talay Municipality workers to arrive, by which time the fire had spread upstairs, the witness said.

It wasn't until about 8:30am that all of the equipment needed to fight the fire arrived at the scene.

The flames were finally extinguished by about 9:30am.

Shopowner Kamol Sawatdeeudom was too busy coordinating with officers to comment or say

whether the building was covered by accident insurance.

His wife was also at the scene, crying inconsolably as she watched the family business go up in flames.

Cherng Talay Police said they suspected an electrical short started the conflagration, which was fuelled by volatile chemicals such as paint thinner stored inside.

One firefighter hurt his hand in the firefighting effort. No other injuries were reported.

China offers highest tourism growth: Poll

THE Chinese market holds the highest growth potential for the Phuket tourism industry, according to the results of the latest Phuket Gazette Readers' Poll.

A total of 358 readers took part in the poll, which ran March 8-24. Readers were asked, "Which of the following inbound markets holds the highest growth potential for the Phuket tourism industry?"

Overall, China was the clear choice among the five options at 48%, almost double the number who chose the second most popular choice, Russia (24.9%).

Less popular choices were "ASEAN member states" (14.5%), "India" (6.1%) and "Eastern Europe" (5%). The least popular option was "Middle East" (1.4%).

There was little change in the voting trend by demographic, with Thais, local foreign residents, and tourists all agreeing that the Chinese market held the greatest potential, followed by Russia.

Voters in all three groups chose "ASEAN member states" as the third choice, possibly reflecting optimism about the terms of the **ASEAN Economic Community** that will take effect in 2015.

PRELIMINARY results of two local elections in Phuket indicate that Phudit "Ko Noi" Raksarat will take over the administration of Rassada Municipality, while Somran Jindapol has been elected Mayor of Chalong Municipality.

Before last Sunday's elections, Mr Somran was the incumbent president of the Chalong Tambon Administration Organization (OrBorTor), which was upgraded to municipal status on October 1 last year.

In Rassada, the preliminary count showed that Mr Phudit tallied 8,728 votes, ahead of 6,484 for incumbent Surathin Lianudom. Officials said 16,425 of 29,568 eligible voters (55.6%) exercised their right to vote. There were 555 spoiled ballots, with 656 people choosing the "no vote" option.



Mr Phudit's campaign poster.

Mr Phudit's win, with 53.4% of the vote, was backed up by a strong showing by fellow members of his Rassadanuwat Group, who took 11 of the 12 council seats in Rassada.

Police presence was heavy at the polling stations. At one station

near the Rassada Municipality offices, police had their hands full keeping one man, who appeared ragged and drunk, away from the registration table.

In the race for Chalong Mayor, Mr Samran garnered 5,118 votes (62.6%) to sail past challenger Thanapong Koudom, with 2,490 votes (30%). Turnout was just over 59.9% of 14,632 eligible voters. Of these, 243 chose the "no vote" option and 331 had ballots that were deemed "spoiled".

The Election Commission (EC) in Bangkok has 30 days to confirm the results.

The Phuket EC office confirmed on Monday that no complaints were filed regarding either election.

> - Warisa Temram and Stephen Fein







The Phuket Immigration Office in Phuket Town will be closed to observe five public holidays in April.

Immigration office to close for holidays

THE Phuket Immigration Office in Phuket Town will be closed for five days in April to observe a series of public holidays.

The Phuket Immigration Volunteers issued a notice that the office will be closed on:

Friday, April 6 - Chakri Memo-

Monday, April 9 - Public Holiday to observe the Royal Funeral for Her Royal Highness Princess Bejaratana Rajasuda Sirisobha Pannavadi

Friday, April 13 – Songkran Monday, April 16 - Songkran Tuesday, April 17 - Songkran The office is also closed on Saturdays and Sundays.

Anyone with urgent queries can call the Phuket Immigration Volunteers hotline at 090-170 7360 between 8am and 8pm. The calls will be answered in English.

Return of the rentals

Thieving female duo targeted Phuket operators, still at large

By Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai

A PHUKET Police investigation led to the recovery of 17 stolen cars in a warehouse in Nakhon Sri Thammarat, including several from car rental agencies in Phuket.

Chalong Police Deputy Superintendent Boonlert Onklang told the Gazette that he initially received two theft complaints filed by car rental agency owners Pattarisiri Manokham and Boonying Thonglor.

The pair had rented out cars to women identifying themselves as Sukanya Janthanarak, 40, and Supaluck Krutmanee, 44. The women left Thai ID cards before driving off with the vehicles, one a Toyota Fortuner rented at 70,000 baht for one month.

The complaints were filed after the return date passed and the agencies were unable to contact the women by phone.

A third victim, Pitak Chansatien, filed a similar complaint shortly thereafter when three vehicles were not returned to his agency in Kata.

"Sukanya and Supaluck came to my shop to rent a car for three days. When the due date arrived, they called and said they wanted to extend the rental period and transferred money.

"They appeared to be quite hon-



Of the 17 cars recovered, several were from Phuket. Photo: Pitak Chansatien

est, so I believed them," he said.

"Not long after they rented the first car, they came back to rent two more for foreign boyfriends. In all, they rented two Honda City cars and one Toyota Vios from me," he said.

All three cars were rented out for one month, with scheduled return dates in mid-March.

When they were never returned, he also reported the thefts to Lt Col Boonlert.

Fortunately, Mr Boonying's Vios had a GPS transmitter, which allowed police to locate it in a Nakhon Sri Thammarat rubber plantation.

Maj Gen Werasak Menawanit, head of the Region 8 Police investigation unit, led investigators to the home of a man named Thanatat Eakkabutra.

"Behind his house is a big warehouse, where all of the cars were kept. Our investigation re-

vealed the warehouse was a pawn shop for cars. If any person failed to return to claim their vehicle, he sold it off to dealers," explained Maj Gen Werasak.

The cars were from many provinces across the south and as far north as Bangkok, including "six or seven" from Phuket. Police seized all 17 vehicles pending further investigation.

Ten of the cars were deposited there by Sukanya and Supaluck, the investigators found.

Mr Thanatat claimed to know nothing about his best customers and said he ran a legitimate business, said Maj Gen Werasak.

"The duo are still at large. We found out that they changed their names more than 20 times, in many different provinces.

"They gave their identification cards to the agencies, then applied for new ones under new names...

"We hope we can find them soon," he added.

After learning that stolen cars were recovered from the warehouse, Mr Pitak travelled to Nakhon Sri Thammarat in the hope that all three vehicles would be there.

"I found only two of my cars. I think the third may have been sold already," he said.

Gang hacks off tourist's thumb in botched snatch



Police question one of the youngsters over the attack. Photo: Warisa Temram

KRABI Police on Tuesday arrested three teenagers and one 20-yearold after the gang cut off a German woman's thumb during an early-morning bag snatch in Krabi Town.

Muang District Police Deputy Superintendent Chatchawan Ninchan said Hanna Zerlaut and Sina Maureen Beckert, both 21, were attacked while walking along Chaofa Road in Tambon Parknam in Krabi Town.

'The two women were walking along the street when Dot and Ae pulled up on a motorcycle to snatch the women's bags, but the victims tried to fight them off.

"In the struggle Ms Zerlaut's right thumb was cut off and Ms Beckert suffered cuts to her right arm and left index finger by a knife

being brandished by Ae," said Lt Col Chatchawan.

The women filed a complaint with the German Embassy, which sparked police action.

The four suspectd were arrested at their individual nomes in Krabi Town two days later.

- Warisa Temram



Silence shrouds death of Swedish man, 35

THE death of a Swedish tourist, whose body was discovered in his hotel room at Kata Beach, has quietly surfaced on Phuket.

The resort involved, the Swedish embassy in Bangkok and police have all confirmed that James Karlsson was found dead in his room at the Serene Resort on March 14.

However, they have all declined to offer any further details about the circumstances under which Mr Karlsson, 35, died.

Emergency first-responders from the Phuket Ruamjai Rescue Foundation were called to the resort at 6:30pm.

Sayan Dharmmapun, one of the rescue workers responding to the call, told the Gazette that when his team arrived Mr Karlsson's body was lying face up on the bed. He was shirtless, showing the tattoos on his right arm and the left side of his chest.

"We presumed that he died about eight hours before we arrived," said Mr Sayan.

The rescue team transported Mr Karlsson's body to Vachira Phuket Hospital. A staffer at the morgue told the Gazette that Mr Karlsson's body was sent to Surat Thani Hospital for autopsy on March 22.

The police officer responsible for the case, Capt Nitikorn Rawang of Chalong Police, confirmed Mr Karlsson's death, but declined to give any details about Mr Karlsson, or to confirm or deny whether any investigation is underway.

Staff at the resort and at the Swedish Embassy in Bangkok declined to comment, saying that it was against policy.



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High power drama solved Military with a bowl of fried rice

A MAN in search of food sent shivers up the spines of residents on March 25, when he began dangling from power cables above a bus stop in Thalang District.

Thalang Police were notified of the man's strange behavior at about 4:30pm.

Arriving at the site, in front of the Tourism Authority of Thailand office opposite the municipal market on Ban Don Road in Thepkrasattri, they found the man crawling on the tin roof of the bus stop, reaching into the trees, apparently in search of some fruit to eat.

From there he electrified the growing crowd - but fortunately not himself – by maneuvering into a lattice of electric cables.

The performance lasted about 10 minutes, until he was coaxed to come down and accept some khao phad (fried rice) offered by a concerned local resident.





The homeless man finally ends his search for fruit and lowers himself to the ground after being offered some rice. Photos: Wichai Witthawat

Police tried to question the man, but found him incomprehensible.

The man was often seen walking along Ban Don Road scavenging for food from rubbish bins and often slept at the bus stop, local residents said.

Nobody knew his name or real

place of residence, if any.

Despite the fact that the man's actions were clearly dangerous to himself, and possibly others, there was no attempt to bring in social workers to get him the help he obviously needs.

- Wichai Witthawat

Phuket offers some refuge for homeless at Mitr Maitree House, 74/168 Phuket City Home Village, off Ruampattana Road in Rassada. The primary goal is to give temporary care to migrant workers from other provinces who fall on hard times and to help them get in touch with relatives and return home. For more information call 089-299 0074 (Thai language only).



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Region 4 of the Internal Security Operations Command (ISOC) has formulated a "Protecting the Andaman" strategy to prevent Rohingya boat people from illegally entering Thailand in Ranong, Phuket and other Andaman coastal provinces.

By Gazette staff

MANAS Khongpanin, director of the ISOC Region 4, revealed that the security plan is to stop the Rohingya from entering Thailand, especially along the coastline of Ranong province.

ISOC Region 4, together with at least 17 other government and private sector organizations in Ranong, collaborated on the plan.

The strategy is aimed at preventing the stateless Rohingya people from entering Thai territory, and helping those who do manage to enter the country to get back into international waters in a humane way.

"This has been happening for more than 10 years. Since November last year, 2,522 Rohingya illegally entered Thailand, arriving in Ranong by boat," said Gen Manas.

"Rohingya always sneak into

our country by sea along the Andaman coast. The first time was in 1998, when we caught 104 Rohingya who illegally crossed our border. After that there were a lot more Rohingya arriving every year, especially from November to April," he said.

November to Maj Gen Manas Khongpanin is April typically tasked with preventing Rohingya sees a weakening landing along the Andaman coast. of the monsoon

weather over the Andaman Sea, making sea conditions calmer offshore – although heavy seas are a possibility year-round due to storm activity.

"The Rohingya usually travel by old fishing boats from Rakhine State, on the western coast of Myanmar, or the southern part of Bangladesh. It is a journey of about 1,250 kilometers to reach the Thai border, and typically takes them about 15 days," he said.

"In 2006, a reported 1,225 Rohingya entered our country. In 2007, the figure more than doubled to 2,763. In 2008 it reached a high of 4,886 people. In 2009, the number fell to 1,477 people, then dropped again in 2010 to just 93," he said.

"I believe there will be more Rohingya coming this year. They are trying the find safe places to land, especially in Ranong and nearby provinces. Their main motive for leaving their country is the poverty and difficulty of life there. The Rohingya people are not considered citizens of Myanmar,"

In recent years the Rohingya have improved their tactics, making them more difficult to track, he said.

"Before, Rohingya typically came in large groups, choosing the mainland as their initial landing point. Now they have changed their tactics. They travel in smaller groups and land on islands first,

then plan the trip to the mainland from there," said Gen Manas.

"Normally they are assisted by human smugglers in Thailand, so we have to try intercept them both at sea and on land," he added.

Thailand's National Security Council tasked ISOC, a military unit dedicated to national security issues, with the

difficult job of developing an integrated and humane solution to the Rohingya problem.

"We call our two-part plan 'Protecting the Andaman'. The first part involves educating government officers likely to be involved on how to react when they encounter people who illegally enter Thailand by sea. In this way they can apply that knowledge as events unfold," said Gen Manas.

The effort also involves the participation of the general public, he said.



plan to stop Rohingya

"We will educate people in areas where Rohingya are known to land, asking for their help in the monitoring effort. If they see Rohingya approaching, they can report directly to us. We have already trained 400 people living in coastal areas and the islands off the Ranong mainland," he said.

"We will also coordinate with fishing vessels working further out to sea to get early warning of Rohingya as they approach our territorial waters. We plan to install radios on every island, so islanders can inform us if they see any Rohingya approaching," he said.

The second part of the plan is the reaction effort. Those who have been trained can be deployed to use 'appropriate means' to stop Rohingya from entering Thailand.

"We expect to intercept Rohingya at Takrut Island, Sinhai Island, Chang Island, Phayam Island and Kangkow Island," he said.

"Any of the trainees who see Rohingya attempting to land must first try to persuade them not to come ashore. They must provide them with enough food, water, medication, fuel and other necessary supplies so that they may continue their journey for another 15-20 days to their desired destination," he said.

In 2009, Thailand faced harsh international criticism when authorities arrested Rohingya refugees and sent them back out to sea with limited provisions. In February of that year the Lawyers' Council of Thailand (LCT) released a statement demanding the government "tackle Rohingya trafficking organizations".

The statement followed a series of conflicting reports of transfers and possible human

"We will educate people in aris where Rohingya are known to day, asking for their help in the rights abuses by the Thai authorities on a group of 226 Rohingya migrants.

In February 2011, following appeals from the international community and local organizations, the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR) visited 33 Rohingya men in custody at Phuket Immigration, who had landed at Rawai the previous month. The UN team then went to Phang Nga to check on the well-being of another group being "held" there.

Efforts to 'repatriate' migrants is always difficult, but even more so when they are stateless. Burmese caught working illegally in Thailand are typically repatriated at Kawthaung, across the strait west of Ranong Town.

This is not an option for the stateless Rohingya.

On November 24, 2011, when a boat full of Rohingya were detained on an island off the Phang Nga coast, all 95 were transported to the 2nd Infantry Battalion, 25th Military unit, at Rattanarangson Camp in Ranong province.

On that occasion, the *Gazette*, which has been monitoring and reporting on Rohingya developments closely for many years, was informed by an official from the camp that the Rohingya had been given a new boat, engine, fuel and enough food and water to take them on to their unspecified destination. Military personnel even gave the Rohingya 20 baht each from their own pockets before escorting them back out to international waters.

In one of the latest incidents, Chalong Police rounded up 90 starving Rohingya who came ashore at Nai Harn Beach. The Rohingya, all males, were on their



Despite facing a grim situation with the possibility of deportation, many Rohingya believe that being held in a Phuket detention center is better than being held in Burmese detention facilities. Photo: Gazette file

way to Malaysia when they ran out of food and their wooden boat began to fall apart at sea, forcing them to come ashore, they said.

However, not all of the refugees were accounted for. One member of the group said that more than 100 Rohingya were aboard when the vessel beached.

Despite reports that Muslim Rohingya invariably try to make it to Malaysia, there is a small Rohingya community living in Phuket, the head of the Police Special Branch told the *Gazette* several years ago.

Many make a living selling *roti*, the Indian-style crepe popular across the South of Thailand.



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Phuket model crowned



'Van' picked up 3 awards at the event. Photo: Miss Thailand World

PHUKET model Vanessa "Na-Chatra" Muangkod was crowned Miss Thailand World 2012 on March 24, and picked up three other accolades.

She was also bestowed the titles Miss Beauty With a Purpose, Miss Top Model and Best in Swimsuit at the gala event at the Bangkok Convention Center.

Winning the three titles allowed Ms Muangkod to be "fasttracked" into the final round of the competition, joining nine other finalists, chosen through elimination from a bevy of 30 beauties.

As winner of the crown, she was awarded prizes valued at more than six million baht.

The 20-year-old Thai-German model was born and raised in Phuket and also goes by the nickname "Van". She earned a Bachelor of Arts in humanities at Ramkhamhaeng University.

Not new to beauty pageants, Van made it to the final 50 round of the Miss Teen Thailand 2008 and to the final round of the Thai Supermodel Contest 2011.

She will now represent Thailand at the Miss World 2012 finals at Ordos, Inner Mongolia, in China, on August 18.

Kom Chad Luek

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Regional mangrove restoration project receives the green light

EFFORTS to restore the lost mangrove forests of Thailand and other parts of Asia received a boost last week when international partners gathered in Krabi province, across Phang Nga Bay from Phuket, to discuss the use of project funding received via Germany's Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The meeting, coordinated by the Trang-based Southeast Asia branch of the Mangrove Action Project (MAP), includeded project partners from India, Sri Lanka and Cambodia.

Thailand has lost more than half of its mangrove forests in recent decades from pressures associated with economic development and, particularly, to shrimp farming.

"Mangroves are a key part of coastal ecosystems and important breeding grounds for fish and other animals and plants. People also depend on them because they provide protection against storm surges and coastal erosion," said Jaruwan Kaewmahanin, MAP's Thailand Field Coordinator, who



Jaruwan Kaewmahanin, MAP's Thailand Field Coordinator.

with MAP Asia Coordinator Jim Enright organized the meeting in

The international consortium will receive 800,000 euros (32.6 million baht) of funding over four years from the Global Nature Fund (GNF) for a project entitled "Man-



EDUCATING THE YOUNG: Ms Jaruwan (red hat) with schoolchildren and their teacher re-planting mangroves. Photo: MAP

grove Restoration in Asia – a cross-national project to exchange know-how and start local action for the protection of climate, forest and biodiversity."

MAP recently celebrated 20 years of work to protect the mangroves. Its mission is to reverse

the degradation and loss of mangrove forest ecosystems worldwide. The organization works with traditional and indigenous coastal peoples, including fishermen and farmers, to sustain and manage their coastal environs.

- Neil Wallis

Phang Nga police raid illegal logging camp

By Warisa Temram

A MASS raid on an illegal logging camp on March 26 by more than 20 Border Patrol Police officers resulted in 13 felled trees and more than 100 logs being seized.

The raid, led by Phang Nga Governor Thumrong Charoenkul, was instigated by a complaint that illegal logging was being conducted at the hillside site, in Khao Krata Thong, in Phang Nga.

When the officers reached the Gov Thumrong said. scene, they found cut logs awaiting collection by the roadside.

Governor Thumrong was joined by Theerasak Srirachaya, commander of the local Border Patrol Police unit. Ordered all roads from the site to be sealed off to prevent any attempt to smuggle the timber out.

"We received the complaint from the villagers along with details and photos of the smugglers,"

"They have been illegally logging [here] for a long time now. We also know that one village chief is involved," he added.

"I have already told the Forest Department officers to seize all the timber here and for police officers to charge those involved with the maximum penalty," he added.

However, officials have yet to report any arrests made in connection with the raid.



Governor Thumrong promised justice for those responsible for the illegal logging.



Quick action averts bad luck for Yingluck

THE bloated carcass of a monitor lizard was hastily retrieved from a swamp at Klong Koh Pee in Phuket on March 19, just moments before the arrival of Thai premier Yingluck Shinawatra.

Prime Minister Yingluck and her entourage were scheduled to arrive at the Saphan Hin side of the proposed Klong Koh Pee elevated road project site at about 3pm.

After more than 15 years of aiting local officials and staff at the nearby Chalermprakiat School were prepared to present the project to PM Yingluck in the best possible light.

They prepared a large sign welcoming her to the area, replete with computer-generated images of how the elevated road would span the mangroves below, turning their daily commute from a time-consuming grind to little more than a walk through - or over – the park.

As the crowd jostled for camera position with the PM's appearance imminent, one reporter



Potential catastrophy quickly dealt with by officials attending the visit.

noticed something floating in the nearby mangrove swamp not far from the welcome sign: the bellyup carcass of a monitor lizard, a creature held in such low regard by Thais that its name hia is not uttered in polite society.

Some Thais believe that the sight of a monitor lizard is a harbinger of bad luck to any and everyone unfortunate enough to view one.

When spoken reference to the creature cannot be avoided, it is often referred to by the more euphonious name tua ngen tua thong (gold and silver creature) in order to avoid a jinx.

Thus, the presence of the bloated carcass just behind a stage the PM was about to stand on sparked considerable commotion and shock among the crowd.

Phuket City Municipality officers were called in to remove the dead lizard, which people estimated to have died at least a day before.

They managed to complete the task just moments before PM Yingluck arrived.

Battle lines drawn over coup inquest

General Sonthi vows to take knowledge of 2006 coup backers to grave, despite pressure

THE coup that ousted Thaksin Shinawatra in 2006 is once again making headlines as prominent figures publicly question who was behind the takeover.

At the same time, proposals made on behalf of a House reconciliation committee chaired by coup leader Gen Sonthi Boonyaratglin are being denounced by the Democrat Party as biased towards Mr Thaksin.

Mr Thaksin's ouster, Gen

Sonthi, returned to the fore earlier this month during one of the committee meetings.

In front of the media, veteran politician Sanan Kachonprasartasked Gen Sonthi, elites behind Sonthi "Were Privy Council President General Prem Tinsulanond and the bureaucratic

elites behind Sonthi and the coup, as had been alleged by red shirts?"

Mr Sanan, de facto leader of the Chart Thai Pattana Party, said that unless Gen Sonthi came clean

AROUND THE nation

and clearly affirmed that neither Gen Prem nor the bureaucratic elite, known as the amaat, were behind the coup, many red-shirt supporters of Mr Thaksin would

continue to believe that they were.

"Was it you, or did you not have any personal motivation?" Sanan asked. "Please speak the truth, or else the public will continue to doubt. Before we can reconcile you must speak the truth and clear the doubt."

Gen Sonthi replied that he could not reveal the answer until after he was dead. "When the time comes it will reveal itself," he said, adding that "no good" would come if he divulged the answer now.



Watchara Kannika (right) spokesman for the Chart Thai Pattana Party, showing support for the request by Sanan Kachornprasart (left) for Gen Sonthi to reveal who was behind the military coup of 2006. Photo: The Nation

Since then, the committee has remained in the headlines. Last week it voted in favor of accepting a set of reconciliation proposals put forward by the King Prajadhipok's Institute (KPI).

Among them was one that would completely absolve Mr Thaksin of any wrongdoing during his tenure as prime minister.

The move led several opposition Democrat Party MPs to resign from the committee in protest.

Democrat leader Abhisit Vejjajiva demanded the KPI withdraw the report. If adopted, its recommendations could herald a new era of political instability, he claimed.

Yingluck charms foreign press corps

'Were Privy

Council President

General Prem

Tinsulanond and

the bureaucratic

and the coup...?'

— Sanan Kachonprasart

Shinawatra, who visited Phuket last week with the mobile Cabinet, charmed members of the foreign press corps earlier this month, when she gave a keynote speech and answered questions

for the Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand (FCCT).

Some members of the club did not expect much from the premier, who has struggled in the past with English-language engagements.

She once welcomed US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton saving "overcome" instead "welcome".

More recently, she gave a Thaigroup of Japa- Photo: AFP nese investors

in Tokyo – without a simultaneous interpreter or translated

But on March 23, PM Yingluck gave a confident speech to the assembled crowd, asking them to

PRIME Minister Yingluck be kind to her, adding the Thai phrase na ka ("please"), which succeeded in drawing a round of

> Nevertheless, through the course of the following question and answer session, she occa-

> > sionally sought assistance for words and sentences that she didn't quite hear or understand.

Shawn Crispin, from Asia Times Online, asked PM Yingluck if she and her older brother, the ousted fugitive former premier Mr Thaksin, were plaving double game in which PM Yingluck presents a smiling face to the public while language PM Yingluck speaks at the annual Mr Thaksin address to a Foreign Correspondents dinner. works behind the scenes to

> undermine rivals and the judiciary in an effort to gain an amnesty.

> "Sorry I don't understand the double game [allegation] because I never play games," PM Yingluck replied, winning applause.

Anti-sex-slavery charity head resigns

THE head of an Australian charity accused of falsely claiming it had rescued hill-tribe children from sexslavery to win donations has resigned, the Sydney Morning Herald has reported.

Sean McBride, said he decided to step down because "personal issues" with people in Thailand were interfering with the Grey Man charity's operations.

The Grey Man says it uses former Australian police and soldiers to conduct rescues of victims of child sex-trafficking in Asia.

The charity entered a storm of controversy when it was accused last year of faking the rescue of 21 hill-tribe children from a brothel.

Thai police claim the rescue never took place.

The Department of Special Investigation is looking into claims that the children never left their homes.

According to the Sydney Morning Herald, the former head of the charity's investigation unit said the Grey Man had exaggerated the success of its operations and changed the ages of victims to make donors more interested.

Mr McBride told the paper he had never changed reports "except to make them more readable and media-orientated".

The controversy is due to corruption and a fightback from parties with vested interests, he said.



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They never cease to Amaze

BY THE time this edition hits the streets, the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Miracle Year of Amazing Thailand "mega-event" will be well underway at the Impact Arena in Nonthaburi, launching the latest in its never-ending series of tourism promotion campaigns.

The four-day event is meant to serve as a showcase of "Thai cultural heritage" and "tourism products" – which have apparently become more intricately intertwined than the cultural heritages and tourism products of our rival tourism destinations throughout the region.

Among the "miracles" listed are: Thai arts and culture, Thai cuisine and "Thainess".

According to the globally-respected Merriam-Webster Dictionary, which may be remiss in its lack of a definition for the word Thainess, the primary definition of the word "miracle" is given as "an extraordinary event manifesting divine intervention in human affairs".

The intrepid TAT, which has a long and interesting history of sloganeering, once again seems to be trying a little bit too hard – either that or something is getting seriously lost in translation.

Does Thai cuisine really qualify as a miracle? We all appreciate a well-balanced bowl of *somtam* (spicy papaya salad), but is the Hand of God really at work here? Or is it possible that the three-fingered lady down the street from Isarn is just on form?

TAT Governor Suraphon Svetasreni revealed in the state-run media that the new campaign "will be implemented with an emphasis on the newness of various tourist attractions, which are expected to give travellers to Thailand an impression of amazement and wonder".

He then goes on to list a trout farm and the koala house at Chiang Mai Zoo as among the featured destinations.

In declaring 2012 as a "miracle year" when we have yet to even finish its first quarter, the TAT is actually taking the miracle business a step further than even the Catholic Church, which investigates claims of miracles only *after* they are rumored to have occurred.

The *Phuket Gazette* editorial writer, like many others, is not immune to falling under the sway of superstitious thought, especially the possibility of setting a jinx on 2012 – and those of us who manage to live through it – by an *a priori* proclamation of the year as "miraculous".

The *Phuket Gazette* would like to suggest that the TAT just stick to its Amazing Thailand slogan: it's concise, simple – and uncannily accurate.

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Acts against Actifed

Re: Gazette online, Chalerm in Phuket: Police to focus on drugs, not closing times, March 20

For me Actifed is almost a life saver, when nothing else works for my asthma, a pill of Actifed gets me through the night.

But now, I have to go to a hospital to get a super expensive strip of the same [medicine]. It's not so good for us legitimate users of the medicine.

Can't authorities tell the difference between normal users and drug dealers? It shouldn't be too hard, surely.

Anthony Bangkok

Not all is lost

Re: Gazette online, 'Naughty' clouded leopard caught, set free north of Phuket, March 20

I hope it [the clouded leopard] was released unharmed.

Well done to the guard for not killing it or selling it to a private collector.

I must admit it's a beauty. Good news for a change; not all is lost.

Gazette forum

Mobile oxymoron

Traffic is such a big issue to the Phuket administration that they have had to request billions of baht from the national government to solve it.

So one cannot help but ask: why are candidates for the various [Chalong and Rassada] elections compounding the problem by sending out convoys of slow-moving pickup trucks with mounted signs and yelling at people by loudspeakers to vote for them.

If I wer a voter and stuck behind one of these "obscenities", I

Letters

to the Editor

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

would be thinking long and hard about voting for the other guy.

Mark Dee Chalong

Leave Koh Sukorn alone, please

Re: Gazette online, Budget breakdown; Phuket to get speed cameras, 'monkey cheeks', March 22

Sad to see the allowance for tourist development on Koh Sukorn, lovely as it is – quiet, relaxed with the most friendly inhabitants.

[It is] my favorite place to get away from the increasing traffic and building chaos of Phuket.

Why spoil all that?

Mike Gazette forum

Where are these eco-sacks?

Re: Gazette online, Tesco launches 'green bag' project in Phuket, December 16

Would you mind following up on the anti-plastic bags campaign, please? Don't let those who should act get away with pretending to be doing something!

I for one cannot see anyone using any reusable bags (there were 800,000 of them distributed?), nor do I see any example Tesco Lotus staff having any training on how to save on using plastic bags, or even letting/utilizing the bags of customers who have brought their own in!

Joakim Persson Phuket

Finnish newspaper trashes Phuket

If you have a chance to read the Finnish newspaper *Iltasanomat*, which is also available in Phuket, you would be surprised what they write about Phuket.

It is sad to read it as the stories are filled with "trash, prostitution, sex, crime" and so on.

This newspaper is distributed throughout the entirety of Finland, and after reading it I wonder how many tourists would still want to come here if nothing is done about it.

Who cares Kata

Killing Phuket corals

Re: Coastal development destroying reefs off Phuket, March 19

To think about the money being spent by the government to rehabilitate and protect the coral reefs of the Andaman, and at the same time read about the construction companies that are cutting corners and not following environmental regulations that would stop the sedimentation of Phuket's coral reefs, is sickening.

The report says, "Massive land development in Phuket province will be strictly controlled by environmental regulations."

I can only pray that those who are to enforce these "strict" regulations will not be the same officers that have been handing out suspect *Chanote* title deeds. I can imagine how cost-effective it would be to have mountain-side erosion from a construction site overlooked.

The fact that all this soil will eventually "suffocate" the beautiful reefs, which draw so many tourist to Phuket, seems not to have been a concern in the past.

Tony Kleinschmidt Chalong

Cultural heritage Cabinet funding fuels road rant SO THE Cabinet came and went, and while here were whisked between bottles and meetings also

PERSON

THESE days Thalang culture is very similar to Phuket culture, but in the past they were different. For example, the way people in Thalang dressed and the way they celebrated special occasions was different than in Phuket Town. When I was young the people of Thalang would still go to the temple wearing Jong-Kraben [Thai style pants] with old-style Thai sleeveless shirts, while the people of Phuket Town dressed more formally.

We at the Thalang Culture Council try to educate people in the community about the beautiful history and culture of both Thalang and Phuket. We want to cultivate their cultural awareness in order to preserve our heritage.

I'm worried that the younger generations, for some reason, have become westernized and are ignoring their cultural heritage.

It's our responsibility to help improve the younger generations' awareness of the importance of our culture and to keep them interested in it. Our council has tried to overcome this westernization by establishing a community learning center, the Thalang cultural model village and organizing cultural seminars, as well as, community activities and exhibitions on special occasions.

I want to organize an "Old



Aumpol Sakuljun, 68, is the Chief of Thalang Culture Council. He spent five years as a teacher in Phang Nga before moving back to Phuket to teach at Baan Mak Prok School in Mai Khao. He has a keen interest in art and Thalang's history and culture. He helps the Thalang community with artwork, festivals and preparing historical exhibitions.

Thalang Town Festival", like the annual Old Phuket Town Festival, because many historical places are in Thalang and it was also home to many of the important people in Phuket history. Unfortunately, we are on such a tight budget and our team is not large enough to bring the project to fruition. Hopefully, someday, we will be able to overcome these obstacles.

Because Phuket is a tourist destination it's important to continue to develop tourism, as well as maintain our local cultural heritage. It's also important to educate locals, especially the youth, about their culture and history to make them proud to be Phuketian.

There are several places one can learn about our local culture and the way of life in the past.

At the Thalang Cultural Village in Baan Kanan, you can see how Thalang people lived in the old days; how they worked; and see objects from the past.

Another place to visit is Thalang

Museum in Bann Tha Rua. It showcases the history of Phuket Island, its people and how they lived when tin mining was the predominant industry on the island.

When tourists visit our community, if locals can tell them about our history and culture then the tourists will take that history away with them. That information will improve their stay in Phuket and make their time here more enjoyable.

I'm concerned that one day all of our local history and culture will be lost if no one sees its importance. I am also worried about the dwindling natural resources in Phuket, because currently much of it's being destroyed to make room for hotels and other similar projects.

I want to remind all local residents to preserve and protect every valuable treasure we have from the past, both cultural and natural. We have to maintain these things so we can pass them on to future generations.

tween hotels and meetings along freshly cleaned and totally empty roads while more police than I have ever seen in Phuket stood every few hundred meters making sure daily commuters did not go on green or avoid the long diversions in order to get to work on time.

I guess this is fair enough, as the Cabinet's time here was limited, but I imagine that if these ministers were subjected to the real traffic situation on Phuket then more may have questioned the priority of speed traps.

Having been a commuter here for a number of years, not a day seems to go by where I don't see an accident either on the way to or from work, and the basic rules of the road are flouted all around me. Sure, one can blame poor driving skills, the condition of some roads here, the weather or even alcohol, but it seems to me the real reason for this is simply that the existing laws are broken with impunity.

When an illegally modified motorcycle is allowed to drive on the wrong side of the road with as many as five helmetless passengers on board, or when buses speed up as a traffic light turns to red it, begs the question whether or not the proposed network of radar speed cameras (that cost 17 million baht) is really an effective measure in improving accident statistic?

As the old idiom goes, "You need to learn to walk before you run", and the basic lack of policing and fines means that no matter



FLOUTING THE LAW: Four helmetless riders pile onto one motorbike. Photo: Laurence King

Island View

By Roy McAllum

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

how many CCTV or speed cameras you put up, if violators are not punished they continue risking their, and everyone's lives.

I believe police doing their jobs with on-the-spot fines for basic traffic offenses like running a red light or parking on the main road would have more of an effect on the carnage than speed cameras.

Of course having a cheap, reliable public transport system, as is found nearly everywhere else in the world, would also have a beneficial effect, but that is opening a whole new can of worms.

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

Rasta all that noise?

The reggae bar in Nai Harn plays very loud music well past closing time, often until 3am and sometimes until 5am. Is there anything that can be done?

> sleepless in Nai Harn Nair Harn

Detnarong Tongjun, Police Officer at Chalong Police Station replies:

The bars there are often allowed to stay open until 2am. We issue warnings to bars that produce too much noise or are open too late. If you have an issue contact Chalong Police anytime at 076-381 247.

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/ **IssuesAnswers**

How to buy an old wreck for the road

Previously, the Land Transportation Office refused to authorize the change of the legal owner on a motorcycle I purchased to repair, as it was purchased after an accident.

I was told the vehicle had to be in roadworthy condition with working lights, indicators, brakes and so on to have the title transferred over. In that situation I had to gamble on the transfer happening after the repairs to the bike had been made.

I am now interested in purchasing a high-value accident-damaged luxury car. With far too much money at stake to gamble on a title change or problems with the title later, I wanted to know what the procedure to legally ensure that the damaged vehicle is correctly put into my name before the very expensive restoration is undertaken.

Performance Repairs Inc. Phuket



VAN-TASTIC: A handyman's dream on wheels. Flora and fauna not included.

Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO) chief Teerayut Prasertpol replies:

Ownership transfers are possible for a damaged vehicle as long as you know the vehicle's owner or the PLTO is able to ascertain if it has a qualified history.

Two matters that must be settled before the transfer are that the seller has the legal right to sell the car, and whether or not any police case the vehicle might have been involved in is closed.

I would suggest that if you purchase a damaged car from an individual or a junk shop you do the following: have the sell/purchase contract specify the details of the damage to the car; take photos of the damage; and then attach a copy of the seller's ID

card, along with the shop information or the house number of the individual selling it to the contract.

for the purchase.

Also you should get a receipt

Then bring the documentation in to us for verification.

After that you can take the car to be modified, but you are not supposed to change its body too much from the original. Once the modifications are done you must ask for proof from the garage that you had the vehicle modified. Once the car is modified you can bring it back to us, so we can check it and register it.

If you are unable to find the previous owner of the vehicle, because you bought it from a junk shop, you will have to file a complaint with the court to have the ownership transferred to your name.

You should come see us before taking any steps in purchasing or modifying the car to ensure that there are no problems.

Exotic fish exports bolstered

By Warisa Temram

IN AN initiative to promote and bolster stocks of a high-value, high-demand export commodity, 300 locally cultivated groupers were released into the sea off Phuket's East coast on Sunday.

Staged off the shores of the Phuket Coastal Fisheries Development Center in Thalang, the release batch comprised exotic varieties raised and researched at three centers in the Phang Nga bay.

Department of Fisheries deputy director-general Cherdsak Wongkamonchoon outlined details of the "model" high-value export promotion project.

"Last year, we were granted a 28 million baht [research] support budget from the Agricultural Research Development Agency, a public organization.

"The Fisheries Research and Development centers in the Phang Nga Bay have each focused on a different grouper variety, each with varying market prices," he said.



Cherdsak Wongkamonchoon

These include leopard groupers (*Plectropomus leopardus*) in Phuket, brown-marbled groupers (*Epinephelus fuscoguttatus*) in Phang Nga and giant groupers (*Epinephelus lanceolatus*) in Krabi.

"The leopard grouper can be sold for as much as 1,200 baht, the giant grouper for 500 to 600 baht, and the brown-marbled grouper for between 450 and 500 baht per kilogram.

"The markets for these live fish are in foreign countries such as Hong Kong, Taiwan and China," said Mr Cherdsak.

"In the past year, we raised three generations of fish for sale to local farmers. The project is proving to be very successful.

"So far, we've earned about 5 million baht from fingerling sales. Juvenile leopard groupers are priced at 30 baht, giant groupers at 40 baht and brown-marbled at 10 baht per fish.

"Raising them takes about a year and requires an investment of about 300 baht. Farmers can then sell the groupers for up to 1,200 baht per kilogram [in export-bound markets].



Leapord groupers can be sold for 1,200 baht/kg. Photo: Warisa Temram

"Demand has been steep and we are not able to produce as many juvenile groupers as needed," he said.

The deputy-general went on to note that ongoing research could help expand profit margins.

"Our research is now focused on feed efficiency. Currently we use live bait and small fish to raise the groupers but we are developing feed pellets that will further reduce [investment and operation] costs for farmers," he said.

Dreamliner launch delays

PRIME Minister Yingluck Shinawatra made headlines in February when she became one of the country's and Southeast Asian region's first official passengers aboard a Boeing 787 Dreamliner.

As reported in *The Nation*, the Thai Premier joined a select group of pilots and Thai Airways International (THAI) executives on a demonstration flight between Bangkok and Chiang Mai, before the 787 continued on to Singapore.

With market penetration that can be described as "snail's pace", Southeast Asia's inaugural 787 flight comes a few years before the innovative aircraft is expected to commercially debut in Thailand.

In light of continuously rising fuel

costs, the extended-range, dual-engine aircraft has been highly anticipated among airline business reps and aviation enthusiasts alike.

American based Boeing claims that the 787 is 20% more fuel efficient than the similarly sized 767, and is capable of transporting more than 200 passengers in excess of 15,000 kilometers.

Speaking with the *Phuket Gazette*, an aviation expert close to Boeing outlined the core of the Dreamliner's innovative edge.

"The 787's fuselage is constructed chiefly from a carbon fibre composite material which is not only lighter than the aluminum used today, but is also much stronger.

"Aside from helping to increase

fuel efficiency, the composite material enables the craft to be able to maintain a cabin altitude of 6,000 feet, regardless of the actual altitude," the source said.

"This is compared to cabin altitudes of 8,000 to 9,000 feet with current commercial aircraft flying above 25,000 feet.

"At higher cabin altitudes, the relative humidity drops down to 4 and 5% and oxygen levels decrease.

"With cabin altitude at 6,000 feet, relative humidity and oxygen are at comfortable levels and you can definitely notice the difference on a 787," the source explained.

However, the majority of Thailand's passengers will have to wait up to three years to experience this difference, since the first 787s are not scheduled to be delivered to THAI until at least 2014.

According to the source, the main reason for the delay is the complexity of the aircraft's dispersed production and assembly chain, as well as a long back log of orders.

"To save on production costs, more and more airplane manufacturers are engaging in 'risk sharing' partnerships. Many of the components are sub-assembled in various countries, with the final assembly done at Boeing's Seattle base, before the craft are delivered to the client.

"With components coming from various parts of the world, the production line is vulnerable to delays arising from technical issues.

"This is the same reason why Airbus had a three year delay in launching its A380," he said.

Such risk-partner models have also been applied to the production of 777s and 747s.

"At first, costs were reduced since they were shared among many partners, but Boeing ended up spending a lot anyway be-



Executives welcome the 787. Photo: THAI

cause it had to dispatch its engineers all over the world to address technical issues.

The current waiting list for a 787 is at least eight years.

At the time of publication, nearly 900 dreamliners had been ordered by more than 50 clients worldwide.

THAI will be leasing eight of the craft from the American based International Lease Finance Corporation (ILFC), scheduled to be introduced to THAI's fleet from 2014 to 2017. The source said that THAI is currently negotiating with Boeing to secure more production slots so that it can purchase four more 787s by 2018.

If the deal goes through, it will have 12 dreamliners in its fleet at the end of six years.

Meanwhile, regional competition looks to stiffen with Singapore Airlines and Vietnam Airlines each reserving up to twenty 787s – directly from Boeing.

"With the rising cost of fuel, airlines cannot afford not to have the 787," the source emphasized.

Boeing's website lists the price of a 787-8 at US\$ 193.5 million (5.9 billion baht), while the 787-9 is US\$ 227.8mn (6.9bn baht).

Though these babies are still several years from Phuket's horizon, the good news is that officials will have ample time to finalize the airport's expansion, among other needed infrastructure projects.

- Steven Layne

In brief...

Sansiri prefab to cut construction labor

PROPERTY developer Sansiri will significantly reduce its dependence on construction labor with increased implementation of prefabrication construction technology.

On-site labor is expected to be cut by half once a 600 million baht prefabrication plant in Lam Luk Ka, Pathum Thani begins full operation this Sunday.

Chief executive officer Apichart Chutrakul said that adoption of prefab technology would triple the detached house production rate when compared to conventional processes.

The company uses the prefabrication system for its detached houses under the Habitia, Saransiri, Burasiri and Setthasiri brands.

The Habitia development in Koh Kaeo, Phuket is being built under its prefab system. If the system is successful, Sansiri will expand it to other brands.

- The Nation

THAI to take on PRU interns in Airline biz

THAI Airways and Phuket Rajabhat University (PRU) have signed a cooperative education agreement to provide students with invaluable airline industry experience.

The initial intern class includes 8 PRU Airline Business students who began training on Monday.

The troop will join THAI's Ground Customer Services team at Phuket International Airport, with training set to complete by May 31.

As part of the exchange, THAI will sponsor and provide PRU with expert lecturers who will take an active role in airline related courses at PRU.



Industry chief: wage rise no concern for factory laborers

By Steven Layne

MINIMUM daily wage hikes effective from the beginning of this month (April 1) will have a minimal impact on the island's industrial sector workforce, the head of Phuket Industry Office (PIO) has said.

PIO Chief Apichai Amonpisut told the *Phuket Gazette*: "The industrial sector employs mostly laborers with advanced technical and education qualifications who earn a lot more than the [new] minimum wage already."

Applicable to laborers in Phuket and the Bangkok metropolitan area, the daily wage increase up to 300 baht represents a 35 to 40% jump from its previous rates in the initial pilot.

The chief suggested that the wage hikes are more likely to have an impact on sectors that employ laborers with less formal and technical qualifications such as construction, fishery and even tourism.

"Skilled labor [who work for more than 300 baht] is in shortage and this is a bigger concern for the industrial sector," he added.

According to the latest provincial industry report, the combined investment worth of Phuket's industrial sector is valued at just over 14.7 billion baht.

As of February 29, 2012, PIO figures list 456 factories registered on the island, facilitating a workforce of 7,604 laborers.

Nearly three quarters of these factories (339) are located in Mueang district, 83 or 18.2% are in Thalang and only 34 (7.4%) in Kathu.

In accordance with the Thailand Factory Act, last amended in 1992, the factories are designated into three categories based on power usage and/or pollution emissions.

Exempt from the requirement of licensing and associated annual fees, the island's light scale industry comprises 47 factories, representing a combined investment of 68.7mn baht, and workforce of 390 laborers.

"These factories are not tightly regulated because they have low pollution output and generally have an operation usage less than 20 horse power," explained Chief Apichai.

He added that medium scale factories generally operate between 21 to 50 horse power but the pollution emissions must also be taken into account.

Medium scale industrial operations in Phuket facilitate a workforce of 751 laborers at 95 factories worth 298.1 million baht.

"These factories must notify the industry ministry prior to engagement and pay

annual fees ranging from 500 to 30,000 baht depending on their emissions output and/or power usage," the chief said.

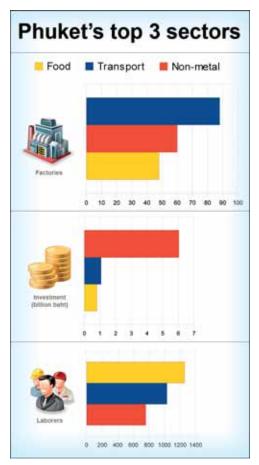
By far, a majority of Phuket's registered factories (314 or 68%) fall into the heavy industry category, characterized by higher levels of pollution and/or power usage – typically operating in excess of 51 horse power.

These high output factories employ 6,463 laborers or 85.2% of Phuket's industrial work force and represent an investment of 14.3bn baht, or 97.2% of the entire industrial sector's value.

"These factories are required to renew their operational license every five years and also pay associated annual fees on the same basis as medium scale factories," Mr Apichai said.

The industrial report identifies the island's top three sectors based on number of factories, value of investment and number of laborers, as shown in the graph to the right:

Transport sector factories include mechanical garages, car body paint shops, shipyards and car muffler shops; Non-metal industry factories include producers of concrete blocks, columns and tubes, as well as manufacturers of stoneworks, glazed porcelain and tile products; while Phuket's food sector includes producers of crushed and cubed ice, chilled seafood and airline food.



Phuket's forbidden industries

FUTURE generations in Phuket can rest assured that the island's expanding industrial sector will continue to be tightly regulated.

Phuket Industry Office Chief Apichai Amonpisut told the *Gazette* that environmental protection is an integral part of government policy.

"There are 16 types of factories that can not be established in Phuket in the future. This [regulation] is designed to protect the environment," he said.

Mr Apichai pointed out that the ban only applies to the establishment of new factories, but does not have any impact on factories that were established before the order.

"In addition to environmental and industrial regulations, new factories will also have to comply with construction and city planning laws," he added.

In accordance with a decree issued in 2010 from the Ministry of Natural Resources, Chief Amonpisut outlined Phuket's forbidden factories as follows:

- 1. milling, grinding, and/or quarrying stone or sand.
- 2. producing pet food from milling, grinding or mixing of plants, seeds, crop residue, animal parts and/or sea shells.
 - 3. producing or distilling alcohol.
- 4. producing ethyl alcohol by means other than using extracted sulfide or pulp mill.

5. non-asbestos textiles, yarn, or fiber by bleaching, dyeing, finishing, fermenting, carbonizing, untangling, combing, pressing, spinning, drying, stranding, winding or texturing.

6. animal hides by fermenting, eviscerating, roasting, pulverizing or grinding, tanning, polishing and finishing, embossing or paint-coating.

7. producing paper pulps using wood or other materials and paper; producing cardboard or construction paper using fiber or fiberboard.

8. producing non-fertilizer chemical products, substances or materials and the keeping, transporting, separating, sorting, or repacking of hazardous chemical products.

9. producing, keeping and/or repacking of pesticides and fertilizers.

10. producing paints, varnishes, shellacs, lacquers or patching, thinners, paint removers or caulking products.

- 11. refining or producing petroleum and/or natural gas.
- 12. mixing petroleum, coal, or lignite products together or mixing petroleum, coal or lignite products with other materials.
 - 13. making cement, lime, or plaster.

14. smelting, melting, casting, rolling or drawing iron and steel.

15. smelting, mixing, purifying, melting, casting, rolling, or drawing metal products that are non-ferrous metals.

16. producing coal or nuclear powered electricity.

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For advice and all the latest information about procedures and regulations for establishing a new factory in Phuket, contact the PIO office located at 48/4 Dumrong Road in Talad Yai sub-district of Mueang district, Phuket Town.. T: 07622-2754

- Steven Layne



Phuket Industry Office head Apichai Amongpisut.



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Google Street View has Phuket all mapped out



LAST week, Google announced that it had released Google Street View for Phuket, Bangkok and environs, and Chiang Mai. Many of you read about the new service but have you had a chance to look at it? Mind boggling.

The Nation quoted Pornthip Kongchun, head of marketing for Google Thailand, as saying, "In Asia-Pacific, Google Street View is available in Japan, Taiwan, Korea, Australia, Singapore and Thailand. In Thailand, the next cities for Street View will be Chiang Rai, Lamphun, Lampang, Nakhon Phanom, Hat Yai and Nakhon Si Thammarat, and also Thailand's World Heritage cities."

Five months ago, we had several sightings of Google cars on Phuket roads, snapping pictures like roses in May, traveling along all of the major roads, and many of the minor sois on the island. The result is something to behold.

If you haven't yet had a chance to look at your street, here's how to do it. All you need is a web browser, and a reasonably fast internet connection. It'll work on PCs, Macs, iPads, Android tablets and phones - just about anything with a browser. The bigger and better your screen, the more you're going to like it.

Step 1: Fire up your browser

Google Maps takes you to an the brown guy turn left or right. overview map of Phuket.

clicking on it. Play with it a bit gest screen you can find. and you'll see how it works.

Step 3:Once you're in the right general area, drag the brown man icon onto the main map. The brown man is above the + top of the zoom-in slider. If there is a Street View

map available in that vicinity, the struction workers. All around the

Step 4: Drop the brown guy amount of detail. as close as you can to the place And that amount of detail is availwhen they drove by your place. larly parks and historical places. which shows which way the very fancy software to support brown guy is facing.

and go to maps.google.com. In map, the top half, to zoom in or the box at the top, type Phuket zoom out (the + and - icons). Grab and click the magnifying glass. the map on top and drag it to make

Step 6: Want to look around a Step 2: Find a location that in- little bit? Drag the brown guy anyterests you by "zooming in" with place you can find a blue line. You the mouse's scroll wheel, by can also make the brown guy "walk" pinching on a tablet or phone, or by clicking on the directional arby using the + and - slider on the rows, or on the ovals, in the top left. You can drag the map by screen. For best effect, get the big-

I think you'll be amazed by the

'It'll work on PCs,

Macs, iPads, Android

tablets and phones -

just about anything

with a browser.'

level of detail in the shots. In the shot of the Gazette offices, for example, there's construction going on in the klong to the right of the main building. You can clearly see the faces of the con-

roads will suddenly develop blue island you can see people, cars, molines where Street View maps are. torbikes, chickens - an amazing

you want to see. (Note that the able in shots on all of the major brown guy can only be dropped streets in Phuket, and many (if not in specific places - you can't slide most) of the car-accessible sois. him along the blue lines.) The At some point Google will return screen splits into two: on the top, with cameras mounted on push you'll see the Street View - what trikes, to take shots of locations Google's cameras actually saw where the car won't go - particu-

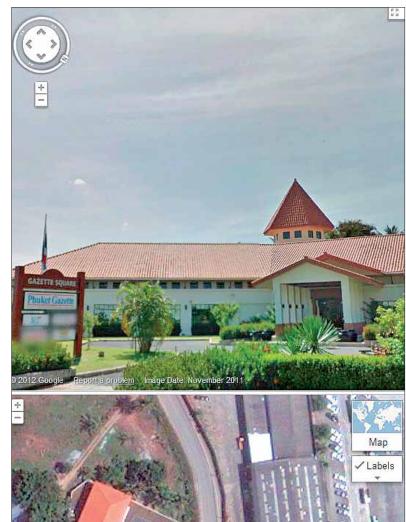
On the bottom, you see a map Google has developed some this effort. As part of the data col-Step 5: Click on the Street View lection, faces are intentionally blurred and license plate numbers - even on motorbikes - are blurred as well. Google may not be terribly concerned about your privacy in other ways, but in the Street View they're pretty capable.

Ever wonder what it's like strolling down Soi Bangla in the middle of the day? It's there. Want to know what your business sign looks like from the middle of the street? It's there, too. How many rental cars are taking up spots on Beach Road? Yep all there.

The web site isn't perfect – I found that I had to nudge the brown man a few times to get the Street View picture updated –but the overall effect is stunning. If you have a friend who's wondered what it's like to travel around in Phuket, point them to Google Street View.

MapJack plotted Phuket more than three years ago, and although they have a lot of fantastic street-level shots as well, navigation is a little more difficult. The shots are considerably older and not as many streets get shot, but the quality of the pictures is outstanding, and they catch many things that Google Street View doesn't. Check it out at mapjack.com.

Will the sudden appearance of Google Street View spur huge gains in the number of tourists visiting Phuket? I doubt it. Several people



ON THE MAP: The Google Street View of the Phuket Gazette office.

ascribe a 25 per cent jump in visits to Pompeii to the release of Google Street View for that area, but it seems a bit far fetched. More likely, I think, is that Street View will lead to visitors who are more savvy and less intimidated at the thought of breaking free from the packaged tours and striking out on their own.

At least, I hope so.

Seth Bareiss holds computer sessions on every-other Wednesday afternoon, from 1 to 3pm. If you have a Windows problem that needs

to be solved, drop by one of Seth's free afternoon sessions, or come to one of our free Sunday morning roundtables at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. Details in the Events Calendar. Sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.

Live Wire is Phuket Gazette columnist Woody Leonhard's weekly snapshot of all things internet in Phuket. Shoot him mail at Woody@KhunWoody.com, follow him on Twitter @PhuketLiveWire, or "like" his page at facebook.com/ SandwichShoppe.



SMILE: A Google Street View car - similar to the one that toured Phuket.



What does the UK budget mean for British expats?



PURSE STRINGS WILL BE TIGHTENED: Poor financial decisions of the past are due for repayment.

Island Investor

By Anthony Lyman

IT HAS come to that time of year again when George Osborne tries to tighten the purse strings for the UK economy and cut down the huge debt levels the youth of today have inherited from poor decision making and fiscal policies of the past.

Inconsequential it may well be to certain socio-economic brackets with Mr Osborne's large outstretched arm unable to ruffle their financial feathers. But if we take a closer look at

what has been proposed, this may have more affect on us than we think.

On first viewing, if you are in the super wealthy bracket and don the colors of say Manchester United or City, then the chancellor has just done you a huge favour in cutting the top rate of tax

now many people in the UK are regularly earning £150,000+ per annum? I can tell you the answer, not very many. In fact it is only 1% of the UK population that have the privilege of earning these amounts.

Back to the real world and what does this mean to the rest of us. As we know, many UK expatriates come to Phuket's paradise shores to enjoy the fruits of their retirement and a tranquil life and it is not only the retired who are flooding into Thailand. More and more people arrive every year to enjoy a slower pace of life or to set up a business with the intention of making this island their permanent home.

So what does the budget mean for them? Well, if you are a pensioner who currently enjoys the UK state pension scheme then you are going to take a hit, the main points for pensioners being; Plans to freeze the age related allowance and an automatic review of the state pension age.

A freeze in the age related allowance sector means essentially is that your UK state pension will be stagnant for the

foreseeable future. The big problem with this is inflation, as the cost of living rises and the age related allowance doesn't, the buying power of your money is going to diminish.

The next is the automatic review of age. As we are all

from 50p to 45p as from April living longer, it is only natural 2013. Fantastic! Well not really, that this will continue to rise. This is not only happening with the state pension scheme, but also with UK company pension schemes.

> Recently Tesco announced that after a review of the pension scheme, calculations on retirement benefits will be increased from aged 65 to 67. You would still be able to retire at 55, however, using the new retirement age of 67 your benefits are going to be greatly reduced. Many companies will go this way and this just shows the importance of reviewing any

pension schemes that are based in the UK and having your own provision in place has never been as important.

On the plus side individual income tax allowances are going up from £8105 to £9205 from April next year. Anyone who currently benefits from a UK pension within this bracket will certainly gain.

If you have a UK frozen pension or are still contributing into this then now is the time to have it reviewed by a pension specialist as the noose keeps tightening around the pension neck. As the pension age keeps rising, more and more of us will have to work longer and longer and will have to save more and more to provide ourselves with sufficient funds to sustain us in retirement.

I, for one, don't really fancy the idea of having to continue working well into my 70s and would like to put my feet up and enjoy the lifestyle I have become accustomed to.

Not only are pensions on the the state pension agenda, stamp duty has increased on properties and to go through each point of the budget would be like writing War and Peace.

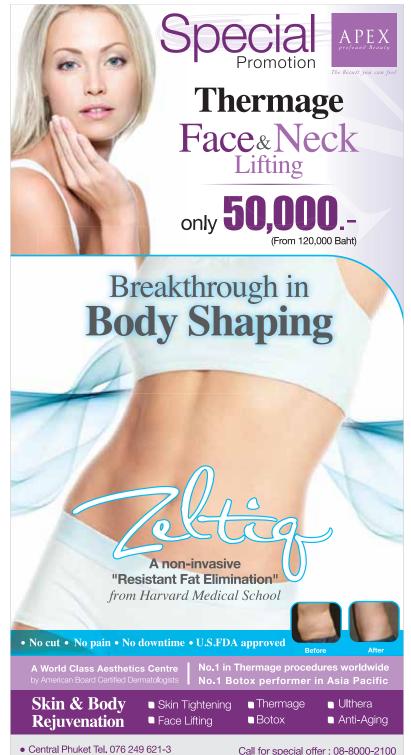
However the points of the budget will affect a very many of us, and they need to be addressed on an individual basis. My main advice is to seek advice

For more information on how the UK budget affects you or UK pension plan please reviews contact Alyman@montpeliergroup.com or you can follow me on twitter @ AnthonyLyman.

Anthony Lyman is a Senior Financial Consultant for the Montpelier Group.



MONOPOLY MONEY: Pension schemes will be hit this year. Photo: moneychannel



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Cruising the Andaman Sea in five star style

THE PRINCESS AND THE JADE GREEN SEA: Five Star Sea Cruises will whisk their guests away to exquisite locations off Phuket onboard one of their luxurious Princess yachts.

By Neil Quail

PRINCESS Yachts recently held their annual rendezvous on Phuket in celebration of their success in Southeast Asia and one company based in Boat Lagoon Marina is testament to the luxurious accomm o d a t i o n

characteristic of these exceptional craft.

Five Star Sea Cruises have been operating their charter business on the island for just over a year and offer their clientele the option of a Princess 54

or Princess 62 both of which are 2011 models delighfully named as *Moon Breeze* and *Merry Time*.

Irina Kiseleva is the company's Russian manager and she explains that the fact their yachts are relatively new has been a notable attraction for potential guests.

"Our customers definitely appreciate the modern appeal of our yachts," said Irina. "There are features on the boats that are very special and ensure complete

safety and comfort for passengers," she said.

Safety for Five Star Cruise's customers is paramount emphasizes Irina, explaining that once they took delivery of the yachts they spared no expense to find the best crew possible and then had

them educated by the Princess company to know every function of the vessel.

"Princess
were very
impressed
with our
Thai crew.
In fact they
said they
were one of
the best
teams they
have dealt

with – very professional and knowledgeable," according to Irina.

STEADY: Onboard technology ensures

quests have 5 star comfort.

Assured of a competent crew, cruisers can absorb the astounding amenities these floating boutique palaces provide.

One particularly hi-tech addition to the yachts are the gyroscopic stabilizers that work tirelessly and silently to prevent pitching and rolling allowing the most inexperienced of sailors a smooth and steady

journey on the seas.

Space is a quality much admired in confined spaces such as boats and it is evident that the modern design of the Princess has taken this into account with more room on the luxury fly deck and entertainment areas.

Up to 15 people can enjoy day charters that take in routes from Phuket throughout the Andaman Sea and are designed with each group's individual itinerary in mind. Overnight charters are also popular taking in destinations such as the Similan Islands and south to Langkawai.

In their brief existence, Five Star's reputation as a purveyor of oceanic opulence has already lapped at the shores of the rich and famous with royalty and stars of Hollywood having lounged on their foredecks.

"It doesn't matter who our guests are," said Irina. "Five Star's intention is for everyone to come away after enjoying a unique experience," she added.

"Whether it's a dinner or celebration, scuba diving, fishing or sightseeing we aim to make it unforgettable." Irina said.

For more information on Five Star Sea Cruises please visit FiveStarSeaCruises.com or email Irina@fivestarseacruises.com. T: 076 272 157 M: 089 558 8811 M: 080 601 7792.



POWER AND BEAUTY: Merry Time and Moon Breeze in open waters.



LAPPING IT UP: Secluded islands are a favorite for Five Star passengers.





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Life & style Shall call him 'Squishy'

When a good King Cruiser dive presents deep sea jellies on a plate



BLOOMING JELLYFISH: The formation of jellyfish blooms is dependent on many factors such as ocean currents, nutrients, sunshine and oxygen concentration. Photo: MaleneThyssen

Diving

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

DIRECTLY in front of my mask, as we hang on the mooring line for our safety-stop, is a small jellyfish (jellies or sea jellies depending on your concern about the misnomer), not a box jellyfish or an infamous jelly-like Portuguese man-o-war washed up from Australia, just a little ambiguous jellyfish. Then through the bubbling of our regulators comes the dopey-baby voice of the blue

tang in Finding Nemo, Dory. "Hey there little guy. I shall call him Squishy and he shall be mine and he shall be my Squishy. Come on Squishy, come on little Squishy," she says.

The safety-stop is simply a routine, a mandatory five minutes spent at a depth of three meters to mini-

mize decompression illness

Aurelia aurita's (Moon Jellyfish) Those stings are not deadly. By: Yosmite five minu t e s

> hanging onto the mooring line in the open blue water above a dive site like the King Cruiser is a time to reflect on what was seen and what is left to explore. A time to

ponder if it's still safe to swim into the car deck, or what s w i m through is worth trying

squeeze into next time – it is rarely the highlight of a dive. Thirty seconds after finding

"squishy" we are inundated, completely consumed, by an enormous bloom of jellyfish. Millions of the small medusoid carnivores fill the ocean, which moments before was Powder blue tang empty blue.

Our visibility is cut by a third from the shear quan- how to prevent the small jellytity of their opaque bodies. fish from getting caught

They're 95 per cent water, but the other five per cent was making a difference.

As the first long stinging tentacle strokes my arm, all the details about the dive on the King Cruiser. its 84-meter hull, the small school of barracuda, the flamboyant lion fish and even the enchanting structure of the wreck itself, flushes from my mind.

Each jellyfish's tentacle is covered with thousands of cells home to nematocysts, which contain stinging threads.

The current presses the small jellyfish against our bare arms and legs, causing the threads to uncoil and the stinging cells to spring out. The venom, a neurotoxin, is designed to paralyze small prey.

A Raya dive master quickly demonstrates between our regulator and mask by placing his hand above his mouth.

The sharp stinging continues as everyone keeps glancing down at their dive watches. Even in moderate pain it is impressive to see the divers' discipline, especially because all I want is to be on the

The heartless creatures (jelly fish have only six major body parts – no heart) aren't letting up. Apparently 650 million years of evolution had taught them plenty about survival and nothing about manners.

Back on the boat every diver is all smiles and awkward laughs from the adventure. The Raya dive instructor is quick on the draw with a spray bottle of vinegar and soon the pain from the stings disappears. Laughing with another diver, we show off some of the thick red welts on our arms, battle wounds from a





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Coastal developments are destroying reef systems

MASSIVE land development in Phuket province will be strictly controlled by environmental regulations after findings that large amounts of sediment caused by construction has destroyed a huge area of coral reefs and marine eco-

Over 250 square kilometers of coral reef surrounding Phuket's Tang Khen Beach had been covered by a massive amount of sediment from land development, according to a study by Phuket Marine Biological Center.

It said that previously over 250 rai of coral reef at the end of Cape Panwa's Ao Tang Khen was alive. However, coral reefs, particularly staghorn corals, had been totally destroyed. It was now covered by a large amount of sediment - from the seaport and building of three hotels in the area.

Niphon Pongsuwan, a coral expert who conducted the study, said he was worried about the removal of vegetation in mountainous and coastal areas, which would accelerate the amount of sediment flowing into the sea.

His team is now monitoring the changing of coral reefs and marine ecosystems, especially in "at risk" areas such as Patong, the north of Kata, the eastern part of Phuket, and Koh Rad. An evaluation will be conducted every six months. Preliminary investigation results have found that staghorn coral can no longer live there due to the changing marine ecosystem.

To prevent further damage to marine resources, Boonchop Sutthamanaswong, Director General of the Marine and Coastal Resources Department, said his agency would talk with the Of-



An aerial photo shows the development on Cape Panwa. Photo: Phuket Marine Biological Centre

fice of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning about stricter controls under the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for land development near coastal areas. He will also ask local authorities to follow regulations under environmental protection announcements.

- The Nation



FISH DISH ONE: Crab tian



FISH DISH TWO: Seabass



 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{JUST}}$ DESSERTS: Those with a sweet tooth will enjoy this selection.



ALL MOD CONS: Tuesday night has all-you-can-eat buffet at a reasonable price.

It's really happening at the Avista Tuesday night buffet

On the Menu

By Sam Wilko

FOR readers lusting after a Tropical Orgasm or two, you'll be pleased to hear that they're available for a mere 220 baht a throw at Avista Resort, located on the crest of the hill separating Kata and Karon beaches.

And if this is not enough, a Lush Love for a comely 200 baht might round the early evening off in grand style. If these cocktails sound alluring to you, the combination of a Tuesday night all-you-can-eat buffet at a reasonable price proved the deciding factor for us and we piled into the car, and drove on hoping for the best.

All it takes to determine the guest demographics of a resort is to simply visit its library. Avista is patronized by a largely Scandinavian clientèle, deduced from the Swedish, Danish and Norwegian titles on the shelves of Avista's compact communications center and so it doesn't come as a great surprise to be surrounded by a host of blondhaired families at the buffet.

Well, despite the enjoyable hill-top location, the resort's signature restaurant is about average in design and decor: All very modern, but not yet possessing a tangible entity or personality. Still, I can live with that, and would much prefer the overhead fans and multinational atmosphere of Avista's restaurant (it helps if you speak Swedanorwegian) to a carcinogenic MSG-laden down-the-road dining experience for a fraction of the cost.

We each launch out in separate directions, my dinner

partner for the red meats and vegetables, me for the fish section. Meanwhile, the kids slurp up their spaghetti Bolognaise and fill up on bread rolls. Yet another lecture to them on the merits of eating fresh vegetables (of which there are many at Avista, but just why the salad sauce section is separate from the salad section is, however, debatable) is dispelled into the night air and dismissed as enthusiastically as they order ice cream for dessert.

The fare is pretty good, although the samosas are a letdown while the Indian tikka is pretty sensational.

We're all enjoying the evening, but then things accelerate stellar-wise when the Moody Band kicks in with several blues songs laced with a jazzy touch and they're simply a class act. The young lead singer and guitarist is a natural and has obviously honed his art with at least a couple of good guitar maestros with the result that it's not so much as easy, as compelling listening. I know of no other resort buffet with a better band, or at least such a talented leader.

As if that weren't enough in the entertainment attractions that Avista offers, Coco the Clown then appears from stage right to do his table-to-table thing, comprising balloon blowing, ear-exiting toys and general Californian wackiness. Excellent stuff; the kids loved it; the adults enjoyed the good house wine and fresh seafood selection and the entertainment was second to none. Grab it while it lasts

Avista's Tuesday night buffet is from7 to 10pm at 600 baht ++ 4/1,4 Leam Sai Road, Kata Tel: 076-298888



Life & style School's out for Songkran



Thais celebrate the New Year in Chiang Mai during Songkran Festival. Photo: Wyndham Hollis

In the Classroom

By Eric Haeg

SCHOOLS across Phuket have recently ended the Thai school year and will soon provide teachers with a well earned paid break over Songkran.

Yet not every foreign teacher has the money to return to their country of origin to visit family or take a trip to exotic destinations. Some teachers will even use this time for a bit of extra teaching and may only have a short break before returning to work in preparation for the next academic year. This being the

case, we've decided this month to break from In the Classroom's traditional topics in order to highlight a relevant issue to teachers across Phuket: affordable domestic holiday destinations.

Songkran in Chiang Mai

If you enjoy Songkran, you'll love it in Chiang Mai. Nowhere in the Kingdom is the Thai New Year celebrated with more splashes of enthusiasm than in Thailand's northern capital. The experience should also allow for a more authentic view into Songkran's traditions. Sure, airfare to Chiang Mai can get pricey in April but a ticket to Bangkok and then a bus or train further north can save money and add to the adventure,

KEEHIN

just get your tickets early. All in, four or five nights of super-soaking celebration doesn't have to cost more than about 12,000 baht (US\$

Bangkok or Bust

With the exception of Khao San and Silom, Bangkok in mid-April is a bit like London's empty streets in the movie 28 Days Later. Okay, so it's not exactly a ghost town but with so many residents leaving to visit family in other provinces, Bangkok's buzz quiets to a low hum during Songkran. Free of the typical traffic jams and nauseating noise pollution, Bangkok gives visitors the chance to see a refreshingly different side to the megalopolis that is Krung Thep. Return airfare between HKT and BKK was 4,500 baht (US\$ 150) at the time of publication.

Khao Sok National Park

Fewer than three hours away by car, many of Phuket's adventurous teachers have already seen Khao Sok's splendor. From hiking into the jungle to catch a glimpse of the Rafflesia, the world's largest flower, to river rafting and stunning boat tours of Cheow Larn Lake, the park offers natural beauty not found on Phuket. While visiting, take advantage of the chance to sleep in a tree house bungalow or at the stunning, yet moderately priced Cliff and River Jungle resort. Taking a bus up to the park and staying in modest accommodation means teachers won't have to spend much more than 5,000 baht (US\$ 165).

Koh Yao Noi

After dealing with screaming kids and the stress of teaching every day, there is no better place to unwind and relax than on the truly idyllic island of Koh Yao Noi. Most roads were paved only recently and visiting the main town is like taking a step back in time.



Stop in and say hello to some of the local children of Koh Yao Noi.



Take a trip to the Koh Yao Chilidren's Center while unwinding on the idyllic island. Photos: Eric Haeq



Kao Sok Cliff area, where you can spend the night in a jungle bungalow.



Kao Sok National Park, in Surat Thani province. Photo: Guyon Moree

While the island offers plenty to do, its main attraction is the ability to do nothing but unwind. For a more adventurous time, there are longtail boat, cycling and sea kayaking tours. Local residents are very friendly and still greet visitors with a smile. Cheap accommodation options are basic and will run only 500 baht a night and the slow boat from Bang Rong pier only sets passengers back 120 baht. When traveling through Thailand for their Songkran break, teachers would

be wise to bring their work permits and tax cards. These documents, plus a smile and basic Thai language skills should be sufficient to secure entrance to national parks and other attractions for Thai prices rather than tourist prices.

Whether splashing out in Chiang Mai or hopping over to Koh Yao Noi, hopefully the Songkran holiday and some well deserved time off will allow Phuket's teachers to come back to class rejuvenated and ready for the next academic year.

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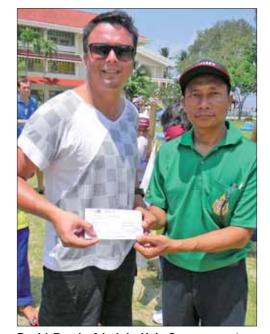
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Life & style Environment Surviving Kamala



David Boyd of Indola Hair Care presents a check for 30,000 baht to Headmaster Sawat Bunjongpas of the Rachaprachnykroh School in Kamala to repair the water filtration system.

By Bruce Stanley

WHEN the Indola hair care company in Sydney, Australia, was planning to take some of their hair salon clients on an overseas adventure for 2012, they decided to include Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), as part of the program.

"Indola is a major hair care company with products sold in 56 countries," explains David Boyd from Indola. "Every year we take a group of clients to a new destination to show appreciation for their business. Last year, we took a group to Waikiki Beach in Hawaii and had a great time. We have been wanting to bring a group to Thailand for 10 years, but have been waiting for the right time for political stability and a period of calm and safety. This year, we decided the time was finally right."

David contacted Axis Events in Australia to organize the Thailand trip who arranged for five days at Le Meridien, dinner at Boathouse and a day of Survivor challenges with the children at the Rachaprachnukroh School, better known as the Kamala School, for team building and cross cultural activities.

Megan Isles from Axis Events accompanied the 40 owners of hair salons in Sydney who use Indola products.

"We chose to bring these clients to



SURVIVORS: Headmaster Sawat Bunjongpas of Kamala School with visiting Indola guests.



POLE POSITION: Kamala kids enjoing games.

Phuket to visit Phang Nga Bay, have dinner on the beach and have meaningful contact with local children with need. I chose our Phuket associates, Pacific World, to make the local arrangements. They contracted Coral Seekers, one of the island's major event organizers to lead a day of competitive fun, Youth Survivor, at the school."

Coralseekers' Stuart Clark and Cathy Coles-Clark manage many of the company's

"We had a group of 60 students who were divided into teams with partners from the Indola incentive group. We enjoyed team building activities, some mental and some physical but all fun. The Survivor games



Cathy and Stu Ckarke of Cotal Seekers

were aimed at bringing the students together to communicate and co-operate with one another giving all participants a new and exciting experience," said Cathy.

Also joining in the day's fun were the staff of Phuket Has Been Good to Us Foundation who provide English language training for all of the school's 900 students ranging from five to 18 years old. In addition they organize the Coconut Club that encourages community volunteers to help with the after school programs.

'We sincerely appreciate all the attention and assistance we receive. Local hotels and the Phuket International Academy invite our children to their swimming pools for free



Carl Osmar, director of education for Phuket Has Been Good to Us (left) with Sawat Bunjongpast, Headmaster of Rachaprachnukron School, receiving gifts from Indola's David Boyd with Cathy Coles-Clark of



Students at Rachaprachnukroh School (above and left) compete in teams in Youth Survivor games organized by Coralseekers.

lessons," smiles Sawat Bunjongpas, Headmaster of Kamala School. "Because of these programs, our students will be able to compete in life and have successful careers when they are older."

At the end of the Junior Survivor activities, Indola's David Boyd presented a check for 30,000 baht to the Kamala School to help improve the property's water filtration system and to repair plumbing.

These types of CSR events are made possible by the efficient co-operation and organization of companies, event planners and local suppliers including hotels and tour operators. It means good business with a worthy contribution to Phuket.

Who turned out the lights?

tween 7:30 – 8:30pm on March 31 and you might see a few stars as lights go out across the island of Phuket, joining people around the world for Earth Hour.

Organized by World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Earth Hour began in 2007 as a way for individuals to show how simple steps can make a significant impact on reducing greenhouse gases and addressing climate change. The event has turned into a movement.

More than 5,200 cities and towns in 135 countries worldwide switched off their lights for Earth Hour 2011 involving a total of 1.8 billion people - a powerful message for action on climate change.

It also ushered in a new era of members going "Beyond the Hour". The "I will if you will" campaign encourages people to dare one another to commit to lasting change for the planet.

Locally, Earth Hour has its own dedicated Phuket website: www.earthhourphuket.com that

WALK outside and look up be- lists sponsors, ways to contribute and gives open-source HTML code for business that would like to put an Earth Hour banner on their websites.

In tourism, The Hilton Phuket Arcadia and many of the more than 3,800 hotels that are part of the Hilton Worldwide portfolio of brands are expected to take part in this event that will mobilize more than one billion people worldwide.

In 2004 Thailand ranked 23rd in world electricity consumption consuming 118.762 billion kilowatt-hours, according to the United Nations Statistics Division.

With more than 70% of the world's CO2 emissions generated by cities, the Earth Hour City Challenge has been created to reward pioneering cities that are leading the way towards a fully sustainable future.

In Phuket, Earth Hour is officially recognized and supported by the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) and the Electricity Generation Authority of Thailand (EGAT).



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It's all go for Hugo

Hugo Chakrabongse gives an exclusive interview to the Phuket Gazette and also learn why he has been asked to leave his hat at the Hard Rock Cafe.

By Marc Mulloy

SATURDAY night at the Hard Rock Cafe in Patong and a young man steps out onto the stage armed with his trademark stetson hat, a Gibson guitar, a new band and some sultry killer tracks from his first solo album. Hugo is back home in Thailand and performing for the first time here since 2005.

Hugo Chakrabongse is totally bilingual, being from an aristocratic half Thai and half British background. A decade ago he was the frontman for the Thai band Siplor after having some success as a TV and film star before disappearing from the local media spotlight.

Fast forward to last year when, after joining Jay-Z's Roc Nation, he released his first English language solo album titled *Old Tyme Religion* tracks of which have been featured on the David Letterman Show and several movies and TV commer-

cials. Hugo has not only been able to make his name abroad, after the successful charity concert he donated his stetson hat and a signed guitar to the Hard Rock Cafe's own hall of fame.

Phuket Gazette: Given your multicultural background describe the influences on your music?

Hugo: In a broad way I've always had a love affair with mid 20th century American music. I'm like a lot of the older generation of British rock and pop stars who look to the music of Memphis and that whole explosion and golden age of recorded and live electric music.

The music of my parents' generation: Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen and Neil Young are a huge influence and obviously the Beatles.

Then later on the music of my generation: Michael Jackson and later Guns 'n' Roses and Nirvana, but only as I became a musician did I start to trace the roots and



HUGE SUCCESS: Hugo's first Thai concert since 2005 featured songs in both English and Thai. Photos: Christian Mouchet

structure of music that I really liked and of course it led back to the Mississippi Delta – the source

PG: There's a song on your album called Mekong River Delta, do you find a similarity there?

Hugo: Yeah, a swamp is a place where man's mastery over nature is not complete, where there is a sense of foreboding, but also beauty and heat and a slight feverishness that I can relate to.

Thailand is unique in that it has

this link to America through the Vietnam war. Thailand got an injection of American culture at an interesting time, the late 60s, that left a lasting legacy. Thais are very outward looking and appropriate things from other cultures far more readily than maybe people from other Asian countries. The perfect example of this is the group Carabao and the golden age of Thai pop music where these musicians, who had cut their teeth playing for westerners, somehow got their influence from that dark time. From the swamp came something positive.

PG: When did you know that you

had to be a musician and what sacrifices did you have to make?

Hugo: At 18 it seemed there were no sacrifices – it seemed the perfect profession. wanted to be in

a band for the lifestyle and that's how Siplor came to be. I had to make some career changes like cut off acting to focus on music. I was pretty opportunistic about it at the time but now I feel privi-

leged to be a working musician. The sacrifices I make now involve being away from my family and being on the road in America. It's very manual and involves a lot of driving and loading and unloading. Sometimes it's more like a delivery job – you only play for half an hour and spend the other 23 and a half hours driving and carrying things.

PG: So when did you go solo? **Hugo**: I was invited to work in the

UK by a songwriter named Amanda Ghost who had heard a cut I did on a 2004 tsunami charity album. The track, called 26.12.04, was my first song in English.

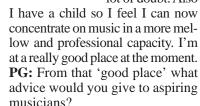
I went to the UK, wrote a couple of songs with her and returned to complete the fouth Siplor record. A couple of months later I was offered a full Faustian contract, one of the last old school record contracts because this was before 2007 when the music industry finally realized that the record business as they knew it was over.

PG: Your lucky break came when you went to the USA. Do you think that a musician needs to break into that market to be a success?

Hugo: It depends on what your aspirations are. America is the single biggest market for English language three-minute and thirty second pop songs because of its size and the number of big cities. PG: You are now back in Thailand for the first time since the album Old Tyme Religion. How does that feel?

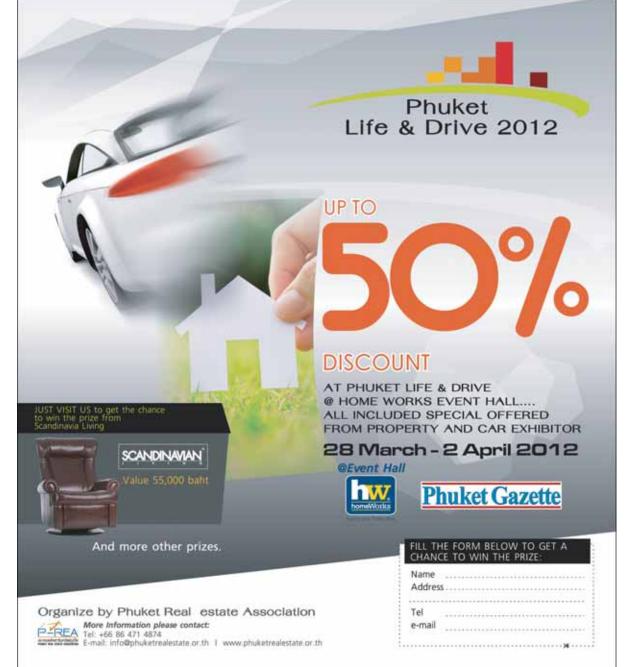
Hugo: It's great. I feel like I'm com-

ing home and it's vindication of a few decisions I made, the first being to turn my back on a lot of stuff and to leave my friends in the band. There's now closure on a Hugo donated his hat to HRC Phuket lot of doubt. Also



Hugo: Be honest with yourself about what it is you want. If you want fame and money then know that you're probably not going to get it because that desire won't sustain you. Once you get it, it won't mean anything to you so if you want to be in music, love the process. New technology makes it easy to make a great sounding record for next to nothing while holding down another job. If you want to get rich there are easier ways to make money without going through the heartache of the entertainment business.

The full interview with Hugo will be available online next week at PhuketGazette.net/phuketlifestyle. For more information on Hugo or the Hard Rock Cafe Phuket visit: Hugoofficial.com or Hardrock.com/



Wittaya 'Sumon' Singkalah

STANDING at 1.85 meters tall. Wittaya 'Sumon' Singkalah is not your average Thai guy. It is just as well for his long limbs and strong physique do come into good use when engaging in his passion of big and powerful motorcycles.

One of the organizers of Phuket Bike Week 2012, MD of West Coast Ride Thailand, and publisher of Ride Thailand Magazine, Sumon, who has been in the big bike business for over two decades, is affectionately known to most people as Mr Motorbike. At 19, he bought his first Harley Davidson – a 1972 Low Rider.

"The rush of riding on one of these powerful machines is indescribable, but for me it was also the freedom it gives to explore the world. My intention then was to cover all the roads and routes in Thailand, so twice a year my friends and I would set off for a three-months riding spree and recorded the stuff we encountered on the road – the experiences, the land and the people. It was fun, but my life really started when I ventured out of Thailand, riding through all the Southeast Asian countries. As an island boy, that really opened my horizons," reveals Sumon.

Throughout this time, Sumon kept a detailed log of his journeys, and as the desire to share his experiences grew, he started the quarterly Ride Thailand magazine



in 2001. This monthly glossy is now published in Thai and English and features reviews of new products, biking events, trips, personalities and motor sports around SE Asia. According to Sumon it is a "definitive read for all big bike riders in Thailand".

"I see my magazine as an open forum for teenagers seeking other thrills rather than drugs. I consider myself a big brother in the field of motorcycles and I write constantly about the healthy lifestyle a biker needs to lead. You won't last under a scorching sun if you drink and smoke and have little sleep. Through my articles, I try to convince teenagers that motorbikes are better than drugs."

His concern for young people may have something to do with the fact that he has a teenage son who is in a boarding school in Penang. "He loves big bikes of course. I'll let him ride one over to Phuket when he's old enough," said Sumon. A divorcee, he talks about his 17-year-old son with affection.

At the same time as the inception of his magazine, Sumon opened West Coast Ride Thailand, Phuket's only specialist dealer and service center for big motorcycles. Apart from the gleaming and formidable-looking machines on show, there is a small coffee shop where riders meet, a "home for the community of bikers", according to Sumon.

With the Phuket Bike Week (April 20-22) looming, Sumon, who is this year's Operator and Coordinator, is busier than ever. It is expected that over 6,000 rumbling big bikes and around 50,000 tourists from 26 countries will be descending on Phuket to enjoy this big and colorful event.

"I consider Phuket an ideal spot for the Bike Week event for a few reasons: its beauty; the quality of its people who are already in the hospitality business; and the location which is convenient for our southern neighbors as well as riders from other parts of Thailand. You really can't beat Phuket."

This year's event, entitled 18th Phuket Bike Week 2012 - ASEAN Ride Together, has a special meaning for Sumon. He looks forward to the inception of ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) Economic Community in 2015 with enthusiasm.

"Soon all the roads of our ASEAN nations will be but one continuous route. The boundaries will come down as we ride through these countries with total freedom," says the 41-year-old biker.



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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Pre-event story 2	✓	1	V	1	1	1	1	1				
Post-event	✓	1	1	1				✓		/		
Advertising, full color	✓	1	1	1				1				
Events Flyer – every week!	✓											
'What's On' page x 1	✓	V	V	1				V				
Website Events Calendar, every	week until	event	closed	out!	1	1	V					
PGTV – Daily spot – 30 sec					√ (1)	(1)					(2) (3)	
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Radio promotion – Spots / Ment	ions / Inte	rview			1							1
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^{**} The Gazette Online enjoys the highest Google traffic and 'page importance' rankings of any website in or about Phuket.

⁽¹⁾ Continuous, all day

⁽²⁾ in a half hour show running 3 times / day

⁽³⁾ Continuous on CCTV systems in 4,000 four and five star hotel rooms

March 31 - April 6, 2012 PHUKET GAZETTE 23

WHAT'S ON in Phuket

March 31-April 1, 5-9pm: Boat Lagoon Weekend Market at Phuket Boat Lagoon Marina, Koh Kaew

Come along and buy or sell or even barter! Whether you have home made goods to sell, boat parts to barter or are simply looking to pick up a bargain, this is the ideal location to spend a few weekend hours. Clothing, Jewelry, Crafts, Household Goods, Boat Parts, used goods, Car Boot & Garage Sale, Food & Beverage and lots, lots more, including a live entertainment & bar area. Conveniently located in the Boat Lagoon, with easy access, toilet facilities and lots of free parking. Individual covered booths with electric power available for rent in dedicated zoned areas. Only 100 baht per day. Contact 088-876 0471. The Boat Lagoon Weekend Markets are proudly sponsored by the Phuket Gazette.

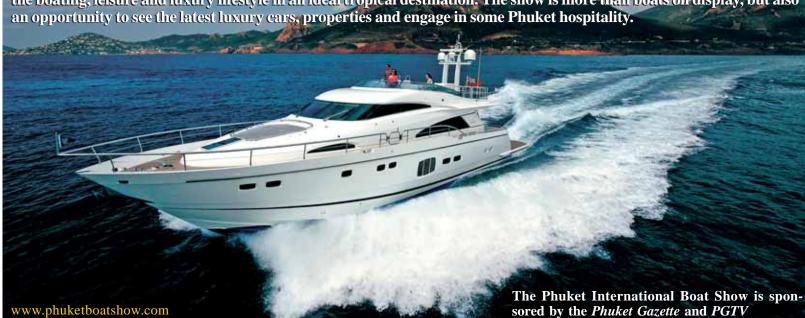
April 1, 12-3pm: Sunday Family Lunch at Mare Italian Restaurant Centara Grand

The Mare Restaurant at the Centara Grand Beach Resort Phuket is proud to present Phuket's most extensive Sunday Family Lunch! Come and enjoy this spectacular lunch on the first and third week of every month. Savor a fabulous meal accompanied by our music band from 12-3pm. We have a kiddies' corner with games and activities that they will love! Your whole family is invited to enjoy our swimming pool,

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March 29 – April 1, 11am-8pm: Phuket International Boat Show (PIMEX) 2012 at Royal Phuket Marina

Now in its ninth year, PIMEX is an established and successful event in the marine and leisure calendar. PIMEX 2012 has big plans for 2012 as the on-water displays increase and the exhibition hall includes a greater diversity of displays from as far afield as China, Australia, Italy and France. Like its location, PIMEX is a relaxed event where participants celebrate the boating, leisure and luxury lifestyle in an ideal tropical destination. The show is more than boats on display, but also an opportunity to see the latest luxury cars, properties and engage in some Phuket hospitality.



kid's pool, lazy river, jumping cliff and water slides! 990 baht per person, including soft drinks. Free for children under age 5 and half price for children ages 6-12.

April 4, 6pm-1am: Tex-Mex at Two Chefs Karon

Now we start our very popular weekly Tex-Mex again. Every Wednesday we present for you the biggest Tex-Mex buffet on this island. This year we also have a free flow option for you. As every night, our Two Chefs' house band will be there to entertain. All this for only 495 baht, and for 795 baht you can drink as much as you

want from our free flow options. www.twochefs.com

April 5-7, 12:30pm-midnight: Phuket Oilfield Classic 2012 at the Phunaka, Red Mountain & Loch Palm

The 4th Annual Phuket Oilfield Classic Charity Golf Tournament will take place in Phuket from 5th-7th April 2012. Over 200 overseas visitors are expected to visit the island for this event, and with the backing of local companies and the local community we hope to outdo our past fundraising efforts for local educational scholarships. We have amazing prizes this year, including 2 tickets to anywhere in the world with Qatar Airways and a trip to South Africa. If you would like to participate or would like any information. please contact us and we will be happy to answer any questions. This event is sponsored by *PGTV* and the Phuket Gazette.

April 5, 6pm-1am: Easter at Two Chefs Kata Center

This year's annual Easter celebration will be held at Two Chefs Kata Center. There will be a big buffet with loads of Easter food including Easter Ham, Rabbit Stew, Smoked Salmon, Pork Tenderloin and so much more. Don't worry about bringing the kids —

there will be things for them to do, such as egg painting and a lot of other stuff. Our Two Chefs house band will be there to entertain you until late. All this for only 595 baht, and just 295 baht for kids up to 12-years-old.

April 6, 7-10pm: Special Indian Feast Promotion at the Les Anges, Royal Phuket Marina

Royal Phuket Marina is pleased to introduce you to our new Special Promotion: "Come 4, Pay for 3". This gives you a 25% discount on our buffet and 10% on the listed menu, every Friday night from 7-10pm. This Authentic Home-Made Indian Buffet will be prepared and served by our very own in-house Indian Chef, Padum Kahtri. Only 495++ baht per person. Reservations are recommended, so please

call Les Anges on 076-360803 or Mr Murat on 081-797 3364.

April 6, 7-11pm: Curry Fridays at Navrang Mahal Indian Restaurant, Karon Sea Sands Resort & Spa

We present Curry Fridays at Navrang Mahal India Restaurant. Here is your chance to enjoy an authentic and lavish Indian Curry Buffet every Friday. Selections include all-time favourite 'Chicken Tikka Masala', very hot ' Mutton Vindaloo', succulent Kebabs, Goan Fish Curry and much more... served with Nan bread and Basmati rice. All you can eat for only 449 baht nett! Draught Beer by the glass just 50 baht nett. Special discount on beverages. For reservations, please call: 076-286464, ext 4.

Phuket Afternoon Computer Clinic

Is Windows driving you NUTS? Looking for a good internet connection? Need to know how and where to get your PC repaired, or your confounding questions answered? Drop by the new Afternoon Computer Clinics, hosted by Woody Leonhard and Seth Bareiss. Bring your computer. Bring your questions. Bring your sense of humor and let's see if we can solve your PC problems. Second and fourth Wednesday of every month. Sponsored by Woody's Sandwich Shoppes and the *Phuket Gazette*.

April 4. Sandwich Shoppe Patong Starts at 1 to 3pm

Contact at 076-282403, Woody@KhunWoody.com or visit KhunWoody.com.

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CENTRAL LOCATION: The opening ceremony of Central Residences was held on March 26. Sitting from left are Jan Schuurs, Eric Smulders Van Heer Janspolde and Jacky Bas Roest, and standing from left Yulan Pan and Uraiphan Saesin, the owner of the 42 luxury apartments.



HANDS ON: Laguna Phuket gave a visiting Russian media group a taste of the resort's luxury facilities during their stay at Angsana Laguna Phuket and Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket. From left, Victoria Bogdanovskaya of Glamapple; Gulnara Nasyrova of Collezioni; and Marina Petrova of Dorogoe Udovolstvie are pictured learning the secrets of Thai cuisine from Dusit Thani Executive Sous Chef Pachon Pachkam.



HEEBIE JEEBIES: 3 year old Pasoot (IT) luengcharoenwatana (left), and Elizabeth (Bua) McCain, 2 years old, at a Kanjonkiet school visit to the Butterfly farm.



VELKOMMEN: Mr Elyes Ben Brahim (left), the GM of The Imperial Adamas Beach Resort Phuket and his team welcome Madame Rattanawadee Hemniti Winther and HE Mikael Hemniti Winther, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to The Royal Danish Embassy, to the hotel.



SIGN HERE: Before leaving Phuket, singer Hugo signed a guitar at the Hard Rock Cafe. Photo: Christian Mouchet







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SILLY LOVE SONGS: Central Festival Phuket held a concert on the weekend featuring Thai superstars 'Calories Blah Blah' (left) and 'Aof' (on stage above). Photos: Christian Mouchet







LION'S SHARE: The Lions Club Phuket Pearl Fund Raiser was held at RPM on Saturday for the Phuket Handicap and Autistic Societies. Lion's Club members at the event included Khun Karudee Chotithamaporn and Christiane Kitjakarn (left), Bruce Stanley and Khun Wanida Hongyok (above left) and Fredi and Margrit Aellig (above right).



GET YOUR YAYAS HERE: Traditional YaYa dancers at the Lion's event.

LAND & HOUSES



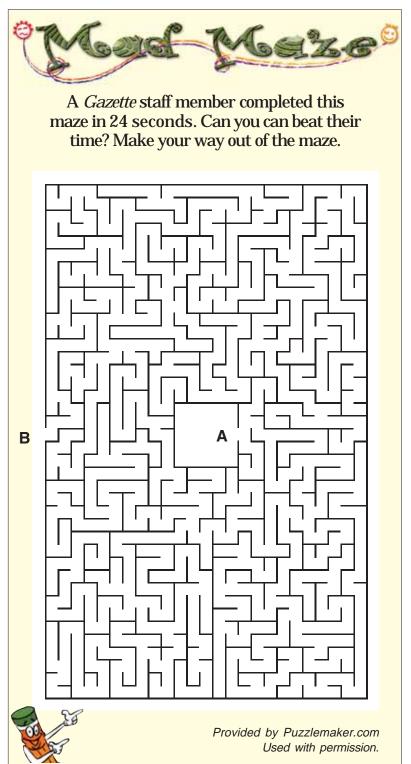
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March 31 - April 6, 2012 PHUKET GAZETTE



Across

- 5. Rocky hilltop

- 13. Thin as
- 17. Brief brawl
- __ expert, but...

- 23. Unit of illumination
- 26. Mark used in ancient manu-

- 34. Consumed
- 36. Hamlet, e.g.
- 38. Toil

- 45. Mark of Zorro
- 46. Cream cake
- 50. Carson's successor
- 51. Aussie hopper
- 52. Chemical ending
- 54. Needless
- 61. River to the Moselle
- 63. Herbert Hoover, for one
- 65. Commedia dell'

- 1. Gator's cousin
- 2. Defense grp. since 1949
- 3. _-a-brac
- 4. Chatter noisily
- 5. Very, in Versailles
- 6. Swear words

1. "Power Lunch" network

- 8. Arabian Sea gulf
- 12.___ avis;
- 15. Antitoxins
- 16. Auricular
- 19- Frail boat
- 22. CIA forerunner
- 24. Crazy as a
- scripts
- 29. Young swan
- 31 Hindu honorific
- 32. "See ya!"

- 40. Baseball team
- 41. ___ und Drang
- 43. Norwegian dramatist

- 48. Potpourri bag

- 64. Pipe
- 66. Change for the better
- 67. "___ Brockovich"
- 68. Chilled
- 69. Baseball stat
- 70. Miss

break

- 7- Baptism, e.g.
- 8. Faulkner's "_ Lay Dying"
- 9. Withdraw money from use
- 10. Sea eagles 11. Greek temple
- 13. Neuter 14. Hard candy
- 20. Soothe
- 21. Expensive seating area
- 25. Son of Judah
- 26. Declaim
- 27. Having two nuclei
- 28. Flight of steps
- 29. Crucifix;

- 30. Belief
- 31. Radical '60s org
- 33. Backward tidal movement
- 35. Born
- 37. Della's creator 39. Hindmost part
- 42. Hindu lawgiver
- 44. Sgts., e.g.
- 47. Ancient region of Asia Minor 49. Inn
- 52. Actor Morales
- 53. Bust maker
- 55. Iditarod terminus
- 56. Large jug or pitcher 57. Injectable diazepam, in mili-
- tary lingo
- 58. Ambience
- 59. Diamond stats
- 60. Cravings 62. Roulette bet

Provided by BestCrosswords.com Used with permission.

Crossword answers on page 38

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Where work is concerned, April brings fresh hope – particularly on a practical level. Monetary gain is wellstarred early next week. Those with a birthday in the days ahead can look forward to easier communication with family in the coming year. Romance with another fire sign blossoms, but a turbulent relationship with a water sign is forecast to fail.

The number six can bring good luck

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):

for Arians this week.



GEMINI (May 22-June 21): The

you could be taken advantage of.

As April progresses, business be-

comes a hive of activity. Expect

days for finances are Sunday and

Monday. Number eight is auspi-

cious for those born under the sign

stars advise Geminis to be cautious when sharing personal information this week as there are signs that

of Taurus this week.

another air sign to present useful ideas by the middle of this month. Romance with a fire sign is hot, but a water sign's interest goes off the boil. Number two has good fortune written on it this week.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Cancerians will be able to take on various challenges in the month of April. The stars suggest that renewed energy could also encourage you to seek different employment. A fire sign may not appreciate your attempts to play

a joke on them this weekend. In

the realm of romance, you have

reason to realize that an earth sign

expects too much control in a re-

lationship. Number three stands

out this week.

first week of April is an auspicious time to finalize agreements and sign contracts. Leos who have been waiting for another fire sign to decide what to do will be relieved by events on Monday or Tuesday. The astral atmosphere will also encourage personal affairs to become easier to solve. An earth sign is predicted to be ready for reconciliation this weekend. Leos' lucky number this week is five.

YOUR

horoscope

By Isla Star



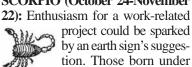
VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Digging

your heels in at the last moment will not be appreciated by work colleagues. Virgoans are advised to weigh up options carefully before making commitments as a cloudy astral atmosphere could conceal important facts. Romance with a water sign is well starred, but another earth sign is likely to be toying with your affections. Lucky days for money matters are Wednesday and Thursday. The number one at-

LIBRA (September 24-October 23):

Librans who have been trying to let go of an emotional attachment should start to feel better as April starts. The stars will offer more support and moving on becomes easier as you catch a glimpse of the future. The stars hint that an old friend could turn up out of the blue before the middle of the month. Number four can bring some good luck this week.

SCORPIO (October 24-November



the sign of Scorpio whose energy has been low recently will be keen to put ideas into practice during the first half of April. Affairs of the heart are affected by more benevolent astral conditions. An earth sign's endeavor to make a fool of you this weekend could lead to romance. Number

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-De-

seven is lucky this week.



cember 21): A restless mood during the coming days could mean that Sagittarians find it hard to meet their

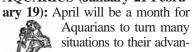
responsibilities. The stars suggest that this is a good time to reevaluate your priorities - you may realize that a commitment no longer means as much. Romance is carefree; those who are single enjoy flirtation with an earth sign this weekend. Wear the color apricot to encourage a calmer outlook. Num-

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Those Capricorns who have

ber nine brings good luck this week.

unfinished business with bureaucracy are advised to schedule appointments for after Wednesday as misunderstandings are highlighted early next week. Finances are forecast to become healthier as April gets under way, but those in a committed relationship may have to get involved with a partner's monetary problems. A flying visit from an air sign friend could brighten up your weekend. Your lucky number this week is five.

AQUARIUS (January 21-Febru-



tage. The stars suggest that those seeking new employment will make a positive impression at interviews this week. If you are looking for love, a water sign reveals some of their hidden depths this weekend. Those in a committed relationship have reason to appreciate their partner's understanding. Number seven is high-

lighted to bring good fortune this week. PISCES (February 20-March 20):

other water sign is forecast to get



The stars advise not taking too much for granted this week. An-

cold feet where business is concerned and financial transactions are subject to delays. On a more hopeful note, personal relationships become smoother and reconciliations are highlighted. Those who were hoping for a second chance at romance with an air sign should be satisfied. Number one can be important for Pisceans this week.

tracts good fortune this week.

March 31 - April 6, 2012 PHUKET GAZETTE 27

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

SIRI Village, being constructed in Thalang en route to Pa Klok, bills itself as a "Modern Tropical Resort" that hopes to combine the amenities of modern living with a quaint community feel.

Slated for completion by the end of 2012, the 208 million baht project will offer three building styles and a total of 81 individual units. The largest unit, "Sirisaran" tries to incorporate small business and family living into one. With total area of 210 square meters it is the most expensive unit at 4.7 million baht and features commercial space, three bedrooms and four bathrooms.

Priced from 3.99mn baht, the mid-range unit, "Sirimantra" has a total area of 173 sqm, features bay windows that provide a 180 degree view, three bedrooms and three bathrooms. The basic model, "Siripirom" has a total area of 147 sqm with three bedrooms and two bathrooms at 2.79mn baht.

Developed by the Thanasiri group, Siri Village is part of a growing property-market trend in Phuket that targets the rising Thai middle class. As economies in the West have stagnated some local developers are avoiding more expensive projects traditionally aimed at wealthy Westerners.

"We are trying to sell these units to working-class Thai families. Our target market might work in a hotel or at the airport," said Suthida Kuannok, sales and marketing manager for the project.

General manager Boonlert Panatdaporn added that Siri Village has been designed for a new generation of people with families that want a 'natural feel'.

"The design of these buildings are different than others in the area because typical duplexes have a wall connection, but we have separated them. The design feels like a single home," said Boonlert.

At the time of publication 28 of the 81 project units have been reserved off -plan.

Some project highlights include 24 hour security including CCTV, a community garden area, modern designs and its location, twenty minutes from the Phuket airport.

Thansiri group is also in possession of a piece of property in the Kamala Beach area in excess of 100 rai, where, according to Ms Suthida, the developer is considering building pool villas.

PROPERTY A village made for Cazette the middle classes



HOMEWORK: The largest unit, "Sirisaran", incorporatea a small business and family living into one.



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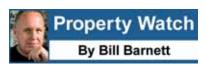
www.lagunaproperty.com



Whose beach is it anyway



WE'LL FIGHT THEM ON THE BEACHES: Laem Singh has sadly followed Phuket's other beaches into a sandbox of commercial enterprise for pay. Photo: Courtesy of C9 Hotelworks



A RENEWED media and politically charged battle of Phuket's beaches is playing out on the island's West Coast. With the Free-

dom Beach land title investigations on the Patong headland still fresh in the public's eye, the latest flash point is Laem Singh.

This lovely cove is high on the top places to visit for both tourists and locals alike. If you were to compose a 'best of album', no doubt pictures from this site would be an absolute must.

Recently the land owner which is reportedly affiliated to Bangkok Broadcasting and TV which owns Channel 7 started to erect a fence around the perimeter of the property.

Perhaps in a case of kismet, sheer coincidence or else motivated by the visit of Yingluck Shinawatra and her cabinet to appear, a group of 100 beach

vendors visited the governor's office to protest about alleged the end result is that the about corrupland title irregularities.

banners on the coastal road and a flurry of nega- large-scale projects." tive social media postings by both

Thai's and foreigners over the controversy.

significant investors into

Getting to the heart of the problem is another matter so bear with me over the unpopular, but also important issue of control over access to the island's beaches and the effect it has on private land.

Talking to local property experts and sources at the land department, the land title at Laem Singh has long been established for decades and clearly not a land grab.

While a lease exists for a restaurant on the lower area, over the past few years there has continued to be considerable encroachment on public land be it a charge for public parking or a proliferation of beach vendors, sun loungers for sale and other commerce.

I've seen a number of postings by outraged expats over the past few weeks about what a 'disgrace' the erection of a fence on private

land by the legal owner is and how the island is being destroyed.

What's ironic is that in an altered universe I'm not sure how many of these people would appreciate illegal vendor's coming up and setting up a paid parking space in the front yard of their home, on land they own?

And while local's willingly shell out money to pay for parking and sun lounger's to illegal

operators they "Unfortunately for Phuket are the same who complain island is becoming a less tuks, jet skis tion, illegal tuk Next came attractive destination for and the whole motley crew.

Of course it's not that simple, but it does point out an alarming

issue for Phuket. Laem Singh remains a key asset of the island and one could imagine a handful of dynamic parcels of land being developed into world class hotels with brands such as Four Seasons, W, InterContinential and Conrad.

For those who have not been keeping up with the news, unfortunately all of these hotel brands are now on Koh Samui, as the landscape for business is simply easier for mega projects.

Laguna Phuket has continued to fight against illegal beach vendors for over two decades with little success as have countless other hotels, and simply put; this island's drive right into the mid section of mass tourism with nameless three star resorts will continue unless the government can intercede over encroachments and the large scale commercialism of the island's beaches.

I took the time to drive down the Laem Singh before writing this and it was hard to find a place to even sit down without bumping into a sun lounger for hire, much less being intimidated by parking fees for land which is public property.

Down the coast I continued and somehow I was reminded of Spain, Majorca or Marbella – a journey into concrete jungles which cater to a certain type of market, the one that arrives on charter aircraft and is only looking at their next holiday destination to where the lowest price offer is at the time.

Politics remains a volatile mix with the ruling Pheu Thai government looking to get a foothold in Phuket. With a large mainly democrat base of large property owners the recent spate of land title investigations for many have taken on the air of electioneering.

Unfortunately for Phuket the end result is that the island is becoming a less attractive destination for significant investors into largescale projects. For those who do own prime land which has a high market value there is little incentive to take on a high degree of risk in a market which remains erratically volatile.

Perhaps it's time to revisit the promotion of an special administrative zone such as exists in Bangkok and Pattaya to better manage the overflowing basket of critical issues being faced including land ownership rights and beach access issues.

Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks and can be contacted through W: C9hotelworks.com.





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Domestic demand for mid range homes up, Western high end housing demand stoops

PHUKET property market interest is shifting from Kathu to Thalang, according to a recent study conducted by the Agency for Real Estate Affairs (AREA). As reported in Khom Chad Luek Thai language newspaper, AREA's Research and Information Center for Thai Real Estate surveyed the island's holiday home market with a focus on buying and long term leasing.

The report cited rising land prices in Kathu as causing several developers to launch more affordable projects in Thalang, where prices are more stable and reasonable. Much of the land in Kathu is held by major investors who are keen to develop medium and high rise projects in order to make their investments more viable by offering competitive prices, according to the report.

Excluding the hotel room rental market, the study highlighted 114 new projects launched in Phuket last year, which included a total of 6,216 units, equal to an investment of 91.4 billion baht. Of these, 841 units, including 205 holiday homes and 636 condos were sold, which equates to a sales increase of 14% increase year-on-year, with 741 units (160 holiday homes and 581 condos) sold in 2010.

As for the 2012 sales forecast, up to 1,100 units worth as much as 13bn baht are expected to be sold. The survey suggested that the growth of the property market is a result of the growth of tourism.

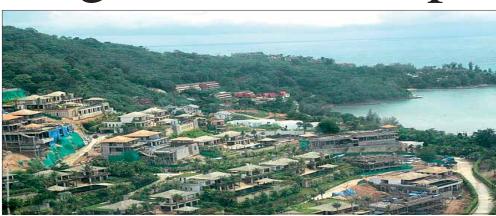
Marking a decline in performance of the upper end market, the study attributed slowing sales of properties priced higher than 10mn baht to economic and financial turmoil in Europe and other places where many highend target clients are from.

Thus, it is expected that the market for units priced under 10mn baht will likely expand most this year, since this price range is conducive to both domestic and international buyers. The study noted that last year's flooding disaster resulted in some buyers searching for second homes outside of the capital.

The survey outlines that land development from 2010 to 2012 was marked by a rise in major Bangkok based developers such as Sansiri, Supalai and Pruksa. It said that Bangkok based developers have several advantages over local developers, including existing reputations and trust in the real estate industry as well as established brand awareness. Moreover, it said that the major Bangkok based developers offered more in terms of modern construction methods and technologies. This allowed them to be competitive by lowering base costs and delivering their product quicker.

Again citing expensive land costs, the survey went on to echo previous reports about the growing trend of investors to develop condominiums. Some of the major projects highlighted include Supalai's 500mn baht Park @ Downtown in Phuket Town, Phanason's 2bn baht Green Places in Kathu, Phumundra's 440mn baht The Condo, Pruksa's 402mn baht Ville 46 in Thalang and Phuket Town, and Sansiri's two dCondo offerings with a combined value of about 1.4bn baht.

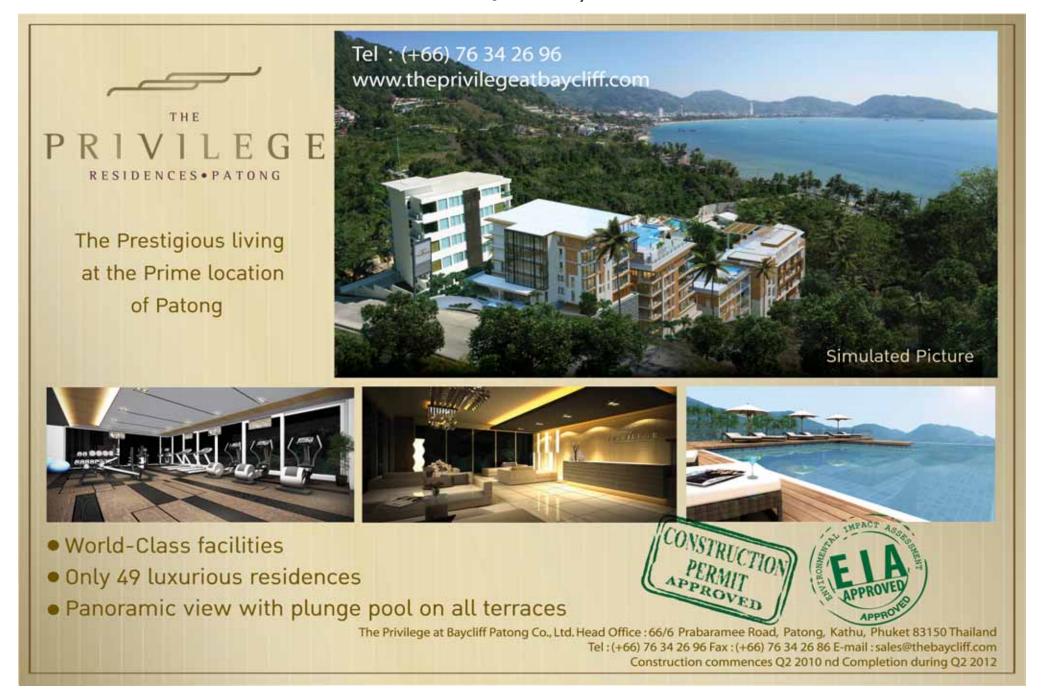
It pointed out that the majority of new projects are marketed using its strategic location between Phuket Town and Patong.



EAST COAST: Citing expensive land costs, the survey also echos previous reports about the growing trend of investors to develop condominiums.



RELOCATING TO THALANG: It is expected units priced under 10mn baht will likely expand the most this year. Photos: Khom Chad Luek



30 PHUKET GAZETTE March 31 - April 6, 2012

Phuket's shady characters



JIM Scudder, an American now enjoying life in Phuket, inquires about shade trees. The email is so pertinent, it is worth quoting. He says:

"My wife and I have one *rai* of land where we would like to start planting some shade trees so that in a couple of years from now when we build a house, we will have some shade." (He plans to plant about a dozen or so trees on the east and south borders.) "I want to plant trees that are evergreen or semi-deciduous, indigenous to the area and about 15-20 meters high," he added, "Any help you could provide would be most welcome."

First, Jim, I want to applaud your proposal to put in shade trees before creating your edifice. When I lived in Andalucia, a neighbour built a wall around his bare plot and planted trees inside the perimeter. He did not build anything else for three years, by which time the trees formed a natural and attractive screen. Your broadly

comparable plan would also avoid having to cope with rubble, cementladen earth, and exposed sub-soil, an cado. I have one which was planted

inevitable legacy of construction in Phuket. Will your garden be walled, or will the trees provide a natural barrier? If you intend a wall, then the trees will need to be planted at least a meter inside, so their roots do not undermine the structure. Personally, I think you need the security of a wall. In any case, south and east facing trees will not lack for sunlight. Remember too that some trees provide

dense shade, while others are more open in habit and allow more understory shrubs to thrive. Impenetrable shade requires shade-lovers beneath. As for trees, you mentioned one by name, the mango. Good choice. It has the advantage of growing fast, producing delectable fruit and lush

Citharexylum otherwise

known as fiddlewood.

Photo: Jason Hollinger

foliage. Another fruit tree, recently mentioned in dispatches, is the avo-

> four years ago when the house was built; even as I write, its crown is appearing outside my third floor window. Again evergreen, an exuberant grower and, after six or seven years, the bearer of exotic fruit. The tamarind has fernlike foliage, reaches at least twenty meters and produces seeds surrounded by sweet acidic pulp -

a staple of Thai cooking. It has a wide crown and a dense canopy. It is fairly slow-growing like the jack fruit tree, which has been outpaced in my plot by the mango and avocado. If you want really fast fruiting growers that will reach ten or twelve feet in a year, go for bananas or papayas. They look



An avacado hangs on a tree in Hawaii. Photo: Mike Lewinski

fine so long as you trim off the yellowing leaves. Among trees cultivated more for their appearance and especially their flowers and/or scent, consider the champak (michelia champaca), a relative of the magnolia with creamy blooms and a gorgeous scent. It is also evergreen, and will provide a lovely ornamental presence in your garden. Cassia fistula (golden rain tree), currently in bloom around the island, has a profusion of racemes of yellow flowers which droop attractively. Bauhinias or orchid trees produce a display of huge purplish-pink blooms. Others definitely worth con-

sidering include the citharexylum or fiddlewood which grows rapidly and has long spikes of tiny white flowers which smell divine. I have several, but should add that one succumbed to a fungal infection and died within weeks. But it is still a personal favourite, as is the pink-flowering jacaranda and especially the flame tree (delonix regia), with its brilliant scarlet flowers, perhaps the most spectacular tropical tree of all.

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









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Tip of the week

Other bulbous types



Gladiolus flowers. Sometimes called the sword lily. Photo: Doug Wertman

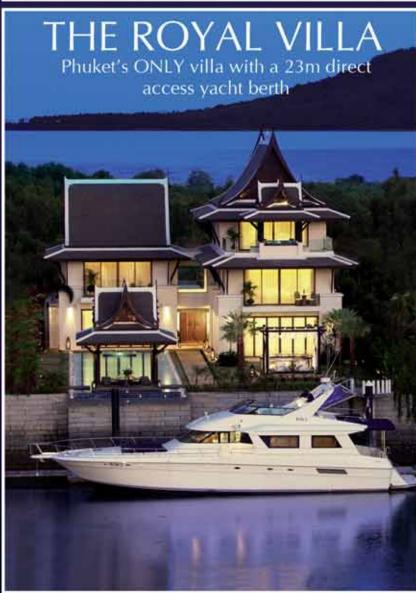
A true bulb is surrounded by scales, ion vertically and you will clearly see these layers. Most bulbs have a tough outer skin (a tunic), but lilies do not, and are more likely to dry out. Bulbs produce small new ones called offsets which can be separated and then replanted. Other swollen underground stem bases include corms which are composed of solid tissue (gladiolus, banana, alocasia) and only last a single year; as well as rhizomes and

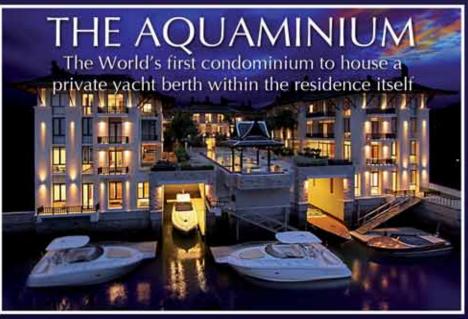
tubers, which are especially comvestigial leaves-to-be. Slice an on- mon in the tropics. Rhizomes are swollen underground stems with roots on the underside. Like corms, they store food, mostly starch, in these thickened stems. Cannas produce rhizomes, as do bamboos and most members of the ginger family, including edible galangal and root ginger. Tubers are similar: swollen underground stem bases, usually rounded, with multiple growth points. Think potatoes or begonias.

March 31 - April 6, 2012 PHUKET GAZETTE 31











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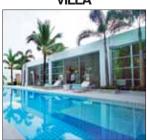
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Luxury finished, 5 mins to Laguna, quiet area. Contact for details. Tel: 087-893 4636 (English & Thai). Email: annericphuket@ hotmail.com

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

KATA 3-LEVEL HOUSE

4 bedrooms or more, 2 bathrooms. Must sell fast, must sell cheap. Price: 3.5 million baht. Tel: 081-303 2202.

PATONG; 2BEDS CONDO



2 bathrooms, pool, fully furnished. Freehold. Price: 5.3 million baht. Tel: 081-612 4187. Email: nicolaas5@ yahoo.com

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: phuketpool villa.info@gmail.com

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Property Classifieds

SAMUI TROPICAL VILLA



Great location in Bangrak, 10 mins from airport. Easy access to Chaweng, Bangrak, Bophut, shopping complex. 400sqm living area with 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 6 aircons. Guesthouse with 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 2 bedrooms, staff quarters next to main house, swimming pool with Purapool system, large sala with bar. Asking price: 20 million baht. Tel: 083-306 7526.

KATA HOUSE FOR SALE

Must see. 5 minutes to beach, large modern house with spacious living room, 3-bedroom with aircon, large bathrooms and storage, garage with laundry, sitting garden and large covered patios. Furnished with beds, TVs, sofas. Company name available for easy transfer. 5.4 million baht. Tel: 081-131 5751. Email: sea dog5000@yahoo.com

FREEHOLD KAMALA HOUSE

Stunning house located In Kamala. Only 1.2km to beach. Fully furnished and ready to move in. Perfect location next to Soi The Bell. Tel: 089-394 2981 (English & Thai), 083-914 2939 (English). Email: sales@thai landpropertys.com For further details, please see our website at www.thailandpropertys.com

PATONG TOWER CONDO

for sale and rent. Freehold. Seaview and mountain view. Email: orsorealestate@hotmail.com

KAMALA HOTEL ROOM

19 years left on lease. No kitchen, 2 pools, jacuzzi. Monthly fees 2,700 baht. Price reduced to 800,000 baht. Tel: 084-716 0502.

TOWNHOUSE IN KOH KAEW



Corner unit, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished. 3.5 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118.

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

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 milllion baht. Contact Khun Penprapa. Tel: 087-898 9646. Email: pen prapa2526@gmail.com

MAGNIFICENT THAI RESORT

property for sale on Koh Maphrao, Phuket. Stunning, rarely-found plot of land for sale located on Maphrao Island, Phuket, from where you, in clear weather, can see the lovely islands of Koh Yao Yai and Koh Phi Phi. Fantastic piece of real estate for sale in Phuket. Thailand. Ideal property for investment or a secret retirement plan. The land property for sale has a total area of 90,000sqm. with TorBor 5 title and main services (road, water and electricity). Stunning Thai beach property in Phuket for sale at 5 million baht per rai. Tel: 080-691 9094. Email: imocamp@yahoo.de

URGENT SALE

Bang Tao house, 2 bedrooms, fully furnished. Nice location. Only 2.5 million baht. Tel: 084-851 6121.

NICE CONDO BYPASS

Opposite Big C, 55sqm, 1 bedroom, fully furnished. Price: 3.8 million baht. Tel: 081-614 5372. Email: surasaksakul@hotmail.com

CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

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

HOUSE IN PHUKET VILLA 5 FOR SALE



46sq wah, furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 aircons, carpark. Only 3.5 million baht. Tel: 081-787 7675.

KOH YAO NOI

11rai 78sq wah, waterfront, unobstructed seaview, Chanote. Tel: 080-144 7801. Email: kohyaonoi999@yahoo.com

HOUSE RAWAI

2.5 bedrooms, big garden, cul de sac, 667sqm, Chanote. 7.8 million baht. Tel: 080-144 7801. Email: kohyaonoi999@ yahoo.com

LAND FOR SALE IN RAWAI

1 rai with Chanote title. 5 minutes to Rawai Beach in secure area. Contact owner directly. Tel: 089-472 9870. Email: dchaibut@gmail.com

HOUSE IN KAMALA

For sale. 2.2 million baht, 2 bedrooms. Soi Jasmin, 5 minutes from beach. Tel: 084-852 8457.

CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



Condo at Royal Place Project, Bypass Road, opposite Tesco Lotus. 37sqm, 2fl, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished (2 aircons, washing machine, refrigerator, TV, microwave, cable TV, 24 security with key card etc). Pls contact for more deatlis. Tel: 089-469 1813, 086-476 9612.

LAND NEAR MISSION HILLS



Pa Khlok. 2 rai 32sq wah, 60mwide. Chanote. Located on Tha Ruea-Pa Khlok-Muang Mai Rd. 11 km from Heroines' Monument. Price: 7.8 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118. Email: honda.1437@hotmail.com

HOUSE IN KHAO LAK



2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms on 1 rai land in Phang Nga, 20km from Khao Lak. Price: 7.5 million baht. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

PA KHLOK HOUSE FOR SALE



59sq wah, 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, European kitchen. Fully furnished, with common pool. Price: 2.9 million baht. Tel: 081-719 1041. Email: teddykong 0222@hotmail.com

SEAVIEW HOUSES WITH POOL

Luxurious 600sqm build, 250 internal, 3 storeys with lift. From 12.5 million baht. Tel: 081-968 4230 (English & Thai), 081-968 4807 (English & Thai). Email: johan@phuket-properties.co.th For further details, please see our website at www.chalong residences.com

LAND NEAR MONUMENT

6 rai flat, easy building land. Very quiet, chanote title. Below market sale price 1.9 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-894 5848 (English & Thai). Email: doburtay@yahoo.com

BAR HOTEL RAWAI BEACH



Sale: 12 million baht. 762sqm land with building, 9 bedrooms, 100% ownerfinance. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: phuket7@ yahoo.com

LUXURY VILLA

for sale or rent at Rawai. Company included, 5 bedrooms, private pool. Call 084-778 5652 for more information.

RAWAI: 480SQM OF LAND

For sale. 5-minute walk to the beach. Water and electricity installed. The land can be subdivided. Full Chanote. 2.6 million baht. Tel: 085-790 7086.

3 RAI LAND IN TRANG



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

LAND PLOT FOR SALE



Starting 6 million baht per rai. Location at Layan. Tel: 081-787 4383.

72SQM CONDO FOR SALE

Rawai, brand-new, modern spec, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, living room, pool. Price: 2.8 million baht. Tel: 084-744 3677.

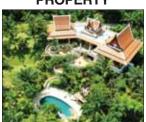
VILLA PATONG

Super seaview villa in Patong with 4 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms. Freehold. Comes with Chanote title. 23.5 million baht or rent US\$ 500 per night. Tel: 086-982 2888 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-374882. Email: prim_purdue@yahoo.com/website: www.youtube.com/watch?v=RS1z9EB7ii0

SOI SANSABAI 2-BED CONDO

Outstanding location, G/F, Foreign freehold, 80sqm. 4.25 million baht. Tel: 086-075 6715. Email: chalky@netvigator.com For further details, please see our website at http://bjpark condo.weebly.com/

LARGE SEAVIEW PROPERTY



for sale. Location at Layan. Tel: 081-787 4383.

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Property Classifieds

Properties For Rent

LOVELY APARTMENTS



Phuket Town and also available close to Central, cable TV, internet, security, swimming pool, gym. 15,000 baht to 20,000 baht PCM. Can also supply motorcycle and truck. Tel: 081-539 9612, 087-633 1472. Email: chris palmer56@gmail.com

LUXURY POOL VILLA

Designed for comfort, has everything. Near Laguna. Lease 22,000 baht/month. Tel: 089-594 4067.

HOUSE NEAR LAGUNA

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished. Daily-monthly 20,000 baht/month. Tel: 081-795 6363. Email: vicky_grc@ hotmail.com

VILLA LONG TERM RENT



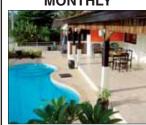
4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, maid's room with bathroom, 2 kitchen, fully furnished, swimming pool, WiFi, garden. Tel: 089-729 6244. Email: ninaphuket@ hotmail.com

LUXURY PHUKET



Chalong Residence. 5 bedrooms, all ensuite, 10-13 guests, pool, seaview. 20,000 baht/night, Incl. excellent service with breakfast, lunch, chauffeur and van. Tel: 085-654 4011, 089-404 0737. Email: schulz.th@gmx.de

VILLA 25,000 BAHT MONTHLY



6 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms. Sale 90% finance. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: phuket7@ vahoo.com Website: www. thaidreamvilla.com

PATONG 1+2 BEDROOM APTS

Luxury apartments with free WiFi, maid, big pool, security, cable TV. Close to town. 22,000 baht per month and up. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English). Email: phvcondo@aol.com

LOFT-STYLE FLATS

Secure, great location for exercise. Long-term rental. 9 to11,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-664 5575 (English). Email: hkguy789@yahoo.com

LONG-TERM RENT

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

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SHOP FOR RENT AT NANAIRD

23.5sqm, partly furnished with 2 year lease. Selling price 150,000 baht, monthly rent 10,000 baht. Tel: 087-507 2843 (English & Thai). Email: ove.laur@gmail.com

KATA HILL HOUSE **FOR RENT**

Fully-furnished 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, living, dining, kitchen, car park, internet and cable TV. Price16,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-606 2827 (English & Thai). Email: nij017@hotmail.com

KATHU HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, internet, cable TV, kitchen, fully furnished. Tel: 087-266 7191, 086-739 3220.

PATONG 3-BEDROOM HOUSE

Western style, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, furnished, internet, common pool. 35,000 baht/ month. Tel: 082-498 0872 (English). Email: elangold@gmail.

HOUSE PHUKET TOWN



Dowroong Villa, Chaofa East Road. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, western style kitchen, air conditioning, furnished, internet, Sala, parking. Club house with pool and tennis, garden for children. Security guard. 12,500 baht per month. 1 year minimum rental. 2 months deposit required. Tel: 086-271 0557. Email: poca.tevaroj@ gmail.com

THALANG VILLA



3 bedrooms, new kitchen, fully furnished, aircon, small garden, garage. Very quiet and safe. Tel: 076-311853. Email: mat swistedt@hotmail.com

THALANG LUXURY POOL HOUSE

Fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Near PIA School and Laguna and 15 mins to western beaches (Layan, Nai Thon). Price for long-term 45,000 baht/ month or short term (minimum 1 month) 75,000 baht/month. Tel: 081-606 2827 (English & Thai).

LOVELY HOMES FROM 13.000 BAHT

1 & 2 bedrooms, fully furnished, long-term, near Chalong Circle. Tel: 089-475 1200 (English & Thai). Email: info@welcomeinn.com Forfurther details, please see our website at http:// welcomeinn.info

Quiet, 3 bed family home. Rent 30,000 baht per month. Sale 6.5 million baht. Tel: 081-956 5650 (English), 089-646 9278. Email: info@kathu-property.com Forfull details, see website www.kathuproperty.com

RAWAI POOL VILLA

3 bedrooms, 2 aircons, 8x4m pool, 400sqm land, furnished. Rent: 35,000 baht/month. Sale: 6 million baht. Call Hockey at 084-852 4091.

KAMALA APARTMENT

084-716 0502.

CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



Project, Bypass Road, opposite Tesco Lotus. 37sqm, 2fl, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished (2 aircons, washing machine, refrigerator, TV, microwave, cable TV, 24 security with key card etc). Pls contact for more deatlis. Tel: 089-469



Email: nij017@hotmail.com

KATHU HOUSE FOR RENT/SALE

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished, cable TV, WiFi. 10 minutes to beach. Cleaning lady, 15,000 baht permonth minimum 3 months. Start from April 15. Tel:



Condo at Royal Place 1813, 086-476 9612.



4-Bedroom Villa for Rent / Sale

ully Finished, Wi-Fi, Cable TV, Maid, Pool Cleaner, and Gardener are included. ww.PropertySeekByKMD.com (081) 895-7310

2-BEDROOM



2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, terrace, living room, parking, fully furnished, cable TV, internet, aircons, hot water. Only 5 mins to Surin Beach, Bang Tao Beach and Lotus Cherng Talay. Tel: 089-470 7488. Email: nattamon.m@gmail.com

HOUSE IN PATONG



Newly built 40sq wah, near Sea Pearl project, Patong. 2 stories, 3 beds, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, 2 aircons, kitchen with hood. refrigerator, dining room, living room, hot water, cable TV and internet. Tel: 089-469 1813.

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

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.

THAI VILLA AND POOL

Nai Harn, Iow season. 40,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-270 5126. Email: mervyn.crocker@ vahoo.com

BANG TAO POOL VILLAS

1,2,4 bedrooms, fully furnished, SatTV, ADSL. From 16,000 baht per month. Tel: 085-674 6786.

RENT APARTMENT PATONG

New condo with pool, security. 24/7. 46sqm, furnished. Daily/ monthly. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE

2-storey house 3 bed, 3 bath near Panwa Bay. Tel: 081-892 4311. For further details, please see our website at http:// panwagreen.weebly.com

ORCHID KATHU HEIGHTS

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

RAWAI POOL VILLAS

3 and 4-bedroom villas, private pool. Short and long term rent. Tel: 087-893 8747.

THE HEIGHTS 2+3BEDAPTS

Vacation rental, seaview, also a 3-bed pool villa 420sqm. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

NEW 3-BED HOUSE FOR RENT

Near PIA, north of Thalang, in Garden Place. Fully furnished, aircon. 15.000 baht/month. Call Gai at 087-892 6340.

NAKOK APARTMENT FOR RENT



Tony's Place (12 rooms) for monthly rent in Soi Nakok, opposite TOT Chalong, fully furnished, WiFi, cable TV, key card. Rent 5,000-9,000 baht. Up to room size. Tel: 086-478 4023, 088-289 1098.

TOWNHOUSE IN KOH KAEW



Corner unit, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished. 3.5 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118.

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Accommodation Available

KATHU GOLF COURSE **CONDO**

62sqm, bedroom, bathroom, kitchen, balcony, quiet and green, long term. Tel: 081-824 1385 (English). Email: jbiwo@ csloxinfo.com

PATONG BEACH SEAVIEW CONDO

125sqm, 2-bed, 2-bath, big living room, fully furnished, 3 LCD TVs, laundry, terrace, 11th floor, pool, car park. Long term rental at 35-50,000 baht. Tel: 081-824 1385 (English). Email: jbiwo@cslox info.com

CONDO FOR SALE OR RENT

1-bedroom condo at The Trees Residence Kamala. 2 years old, modern furniture, excellent facilities. Rent long term: 18,000 baht per month. For short term and holiday rental contact owner. For sale: 4 million baht. Tel: 076-529082, 086-280 3118 (Thai). Email: paulajlaydon@hot mail.com

SEAVIEW/MOUNTAIN CONDOS FOR RENT

1/2 bed/bath, furnished, Western kitchen, com pool, short or long term. Tel: 087-998 2590, 087-393 5462 (English & Thai). Email: kata4rent@gmail.com

SEAVIEW NEW APARTMENTS

1 and 2-bedroom new apartments. Long and short term. Sea view, huge balcony, TV panels, WiFi, free parking. A few with pools, gym and expensive furniture. The best choice for living. Tel: 082-807 4944. Email: osa.com@me.

BEACHFRONT HOUSE FOR RENT

Located on the beach on Koh Sirae, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, air-con, partly furnished, very good view. 10 Town. Tel: 081-535 1269. Email: info@phuketrental house.com

ROOM TO RENT LONG TERM

Pra Baramee, close to school. large room, kids bedroom, bath, toilet, hot water, kitchen. 6,000 baht per month incl elec, water, gas, cable TV. Tel: 087-265 4565 (English), 084-841 3153 (Thai). Email: waz1944@ yahoo.com.au

2-BEDROOM HOUSE

Aircon, fully furnished, TV, internet. June to end of August. Chalong. 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-280 1721.

CONDO FOR RENT KATHU

48-72sqm for long-term rent. Fully furnished, clean and quiet. Tel: 081-535 1269 (English & Thai). Email: info@ phuketrentalhouse.com For further details, please see our website at www. phuketrental house.com/thegreengolfresi dentforrent.html

RAWAI BEACH 300 BAHT/DAY



Room, aircon, WiFi, TV, bike rental. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com Website: www.thaidream villa.com

HOUSE FOR RENT PATONG, PHUKET

2 bedrooms with quiet location. Tel: 089-650 5135 (English & Thai). Email: kalayap @hotmail.com

RAWAI CONDO FOR RENT/SALE



Good price for long-term rent, clean and quiet, 300m to beaches. Tel: 080-078 0931 (English). Email: rawaireservation @yahoo.com

Accommodation Wanted

LOOKING TO BUY

Looking to buy beachfront house with Chanote. Email: a.pueng@gmail.com

KAMALA RENTAL WANTED

Apartment/house wanted to rent in Kamala for 12 months with view preferred. Tel: 083-644 2779. Email: johnison tour@gmail.com

Holiday Homes & Villa Rentals

THE POINT CONDO

Daily/monthly, loft, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, pool, fitness. Rent: 30,000 baht/ month. Tel: 089-795 6363.

BEAUTIFUL POOL VILLAS

Great selection of stunning holiday villas. Tel: 087-823 7371 (English). Email: holger saupe750@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuketbeachvillas.com

1,000-1,500 BAHT/DAY

Contemporary Thai-style house, 2 storey, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished. Thalang area, near beaches (Bang Tao, Layan, Nai Thon, Surin). Close to new Tesco Lotus. Tel: 089-795 6363. Email: vicky_grc@hotmail.

VILLA FOR RENT



Long-term rental of a 5bedroom, 5-bathroom, Mediterranean-style, 2storey villa set on 1,920 sqm. Living area 472 sqm with saltwater pool. Location: Cherng Talay. 90,000 baht per month for 1 year. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-651739, 081-597 6911 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-238493. Email: damian @electrical-marine.com

Household **Items**



LG WASHING MACHINE

LG WF-T655LTD washing machine. Just 4 months old. For sale due to moving abroad. Price new: 5,990 baht. Now 3,500 baht or best offer. Call Erik in English or Scandinavian. Tel: 089-291 2782. Email: stobiass@hotmail.com

NEW SAMSUNG FRIDGE

Neverused. Model RT45TSRS2. Sells for 18,000 baht at Home-Works. Will sell for 15,000. Does not fit built-in cabinetry space in kitchen. Email: donn_is@yahoo. com

LG 9.5 KGS

Top loader, 8 months old, motor warranty 9 years and 4 months. Price new: 14,999 baht, best offer near 10.000 baht. Front loader wanted. Tel: 086-273 3095 (English & Thai). Email: patongman123@hotmail.com

CARVED TEAK WOOD CABINET

New hand-carved solid teakwood cabinet. This high-quality piece was recently purchased for 55,000 baht. Now 35,000 baht. Size: Length 2m, height 1.5m, depth 50cm. Tel: 084-850 1340. Email: southsea surf@gmail.com

TABLES FOR SALE



Solid teak tables 34" x 60" and 34" x 34", 3 years old, live at Laguna. Price: 32,000 baht. Tel: 081-894

DARK WOOD TABLE

Long 6 to 8-seat table, dark wood, 6 chairs. Cost 16,000 baht. Selling for 8,000 baht. Free smaller matching table. Tel: 082-283 8902. Email: IIBC.Web@ gmail.com

STOCK LIQUIDATION

Exclusive design furniture, world-class names: Eames, Vdrohe, Corbusier, Noguchi. Discounts over 30% per list. Tel: 090-101 3178. Email: william-icons@hotmail.com (Rawai, Chalong Circle). Email: william-icons@hotmail.com

TUMBLE DRYER 17KG LOAD

Excellent condition. Ideal for large family, guesthouse or laundry. Price: 25,000 baht ono. Email: ssknightoflegend@gmail.com

Household **Services**

PHUKET HOME MAINTENANCE

Renovations, house repairs, painters, tilers, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, construction. Fluent English-speaking boss. Free quotes given. Contact Rin. Tel: 084-193 5124. Email: phukethome maintenance@yahoo.com

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Khun Nan. Tel: 076-255425.

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www.sunwingphuket.com

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ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Requirements:

- Male or Female age between 25-30 years old
- Thai nationality
- Bachelor's Degree
- Good knowledge of admin work, fundraising work
 Good knowledge of accounting is also an advantage
- Good knowledge of accounting is also - At least 3 years of experience
- Proficiency in English communication and computer
- Multi-tasking skills
- Customer-oriented with a service mind
- Able to drive a car licensed

The successful candidate will be offered attractive working conditions and benefits. Interested persons, please submit your CV with photograph and expected salary email to pm@lifehomeproject.org

www.lifehomeproject.org

Tel: 076-614060

PROGRAMMER

ASP.net c#,MSSQL, HTML, CSS, JQuery, Javascript, etc. Contact Noi. Tel:080-887 3603. Email: noi@lepep.org For further details, please see our website at www.lepep.org

SALES MANAGER

Property Sales Consultant. Thai national, 3-5 years experience. Good Thai and English, proactive and organized. Computer literate, have own car and laptop. The Charm residence. Tel: 076-344499. Email: info@the charmphuket.com

NEW SALES OPERATION

Experienced sales persons to join an existing successful sales company. Top commission rates on offer. Professional sales environment in a new office setting. English speaking, Finnish speaking required. Please send details of CV to sales phuketrecruit@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

English speaker with good Microsoft Office skills and references. Please email CV to adrian.j.simpson@gmail.com

MANAGER-SWIMMING POOL CO

Service Manager, Thai national, required by Phuket's leading swimming pool management & maintenance service company. Experienced in: swimming pool maintenance & installation, ability to manage 30 plus staff, spoken and written English with a dynamic personality are all essential. A rewarding opportunity. Salary is not a factor for the successful. applicant. Tel: 076-620193, 081-797 5545 (English & Thai), 081-958 6754 (English). Fax: 076-620194. Email: info@mobile pooldoctor.com

Phuket Gazette

As the result of a major expansion in its Classified Advertising business due to the launch of the newspaper's Nationwide Edition, the *Phuket Gazette* seeks to add a **Receptionist** to its existing team of five.

Qualified candidates will be:

- ► Thai nationals, aged at least 24
- ▶ Service-minded with an outgoing personality
- Able to work well with large numbers of advertisers, both foreign and Thai

and should have:

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

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

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Khun Porntiwa, Assistant Manager-Classifieds, at Jeab@PhuketGazette.Net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd, Koh Kaew A. Muang, Phuket 83000 Tel: 076-273555, ext 207 Fax: 076-615240

SOCIAL MEDIA STRATEGIST

Work at HolyClothing, an internet fashion retailer. Tel: 085-789 9249. Email: info@holyclothing.com Details here: http://bit.ly/zySLXo

E-COMMERCE MANAGER



Serenity Resort & Resi-

dences in Rawai is an upscale private resort with 62 suites and residences. We are now looking for a qualified e-commerce manager to be part of our management team. Candidates must be fluent in English and have experience in on-line marketing, PPC campaigns and possibly SEO. This position enjoys a very attractive salary with benefits. Candidates should currently hold a similar position in another hotel or in the online travel industry. Please email CV with photo. Only short-listed candidates will be notified. Tel: 081-846 9981 (English). Email: ursaebi@ gmx.net For further details, please see our website at www.serenityphuket.com

HOTEL STAFF/CAFE

Tree Club Resort, 2 positions for F&B staff, basic English, good salary. Tel: 086-268 3238. Email: Billyanthony6@hot mail.com

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER

Female caucasian native, English speaking teacher with experience to teach class of 10-12 children. Ages 3-8, Mon-Fri, 8-4. Chalong. Tel: 080-624 7060. Email: phuketpreschool@yahoo.com Website: www.buds-phuket.com

DATA ENTRY STAFF NEEDED

2 new staff needed for travel company in Kathu. Good computer skills needed and must be able to speak & read English. Training will be provided. Wages are from 15,000 - 20,000 baht. Tel: +61-2-9569 0811. Email: angelog@honeymoon.com.au

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER WANTED

We are looking for a native English kindergarten teacher to join our team to teach 10 -12 children aged 3-6 years. Must have a minimum Bachelor's Degree or equivalent. Tel: 076-383150, 084-520 4978 (English). Fax: 076-383150. Email: info@cravensnurseryphuket. com

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

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

Administration Assistant

The successful candidate will be a Thai national with an outgoing personality. Experience in business administration combined with good management and organizational skills is essential. A good command of written and spoken English is also important. Knowledge of PageMaker/InDesign and Office software would be an advantage.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to neil@phuketgazette.net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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

KOHLER.

Kohler Thailand, manufactures and distributes Kohler, Karat, and Englefield branded products. We are seeking dynamic, strong leaders and team players who are looking for a place that they can explore all of their competencies and grow up for being number one together in the following positions.

Project Sales Executive (Southern Region)

Responsible to sell Kohler, Karat, and Englefield products to major specifies, interior contractors, designers, builders, developers, and the lodging industry in Southern Region which are Phuket, Samui, Phang Nga, and Krabi.

■ Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Economics, or any related filed. ■ At least 5 years experience in project sales with strong connection with major specifies, interior contractors, designers, builders, developers would

> If you are interested, please e-mail your resumé to E-mail: porntipa.hanpalangjitsuk@kohler.com

Kohler (Thailand) Public Company Limited

16th Floor, Jasmine City, 2 Soi Sukhumvit 23, Sukhumvit Rd., Bangkok 10110 Tel: 0-2204-6000 Mobile: 084-5550338 www.kohlerthai.com



Assistant to Managing Director (full time)

A unique opportunity to join this pioneering wealth management boutique in Phuket. We are looking for a highly-motivated employee, who has a passion for client service and the investment profession. Candidates will grow with our company and must be able to multi-task numerous projects. The role involves regular contact with our high net-worth clients around the world.

Remuneration: thb 15k - 18k / month + annual bonus

Working Place: Office in Laguna

Applicants must:

- be female and of Thai nationality;
- speak and write excellent English;
- have a university degree;
- have a minimum of two years' experience;
- have strong PC skills, in particular MS Excel

The role is a general administrative role and will focus on supporting our Managing Director. A dynamic and positive work ethic is essential.

> Please send your curriculum vitae to: Passaporn Voragul, mas@securewm.com

www.secure-wealthmanagement.com "independent advice for the new financial era"

British International School, Phuket

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

Asst. to Head of Refectory [F&B and Kitchen Product]

- Qualifications
- Thai nationality/aged 28-42 yrs Bachelor's Degree in related field

- 5 years experience in hotel
 Outstanding personality and has service mind
 Hard working, diligent, enthusiastic, honest person
 Willing to work as a team, has a positive attitude
- Has a supervisory and leadership skill
 Ability to communicate in English, Computer literacy and good people skills
- Able to coordinate with other department

· Macbook Teachnician

Qualifications

- · Thai nationality, Bachelor's Degree in related to computing
- · Must have experience in Macbook
- Experience in IT Support and Network
- · Good command of spoken and written English
- · Enjoy working with others in a team atmosphere · Have a "customer-service" orientation

A/R Accountant

Qualifications

- Thai nationality, Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or Finance
- Good/strong Command of written and spoken English Computer literate
- At least 1 year experience in accounting
- Customer relation skills and service mind are essential
- Knowledge in AccPac operate would be an advantage

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



British International School, Phuket (BIS)

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

BAAN YUREE

Assistant General Manager

- A Previous experience as a Resident Manager, Executive Assistant Manager (EAM) or Front Desk Manager a plus
- A Must be fluent in spoken English (Thai National or Foreigner OK)
- A Previous Hotel experience required
- A Strong organizational and people management skills essential

Baan Yuree Resort & Spa 12/1 Petchakut Road, Patong Beach Kathu, Phuket Thailand 83150 Tel: + 66 76 364 703-8, Email: hr@baanyureeresort.com www.baanyureeresort.com



Front Office Manager

Qualifications:

- Male/ female between 30 40 years old
- Bachelor's Degree or higher education
- Excellent command of spoken and written in English, other languages an advantage
- At least 5 years experience in Front Office/Reservations Department with good leadership skills and guest service attitude is a must
- Assistant front Office Manager with 5 Star hotel/resort background can apply
- Amadeus PMS, Microsoft Office knowledge is required

Interested candidates are invited to email a full resume, stating present and expected salaries and enclosing a recent photograph to:

Ramada Resort Khao Lak

Contact: Theeranuch Limbos Email: hr@ramadakhaolak.com

Address: 59 Moo 5, Tumbon Kukkak, Takuapa District, Phang Nga 82190 Thailand Tel: (66) 076 427777

KARON HILLSIDE HOTEL

is looking for staff. No English is required for the following positions: Chef, kitchen helper, Housekeeping staff, handyman. For the following positions English is required: Bar and restaurant service staff, Reception staff, Night reception. Good starting salary and SC. Only Thai nationals. Please contact K. Sandy on 082-281 4394 or email: info@ karonhillsidehotel.com

ADMINISTRATOR

Must have good command of English and good computer and internet skills. Tel: 076-324184, 082-255 7507 (English & Thai). Email: om@imarketingonly.com

SECRETARY/ **PERSONAL ASSISTANT**

Tropical Properties is looking for Thai national with good knowledge of English, internet & MS Office. Handling general office admin, good communication skills. Accurate reporting & working independently is required. Tel: 087-882 2856 (Enalish). Email: luc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com

BARISTA/CAFE MANAGER

1-2 persons needed for April start, at the re-opening of the Trees Club Resort Cafe. Engiish speaking reguired. Tei: 086-268 3238. Email: billy anthony6@hotmail.com

WEB DEVELOPER

HTML, CSS, JQuery, Photoshop, Dreamweaver, etc. Contact Noi. Tel:080-887 3603. Email: noi@lepep.org For further details, please see our website at www.lepep.org

Club TropicaL www.clubtropicallifestyle.com

Urgently needed. Club Tropical is expanding and requires experienced

Sales Executives, TO's, Admin and BU/FU/Collections Staff for their sales venues in Phuket and Koh Samui. Great remuneration packages. If you are a native Chinese (Mandarin) and proficient in English and looking for an exciting career send your CV to richard@clubtropical.asia or call 084-1889928

MOUNTAIN BIKE TOUR LEADER

Seeking more bike guides to join our growing team. Must speak good English, be passionate about biking, and be a Thai national. Tel: 087-263 2031. Email: info@amazing biketoursthailand.asia

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

English speaker with good Microsoft Office skills and references. Please email CV to info@techworx-projects.com

RUSSIAN MANAGER

Russian staff with good English needed for restaurant manager position. Experience in same or similar position is required. Tel: 082-329 3207 (Russian).

WANTED: PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Person or company that has experience in project management. Good salary for a person. A company can give a quotation. Tel: 081-968 5963. Email: cc@bayshore projects.com

THAI MASSAGE **NEEDED**

Only Thai nationals with good English needed for position of Thai Manager for Thai staff management. Salary from 20,000 baht. Tel: 084-734 0122 (English).

PURCHASING MANAGER

English speaker, must have experience and references. Please email CV to info@tech worx-projects.com

MAID/BABYSITTER

Need Thai lady take care my son, 1 year 9 months old and clean house. Koh Kaew area. Live in. Tel: 080-690 6487.

TEACHER WANTED

ror class of 3-year-olds, 12 students and assistant. Hours 8-4, native English speaker. Tel: 082-323 1188. Email: jsi porin@gmail.com

ACCOUNTANT

English speaker with good Quickbooks, Microsoft Office skills and references. Send CV: info@techworx-projects.com

Gazette Online Classifieds – 10,000 readers every day!

General Classifieds

Articles For Sale

COFFEE TABLE

Bamboo coffee table for sale. Excellent condition. 110cm square with inset in center (for flower decoration, etc). 10,000 baht ono. Email: beijingmarcher@yahoo.com

AIR PURIFIER "AMWAY"

Good condition, 3 years old. 20,000 Baht. Tel: 087-026 1362. Email: chumapkt@ gmail.com

FURNITURE AND MORE

Furniture, sofa, TV and bookcase, chairs, lamps and more. All in good condition. Please call or email for photos. Khun Arno. Tel: 087-827 4991 (English). Email: arnyfirst@ hotmail.com

HIX HEAT PRESS DUAL PADS

I am selling my Heat Press Made in USA, very little used (about 60 t-shirts), like new. I bought it in Bangkok. Paid 125,000 baht, selling 60,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-283004, 086-742 3437. Email: joelvdo @hotmail.com

NEW INVICTA WATCH **FOR SALE**

Very large Invicta Men's 6913 Corduba Collection Interceptor Chronograph Blue Polyurethane watch, comes with box and guarantee. Tel: 076-319699. Email: sun parasol@gmail.com

FURNITURE AND OTHER ITEMS

Wooden frame "L" sofa with mustard color upholstery. 16k. Modern glass chandelier 5k. Huge silver candelabra 5k. All in excellent condition. Standard Lamp 1,500. All reduced for quick sale. Email for photos at beijingmarcher@yahoo.com

CHINESE TEA

Quality Chinese tea for sale. Contact Peter to arrange a free tea tasting. Tel: 082-278 1575.

Articles Wanted

FULL-SIZED USED BATH WANTED

Looking to find an old plastic or stone full-sized bath to use in a pet washing parlor - something large enough to put big dogs in the wash them. Please email gone2thedoggies@gmail.com with photo

EXTENSION LADDER WANTED

Used 20 to 24 foot (6 to 7 meter) ladder wanted to either rent or purchase. Tel: 081-797 2110. Email: iolare@ yahoo.com

Audio/Video Equipment

GERMAN STEREO SYSTEM

Soken AMP & 5 Speaker Surround Sound, Solid Bass. Cost 16, sell 8000. Tel: 082-283 8902. Email: IIBC.Web@gmail.com

STAGE-SOUND/LIVE **MUSIC**

Stage-Sound system (Live Music) for sale Incl. All audio components, made by Behringer. Tel: 076-486118, 086-942 5244. Fax: 076-443137. Email: info@siaminteract.com For further details, please see our website at www.siam-interact.com/ soundsystem/

HI-DEFINITION MEDIA PLAYER

Digital home entertainment just took a giant leap forward. Internet, Android and a Media Streamer on your TV. Bursting with features that allow you to engage with social media, Android apps, online streaming, and casual games, movies and music. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-248698, 081-895 7097 (English & Thai). Email: hdmedia phuket@gmail.com

SOKEN SURROUND SYSTEM

Amp + 5 powerful speakers, crisp treble & solid bass. Paid 15,000 baht, sell 7,500 baht. Tel: 082-283 8902. Email: IIBC.Web@gmail.com

Bar & Restaurant **Equipment**

USED KITCHEN EQUIPMENT

Refrigerators, freezer, fryer, pasta cooker, fry top, etc. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-343019. Email: info@ casajip.com

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

TO: The Phuket Co Ltd, 79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang, Phuket 83000 YES, I want to receive the PHUKET GAZETTE for a full year - 52 issues! To ensure distinguith for a full year - 50 issues!					
for a full year - 52 issues! I hereby authorize payment against my Visa \(\sigma\) / Mastercard \(\sigma\) Thai Baht 1,560 for Phuket Special Delivery (Phuket Island only!) Thai Baht 2,800 for a domestic subscription (outside Phuket) Thai Baht 9,000 for an overseas subscription (any country outside Thailand)					
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Bulletins

Svenska kyrkan 🏺

Is here for you - Swedish or Scandinavian speaking Thurs April 5, Weekday Mass, Maundy Thursday, 18.30pm

Sun April 8, Easter Service at Restaurant Trädgården in Rawai, 11am. Swedish Easter buffé at restaurant. Please book on 08 0532 2395!

For details, see website or call 08 74 6767 82 www.svenskakyrkan.se/phuket

Alcoholics

If you want to drink that is your business

Anonymous

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

Business Opportunities

DATA ENTRY STAFF NEEDED

2 new staff needed for travel company in Kathu. Good computer skills needed and must be able to speak & read English. Training will be provided. Wages are from 15,000 -20,000 baht. Tel: +61-2-9569 0811. Email: angelog @honeymoon.com.au

BAR FOR SALE OTOP

Brand-new bar for sale in OTOP market. Fully furnished to very high standard, 240"TV's ,fridge, freeezers, stock, sound system, etc. Great location with hugh potential. Genuine reason for sale. Tel: 084-445 2042. Email: ian 843@hotmail.com

BAR/RESTAURANT IN PATONG

for sale, Nanai Rd 231, fully furnished. Price: 180,000 baht or rent 13,000 baht/month. Tel: 085-477 5935.

POOLBAR/ RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Frogclub Pool-bar/restaurant 30 pax. 2 floors with rooms upstairs. Contract is paid until January 2013. 800,000 baht negotiable. Must see. Tel: 082-278 7377. Email: morten.pasby@gmail.com

PATONG BAR FOR SALE

Popular bar, open air. Beer bar in busy tourist area. Urgent sale: 1.8 million baht. Tel: 081-550 7379.

FOR SALE MASSAGE SHOP

In Patong, 4th floor, in front of the beach. 1.5 million baht. Tel: 088-532 9944.

RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Patong, 70sqm, near Simon Cabaret, C&N resort. Many Russian people. Tel: 086-275 9673, 086-686 2349.

SEAVIEW RESTAURANT IN PATONG

Fully equipped restaurant with room for living, including 2 fridges, 1 freezer pizza oven, gas stove, TV, HiFi, etc. Ready to take over from day 1. Must be seen. 450,000 baht. Tel: 082-272 0609 (English), 087-265 0560 (English & Thai). Email: tobbeme linder@gmail.com

CHEAP BAR BANGLA ROAD

In Soi Crocodile. Lease paid for another 33 months. Asking price 1.6m baht only! Want to sell quick for family reasons. Tel: 087-284 2031 (English & Thai). Email: tomarell@hotmail.com

NAIHARN RESTAURANT

For sale. Best restaurant deal. With fully equipped kitchen. Rent 8,000 baht/month. Price: 2.8 million baht (neg). Tel: 081-891 3740.

OFFICE, BUSINESS **SPACE**

for rent on 5th floor of Patong Tower. Tel: 076-341370. Email: i_am_krittapak@hotmail.com

SPORTS BAR KOH PHI PHI

2 unit sports bar/restaurant for sale on Phi Phi Island. Includes 2-bedroom apartment above. The only dedicated sports bar on Phi Phi, has been established for over 10 years. The Sports Bar brand has long been associated with great food and a great atmosphere. Afantastic opportunity for a potential buyer to start trading immediately. Tel: 080-8277541, 080-080 1770, 081-088 8347 (English). Email: joe.meakin@ hotmail.co.uk Website at www.facebook.com/sports barkohpp

BAR FOR SALE

In OTOP Market, Patong. Complete with pool table, sound system, TV, fridges, kitchen, toilet, office/bedroom, stock, etc. Rent: 23,000 baht per month. Sale at 1.8 million baht. Tel: 080-719 3819 (English & Thai). Email: tara@netweekly.com.au

URGENT RESTAURANT FOR SALE

For sale: Poolside restaurant in Bang Tao inside a condominium with 56 apartments. Tel: 080-143 5541. Email: pabloblattmann@hotmail.com Website: www.slideshare.net/ danielphuket/poolside-info-11668724. Email: pabloblatt mann@hotmail.com

PROFITABLE BAR FOR SALE

30 meters off beach road one of the few bars making a profit. Many loyal customers. Good size, offering pool table, surround sound music system, 50" HDTV with true vision package, security shutters and good stock. Great looking bar with very low running costs. Bar is as good as new (100% ready for new owner and comes with lady). 1.7 million baht(quick sale) Tel: 080-530 7798. Email: lyntoncraig@gmail.com

COFFEE **SOLUTIONS TO** THIS WEEK'S break **PUZZLE** CNBCC T OR ¹³ A R A I ¹⁴ L ¹⁷ S E T T O 15 E R A 18 M N O R A R A 16 O T I C 13 O C K 20 E S H E L 21 C "B E L U "S YGNE O R [‡]S | T | U | R | M | M | [‡]I | B | S | E | N | M | [‡]Z | E | E ECLA 17 R S A C H E T ⁵⁰L | E | N | O | R O O U N N E C E S S A S A R Y T U B E OWAN ΑĸR E R I N A R TE ⁶⁶AMEND E I C E D RA

Crossword puzzle: From page 26

CCM COMPLEX GROUP BUILDING is a seven-storey office building. Rental space per unit approximately 200 sq.m.

Spaces can be designed with flexibility to suit your business. It is very conveniently located on a business street. Very near to Tesco Lotus, Central Festival Phuket, Big C, Home Works, Commercial Bank and the road to the airport.



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www.phuketvisa.com 1,500.- Daily Visa Run To Ranong Border. Fully Includes Food - Drink - 10\$

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Hotel, Food & Drink. Single Room. By VIP Van (Night time)

around island

RETIREMENT VISA 25,000 - 32,000 B.

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| Trip To | Wed. 1. 8. 15, 22, 29 | 7, 14, 21, 28 | 18, 25 |

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Phuket 83000. Email: phuketvisa@hotmail.com
Tel: 076-263475, 076-264476. Fax: 076-374563 Mobile: 081-8929960

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Phuket's oldest bi-lingual international child care facility. High-quality, time-proven schedule and curriculum. Now in brand-new purposebuilt school. Experienced native English teachers to teach ages 1½ - 8. Mon-Fri 8am-5pm. Bus service available from Patong, Karon, Kata, Phuket, Rawai and Chalong.

Tel: 076-384638, 080-624 7060. Website: www.buds-phuket.com

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New and used commercial equipment.
Stainless-steel products made to order,
wood-fired pizza ovens,
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repairs. Showroom at
Chalong, near Homepro
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contact Mr K. Tel: 089729 7895 (Thai) or Mr
Lio. Tel: 084-845 4743
(English, Italian).

STUDIO 38

- Signs - Media

-Advertising Please contact K.Pu 086-698 6544.

Email: studio38@gmail.com

GHBS POS

Are you running a Restaurant, Hotel, Bar, Resort, Health Spa, Country House? And would you like to?

- Take fast orders on the restaurant floor and cut down on both time and confusion.
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GHBS POS is a Webbased affordable, simple to use, full-featured, out of the box, web based point of sale (P.O.S.) solution with Business Intelligence (B.I.) features. Service is available in Thai and English languages and is just 1,900 Thai Baht a month. The GHBS POS is a Web Service and runs on Apple IPad, Windows PC and Apple Mac in Online and Offline mode.

This service will put your company on Cruise Control.



www.ghbs-pos.com or call for Demo 085-7843043 (Han)

Club Memberships Available

LAGUNA FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

12 years. Price: 500,000 baht, includes transfer. Contact K. Tantita. Tel: 081-797 3326.

LOCH PALM MEMBERSHIP

Lifetime. Price: 600,000 baht, includes transfer. Contact K. Tantita. Tel: 081-797 3326.

BLUE CANYON FAMILY

golf share 850,0000 baht. T/F included 1 year subs paid. Tel: 081-956 0527. Email: tuenjai1 @ hotmail.com

PCC GOLF FOR SALE

Family membership for sale. Make me a reasonable offer for quick sale. Tel: 076-240042, 081-891 1635. Email: neil@ndw golf.com

BANYAN TREE GOLF MEMBERSHIP

Banyan Tree Golf Membership for sale. 600,000 baht. Tel: 081-968 8131 (English & Thai). Email: charles.pulaski @gmail.com

Fitness Equipment

EXERCISE EQUIPMENT

Weight lifting / aerobic equipment, used, good condition, Smith machine, power cage, hip sled, bicycles, etc. Parabody and Body Solid. Tel: 089-999 7597 (English). Email: doc@russbo.com

Golf Stuff

TAYLOR MADE 860 BURNER

10.5 loft with a Burner Lite Low Torque Max Distance 60-gram graphite shaft. Original head cover included. Price: 2,500 baht. (Rawai, Phuket). Tel: 087-263 0494.

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TECNAM P-92

- -Price: 1.5 million baht
- -Registration: U-B08 -Year of Manufacturie: 2002
- -Equipment: Full standard equipment
- -Engine: Rotax 912-80HP 350hrs.

Aircraft is based at Klong 15

Tel: 081-840 8418.

Rockwell Commander 114 HS-AWS



Lycoming IO-540-T485D (1,300 hours, 700 hours to TBO). Prop: B3D32C419/82NHA-5. Overhauled Feb 2011 (7 years to TBO), C of A Due 11th November 2011, New 5-year Permit. 100 hour check completed 19 Feb 2011.

Specs:

G-BVNL - UK

Horsepower: 260
Top Speed: 166 kts
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Rate Of Climb: 1088 fpm
Ceiling: 17,400 ft

Gross Weight: 3140 lbs
Empty Weight: 2094 lbs
Fuel Capacity: 68.00 gal Usable
Range: 700 nm
Fuel Av Gas 100LL
1 crew plus 3 passengers

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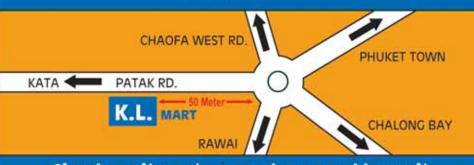
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International Sport March 31 - April 6, 2012 International Sport March 31 - April 6, 2012 International Sport March 31 - April 6, 2012 International Sport PHUKET GAZETTE 43 AND April 6, 2012 International Sport International Sport

season saw McLaren occupying the front two grid positions again. It was their race to give away again, and they did.

Lewis Hamilton held his lead into the first corner, followed by Jenson Button, the two Red Bulls and Fernando Alonso in the Ferrari.

Romain Grosjean tagged Michael Schumacher and both drivers dropped down the field before the race had chance to settle into a rhythm.

The Sepang Grand Prix is always run at a time, day, and month prone to monsoon rains on a track with laughable drainage.

Sergio Perez switched to "wets" on his opening lap, and was soon up to third in front of Mark Webber.

Alonso also switched during lap four and tucked in behind Webber. Sebastian Vettel was running well in seventh place.

The cars aquaplaned in the infamous Sepang swimming pool as the deluge continued and the race was stopped under a red flag on lap nine.

There they sat on the starting grid with at least one team praying hard for more rain.

By not changing to wets, Narain Karthikeyan had moved up to tenth, which for HRT was a

FORMULA 1's second race of the record. If the race was called off now, they would get their first ever point (well, half point).

> HRT did not benefit from the conditions and the rain eased enough to restart.

> Hamilton stayed out and teammate Button pitted for intermediates whilst second in an attempt to get ahead of Hamilton. Instead he clipped Karthikeyan on his exit from the paddocks, to the dismay of both McLaren and HRT.

> Hamilton was running well, Perez was now second and Alonso took Webber for third spot.

Hamilton and Alonso both pitted for intermediate tyres, and Massa appeared in the pits just in time to delay Hamilton's exit from an uninspiring pit-stop sufficiently to lose him the lead and the race. It was Massa's only significant contribution to the race.

It was now Perez, Alonso, Hamilton in the podium positions.

Perez pitted and returned to the racing-line in second, between the Prancing Horse and McLaren.

That was lap 15, and essentially that was that for the rest of the race. It was not in the script.

The Ferrari was ugly, slow, and hard on its tyres. It should not have won, but it did.



DARK HORSE: Ferrari driver Fernando Alonso leads Sergio Perez on his way to victory at the Sepang circuit in Malaysia last weekend. Photo: AFP/ ROSLAN RAHMAN

Perez in the Sauber got its best ever result, and Hamilton was jocular about his third place. He seems happy unless Button is ahead of him. Webber took fourth, Raikonnen came fifth for Lotus, and Senna brought Williams points at last by coming sixth.

Vettel and Button both tangled with Karthikeyan, and with Vettel's failure to respond to his engineer's instructions to retire and gain a free gearbox, came in a petulant eleventh place, falling behind Webber in the points.

Button came fourteenth, slipping behind Hamilton which sets up Shanghai nicely.

The Chinese GP starts with an inauspicious Friday 13th practice day.

Last year's podium positions were Hamilton, Vettel and Webber. That looks unlikely this year with Red Bull not as commanding.

McLaren just has to stop throwing away points in the pits.

In the background is Bernie Ecclestone's negotiations for the teams to continue in F1 by signing a new agreement. Mercedes is considering legal action it is rumored, but with the post race resignation of the Williams' chairman, a vocal opponent of Bernie seems to have left the stage.

- Phuket Gazette

Football news round-u

By Dean Noble

CHELSEA's Salomon Kalou gave the Blues a huge advantage in their quest to reach the UEFA Champions League semi-finals with an one-nil away win at Benifca.

Kalou made up for a dreadful miss early in the game to side-foot home Fernando Torres' cross from close range.

Juan Mata had a shot come back off the post on the 60th minute and David Luiz cleared from his own goal line. Caretaker manager Roberto Di Matteo will look to complete the task on April 4, which will certainly assist his application for the job on a permanent basis.

Real Madrid will very likely join Chelsea in the semi-finals after their 0-3 demolition of Apoel Nicosia, thanks to Brazilian striker Kaka.

It is the first time a Cyproit outfit has reached the latter stages of the competition, however it looks like the fairytale ride is over.



Salomon Kalou gets the important away goal.

Tottenham will face Chelsea in the FA Cup semi-finals to be held April 15 at Wembley after beating Bolton Wanderers 3-1 at home thanks to three second half goals from Ryan Nelsen, Gareth Bale and Louis Saha.

Adam Bogdan in the Wanderers goal kept the hosts at bay with a fine display until Nelsen headed home, then Bale doubled Spurs' advantage.

Kevin Davies gave Bolton a slight glimmer of hope finishing Ivan Klasnic's cross in the 90th minute, however Saha completed formalities just before the final whistle with a long range effort.

The first semi-final in the cup also gives the independant spectator a derby match to relish, as Everton join Liverpool after their deserved 2-0 away win at Sunderland.

This weekend's Premiership action pits Bolton in their relegation battle away to Wolverhampton. Realistically, anything less than a win for Wolves will most likely consign them to the drop after three seasons in the top flight.

OPR in their fight for survival will face local rivals Arsenal who have hit form at the perfect time in their quest for fourth spot.



Swansea

Newcastle

SPORTS briefs...

MOTO GP: Testing for the 2012 season concluded in Jerez with defending champion Casey Stoner fastest.

Stoner riding for Repsol Honda recorded the fastest lap with a time of 1:38.78, an average speed of 161.376 kilometers per hour to complete the 4,428m track.

second with a time of 1:38.953.

Commentators are expecting some close battles once the season starts.

The first race will be held at the desert circuit of Losail, Qatar starting at 10pm Phuket time.

DARTS: Former World champion Jocky Wilson passed away last weekend after suffering from a lung disorder aged 62 years.

Wilson won his world titles in 1982 beating John Lowe, and 1989 when he beat Eric "Crafty Cockney" Bristow.

Phil Taylor, 15-time world cham-Yamaha's Jorge Lorenzo was pion said "When I first started, you wanted to beat Eric Bristow, Bob Anderson and Jocky Wilson."

> "He's one of the greatest, I remember playing snooker with him and to clean the white ball he took his teeth out to mark the ball."

BASEBALL: Michael "Magic" Johnson of basketball fame leading a group of investors has been selected as the new owners of the LA Dodgers.

The bid of US\$2 billion, if final approval is given, will be a new record price for a sports franchise.

"I am thrilled to be part of the historic franchise and intend to build on the foundation laid by Frank McCourt as we drive the Dodgers back to the front page of sports on our wonder-

ful community," Johnson said.

The Dodgers last won the World Series in 1988, their sixth championship.



Phuket draw with Rajpracha in season opener at Surakul



HAVING A BALL: FC Phuket's opening match on Saturday attracted a diverse crowd of fans. Photos: Apinun Saithong



CHARGED: Phuket's Watcharapong had difficulty penetrating the defense.

was credited with the goal after

teammate, Sunthithon

Sattirom's initial

strike was

By Steven Layne

FC Phuket bagged another point in their second match of the season in a goal-a-piece draw with Rajpracha Thailand FC at Surakul Stadium on Saturday.

Highly anticipated among fans, Southern Sea Kirin's home opener match for the year would prove to be a hard fought contest.

In terms of fitness, talent and form, the home boys should have prevailed, having dominated possession throughout, and clearly fruiting more opportunities to score.

Despite a turnout of only 1,255 – far below Phuket's home match attendance average last season of 4,900, an energetic and green-spirited crowd packed the sheltered stands on the west side of the pitch.

Fans were in for a little Surakul surprise, only permitted to enter from the main gate, while being subject to pay 80 baht for admission, 60% higher from the 50 baht charged last season.

As Surakul's scoreboard and

spot light systems are still undergoing maintenance to prepare for the upcoming Phuket Games, kickoff was mandated at 4pm so as to conclude before sunset, leaving the east stands unusually empty through for the duration of the game.

With few attempts at goal early on, Phuket would seize the advantage first when in the 13th minute a beautiful pass from Watcharapong Jun-ngam evaded four Rajpracha defenders to find speedy Seongwon Byeon in the clear.

The Korean had just enough time to beat the keeper with his right footed scoop into the back of the net and putting the temporary scoreboard and crowd to life.

Rajpracha's Ghanian import Victor Mensah put Phuket's defenses to the test on several occasions, but due to the sound coordination

betweer

Phuket's Brazilian goalkeeper Alonso Carvalho and star Ivorian defender Nenebi Tra Slyvestre, the score would remain in the home side's favor into half time.

Though Phuket controlled possession throughout most of the remainder of the game, Rajpracha's keeper was in his zone to ensure that none of Phuket's commendable attempts would get the better.

Rajpracha's equalizer came early in the second half on a rapid and crowded counter attack.

In front of a crowded penalty box, Rajpracha's Rawat Merien

deflected by a Phuket defender and Rawat's subsequent follow up strike silenced the crowd.

From then on, both side's drive and desperation to gain the advantage was clear.

Abdubakar Bako, left, and

Watcharapong Jun-ngam.

Aggression was also high with a total of 10 bookings made from rough play including five yellows to Phuket (Watcharapong Junngam, Suphat Aonthong, Kornprom Jaroonpong, Wuttipong Sittitanyakit and Poramut Krongborisut) and four to Rajpracha (Victor Mensah, Chusak Suwanna, Krissana

Wongbuddee and Janawat Areewannasuk)

Speaking about the result, Phuket's Serbian coach Milos Joksic was not satisfied. "The players did not stick to the plan we had laid out for them. I am not happy with how easy Rajpracha equalized, and we will have go back and review our game.

Rajpracha's coach and former national squad defender, Pattanapong Sripramote, on the other hand was satisfied. "It's a good result for an away game, even though we made some mistakes. I would like to thank all the players for giving their all to the team," he said.

With two points, the result puts

FC Phuket immediately into 12th place of the 18 teams in the Thai Yamaha 1 league. Having lost their first

match to Ratchaburi 1-3, the draw puts Rajpracha into 15^{th} place with only one point.

At the time of publication, FC Phuket were playing their third match of the season in Nakhon Ratchasima against newcomers, the Korat FC "Swat Cats". For the results of that match, see the *Phuket Gazette* online.

Meanwhile, the other three Southern Thai teams competing in the Thai Yamaha 1 league are each off to a strong start this season. Pattalung FC are on the top of the league tables after winning both of its first two games; Songkhla FC and Krabi FC are in 4th and 5th place respectively with four points



Italians duke it out in PSSL

By Neil Quail

THE seventh round of Phuket's Super Six League held at Headstart International School's Football Island bellowed into life with a scoring frenzy of biblical proportions by top of the table Morning Star against lowly Eden FC.

First half goals from Pedro Carrera, Dennis Orlyansky and Simon Smith gave Morning Star a four goal advantage with just one goal from Eden to leave the score at 5-1 going into the break. Eden may have plucked tactical advice from the tree of knowledge at half-time, pulling two goals back after the restart to reduce the deficit at 3-5. But as the good book tells us, there's a price to be paid for consuming the forbidden fruit of tactical awareness and defensive mistakes were punished by the unforgiving Karl Ward and his team. Six unanswered goals woke Eden from their footballing innocence for an 11-3 final scoreline. Eden FC v Morning Star: 3-11.

Both Phuket Serenity Villas (PSV) and Shakers FC missed early chances in the second game of the evening. The first goal came from an innocuous PSV goal kick when Shakers' goalkeeper Richard Desmond allowed the ball to float over his head into his goal, believing it to be a harmless indirect goal kick. The goal was signaled to Desmond's chagrin when he was informed that PSSL rules dictate all dead-ball situations are considered direct. A sharp passing move from Shakers following the debacle brought the scores level, coolly finished by Tom Davies.

Shakers then took a 2-1 lead before halftime when Geoff Carter scored from an acute angle. In the second-half, PSV continued to relying on long probing balls while Shakers employed a more effective possession game. Controversy erupted when a Carter free-kick that bounced off the crossbar on to the goal line was deemed legitimate by the referee sparking anger from the PSV team. The incident pumped PSV who rallied with two break-away goals to tie the match at 3-3.

Shakers' captain Ryan Meinhart decided on a long ball of his own and thumped a distance shot that PSV's goalkeeper fumbled giving Owe Lundin an easy headed goal and his team the lead.

PSV had two or three clear chances, but after his earlier blunder Desmond was not going to be beaten. Phuket Serenity Villas v Shakers FC: 3-4.

A decidedly slow start to the next encounter eventually gave way to a Phuketeers score by Yoyo who was soon back up for his second and a 2-0 lead for his team at half-time. The game opened up in the second half, but the Lounge were soon back in a spin as the Phuketeers used their substitutes to dizzying effect. Two goals from Aaron Bichler and strikes from Carl Brain, Yannik Christll and Julian Liebehund ensured a comfortable victory for the Phuketeers, but a good performance from Louinge stand-in keeper Juha Pasanen meant that the final score was kept to seven. The Lounge v Pita Bar Phuketeers: 0-7.

The evening's fourth game saw both Alberto Mancuso's Italian teams in a head-to-head confrontation. This game was considered the A team (Rugantino) versus the B team (Aladdin), but it turned out to be more competitive than the monikers suggested with 20 goals scored. In the end, the form books read true. Rugantino came out on top with goals mostly from the prolific Jacopo Jajo and Stig Edvardsen, but a young Aladdin squad acquitted themselves admirably. The victory keeps Rugantino in the title race. Ristorante Rugantino v Aladdin Friends: 13-7.

Nanai Boys and Babynoname was the last game on the schedule and turned out to be another day at the office for Nanai Boys. Danilo D'albenzo helped himself to four goals as Babynoname trudged off the pitch 6-0 down at half-time. Thankfully the toys were not thrown out of the pram and Babynoname removed the kid gloves to claim four goals in the second-half. Attacking the 'boys'



AZZURRI ASSURED: Rugantino and Aladdin managed by Alberto Mancuso show solidarity.



 $\hbox{\it Current standings in the PSSL. Nanai Boys are keeping in touch with Morning Star at the top.}\\$

meant a weakened defense and Nanai cuffed Babynoname for their insolent retort with six more goals before the final whistle. Babynoname v Nanai Boys: 4-12.

Next week sees table-toppers Morning Star and Nanai Boys battle it out, while Rugantino

and Phuketeers will play to see which of them can get back into the title race. A win for Shakers FC against Babynoname would also throw them back into the final mix.

For more information visit PhuketFootball.com.



PROLIFIC: Portrait FC with their Premier Division winners medals.



HOME TO ROOST: TSLC winners of AFL Division One.



TOP KEEPING: Somsak of Portrait



Adult Futsal League (AFL) Premier Division winners Portrait FC (above left) and Division One winners TSLC (left). Goalkeeper of the tournament Portrait's Somsak (top right) and Division One runner's up Ultraman (above) celebrate their victories.

AFL champs given a boost

Thanyapura's Boost Bar hosts AFL award's ceremony.



Patong CC back in the hunt

By Neil Quail

LAST season's 35 Over Champions Patong CC were in an 'all or nothing' situation last Sunday for their Island Furniture League encounter against Thanyapura Tigers, at the ACG knowing that not only a win was necessary, but securing all available bonus points would also be crucial to keep their title aspirations alive.

Patong's early arrival to the ground and vigorous warm-up certainly identified them as more focused and determined than their opponents. And although their preparations were dynamic, by game's end it was Patong's greater experience that helped engineer a devastating victory in scoring a total of 251 runs from 40 overs. Tigers, utterly overwhelmed by the occasion, were bowled out for just 80 runs.

Patong won the toss and elected to bat first hoping to set a big total. But a weak startwas manifested by the early loss of opener Richard Desmond (0) and soon followed by Danny Hyams (10). Fellow opener and one of the season's most consistent batsmen, Seemant Raju (51), took control and along with team mate Dave Thomas (31), the pair put on a 70 run partnership, taking the score to 99 runs. Raju returned to the pavilion after a loose shot from a loose Burger Marx delivery deflected the ball on to his stumps, but the scoring damage had been done.

Anthony Van Blerk (16) and Thomas then put on a 42 run partnership before Van Blerk fell to a Garry Carrick catch. It was time for Patong's lower order batsmen to shine. And shine they did by putting on 95 runs in the last 10 overs, including Richard Folds (23 from 14 balls), Dean Noble (14 from 13 balls) and an impressive number 11 knock by Kishor Jhagta (36 from 19 balls) to end their innings at 251 for 9 after 40 overs. Barrie Buck's 4 for 25 and Paul



RAJU REACHES: Seemant Raju on his way to 51. Photos: Dean Noble

ISLAND FURNITURE CRICKET LEAGUE						
TEAM	PLAYED	WON	LOST	POINTS		
The Village	5	4	1	25		
Patong CC	5	3	2	23		
Laguna CC	4	3	1	20		
Island CC	4	3	1	17		
Thanyapura News Tigers	5	2	3	14		
Liquid Lounge Lizards	4	1	3	12		
Phuket Leopards	5	0	5	1.		

Lattimore's 2 for 32 were the only distinctions in an otherwise tired Tigers' attack.

It didn't take long for Patong to wound the Tiger's batting lineup when Marx (9) was trapped lbw in the fifth over with the score on 24. Sid Prabhu (18) was the only Tigers' batsmen who reached double figures in the session as they collapsed to 39 for 5 going into the 10th over drink's break.

Revitalized, Tigers managed to prevent further embarassment with Paul Lattimore (13) reaching double figures and only two more wickets falling. At the 20 over mark, Tigers were seven wickets down for 71.

While Tigers' heads drooped, Patong came out focused on their quarry of wrapping up the tail and claiming the full compliment of bonus points. This they did dismissing the Tigers' remaining media sponsor of the ACG.

batsmen by the 24th over for a total of 80 runs. Manish Sadarangani (4 for 24) and Anil Rawat (2 for 26) were Patong's outstanding bowlers, while Man of the Match was awarded to Raju. After the game Patong's captain Richard Folds expressed his thoughts on the game and his team's position in the league.

"It was a disciplined team performance with everybody playing their part. Jhagta's late 36 not out was very important as far as securing the bonus points were concerned. As such there is still a realistic chance for [Patong] to make the final," said the normally reserved skipper. Next weekend's fixture sees Laguna CC take on Liquid Lounge Lizards in another must win game for both teams.

The Phuket Gazette i.s the local



DAINTY: Patong's Dave Thomas tickles a delivery fine.



DRIVEN: Danny Hyams about to crush a square cut.

Golf Guru

for the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

It's been Palmer's back yard since 1974 when he purchased Bay Hill. Apparently he was not best pleased when the world's number one player Luke Donald and world number two player Rory McIlroy didn't take up his invitation to play. Palmer came to fame in the 50s and 60s. He was 'the king' while Jack Nicklaus was the pretender to the throne and South African Gary Player made up the 'big three' in golf.

Enter Tiger Woods and as one commentator said "he owns the 18th green", which sounds silly until you check his record. Woods has won at Bay Hill six times and four times in a row from 2000 to 2003. Woods is the best front runner in the business and made a good start at Bay Hill with rounds of 69, 65 and 71 to lead by one shot. It's been two long years in the wilderness for Woods having had some well publicized personal problems, a caddie change and replaced his second swing coach. However Woods' career so far is still second to none in the fact he wins one in the three events he plays. Tiger, if it's not broken why fix it? But at this little extra edge.

behind Woods, and after his last round all he could say was that he "had a front row seat watching Tiger's every move". McDowell shot 74 to finish second while Ian Poulter, love him or hate him, was lurking in the background in third position and stayed there for the rest of the day after a disappointing 74. Tiger didn't even need to roar on Sunday. OK, the wind had dried out the greens, but one by one the chasing pack, who were more like a litter of kittens, seemed to throw away their

THIS week the PGA tour moved chances to win. Woods finished to Bay Hill Golf Club in Florida with a 70 for a five shot victory. The game of golf needs Woods. As we know, television ratings go through the roof when he's playing.

In 1971, the then Florida Citrus Invitational at Bay Hill was won by Palmer, who received a check for US\$30,000. Woods this year received a check from Palmer of US\$1,080,000. Is this running in line with inflation? Those in the know said that it would be two years before he would get his head back in the game. The proof of the pudding will be in the eating, as they say, when the first Major starts in two weeks time. Nice to have you back Tiger.

The European tour was in Morocco for the Trophee Hassan ll at the Golf du Palais Royal. Michael Hoey was in contention. Another Northern Ireland player, who had a good previous season finishing 25th on the order of merit with just under €1 million.

His pedigree speaks volumes, having won the British Amateur Championship and Walker Cup in 2001. It's still taken him some time to earn his spurs on the European Tour, but he started the last round with five birdies on the front nine to be out in 31. Hoey didn't make the same mistake as level they are all looking for that Raphael Jacquelin the week before by coming home in 34 for a Graeme McDowell had a 63 good solid 65, to win by three in the second round to sit one shots. A worthy note for Jamie Donaldson, who shot 11 under for the last 12 holes giving him a homeward nine of 28 shots for a 61 that moved him up 40 places to finish third on the day.

It's all over bar the shouting for the Masters entry list. All the exempt players are in, so the only way players can qualify is to win the Shell Huston Open this week, it would be great to see if Ernie Els could pull that off. Good luck

Martin Platts Director of The Golf Guru martin@thegolfguru.com



Calling all athletes: IronKids want you!

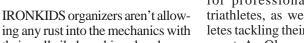












ing any rust into the mechanics with their well oiled machine already preparing for the next event.

By Neil Quail

Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club (TSLC) will host two triathlon trials with the official TSLC IronKids Phuket Championship race to be held on December 1, 2012. The 2012 series kicks off on April 22, with a trial race followed by another scheduled trial race on October 28.

The IronKids Phuket triathlons are races designed to accommodate children from six to 17 years of age in appropriate distances, on a safe and secure course.

TSLC's partnership with IronKids will also include professionally led training camps run throughout the year, and will be known as TSLC IronKids Phuket.

Phuket's reputation as a destination for professional and amateur athletes is rapidly developing with internationally recognized triathlons and training camps offered every year.

Participation numbers at the Laguna Phuket Triathlon, Phuket International Marathon and the Swatch FIVB Women's Beach Volleyball World Tour continue to increase – further testament to the island's track record of successfully hosting and building on major annual sporting events.

TSLC's world-class sports facility is located in natural surroundings only minutes away from Phuket International Airport

and provides the ideal environment for professional and amateur triathletes, as well as young athletes tackling their first multi-sport event. An Olympic standard eight lane, 50 meter pool and eight lane, 25m pool offer ideal swimming conditions, while the roads surrounding TSLC are safe and perfect for young cyclists to learn biking skills. Events and training runs are done on site at 500m cushioned athletics track or on tracks in the National Park area.

This spectacular location is set to become the "home" of triathlon for young, upcoming triathletes and the trial races are an excellent opportunity for children to gain valuable race experience for the official race in December.

Kids can sign up as individual racers or participate as part of a relay team with friends in their age group.

All races are divided into age group categories; Junior for 6 to 8 years; Intermediates for 9 to 11 years and Seniors for 12 to 17 years.

The Junior race comprises a 50m swim, 3km bike and a 500m run. The intermediate race distances are a 150m swim, 6km bike and a 1.5km run. The senior race distances are a 300m swim, 12km bike and a 3km run.

Anyone can participate in these age groups, and it is not necessary, although helpful, if the children do train a bit before the races. The trial races are designed to give children the chance to practice race skills before the main event in December and also



a Triathlon, often encouraging and giving them incentive to become more active to train in the three disciplines.

Many children enjoy active lifestyles in various sports. Training for a triathlon will enhance fitness which will help raise performance levels in their chosen sports, like football, rugby, tennis.

Triathlon training can be fun for the whole family, with bike rides along secured roads, and swim races in the pool. Kids will love running races with their parents.

The key to triathlon training is to teach children to pace themselves so they can last the distance. Running at a slow pace over an appropriate distance will be very effective practice for the races.



images participating in the disciplines of triathlon which include swimming in TSLC's Olympic-sized pool, biking and running in and around the facility's beautiful and natural surrounds located in Thalang.





on the TSLC IronKids Phuket Series, please visit IronKidsPhuket.com.

It is also helpful to "like" the TSLC IronKids Phuket facebook page for regular updates and to see posts of other related events in Phuket that the children can join, such as fun runs and training activities. T: 076 336 000 or E: claire@ironkidsphuket.com.



Pfizenmaier on fire!

German ace Dina Pfizenmaier wins the first women's ITF pro tennis tournament held on Phuket.

By Neil Quail

DINAH Pfizenmaier's skillful service game helped earn her the first Phuket Chang-SAT ITF Women's Pro Circuit tennis title after defeating Noppowan Lertcheewakarn of Thailand last weekend.

Played at Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club, the US\$25.000

event began on the previous Monday with singles and doubles tournaments whittling down the competition until only the best remained.

In the final, local support certainly weighed on the side of Noppowan, seeded sixth for the tournament. And a nervous start from the 20year-old German cost her the first game through four unforced errors.

Pfizenmaier's first serve of the match hoisted a red flag for Noppowan fans. The rangy European is more at home on clay or carpet, but the vicious top-spin delivery kicked up off the the Plexicushion surface forcing Noppowan into an awkward attempted return.

And so it continued. Pfizenmaier held serve comfortably and proceeded to break Noppowan's serve three times taking an unassailable 5-1 lead. Noppowan held her

serve only once more before Pfizenmaier closed out the set at 6-2.

After losing the first service game of the second set, Noppowan fought her way back, to level the scores at two games each.

> An attacking fifth game from the 20-year-old Chiang Mai star offered a glimpse of her abilities as she moved the German around the court and attacked any s e c o n d serves. A superb drop-

> > s h o t

winner at 15-15 had the crowd on their feet before she confidently served out the game for a 3-2 lead.

Thailand's Noppowan

Lertcheewakarn.

Photo: Neil Quail

Pfizenmaier held her serve in the sixth game to draw level, but Noppowan's serve and will were broken in the seventh game, during which several poor line calls were made. The German was back in command at 4-3 and then consolidated her position by holding serve to lead 5-3.

While Noppowan won the next game, her frustration was evident, walking to the back of the court with her head bowed in realization of the impending loss.

The German player closed in for the kill and lost only one point as Noppowan sprayed her returns high, wide and into the net.

Speaking to the Gazette after her win, Pfizenmaier explained that she knew what to expect from Noppowan.

"I saw [Noppowan] play yesterday and learned she can fight a lot. I knew she was having trouble with my serve, but I knew she wouldn't give up so I continued to play the same way and give my best. She did well, but I was the better player on the day," she said.

Noppowan was disappointed, but the 'fight' her opponent recognized was also

"You don't find many players in Asia who play like her, so it was quite difficult out there in the final. The line calls really affected me, but I can't blame that entirely. Next time we play each other, it will be different," she said.

The Russian pairing of Natela Dzalamidze and Marta Sirotkina secured the double's title defeating the number one seeds Chi-Wei Chan of Taipei and Saisai Zheng of China.

WWW.THANYAPURA.COM

KICKER: Pfizenmaier's wicked service game spun the matchin her

favor. Photo: Neil Quail

As this edition of the Gazette reaches newsstands, the Phuket tournament has played out its second round of matches with the single's final scheduled again for Saturday, March 31.

For more information visit Thanvapura.com or ITFTennis.com.



>> ISLAND YACHTING, WORLD-CLASS SAILING



A Wave Of New Supplements

Phuket All At Sea is the latest newspaper supplement published by the Phuket Gazette. There will be many more to look forward to in coming months: The Phuket Property Review, Phuket Life & Style Luxury Living, Best of Phuket as well as Christmas and Valentine's Day specials.



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PIMEX DIRECTOR'S LETTER

'Phuket's A Must Port Of Call'

By Andy Dowden

PHUKET is now the established epicenter of the marine-leisure industry in Southeast Asia. While Indonesia has thousands of beautiful islands, Malaysia has more marinas and Singapore is the super city of the region, Phuket's everexpanding marine tourism industry, location and stunning scenery make our island an essential port of call for all vachts in the region.

With Phang Nga Bay, Krabi and other southern Thai provinces on Phuket's doorstep, there are superb cruising grounds within easy reach. Phuket is the gateway to Burma and the Andaman Islands. The island already has four worldclass marinas and two more have recently opened in Krabi.

The yacht industry in Phuket has steadily grown over the past 25 years, from humble beginnings to big business. Today, there is a wealth of island companies offering bareboat and crewedsailing charters, and an impressive fleet of state-of-the-art power yachts are available for hire.

The island has become a favorite destination for a growing number of superyachts that visit each year during high season. Coupled with an established tourist sector, the evolution of the marine industry is in sync with the sustainable growth of tourism in the region.

There is an exceptionally strong marine services industry which has matured into the best-skilled, and certainly best-value, repair and service center in the region. Many yachts come from Europe or the United States to carry out extensive refits here while taking the opportunity to explore the region.

For many years the region has been dubbed the "Caribbean of Asia" with Phuket at its heart.

Marine events on the island include the Kings Cup Regatta, now in its 25th year, as well as two other major regattas each year (Six Senses Raceweek and The Bay Regatta). In 2003, the first Phuket International Boat Show (PIMEX) was held at the Boat Lagoon marina. Now in its 9th year, and based at Royal Phuket Marina, the show is Southeast Asia's biggest



SHOW TIME: PIMEX director Andy Dowden with deputy director, Piyawan Songsawas.

showcase of yachts, equipment and services, attracting products from all over the world.

In 2003, the Thai Government recognized the potential of marine tourism and reduced the import duty on yachts to zero from a previously prohibitive 230 per cent. The immediate impact was large investment in charter fleets and since then the industry has grown remarkably, with more marinas, better facilities and jobs created, firmly

cementing the island's reputation as a yachting capital.

As we look to the future, despite the global economic woes, the marine industry continues to thrive and is intrinsically linked to the island's prosperity as a whole.

Phuket's reputation as a world-class yachting destination will only continue to spread as time goes on.

PIMEX DETAILS

Find the latest yachts at the Phuket International Boat Show (PIMEX) at Royal Phuket Marina from March 29 to April 1.

- >> Free entry to Asia's best international boat show
- More than 50 in-water boat displays
- Asia debuts from international brands
- >> More than 6,000 visitors expected >> 120-plus marine industry exhibitors
- Social events, live entertainment and more
- See iirme.com/pimex



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Route	Flight	Departure	Arrival
НКТ-ВКК	PG270	07.00	08.20
	PG272	10.15	11.45
	PG276*	12.15	13.40
	PG907	14.35	16.00
	PG274	16.10	17.35
	PG278	19.10	20.35
	PG280	22.10	23.35
вкк-нкт	PG271	08.05	09.30
	PG275*	10.00	11.25
	PG924	12.20	13.45
	PG273	13.55	15.20
	PG277	16.55	18.20
	PG279	20.00	21.25
	PG220	21.55	23.20

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The Asia Boat Event Diary

- >> Phuket International Boat Show (PIMEX) > March 29 to April 1 > Royal Phuket Marina> See iirme.com/pimex
- >> Hainan Rendezvous > April 5 to 8 > Visun Marina Club, Sanya, China > hainanrendezvous.com
- >> Boat Asia > April 12 to 15 > Marina at Keppel Bay, Singapore > boat-asia.com
- >> China International Boat Show > April 19 to 22 > Shanghai World Exhibition & Convention Center, Shanghai, China
- > boatshowchina.com
- >> Singapore Yacht Show > April 27 to 29 > One° 15 Marina, Sentosa, Singapore > singaporeyachtshow.com
- >> Hong Kong Gold Coast Boat Show > May 4 to 6 > Hong Kong Gold Coast Yacht and Country Club, Hong Kong > hongkonggoldcoastboatshow.com

Sunseeker To Bring Out The Big Boys For PIMEX

By Fraser Morton

SUNSEEKER Thailand will unveil three flybridge yachts at PIMEX this weekend, all of which will be making their Asian debut. This will be the largest display of Sunseeker yachts ever displayed in Thailand.

The recently launched Manhattan 73 is the largest of the three yachts.

Named Michaela, the 73 is a stylish example of the Manhattan range, which demonstrates an ingenious use of space on board this four-cabin yacht.

Craig Murphy, managing director of Sunseeker Phuket, said the company has sold a boat a year at PIMEX for the previous seven shows.

"After Hong Kong, we've sold more boats in Phuket than anywhere else in Asia. PIMEX is probably the best boat show in Asia right now. I go to shows all over-Singapore, Hong Kong – but I believe the best boating is right here off Phuket."

"This is a premier cruising ground and it's very important for our company to be well-represented at PIMEX," he said.

In addition to showcasing the Manhattan 73, Maia, one of two Manhattan 63s will also be on show. This particular model has a three-cabin



layout with its galley below, with a large entertainment area in the main saloon.

The Sunseeker Manhattan 63 recently won the award for the Best Boat in the flybridge category above 55-feet at the 2012 Annual Motor Boat of the Year Awards held at The Savoy in London.

Finally, the Manhattan 53 completes Sunseeker's PIMEX 2012 line-up. This model was only released at the Southampton Boat Show in late 2011 and has already proved popular worldwide with distributors and buyers.

Simpson Marine To Show Acute 'Sense' At PIMEX

By Blair Christopher

SIMPSON Marine will have four stellar boats from its arsenal on show at PIMEX this weekend, including the first display in Thailand of the French Beneteau Sense 50.

Known for cutting-edge, robust design, Beneteau has been building boats for more than a century. The Sense 50 is a homage to the builders' expertise and will no doubt turn heads at PIMEX.

The 50-foot monohull has a hull designed to ensure less heel and better performance, and costs over 16.3 million baht (More than US\$500,000).

As long-term PIMEX exhibitor, Simpson Marine, one of Asia's leading yacht dealers since 1984, will also display a 56-foot cruising catamaran, The Lagoon 560 (first one in Thailand), and The Lagoon 620 from France.

Also on show will be The Azimut 47 (2011 model), a classic 47-foot

yacht with fly bridge built in 2008 and based in Thailand.

Mario Zanasi, country manager of Simpson Marine, said of the six PIMEX events the company has participated in, that they have always had a surge of interest from clients.

"PIMEX is a good opportunity for our experienced sales team to meet customers and discuss all aspects of boating with Simpson Marine," he said.





As sole agent for the Soto 30 and 40, two yachts synonymous with excellence in speed racing, Longitude is now bringing this new breed of yacht design to Thailand.

Tim Long, principal of Longitude, who arrived in Phuket earlier this month from Melbourne, Australia, said Phuket is the perfect place to sell his yachts.

Asian economic explosion and revitalized interest in sailing and racing," he said.

The world of yacht racing had a major makeover in 2009 when the first Soto 40s started racing in Argentina.

The Soto 40 has gone on to lead the way in a new era of "fast 40s", or 40-foot yachts that can reach superlative speeds, ushering in renewed excitement

in the Asian region by governments and private investors, and the yachts will follow, as will the yacht racing. Basing ourselves in Phuket is smart and it's a lot

winters," Long said. Following the successes of the somewhat radical Soto 40 design, Longitude Yachts and mBoats (the Argentinian builder

warmer than Melbourne's

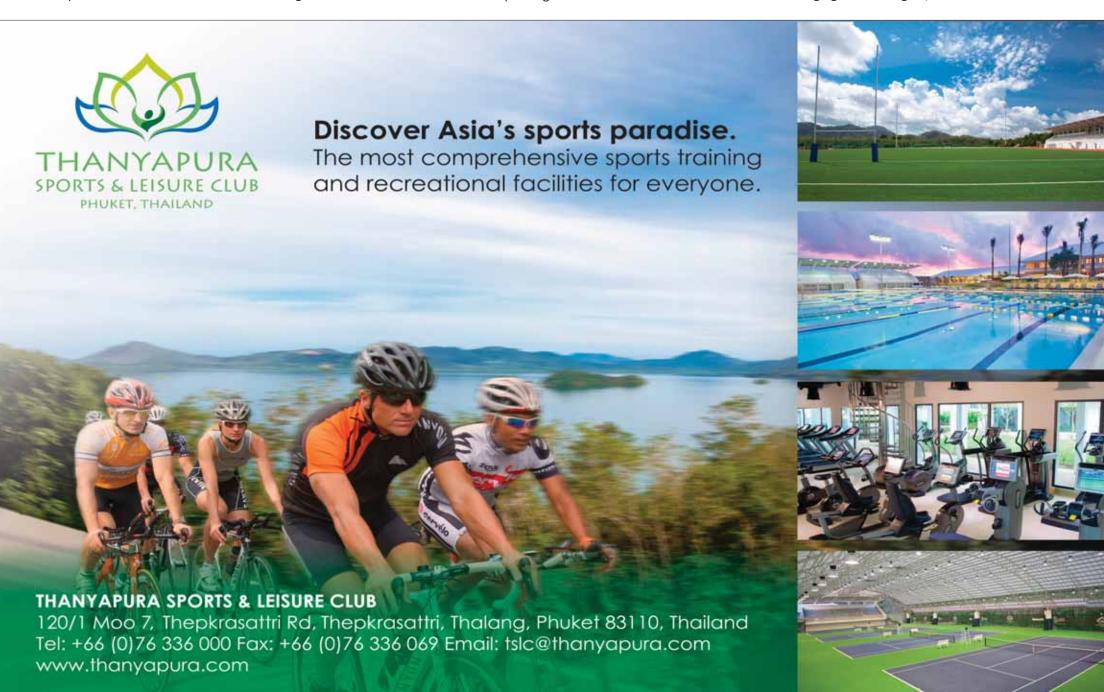
40: enormous cockpit, excellent sailing systems and ergonomics, eye-popping looks and exhilarating performance.

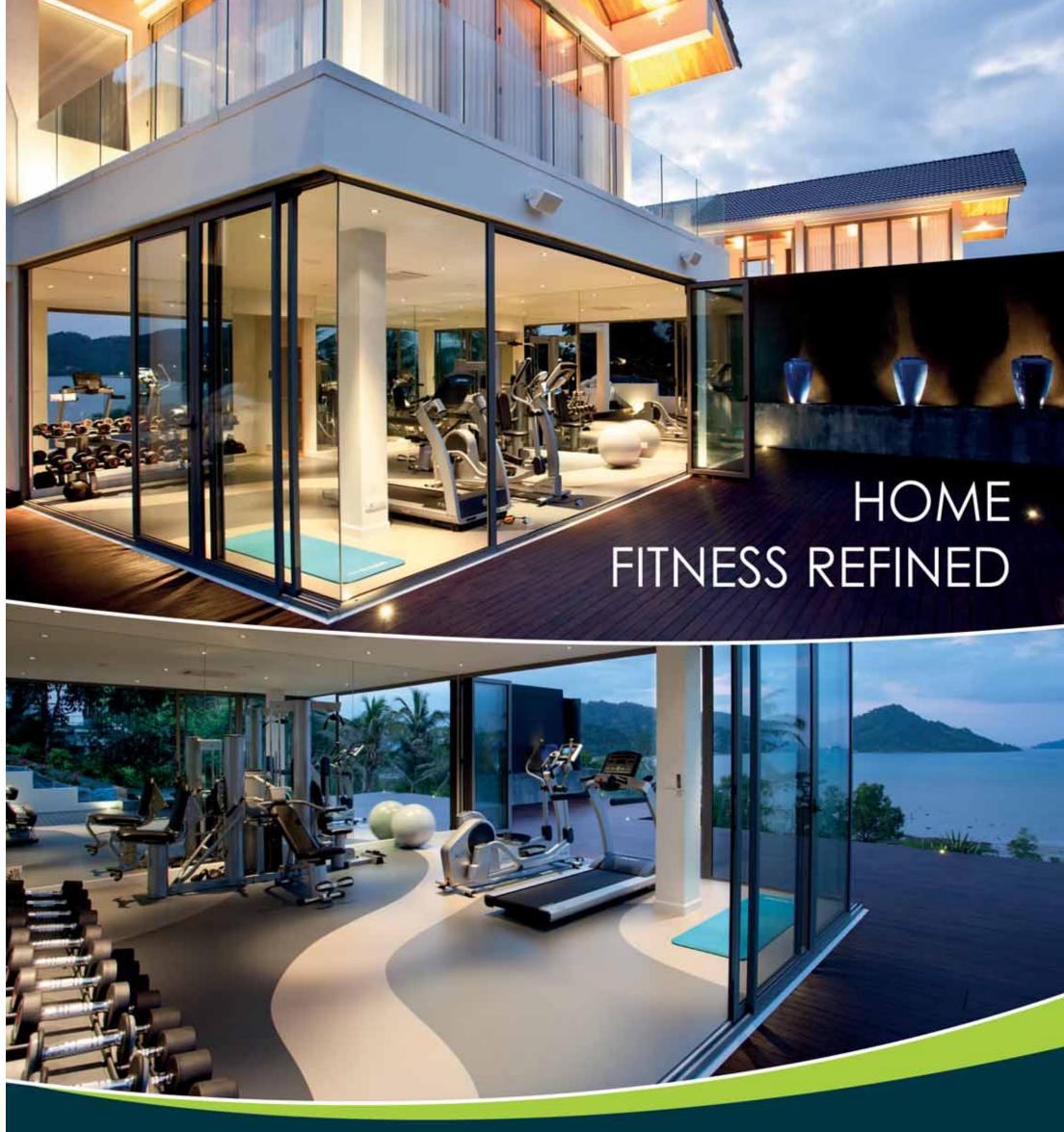
"While handicap racing has forced many builders to design slow yachts that fit the handicap rules, we just want to go fast and have fun. A fast yacht will win races on its day, no matter what handicap rule it is racing in. We are also committed to bringing

technology in the sport have escalated the price of racing to an unsustainable level," said Long.

The first Soto 30 will race at the Top of the Gulf Regatta in Pattaya on May 4.

"There is no doubt in my mind \in that Thailand is on the cusp of an $\, \Im$ exciting era in yachting and will become a major base for boatbuilding, racing and cruising in the region," he added.







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The Boat Event Of The Year Is Here

PIMEX APPEAL

By Fraser Morton

SIX THOUSAND visitors are expected to amble the boardwalks and eye the latest marine technology at the ninthannual Phuket International Boat Show (PIMEX) this weekend.

More than 50 in-water boat displays from 40 brands and 120 exhibitors from 50 countries will vie for the attention of Asia's yachting elite from March 29 to April 1 at Royal Phuket Marina. It's a show not to be missed.

Last year's show generated sales in excess of 920 million baht (US\$30 million) and organizers expect this figure to be dwarfed this year with more than 1.5 billion baht (US\$50 million) worth of boats featuring in the show.

The event is organized by Informa Yacht Group, a world leader in marine events. PIMEX director Andy Dowden says this year's event will be the best yet and that the change of date from January to late-March was a positive move.

"By holding the event slightly later in the year there is an even better range of boats which the exhibitors are very excited about. For visitors, PIMEX is a great opportunity to be inspired by the range of boats, including some extremely luxurious for long-distance cruising and others purely for fun on day trips," he says.

"PIMEX has something for everyone. It is the single best opportunity for existing yacht owners and buyers to see the largest selection of boats on display, actually in the water."

Dowden says PIMEX presents an opportunity for overseas buyers to get a feel for Phuket and explore the region, pointing to the ever-expanding number of marine services on the island, brokers and charters as a major boon for people mulling a move to Phuket.

The up-close-and-personal feel of PIMEX, where potential buyers can tour in-water displays, has been a mainstay at the show, which today stakes a claim as the largest in-water display at a single show, this year reaching 50.

When the curtain draws on PIMEX each year, it's not the final act. The show leaves a long shadow and a buzz that

reverberates around the yacht industry. This buzz morphs into word-of-mouth which naturally leads to a swell in visitors to PIMEX each year and a massaging of Phuket's reputation worldwide.

The rise in the number of boats berthed in Phuket is in part due to the diversity of international buyers and the growth of the domestic Thai buyer market, spurred on by PIMEX and major yachting events around Phuket.

"We are seeing an increasing trend among wealthy Thai customers towards owning a luxury boat and a growth of interest from international buyers from Russia, China and the Middle-East," says Jariya Sungtong, sales and marketing manager of Windy Boats Asia, a 2012 exhibitor. More exhibitors agree.

"We are seeing more overseas customers, particularly from Russia; but there is also growth in the number of Thai nationals purchasing yachts," says Martin Holmes, general manager of exhibitor Lee Marine, a regular PIMEX participant.

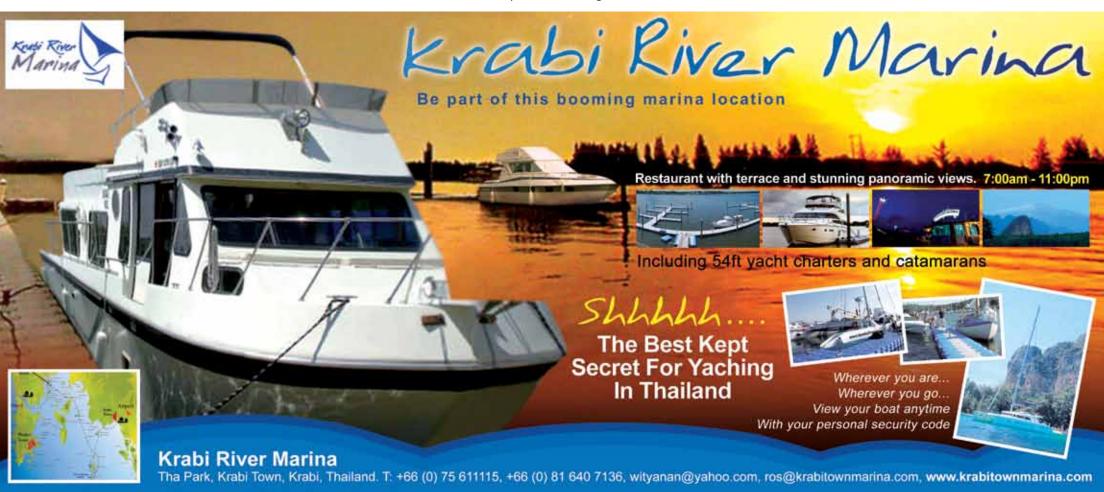
And expect to see a legion of



PIMEX DETAILS

Find the latest yachts at the Phuket International Boat Show (PI-MEX) at Royal Phuket Marina from March 29 to April 1.

- >> More than 50 in-water boat displays
- >> Asia debuts from international brands
- >> More than 6,000 visitors expected
- >> 120-plus marine industry exhibitors
- >> Social events, live entertainment and more
- >> See iirme.com/pimex





Phuket sailing stalwarts at PIMEX this year as well.

Vincent Tabuteau, owner and CEO of Asia Marine and a PIMEX 2012 exhibitor, has been sailing for 45 years and living in Phuket for 29. He's enjoyed watching PIMEX evolve.

"We have seen the quality of products presented improve, which attracts a better quality of buyers."

"The early PIMEX years were more like an exhibitor campsite. We now have a wellmanaged international boat show with very good exposure and quality buyers."

Mark Horwood, managing director of Latitude 8 Asia, is another seasoned Phuket sailor, having lived here for 28 years and sailing most of his life.

He says PIMEX provides an opportunity to catch up with friends in the industry and is looking forward to the "biggest" PIMEX event so far.

Bill O'Leary, a marine industry consultant and 25-year Phuket sailing veteran, says he too will be eyeing the latest luxury powerboats at PIMEX this year.

"I've enjoyed watching the European invasion of fast, luxury motor yachts: Pershing, Ferretti, Princess, Sunseeker; the faster the better."

"Phuket is already the center of the maritime industry in Southeast Asia. A few of us were lucky enough to land here before the word got out. There's still plenty of room for growth and PIMEX leads the way. Phuket marine tourism is unstoppable."

But "unstoppable Phuket" is also helping the greater good of the region. The island is also the beating heart of the Andaman Marine Triangle, consisting of Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi provinces.

The trio of provinces share a coastline, 200-direct weekly international flights and a shared vision for marine industry expansion.

Phuket is home to four world-class marinas with capacity for more than 750 boats. This is set to rise. Further investment by established Phuket marinas is expected to be over 500 million baht, and a likely expansion of berth capacity of more than 20 per cent over the next five years, notably at RPM where massive marina expansion (phase 4) will get under way in 2013.

Across the bay, Krabi is also big on building for the future, with two new marinas (Krabi Boat Lagoon and Krabi River Marina) and another (Port Takola Marina) in the pipeline, adding almost 400 berths to the Triangle when complete. More than one billion baht of marina infrastructure development is expected in the Triangle over the next five years.

As Channel News Asia reports: "The amount of private wealth in Asia is estimated to triple to US\$16 trillion by 2015, according to Swiss private bank Julius Baer's annual wealth report, done jointly with CLSA investment group."

It is this growth in regional wealth, combined with the desire of boat owners wanting to relocate from traditional cruising grounds, that continues to fuel the growth of the marine leisure









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By Fraser Morton

THEY FLY little aircraft but Helicam has a large following on Phuket, especially in the marine industry.

Established in 2004, the Chalong-based business continues to reach new heights, recently moving into high-tech new offices, investing in new "Heli-craft" and seeing their list of marine clients rocketing.

Specializing in aerial photography, the marine industry now accounts for about 25 per cent of Helicam's clients, with yacht brokers and owners from all corners of Southeast Asia seeking out the specialist skills of the Heli-team.

"Our business in the marine industry is coming on leaps and bounds," Helicam owner and pilot Phil Clark said.

"With the surge in the number of yacht sales, more owners and brokers are turning to us for aerial footage to promote their boats on the water, and some of the results are fantastic."

As PIMEX photography provider and exhibitor for the past six years, Helicam will have their latest flying gadgets at this year's show (March 29 to April 1 at Royal Phuket Marina).

While Englishman Clark will be flying his remote controlled Helicam at PIMEX, capturing all the event happenings, Jonathan Russell, Helicam Office Manager and boyhood friend of Clark, will be manning their Heli-booth as one of the 120 exhibitors at the event.

"We love being part of PIMEX, and it is a great networking opportunity for more people in the marine industry to see what we do."

As well as being the company's fastest-growing client segment, the marine industry is also one of the trickiest for the camera operators, often shooting at-sea and while the operators stand on a speedboat hurtling across water.

The precision needed to keep one of the Helicams hovering sometimes a few feet above the water and getting the perfect shot the client needs is no easy

"Accidents do happen and malfunctions can occur. We have lost a few machines in the drink. It can be expensive and costs

about 400,000 baht per Heli-rig," Russell said. But in their 9th year in business their 100 per cent safety record is still intact (one of their Heli-rigs hurt, but no humans).

"We are the best at what we do and the only ones in Thailand in our line of business," Russell said.

It was back when Clark, now 41, was a 17-year-old student at Benfield Comprehensive in Newcastle, England, that he crafted his first Helicam.

"I used to fly nitro-remotecontrolled helicopters, and as a school project attached a camera to a helicopter. I got a grade A and the headmaster loved the photographs of the school from the air."

After he left school, Clark took a job in Dubai but spent his spare time fitting cameras to helicopters. After 10 years in the Middle-East, Clark told his workmates he was heading to Phuket to turn his passion into a business.

"All the guys I worked with thought I was nuts, but now they come out here and visit me and say 'well done'".

Helicam continues to invest



in new technology and add to their fleet of modified remote-controlled craft.

One of their latest innovations is superimposing computergraphics onto real-time videos. In a promotional video tour of a Cape Sawan property from David Lloyd Asia, Helicam produced a 1.45-minute video which merges actual footage of the Kamala coastline with CGI graphics of the property. This gives prospective investors the chance to see what a property will look like before it's even built.

"It took weeks to edit, as we had to insert CGI onto every single frame of video. But the finished product is worth it; it's taken our products to another level," said Russell.

Helicam is also tinkering with several new toys to add to its 5 fleet, including new crane and cable rigs which should be on

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big boat. Actually she drives all shapes and sizes of boats as part of her job as managing director of Seat Boats, Thailand's biggest homegrown pleasurecraft builder and a major exhibitor at PIMEX 2012. She has excelled as a Thai woman in an industry dominated by farang men, but modestly bats down any suggestions that she could be an inspiration

"It doesn't matter what sex you are, you have to prove yourself. My goal is to do my best and that's it," says Tukta. "I never

for other women looking to enter

now. What was started in 1969 by her father Paiboon Bencharit as Thailand's first distributor of Mercury outboard motors has grown into a fully versatile original boat-building company, producing everything from small speedboats to superyachts. Seat started with just a handful of employees but now has over 100 in its boatyard in Chonburi, plus offices in Phuket and Bangkok.

The culmination of Seat's boat-building history was the recent production of the 90-foot superyacht Golden Boy, which was made for a Thai friend of Tukta's who keeps it in Pattaya. Golden Boy is the biggest original pleasure yacht ever built in Thailand and a testament to Tukta's hard work – and her honesty. When her friend came to ask her to undertake the massive project, Tukta was straightforward.

"I said that we could do it, because we'd already built four 80-footers. But with that experience, I knew our weaknesses. On the four 80-foot units we did everything in-house, including the design and it was too much. So for Golden Boy we joined with Albatross Marine and let them design it. Then we built the boat according to their

while the saloon door came from Taylor Systems in the United States, costing a cool one million baht.

"For this boat I didn't think about profit. I wanted to make the boat the very best I could," says Tukta. "The customer was quite happy."

Besides original builds, Seat is also the Thailand distributor for US brand Sea Ray, which makes highperformance sport yachts; Zodiac Marine, which makes first-rate inflatable boats; and Mercury outboard motors, its original business.

PIMEX is the most important boat show of the year for Seat, being the biggest one in Thailand. They will have three water displays, the Seat SB442H, SB465, SR 44 Sedan Bridge, and one land display with the Zodiac Medline 550 this year, making them one of the best represented companies at the show. This will be the first time for Seat to display Zodiac inflatables, for which they've been the Thailand dealer for more than 30 years.

"They're the best inflatables in the world. We sell lots of Zodiacs to the Thai Navy and the government, but we want to expand to the private market. For the last two years, people have been inquiring so much because it's a wellknown brand. We think we can sell quite a few this year."



SEAT'S PIMEX DISPLAY MODELS

Find the latest yachts at the Phuket International Boat Show (PIMEX) at Royal Phuket Marina from March 29 to April 1.

- >> Seat SB442H: The company's biggest standard cruiser.
- >> Seat SB465: This triple-engine boat has been well-received by commercial markets since the company launched its first "SB", SB369, in 2003. More than 100 SB boats have been sold to date with 12 models in the category.
- >> Seat SR 44 Sedan Bridge: On sale in Thailand since 2006, more than 70 SR boats have been sold.
- >> Zodiac Medline 550: Seat has represented Zodiac Marine, inflatable specialists, for more than 30 years, with the majority of sales going to the Thai government.

They will also, of course, display their own brands and

the other brands they distribute.

So how does a Thai lady from Bangkok fall into becoming a successful boating industry executive? Speak with Tukta for awhile and you'll quickly realize that she's been around boats her whole life and they are an integral part of her rich family history. Her grandfather Lee Ben Bencharit emigrated from China and was a successful rice merchant on the Tha Chin River in Nakon Chaisi, Nakon Pathom province, near Bangkok. "At that time he could speak Thai, English and Chinese so he had an advantage. He was involved in the complete cycle of rice. He bought land for the farmers and he had two or three rice mills in Nakon Chaisi, then he imported rice to Hong Kong," she says.

"My grandfather was very into boating. His house in Nakon Chaisi was right on the Tha Chin River and he was one of the first people to have a boat in the area. He imported it from the US, and I think it was a 16-footer. So my dad had a chance to be on the boat with his father and he loved it."

Tukta remembers boating along the river and canals of the area when she would visit her grandfather. "At that time, people were still selling things on the river. We would go along the canals and buy prawns or *kuay teo ruea* boat noodles. He would make a "tok tok tok" noise and they'd come and make noodles for us. I had those

experiences when I was young."

Her grandfather's love of boating was passed onto her father Paiboon, who in turn passed it on to her. When Paiboon started Seat in 1969, he chose Pattaya for its first office because it was on the ocean but near Bangkok. The outbound motor sales went so well – especially to American soldiers who came to Pattaya on R&R from the Vietnam War – that he decided to start building his own boats, at first just fiberglass-bottom 16-footers.

THAI STYLE: Seat's 80-foot 'Golden Boy' is the biggest

<mark>origina</mark>l pleasure y<mark>acht ever built in Thailand.</mark>

Paiboon asked Tukta to take over the operations in Pattaya when she was just out of college and considering going to the US to get a master's degree.

"He needed someone he could trust in Pattaya, and frankly speaking, I don't like to study so I said 'yes' right away," she says, and it was truly a dream job for her. "I was always around boats. Since I was born, my dad brought me to Pattaya every weekend. We'd go to Koh Larn island every week and eat seafood and swim."

Today, Tukta's goal is to share some of the joy she's found in boating with customers.

"This business in my mind is selling happiness. I want to sell happiness. If you buy a boat from me I want you to be happy and enjoy it. Everyone wants to make money, but you must do business with morals."

Byron Perry is the founder of hyperlocal news and reviews website Coconuts Bangkok coconutsbangkok.com



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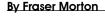




tartanyachts.com

Photography (above, cover): Billy Black

Sound the bagpipes and pour yourself a large Scotch, the **Tartan Yachts** clan has arrived in Phuket. But – wait – these clansmen have foreign accents, they almost sound American...



THE Scottish-sounding American boat-builder Tartan Yachts has finally reached Phuket, intent on awing unsuspecting onlookers at PIMEX this weekend with its award-winning star hoat

From March 29 to April 1 at PIMEX, Royal Phuket Marina, you can have a first-hand experience of what it's like to walk the epoxy-composite planks of the 41-foot Mid-Size cruiser, the Tartan 4000, a boat which Americans have been drooling over since its launch.

The 4000 was recently awarded Best

Mid-Size Cruiser and Best Performance Cruiser by Sailing World and Cruising World magazines at the Boat Of The Year Awards 2012 in Ohio. United States.

The awards are revered as the most authoritative in the marine industry. Judges consider design, construction, seaworthiness, performance, purpose and cost when choosing the winners.

Boat of the Year staff visited the Tartan Yachts manufacturing facility in Painesville, Ohio on January 25 to present the double award to Owner Steve Malbasa.

Malbasa said: "It is an honor to win the Boat of the Year award from either

publication, but to win the award from both for the Tartan 4000 in the same year is very exciting. Our entire team here at Tartan Yachts takes pride in every boat we build."

When making their Boat of the Year announcement the experts from Cruising World and Sailing World said: The 4000 has "retained that classic Tartan look, but they've also given you ergonomics that work well throughout," said Ed Sherman.

"It's a well-built boat of thoughtful design that is a step above the other performance cruisers of this genre," said Dobbs Davis.

For 50 years, Tartan has built boats that turn heads, with both stylish interiors

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and performance-based excellence, but also with a discerning frown at superficial design touches simply for the sake of good looks. The design is clean, the function paramount.

American businessman and Tartan Yachts Southeast Asia representative George Foose grew up in the Midwest dreaming about one day owning a Tartan yacht. Now he does, a big one, a big award-winning one: the 4000.

He was one of the first five owners in the world, putting a deposit down as soon as the investment window opened.

Foose is also founder of Sports Engineering And Recreation Asia (SEARA Sports) Ltd, a leader in sports-facilities' management and equipment in Thailand.

Foose, who has owned boats in Phuket and Pattaya, bought his 4000 in 2010. He liked the company so much he also agreed to be the Southeast Asia representative for Tartan because it was "too good an opportunity to pass on".

"The significance of Tartan Yachts and the 4000 making its Asian debut at PIMEX is that this level of quality in a productionsailing yacht has not appeared at Asian boat shows before."

Foose said the 4000 has presence and that as soon as people get near it at PIMEX they will realize it is not an average yacht.

"The Boat Of The Year judges spent weeks with at least a half dozen finalists. But what impressed them about the 4000 were things like classic beauty, performance, features like the composite-cored hull and deck infused with epoxy, the carbon-fiber rig and rudder, the handcrafted solid-cherry interior, the onboard ergonomics and attention to detail," he said.

The 4000 will be the only Tartan yacht on display at PIMEX. Named "Dream", it was recently commissioned in Singapore by Solidair Marine of Phuket.

Both Foose and representatives













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IT'S FAIR to say Gulu Lalvani likes to be near water. He has five yachts, two Phuket homes by the sea – oh – and owns Royal Phuket Marina (RPM). We caught up with the 72-year-old Karachi-born businessman on dry land to muse over the Phuket International Boat Show, and why Phuket will be leading the field as Asia's yachting hub in years to

By Fraser Morton

All At Sea: As chairman of RPM, what is your role in PIMEX? Gulu Lalvani: We serve purely as landlords: We rent berths and the exhibition hall. We make sure we provide the best, most professional marina facilities in Phuket.

Q: How are PIMEX and RPM helping to cement Phuket's reputation as a yachting destination?

A: Phuket is now known as the 'Riviera of Southeast Asia'

and voted Best Asian Maritime Capital 2009 and 2010 by Asia Boating Awards. The attention generated through media and word of mouth from Asia's best boat show, PIMEX, and the world-class facilities at RPM are helping to reach more owners of superyachts around the world.

Q: Can you compare Phuket's yachting scene with other up-and-coming or established maritime hubs around Asia-Pacific and the rest of the world? A: We compete with Singapore and Hong Kong but the natural

beauty around Phuket is unparalleled. More yacht owners in the 'Med' and the Caribbean are coming to Phuket because fuel prices are low, they want to explore the archipelagoes and because the yachting scene here is on the up. In five years, Phuket could be the best yachting destination in the world. It's one of the few places in the world you can sail year-round.

Q: What does the future hold for RPM?

A: Right now RPM is only 35 per cent complete. Phase 1, the

marina and four buildings, was completed in 2006. Phase 2 was finished in 2009, and right now, phase 3, a hotel and apartments, is under construction. Phase 4, the expansion of the marina, should be underway next year.

Q: How do you think Phuket's yacht facilities and marinas will have improved in the next decade?

A: At the moment, I don't think we will see any more marinas being built in Phuket as no more licences are permitted. I think we will be the only marina that will be expanding just now, but we had planned to continue building from the outset. Popularity will only continue to grow for Phuket as more people hear of the professional facilities the island has to offer yacht owners.

Q: Can you recall any special

memories from PIMEX in years

past?

A: I get a huge amount of satisfaction from seeing the evolution of the show. I think the organizers have done a terrific job, and from RPM's position, I am happy to see our world-class facilities and exhibition center being used for the show.

Q: Will you be in the market for a new boat at PIMEX?

A: I just bought a new one last year, a Mangusta 72 (pictured above). It's the first one in Asia. It's the perfect boat for Phuket. I take it from RPM to my other home at Amanpuri on the west coast in no time. I can be in Langkawi in 2.5 hours and Phi Phi in 30 minutes. It's a fun boat. Yachting around Phuket is fun, and very different from anywhere else. We have a lot to look forward to here in Phuket for the future of the marine







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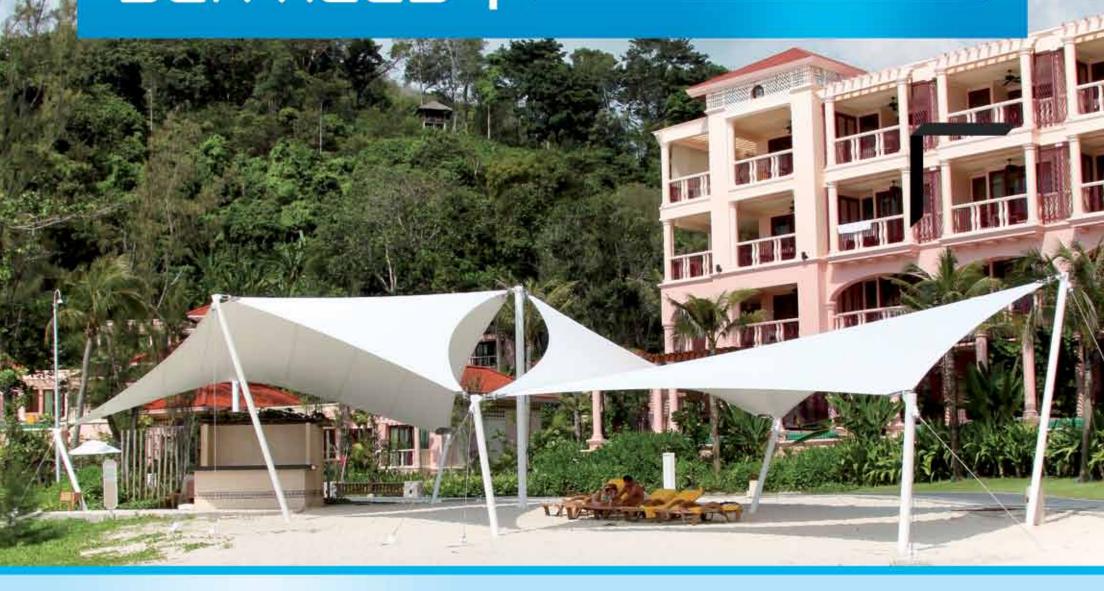




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