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Paris Hilton not busting beats on Phuket

Socialite and DJ Ms Hilton not booked for beach party

INSIDE TODAY

'THIS TIME I DECIDED TO RUN TO YOU ASKING FOR HELP'

Child exploitation caught in spotlight

Human-trafficking victim runs to the safety of Patong officials, only tip of the iceberg says children's rights agency

By Chutharat Plerin

A 12-YEAR-OLD girl fleeing her captors to the safety of officials on Soi Bangla last week, has raised the ugly specter of Phuket becoming a prime human-trafficking and child-exploitation destination, according an international children's rights agency.

The girl, nicknamed "Aoi" to protect her identity, ran up to Patong Deputy Mayor Chairat Sukban and about 10 other officers on night patrol on December 11, saying that she and some of her friends had been taken away from their parents in Cambodia under the pretense that they would be trained as nannies for high-society families in Patong.

"After we got here, the men forced us to steal tourists' bags. We had to steal one or two times a night – they were always watching us, and if we didn't steal something, we weren't allowed to eat," Aoi said.

"They said they would attack our parents back home if we did not do what they said," she explained.

"The men said anytime we see Mr Chairat we must run away… This time I decided to run to you asking for help. I want to go home. I miss my parents."

Continued on Page 8

'Aoi' said she was forced by her captors to sell flowers and snatch bags from tourists as they walked along Soi Bangla, Patong's renowned party district (pictured). Photo: Gazette file

Tanon 'Non' Chamroen

Phuket Teen champion of The Voice

PHUKET teenager Tanon "Non" Chamroen, now known as "Non Tanon", won the national singing talent quest *The Voice Thailand* 2012 last weekend.

The Mattayom 4 student at Satree Phuket School in Phuket Town won one million baht in prize money, a car and a recording contract.

Full story on Page 2

MMA fighter comes out about broken penis ordeal

MMA fighter Ray Elbe talks exclusively with the *Gazette* about the penis injury he suffered in his Kuala Lumpur condo earlier this month during intercourse.

A lot of men who injure their penis don't seek proper medical treatment and end up with permanent damage, he explains.

Full story on Page 6

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Phuket teen 'Non Tanon' wins The Voice Thailand

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

PHUKET teenager Tanon "Non" Chamroen won the national singing talent quest The Voice Thailand 2012 last weekend. Standing on stage in Bangkok last Saturday night, Non sang the Thai love song *Yung Mai Koey* ("*Still Never*") live on Channel 3's nationwide broadcast of the finals.

Now called "Non Tanon", the Mattayom 4 student at Satree Phuket School in Phuket Town won one million baht in prize money, a car and a recording contract under the guidance of Thai singing-acting celebrity Saharat "Kong" Sangkapricha.

A jubilant Non posted on his Facebook fan page: "I want to thank The Voice for this opportunity, and the four judges for their advice during the contest… I especially want to thank my father and my mother, and all my family and friends, for their support throughout the contest…"

Backstage last Saturday night, Non Tanon showed his deep reverence for his parents by offing a *wai* while prostrate at their feet, shown live to the country on national television.

Prior to winning a million baht and a car, Non Tanon took his band to a second-place finish at the Yamaha 'Battle of the Bands'. Photo: Phuketonline

Ms Kankamol explained that Non Tanon was once a singer with the Superdance Samkong group at Baan Samkong School in Phuket Town.

"He started singing when he was eight years old, but he stopped when he was 12 because his voice was starting to break.

"He started singing again when he was 15 and started taking singing lessons at Siam Kolakarn Music School at the Big C shopping center [on the bypass road]," she said.

Brazen youths caught after bag snatch in front of police

THREE teenagers were arrested minutes after they snatched a bag from a Chinese tourist right in front of four Phuket police officers in a patrol pickup truck last Saturday night.

"The officers watched as the young men on a motorbike with no license plate approached the woman, Wang Ying, while she was walking by the side of the road with five friends near Phuket FantaSea," Kamala Police duty officer Somnerk Dumkew said.

"The boys [sic] stole her bag, but then noticed the police pickup behind them and sped off towards Patong," Capt Somnerk said.

The officers gave chase and caught up with the youths about 700 meters down the road, where they had stopped to throw the bag into the bushes beside the road, Capt Somnerk explained.

The three suspects – Sutthinan Pathan and Chalermpong Nernsung, both 19, and a 14-year-old who cannot be named for legal reasons – were each charged with "bag snatching by use of motorbike", a specific charge particular to Thailand.

"They are now being held in custody at Phuket Provincial Court. It is up to the court whether or not to allow them to be released on bail," Capt Somnerk explained.

– Atchaa Khamlo

Burmese worker exodus wins reprieve

THAI Labor Minister Phadermchai Sasomsub on Tuesday said he will ask the Cabinet next week to consider postponing foreign worker deportations for another three months as many could not conclude the nationality verification process by December 14.

The news follows the Phuket Provincial Employment Office (PPEO) chief warning that in line with the national policy, any migrant workers found in Phuket without having completed the nationality verification process will be deported.

"The deadline for migrant workers to complete the nationality verification process was extended by six months, from June 15 until December 14," PPEO chief Yaowapa Pibulpol said.

"During that time, migrant workers must have completed the nationality verification process and applied for permission to legally work in Thailand.

Phadermchai Sasomsub

"Anyone found to have not completed this process, but who continues to work illegally after December 14 will be charged and deported, both Burmese workers and employers," she added.

Thai employers found hiring illegal migrant workers will be fined, Ms Yaowapa said.

Under the Alien Worker Act BE 2551, employers found hiring migrant workers who have not been issued valid work permits face a fine of 10,000 to 100,000 baht per illegal worker.

"We have yet to decide when and how we will enforce this, as we have yet to consult other agencies," she added.

National reports estimate that anywhere from 500,000 to 800,000 migrant workers in Thailand face being repatriated to Myanmar for failing to have completed nationality verification.

In Phuket, officials have for years estimated the number of Burmese working illegally on the island to be around 100,000.

In Bangkok, the Thai Chamber of Commerce last week called on authorities to extend the deadline for nationality verification.

"Otherwise, the country's export and economic growth will be adversely affected," chamber vice president Phumin Harinsut said, in reference to the fisheries and related industries that generate 150 billion baht in income from exports each year.

– Irfarn Jamdukor

Child rape case handed over to Phuket Public Prosecutor

The young girl was allegedly raped by a neighbor. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

THE Phuket Public Prosecutor will present charges after December 21 against a man who allegedly raped a 9-year-old girl in Mai Khao on October 7.

"This is a grave and serious case. We have no choice but to charge him to the full extent of the law," Public Prosecutor Atikun Puangprom said last Friday.

The lead investigator of the case, Lt Col Rassada Kluengwong, confirmed that the rape test results from Bangkok, as well as the police report were handed over to Mr Atikun.

"The whole case is now with the prosecutor's office," Col Rassada said.

"Once we arrested the suspect and filed the charge against him, we transferred him to Phuket Provincial Court," he said.

Col Rassada confirmed that the suspect was free on court bail.

"I am not sure how much the suspect posted for bail, but I heard it was about 300,000 baht. The option for bail was granted by the court," he explained.

"I had no part in that decision," he added.

– Chutharat Plerin

Crane rips roof off Phuket tour van in Chalong

A RETRACTABLE crane arm hanging over Patak Road in Chalong ripped the roof off a tour van transporting seven Russian tourists just after 9am on Tuesday.

The west-bound tour van was about 200 meters from Chalong Circle when it collided with the arm of the crane.

The van was not overturned in the accident. However, all seven tourists, as well as the van driver and tour guide were immediately taken to hospital.

Two of the tourists and the tour guide were kept under observation overnight at Phuket International Hospital.

"They all have bruises to the body and are suffering back pain," a staffer at Phuket International Hospital confirmed on Wednesday.

"They have been asked to remain in the hospital until we run further tests" she added.

Chalong Police Sub Lt Kraisorn Boonprasob explained that he had not charged anyone over the incident yet.

"We have still have to question to driver of the van and the crane operator to determine in detail what exactly caused the crash," he said.

– Irfarn Jamdukor

The tour guide, driver and tourists were able to climb out of the vehicle through the roof.

Prison launches inquest of alleged death beating

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

PHUKET Prison officials are investigating the death of a male inmate following a grieving widow alleging that her husband was beaten to death.

Prison guards found Pranom Duksukkaew, 48, dead from what they believed to be natural causes when they went to rouse the inmates at 6am on December 11. Pranom was serving a 16-year sentence for raping a minor, Phuket Provincial Prison Chief Rapin Nichanon told the *Gazette*.

Speaking to the press at Vachira Phuket Hospital morgue later that day, Mr Pranom's wife, Saiyuth Rakkarndee, 51, said she discovered her husband was dead only after she arrived at the prison to visit him.

"I arrived at the prison at about 8am, but I was told that Pranom had been found dead at around 6am and that his body had been brought here to Vachira Hospital," Mrs Saiyuth said.

Saiyuth Rakkarndee did not know of her husband's death until she attempted to visit him at Phuket Prison. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

"After I saw his body, I do not believe that he 'just died'. There were bruises all over his body; on his legs, arms and chest. It looks as if he was beaten," she said.

"I do not believe that he just died in his sleep, as I was told by the prison officers," she added.

Ms Saiyuth said that, after being incarcerated at the prison, her husband had difficulty communicating and had once complained of chest pains.

"During visits by myself and our relatives, Pranom could not speak properly and could not remember anybody. All he could tell me was that he had chest pains," she said.

Prison Chief Rapin denied that any assault took place.

"I talked to our officers. They swear that the man died naturally. There was no assault involved in the death," he said.

"When he arrived at the prison on December 3, he was already weak and suffering from alcoholism," Chief Rapin explained.

"We had nurses assigned to monitor his condition as he was not eating properly," he added.

"However, to ensure fairness, I have set up a committee to investigate the incident and to find out the truth," Mr Rapin said.

Mum continues search for missing son, Brett Bean

THE mother of missing American Brett Bean, Lynne Bean, led a flier posting campaign around the island last Friday in hopes that someone might recognize Brett's face and come forward.

"They made around 200 posters of him and posted them around Kata, Karon and Patong areas," Ananya Insumran, from the US Embassy said.

Brett was last seen in Karon on November 25.

Brett Bean

"I don't even want to speculate why he is still in Thailand if indeed he is still there," Wayne Bean, Brett's father said.

Anyone with information that may help locate Brett Bean is urged to contact the US Embassy Bangkok at 02-205-4049.

IN NEED: Kevin Ashby

Island rallies for expat sailor

HUNDREDS of people turned out at the Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) last Friday night to contribute much-needed money for the life-saving surgery of beloved Phuket expat sailor Kevin Ashby.

Kevin, 42, was recently diagnosed with stage three colon cancer, but does not have the health insurance needed to cover the critical surgery.

The ACYC will host a quiz night on Saturday December 22, starting at 7pm, to raise more funds. A raffle of donated items will also be running that night.

"A big 'thank you' goes out to the whole of Phuket as a community. The support has been tremendous, with people from all over the world making donations," friend Ali Goebel said.

– Phuket Gazette

Beach seafood vendors grilled

By Chutharat Plerin

THE Karon Mayor has issued another warning to Kata-Karon seafood vendors with stalls set up along Kata Beach, making it clear that they will be charged with beach encroachment if they continue to ply their trade on public land.

The warning follows raids on beach touts led by Phuket Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosuttirak on November 28 – Loy Krathong.

"We have repeatedly warned them [beach food vendors] about setting up stalls and serving food along the beach. Each time we raid them, they pack up and leave – but they keep coming back," Karon Mayor Tawee Thongcham said.

"We needed the support of the provincial authorities to get them to stop, because we alone [Karon Municipality] do not have the authority to force them to move," he added.

Prapan Kanprasang, chief of the Damrongtham Center (provincial ombudsman's office) at Phuket Provincial Hall, confirmed that his office can do nothing to protect the beach vendors who are illegally setting up their stalls on public beachfront land.

"The raids on November 28 came after the Damrongtham Center received a complaint about the seafood beach vendors. The complaint claimed that hotel guests in the area were not only being adversely affected by seafood barbecues on the beach, but also by fireworks, fire lanterns and fire dance shows on the beach," Mr Prapan said.

"On November 28, the operators were warned to immediately pull down their stalls and stop cooking seafood. We empowered Karon Municipality to remove the vendors. If the vendors persist, legal action will be taken against them," he added.

The move to evict seafood vendors from Kata and Karon beaches comes in the wake of a "beach cleanup" campaign that began softly last month.

"After issuing warnings, we fined many vendors, with each one facing a fine of up to 2,000 baht," Mayor Tawee said.

"However, some of them still came back to sell food on the beach… They refuse to move," he added.

The disrespect for the law earned the food vendors a series of raids by municipal officers evicting them from their usual food stations on November 1.

Mayor Tawee explained that vendors may continue to sell fruit on the beach and massage operators remain unaffected.

However, all cooked food on beaches and hawkers of any other items must go.

Additional reporting by Irfarn Jamdukor

Despite warnings beach barbecues keep setting up shop. Photo: PR Dept

Thai Embassy in Malaysia still issuing non-immigrant 'B' visas

There has been no formal change in policy concerning non-immigrant Business ('B') visas issued in Malaysia. Photo: Gazette file

After a recent scare that the Royal Thai Embassy in Kuala Lumpur had stopped issuing multi-entry non-immigrant Business ("B") visas, the Department of Consular Affairs head office in Bangkok, which coordinates policy for issuing visas at all Royal Thai Embassies around the world, confirmed to the *Gazette* there has been no formal change in policy.

"However, they will be more strict on issuing such visas," Naphaphatch Piromkit at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs headquarters said.

"There are several factors for which foreigners' applications for a multiple-entry non-imm B visa will be rejected. Nationals from a 'risk group of nations' will be required to return to their homeland to apply for the visa," she said.

However, Ms Naphaphatch declined to identify precisely which countries were among the "risk group of nations".

"Some foreigners keep returning to apply for non-imm B visas, but then do not engage in business or take up employment after they enter Thailand. These people are likely to be denied non-imm B visas," Ms Naphaphatch explained.

"Thailand is now opening up to more foreigners, which is causing more problems. We must now be very strict," she added.

Officials at the Royal Thai Embassy in Kuala Lumpur declined to answer any questions about the issue, saying that only Somphong Kangthong, Minister Counselor at the embassy, could legitimately respond to formal questions.

Meanwhile, any stricter enforcement of the visa application rules seem to have had little to no effect at the Royal Thai Consulate in Penang.

However, foreigners making visa runs to Penang have informed the *Gazette* over past few months that a "letter from the Phuket Labor Office" must now accompany non-imm B applications.

– Chutharat Plerin

Tsunami memorial shines on

Each year, the annual 'Light Up Phuket' tsunami remembrance service casts Patong Beach in a somber glow.

By Chutharat Plerin

THE Phuket community will honor those who died in the devastating tsunami that struck the island eight years ago with a ceremony at the Tsunami Memorial Wall in Mai Khao followed by the traditional "Light Up Phuket" candle-lighting ceremony on Patong Beach on December 26.

Thai official figures state that the tsunami killed 5,398 people and that more than 3,700 disappeared in the waves that struck Phuket in 2004.

In Phuket, hundreds of tourists, expats, local residents and migrant workers died or disappeared, while in Phang Nga province, north of Phuket, the death toll numbered in the thousands.

The ceremony at the Tsunami Memorial Wall will start at around 8:30am, said Bussarakorn Saeurng, of the Mai Khao Tambon Administration Organization.

"The service will include Buddhist monks conducting a mass prayer, a Muslim service and a Christian service," explained Ms Bussarakorn.

"After the religious ceremonies, attendees will approach the wall to lay wreaths in memory of those who died," she added.

Over the years, the number of people attending the morning event has fallen. "Last year only about 50 people turned up at the memorial wall to remember those lost to the waves in 2004," Ms Bussarakorn said.

At 6:30pm, the annual "Light Up Phuket" candle-lighting ceremony will be held on Patong Beach, where thousands of people turn out each year to dig holes in the sand and place lit candles within to remember tsunami victims.

Before attendees are invited to place their lit candles in the sand, the island's leading officials will hold a ceremony and deliver a few key speeches, offering words to remember tsunami victims by, explained Manop Leelasuthanon, Chief Administrative Officer of the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization.

As part of the proceedings, students from Phuket Rajabhat University will stage appropriate live performances, he said.

"After the formal ceremonies are complete, people will be invited to place their candles in the sand along the beach," Mr Manop added.

Disaster center launches warning app

THE National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC) launched a mobile phone application this month that allows iPhone and Android phone users to receive instant notifications of any tsunami alerts and warnings.

The "app" was launched on the online Apple App Store for iPhones and iPads on December 11, with an Android version launched on the Android Market on December 14, explained NDWC public relations officer Prasert Kunneang.

"This application is fully operational, but we are continually updating the code, so users need to maintain updates when they become available," he said.

Once people have downloaded and installed the app, they will receive up-to-date notifications of natural disasters and phenomena around the world.

A screen shot of the NDWC app.

"After registering as users [via the app's "login"], people can set which phenomena they want to receive notifications of, including earthquakes and storms in the region, as well as tsunami alerts and tsunami warnings issued by the NDWC," Mr Prasert said.

"Users can also report natural disasters to us in real time by using the 'Push to Talk' function and selecting 'Voice over IP [VOIP]," Mr Prasert explained.

"The application will help us to quickly broadcast news about natural disasters from the NDWC to users and help facilitate coordination between the NDWC and relevant disaster-response organizations," he added.

Although the app is currently available in the Thai language only, Mr Prasert said that an English version is expected to be launched next month.

Installing the app is free.

– Orawin Narabal

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In brief...

French couple struck by tree

FRENCH tourists Thierry Tiguer, 65, and Catherine Arsaut, 55, were struck down by a falling tree while enjoying a scenic motorbike ride along the road from Patong to Kamala last Saturday.

Mr Tiguer suffered only slight injuries in the crash, but Ms Arsaut suffered a head injury. Both were rushed to Patong Hospital, then transferred to Bangkok Hospital Phuket in Phuket Town.

"Mrs Arsaut suffered an injury to her jaw and to her right arm. She has to stay in the hospital for further treatment," a Bangkok Hospital nurse said on Monday.

Pirate goods suffer death by road roller

PHUKET Customs destroyed pirated goods worth an estimated 29 million baht on December 12. Fake copies of designer brand-name purses, sunglasses, shoes and mobile phones were among the items destroyed.

"The 9,762 items destroyed are from 44 closed cases related to pirated goods. They were seized on Phuket between October 2011 and September 2012," said Thai Customs Director-General Benja Luicharoen.

The counterfeit items were destroyed through a variety of methods, including destruction by hammer and knife, as well as mass destruction by way of a road roller.

Scythe robber arrested after bag-snatch nab

POLICE have arrested the man who allegedly robbed a 7-Eleven in Thalang with a scythe earlier this year.

Phuket Provincial Police Commander Choti Chavalviwat said Winai Soimuea, 26, also confessed to returning to rob the same 7-Eleven two more times: in November and again only weeks ago.

Mr Winai was arrested after snatching a French tourist's bag near Wat Thepnimit temple in Wichit, Maj Gen Choti explained.

MMA fighter steps forward over 'fractured' penis injury

EXCLUSIVE

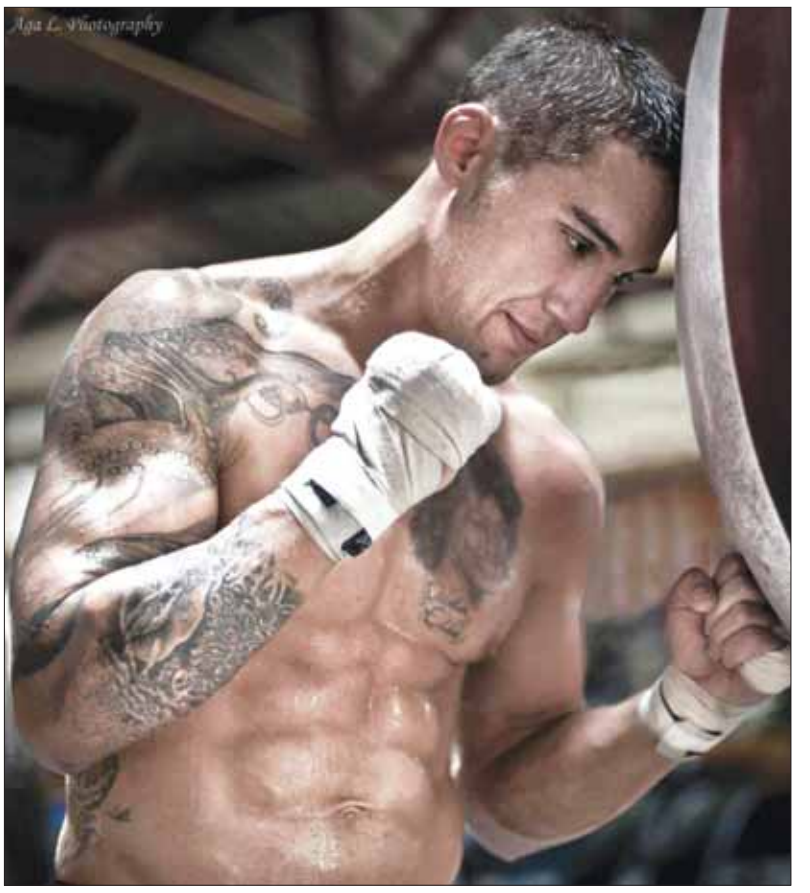
MMA fighter Ray Elbe has come forward about the penis injury he suffered in his Kuala Lumpur condo earlier this month.

Ray, who founded and for years ran the MMA program at Phuket's renowned Tiger Muay Thai training camp in Chalong, urged all men who suffer a similar injury to immediately seek treatment.

"I came forward about this injury because I want people to understand the significance of the emergency. The more I researched this on Google the more I found that many men do not seek treatment immediately.

"Some guys get to the point that there is no repair because they're embarrassed. They don't want to go to the emergency room right away," he said.

"I want to thank my girlfriend for how she handled the situation. We handled it the best we could, considering the outcome," Ray added.



MMA fighter Ray Elbe is on his way to a full recovery after suffering what he calls "one of the most unimaginable injuries you could ever suffer". Photo: Aga L Photography

Ray is recovering well, albeit still with a catheter. "The doctor expects a full recovery. The side that was torn was the side opposite the one that supplies the blood," he told the *Gazette* on Tuesday.

Following a checkup on Wednesday, Ray said he now hopes the catheter will be removed during his next scheduled checkup on December 26.

Recounting the incident that caused the injury, Ray explained that he was having intercourse with his girlfriend on top.

"It came out at the top and as she came down, it ended up breaking – fracturing – my penis.

"I tore the urinary tract, tore some membrane. You can imagine the shock and the horror that was going on – jumping up from an intimate moment, blood shooting out of my groin.

"I immediately tried to run to the shower and felt myself losing consciousness.

"I tried to walk back to the bed, at which point I collapsed – knocking myself out, giving myself 10 stitches and fracturing a couple of teeth. I came to on the ground and saw myself in a pool of blood. I immediately crawled along the floor to the bed and elevated my feet and placed a towel over my groin.

"My girlfriend was frantic. Here we are in a foreign country where most people don't speak English. We had to call the security attendant, who called the Malaysian equivalent of 911.

"While we were waiting for the ambulance to arrive, there we were with all the security guards standing around us," he recalled.

Speaking of his recovery since the ordeal, Ray admitted it had been a distinct test of character.

"As a process, it's been terrible spending my 30th birthday like this. For those who've been making jokes – it's funny. I know it's funny, I've been making jokes, too.

"But [for] those who have sent compassionate emails and words of concern, I just wanted you to know that it's really appreciated," he said.

"Keeping it safe during sex isn't just wearing a condom," he added.

Over the years, several top UFC fighters, including Jon Fitch, Jake Shields and Phil Baroni, have trained at Tiger Muay Thai in Phuket.

The training camp's connection with UFC also includes Ray appearing on the UFC's reality TV series *The Ultimate Fighter*.

When his recovery permits, Ray will join Ole Laursen at the Legacy Gym in Boracay, the Philippines.

"Anyone who trained with me in Phuket is welcome to reunite," he said.

– Phuket Gazette

To keep up to date with Ray's latest news, visit MagicalRay.com

Phang Nga officials implicated in illegal palm plantation raid

SEVERAL high-ranking Phang Nga officials have been implicated in the operation of an illegal 16-rai palm plantation raided by officers on December 14 after the site was deemed to be encroaching on protected park land.

More than 70 officers cleared 420 palm trees in the raid.

The offensive targeted a district border area at the tourist-popular Ton Pariwat Wildlife Conservation Area, north of Phang Nga Town.

"The land is allegedly owned [sic] by investors from Phang Nga and neighboring provinces and involves some high-ranking Phang Nga officials," Kapong District Chief Prakob Thaweesri said.

"However, under the National Reserved Forest Act, BE 2507 (1964), the occupation of the land [in question] is illegal as it is inside the Ton Pariwat Wildlife Conservation Area," he said.

Kapong District Chief Prakob Thaweesri removes the last remnants of one of the 420 palm trees uprooted during the raid.

Saman Chainarong, deputy commander of Phang Nga Provincial Police, said his officers were working with associated agencies in their search for the alleged transgressors.

"We will take stern legal action against them, as well as the government officers who were involved in producing the land-ownership documents for that plot," he said.

The colonel pointed out that over the past five years his officers had taken action against almost 1,000 cases of encroachment onto the Ton Pariwat Wildlife park.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

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Officers moved the eggs so they could watch over them.

Hope floats of turtles' return

A SECOND clutch of leatherback turtle eggs was discovered on Tai Muang Beach in Phang Nga, north of Phuket, within eight days, raising hopes that turtles are returning to their traditional nesting sites along the Andaman Coast.

Park officers discovered the nest on December 11 after a leatherback turtle was spotted laying eggs on the beach on December 3.

"We found 109 eggs in the nest, but we did not see the mother," said park officer Witoon Detpramuanphol. "The good eggs have been transferred to a safe place. We expect them to hatch in about 60 days."

It is the first time these turtles have been spotted laying eggs at the beach since January 2010.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

Sydictive Element Party: One night without Paris

GLOBAL celebrity Paris Hilton will not be attending the three-day New Year beach party originally slated to be held on Surin Beach from December 30 to sunrise on January 1.

The news of Ms Hilton's imminent no-show at the event came in an email from her lawyer sent to the *Phuket Gazette* clarifying that Ms Hilton's name was not to be used in any promotion of the event other than the event's launch in Bangkok on October 22.

The glamor-gilded launch was covered and broadcast across the world by global media agencies.

However, Glenn "GG" Gulino, Esq of g2 entertainment wrote in his email, "Your rights to use her name ended weeks ago and since you cancelled her NYE appearance you cannot use her name. Thank you."

As the *Gazette* at no time invited or cancelled Ms Hilton's attendance to the party, *Gazette* editors were left to believe the email was intended to be sent to the party organizers. At the time this issue went to press, Mr Gulino and party organizers Sydictive Element, despite many attempts by the *Gazette* to clarify the situation, had yet to confirm this.

Paris Whitney Hilton performs live at the India Resort Fashion Week at Candolim beach in north Goa on December 1. Photo: AFP

While the Paris Hilton mystery was unravelling, Sydictive Element also had yet to respond to reports that the beach party will be moved to Patong.

At last report, Sydictive Element had been granted approval by local authorities to hold the party at Surin Beach – after weeks of strong opposition from some local residents and businesses, but a mixed response from others.

Patong Deputy Mayor Chairat Sukban told the *Gazette* on Wednesday, "The party organizer had a talk with Phuket Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa yesterday [December 18] about moving the party from Surin Beach to Patong Beach.

"I have no idea right now if it is going to be held in Patong because we still have to discuss with other local organizations and agencies," he said.

"Usually, when we arrange concerts or performances, they must be free of charge. So how can you set up a restricted area and charge people for entry when you are using public land? How can you stop people from entering the beach when the beach is public?" he asked.

"Just imagine the idea of closing Patong Beach. I feel it would be very difficult and I think it is a very 'big' idea," Mr Chairat added.

Agencies launch campaign against human traffickers active in Patong

From page 1

Aoi had been arrested on Soi Bangla many times. However, every time she was arrested, a Vietnamese man claiming to be her father would show up and take her away, explained Mr Chairat.

"Many Vietnamese and Cambodians are involved the alien-beggar scams, and we are sure that the group of men that were holding Aoi [captive] are Vietnamese," he added.

Patong Police Superintendent Chiraphat Pochanaphan on Wednesday told the *Gazette* that his officers were searching for Aoi's imposter father. However, Col Chiraphat gave no name or description of the man.

"We are now searching for the man who claimed to be her father… Patong Police are coordinating with Social Development and Welfare officers in the search for him," he said.

"At this stage, this is the only information I can reveal," he added.

An officer at the Social Development and Welfare Phuket office told the *Gazette* on Wednesday that Aoi was now safe and under the department's care and protection program.

"Officers are now working on sending her back home to Cambodia. I don't know how long this will take. We can only take good care of her and coordinate with the relevant authorities on getting her home," she said.

However, the welfare officer also said she could not comment on what action was being undertaken to further protect other children at risk on the streets of Patong.

Deputy Mayor Chairat (left) speaks with Aoi. Photo: Thawit Bilabdullar

The silence on the issue has prompted at least one children's rights organization to speak out, warning that Aoi's flee to safety might be the tip of the iceberg once the Asean Economic Community (AEC) comes into effect in 2015 with its expanded allowances for worker migration.

"I was not previously aware of this particular story [regarding Aoi]. However, children selling flowers are found at tourist destinations all over Thailand," Nutthawut Buaprathum, a lawyer at the Center for the Protection of Children's Rights Foundation (CPCRF), said.

"What I want to know is what are they actually doing about it.

"I wonder if the police are taking serious action on further investigating the case, or whether they just let the children go after the 'parents' show up," he added.

Mr Nutthawut expressed grave concern about the impact the AEC will have on Phuket. "The Asian Economic Community is coming. I wonder how the government will handle this issue. Phuket is a top tourist destination that already attracts child-exploitation gangs that force children to work as beggars and street peddlers.

"I can see that government officers would like to pretend that Phuket is not a human-trafficking destination because it will affect tourism and might even prompt international pressure from other countries. But if the government does not take serious action on this, there will be a lot more of these people coming in the next three years – and the problem will only get worse," he said.

Deputy Mayor Chairat, who is often seen personally patrolling the streets of Patong, told the *Gazette* that the role of municipality officers in taking action against such gangs of street peddlers was limited.

"This issue is not only about children selling flowers on the street, but involves human trafficking. We have passed news of this to the police, Social Development and Welfare officers and senior officers at Provincial Hall senior officers know about this as well," Mr Chairat said.

"If we catch a child unaccompanied on the streets and we take them in, there is nothing we can do if the child tells us that the person who comes to claim them is their parent, uncle, aunt or other form of guardian," he said.

Teachers executed in Deep South

AROUND THE nation

THE education system in Thailand's restive Deep South has reached a crisis point after more shootings of teachers forced the closure of about 1,300 schools earlier this month.

New York-based rights group Human Rights Watch (HRW) on Monday issued a statement calling for an end to the killings.

"Insurgents in southern Thailand who execute teachers show utter depravity and disregard for humanity," said Brad Adams, HRW Asia director. "These attacks harm not only teachers and schools, but the Muslim students, their families, and the broader Muslim community the insurgents claim to represent."

In the latest attack, on December 11, suspected insurgents burst into a school in Pattani Province and executed two teachers during their lunch hour.

New security measures were put in place as schools opened two days after the executions. Photo: The Nation

The murders prompted the closure of 1,300 schools in Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat and four districts of Songkhla for two days, on December 13 and 14.

Schools re-opened on Monday, with a new set of security measures in place, though many teachers continued to fear for their safety.

"We will see whether the improved safety measures can protect teachers' lives," Southern Border Provinces Administration Centre (SBPAC) chair Boonsom Thongsriprai said.

A leaflet campaign promising more violence against teachers has ensured nerves remain frayed.

The leaflets, which were not signed by any group, read "The war is not yet over, don't count the teachers' corpses yet", AFP reported.

Over the past six weeks, suspected insurgents have killed an additional three teachers and wounded another three. They also set fire to a school.

Sanguan Intarak, chairman of Narathiwat Teachers' Federation, said at least 14 Buddhist teachers working in Narathiwat's schools had applied for transfer out of the area in recent weeks.

However, the requested transfers could not be granted because of possible effects on students and teaching schedules.

Altogether 157 teachers have been killed in the far south since January 2004, when militants stole more than 300 rifles from an army depot, sparking a crackdown on the region's long-simmering separatist movement that led to an escalation in violence.

Govt moving forward on charter amendment

THE government has announced plans to move forward with the amendment of the Constitution, which will include a referendum as ordered by the Constitution Court in July.

The process to amend the charter is likely to stir fresh political conflict, given the opposition by the Democrat Party.

Interior Minister Jarupong Ruangsuwan last week outlined the government's road map for holding a referendum preceding, the third and final reading of the charter-amendment bill.

"The referendum, to be held as per the verdict of the Constitution Court, is the best option for defusing the conflict over the rewriting of the Constitution," he said.

Democrat leader Abhisit Vejjajiva, meanwhile, in an open letter on his Facebook page, said the public should jointly overcome the political obstacle posed by former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra's need to stay above the law. This has blocked the country from moving forward, he said.

Red-shirt Interior Minister Jarupong Ruangsuwan. Photo: The Nation

"Therefore I would like to call on the public to jointly reject the public referendum that Thaksin's sister [Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra] is planning," he wrote.

Dog lovers protest pooch killer

ANIMAL lovers staged a protest at the house of a German man who allegedly stabbed a golden retriever to death last month after attacking his rottweiler.

Alfred Gatt, 65, is suing the owners of the dog he killed for 300,000 baht because the retriever bit him.

Police summoned the pensioner and the retriever's owners, Petty Officer First Class Kampol Nuansilpa and his wife Wilawan, after the incident.

They charged Mr Gatt with causing loss of property.

On December 15, about 20 people from a group called "A Call for Animal Rights Thailand" held a protest outside Mr Gatt's house.

They condemned him for killing the retriever, calling for him to go back to Germany and to get his mental health checked.

They protesters said it was unfair for Mr Gatt to seek such a large sum of compensation after brutally killing the dog.

In brief…

South Africans charged with ANC bomb plot

FOUR white South Africans were charged with treason on Tuesday over a suspected plot to bomb a conference of the ruling African National Congress (ANC) and execute President Jacob Zuma and other top government officials.

State prosecutor Shaun Abrahams said the men wanted to establish an independent Boer nation and that they were planning an assault on the ANC mass meeting now under way in the city.

Honduras passes law to purge police of corruption

HONDURAS' congress passed a law on Tuesday to purge the police of corruption.

The law will require officers to undertake lie detector tests, drug screening and a probe of their personal wealth to determine if they can remain in the police force.

Ireland to revamp abortion laws after woman's death

LAWS allowing limited access to abortion will be introduced in Ireland, the only EU member state that bans the procedure, following the death of a woman who was refused a termination, the government said on Tuesday.

Schools re-open in Newtown after 26 killed in US massacre

By Edward Krudy and Peter Rudegeair

Students exit a school bus outside Newtown High School in the aftermath of the shootings. Photo: Reuters

MOST students returned to school in the devastated US community of Newtown on Tuesday for the first time since a gunman's rampage killed 26 people in an elementary school, reviving the gun control debate in Washington.

Breaking its silence for the first time since the shootings, the powerful gun industry lobby, the National Rifle Association (NRA), said it was "shocked, saddened and heartbroken" and was "prepared to offer meaningful contributions" to prevent such massacres.

Sandy Hook Elementary, where Adam Lanza gunned down 20 6- and 7-year-olds and six adults on Friday, remained closed. It was a crime scene on Tuesday, with police coming and going past a line of 26 Christmas trees, one for each victim. The trees were decorated with ornaments, stuffed animals and balloons in the school colors of green and white.

The rest of Newtown's schools re-opened with grief counselors and police present, while two families buried their children.

The massacre prompted some Republican lawmakers to open the door to a national debate about gun control, a small sign of easing in Washington's entrenched reluctance to seriously consider new federal restrictions.

The NRA uses political pressure against individual lawmakers and others to press for loosening constraints on gun sales and ownership across the US while promoting hunting and gun sports.

President Barack Obama called for action at a Sunday night prayer vigil in Newtown, and Democratic lawmakers have sought a new push for US gun restrictions, including a ban on assault weapons.

The 20-year-old gunman carried hundreds of rounds of ammunition in extra clips and shot his victims repeatedly, one of them 11 times. He also shot and killed his mother before driving to the school, and then killed himself.

Police have warned it could take months to wrap up the investigation, which was set back because Lanza smashed his computer's hard drive, preventing police from retrieving any data, *The New York Times* reported.

A day after the first two children were buried, funerals took place on Tuesday for James Mattioli and Jessica Rekos. Each was 6 years old. Funerals or remembrances were scheduled for six victims on December 19.

"I think most Republicans are willing to have a very, very serious conversation about what this means and taking a second look at what the Second Amendment means in the 21st century," said Ohio Republican Steve LaTourette.

That amendment to the US Constitution guarantees the right of Americans to bear arms.

– Reuters

Ghana's future depends on resources

GHANA'S recently elected president, John Dramani Mahama, said on Tuesday he will press foreign energy and mining firms for more revenue during his new term, won in elections he said proved the strength of democracy in the West African state.

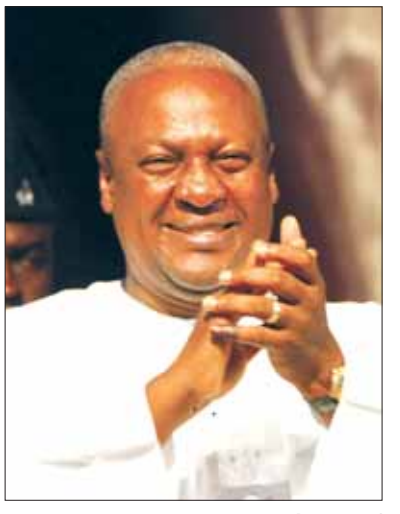
He said the cocoa, oil and gold-exporting country would respect existing contracts, but would seek to convince companies to agree changes to boost the state take from taxes and royalties.

"There is a lot of work to do in the next four years to consolidate Ghana's transition into a middle-income country, and that's where I will focus," he told Reuters in an interview.

"We're partners in this and we abide by all international agreements we've signed," he said.

President Mahama – who served as vice president to John Atta Mills and replaced Mills after his death in July – narrowly beat his opposition rival Nana Akufo-Addo in December 7 polls plagued by technical problems and marred by an opposition allegation the results were rigged.

But observers praised the vote as free and fair, and lauded Ghanaians for remaining peaceful – burnishing the country's record as an bastion of stability in a region known for coups and civil wars.



The recently elected President of Ghana looks to consolidate the country's transition into a middle-income country. Photo: Reuters

President Mahama said the election made Ghana an "example for the rest for the continent" – in stark contrast to crisis-stricken regional neighbors, such as Mali and the Ivory Coast.

"I don't think Ghana can get into the kind of fratricidal conflict that we've seen elsewhere," he said.

"Because of the stability of our politics and security, and also because of the stable macroeconomic environment, I think that (Ghana) is attractive to investors," he said.

Ghana was Africa's fastest-growing economy in 2011, its first full year of oil production from the offshore Jubilee field operated by British-based firm Tullow Oil, earning it a reputation as a "growth gem".

President Mahama said he would seek to leverage the country's appeal to wrest better terms from resource companies.

President Mahama said he expects new oil fields to come online by late 2014 or early 2015, further brightening the outlook for production in one of Africa's newest oil exporters.

Ghana was reviewing a contract with Chinese firm Sinopec to build a US$700 million processing plant for natural gas after widespread criticism of the project's cost. The plant is meant to come online next year, he said.

Ghana is in the midst of discussions with gold-mining companies to improve terms. Mahama said the state was seeking to loosen up so-called "stability agreements" held by some firms that lock in royalty and tax rates.

– Reuters

People, planet, profit

Preserving the Pearl of the Andaman with the Katathani Beach Resort, who are in the business of environmental sustainability

By Steven Layne

WASTE NOT WANT NOT: The 'green garden area' at Katathani is watered from the resort's private reservoir.

PHUKET'S own Katathani Beach Resort continues to lead sustainability efforts, having set the benchmark through its active and effective pursuance of the economically sustainable Triple Bottom Line, the "Three P's" supporting "People, Planet and Profit" with conservation-related savings exceeding US$1.2 million for the previous year.

To find out exactly how the locally-rooted, luxury development saved more than 37 million baht through such initiatives the *Phuket Gazette* paid a visit to the 525 key beach front property. Hotel Executive Jacob G Ritter was keen to share the resort's green secrets:

"With large hotels having more than 500 guest rooms; water – whether for showering, toilets, cleaning or landscaping – represents one of the biggest opportunities to conserve."

Immune from the island's shortages of this needed resource, Katathani utilizes its own 18-million-liter capacity rainwater reservoir situated behind the resort.

Through the utilization of some 120 mn liters of water from the on-site reservoir, Katathani and The Shore are able to fulfill nearly all of their day-to-day water needs with a calculated savings of over 8.5 mn baht annually.

A water filtration system.
Photo: NRDC media

Moreover, internal water recycling and waste water treatment initiatives permit the resort to save another 182.5 mn liters yearly, which is yielding an additional 15.5 mn baht in estimated savings.

"Our water treatment plant is also integrated with the local community's waste water grid in which we treat an additional 10.9 mn liters equating to nearly a million baht in savings [for the community]," Jacob said.

Through such diligent utility, the Katathani saves hundreds of millions of liters of water that would have otherwise been a strain on the island's over-capacity water grid.

However, the property is not completely water independent.

"The water we treat is mainly for irrigating our organic tropical gardens and is not potable.

"Therefore we source safe drinking water from outside although we are constantly evaluating the possibilities of processing and certifying our own drinking water in the near future."

On the subject of water, the company also saved more than 5 mn baht through its fully integrated solar water heating system, which is powered by some 200 solar thermal panels.

"The water treatment plant was an investment of about 2-3 mn baht, with the ROI (Return on Investment) period in our case being very insignificant due to the heavy volume our resort requires and presence of the reservoir."

He added that as part of its in-house water treatment and production initiatives, the resort produces about 90 to 95% of its own cleaning chemicals through locally sourced bio-degradable and organic agents processed from fruit peel wastes on site.

"Last year we produced and used about 24,000 liters of our own green, bio-degradable, organic soaps for cleaning purposes. This equated to about 600,000 baht in savings. In addition to this, the hotel saved another 4 mn baht in energy initiatives. Such initiatives included replacing 1,584 incandescent bulbs with energy-efficient LED lights (200,000 baht), air conditioning efficiency upgrades (3 mn baht) and on-site production of biodiesel fuel (460,800 baht).

Finally, various waste management initiatives, which embody the fundamental three Rs – reduce, reuse and recycle – have yielded an additional 3 mn baht in annual savings.

In 2008, Katathani was the first hotel in Asia to win the esteemed Gold Status Award from the non-profit European Travelife organization. This accolade needs to be renewed every two years following detailed audits by foreign inspectors looking at the resort's environmental and social initiatives.

The hotel's environmentally responsible practices were also recently recognized with an "Umwelt Champion" (German for "environmental champion") award from Europe's largest travel agency, TUI.

Such new plaques add to the hotel's growing list of notable green achievements including the; Kuoni Green Planet Award, Green Leaf, ISO 14001, Apollo, Zero Waste Award and Thailand Tourism Award among others.

After formally presenting Jacob with the latest Umwelt Champion plaque, TUI Service Manager in Phuket, Petra Glockner remarked:

"In evaluating the hotels, we're not focusing so much on financial savings... Katathani proves savings from environmental responsibility, although we're looking at the bigger picture. Thus, we survey the guests, the hotel staff, and surrounding community while looking at the Travelife Audit results."

Miss Petra explained that TUI has been monitoring and evaluating partner hotels in Phuket for more than two decades. She noted that in addition to Katathani, the prize was also awarded to the Dusit Thani Laguna this year.

"We have been awarding this prize to hotels since 1997. Hotels have to apply for it via TUI and Travelife, who developed the criteria with responsible tourism experts representing major European tour organizations" she added.

In addition to surveying hotels, the selection process also includes guest questionnaires.

"TUI clients are given a questionnaire, which includes many inquiries about the hotel... One of the key questions is: 'How happy are you with the implementation of environmental measures in your hotel?'

"That survey compliments the on-site audits consisting of extensive checklists for scoring by the hotel and then an independent, international inspector based in the United Kingdom."

Petra added that TUI currently has 53 partner hotels in Phuket, along with 17 in Khao Lak and 16 in Krabi.

Meanwhile, Jacob notes that nearly half of Katathani's clients are supplied through major tour companies such as TUI.

"Travelife is important for assessing our responsible tourism efforts because it represents the key non-profit organization formed by Europe's largest travel agencies to improve or uphold CSR and environmental standards."

Petra noted that guests from certain regions are extremely concerned with environmental consciousness and thereby attracted to resorts, which are proven to be comprehensively green by the esteemed Travelife body.

"While we achieved it, purely saving money was never the chief aim of our efforts. As a locally owned hotel, our community love the home town while relying on its pristine nature for more than prosperity – [it's] for our health and happiness as well."

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Ambassador urges signing of new US trade partnership

By Achara Deboonme

IN THE wake of US President Barack Obama's recent visit to Thailand, the Kingdom's ambassador to Washington is stressing the need for Thailand to act fast and cash in on the United States' renewed focus on East Asia.

"The US aims mainly to promote trade and investment with the region at this time when the European Union is declining and China's influence is rising, and Thailand is in a good position to attract American investors.

"Promoting trade and investment can be in the mutual interest of both countries," said Thai ambassador to the USA Chaiyong Satjipanon.

Obama's invitation for Thailand to join the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), which already has 12 countries in the Asia-Pacific region including the US, has raised fears that Thailand's economy might be at risk. Also, concerns that closer ties with the US would cause a rift in Sino-Thai relations linger.

But ambassador Chaiyong says these worries were over reactions.

"Both the US and China are happy with us. With China, we're bonded by people and location. The US, though far away from us, considers us as an old ally. Promoting trade and investment is in [our] mutual interest," he said.

Starting in the middle of next month, the Commerce Ministry will lead a delegation to the US to discuss bilateral issues under the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement. The Foreign Affairs Ministry will play an assisting role.

According to the ambassador, with China's growing assertiveness in East Asia and America's "unrealistic" engagement in the economically stagnant EU through the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the US feels the necessity to strengthen its relations with East Asia, particularly Asean, to promote trade and investment as well as "American values" such as democracy and human rights.

While China has established a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with ASEAN, the EU has opened talks on similar pacts with a number of ASEAN members including Thailand. In this scenario, Thailand stands to benefit as a key member of ASEAN.

"Based on the current growth pace, China's GDP could double within eight years. The US can't afford to be left behind. In this region, it has an FTA only with Singapore," Chaiyong said.

Regionally, while Thailand is an old ally, Singapore is viewed by Washington as a strategic ally and Myanmar's role is still in the future, as the reopening process will take time. Another approach is designed for Indonesia, a source of resources as well as being the biggest market among Asean countries.

Refocusing on East Asia has been hailed as an initiative of Kurt Campbell, the influential US assistant secretary of state for East Asia. He was the one who influenced the US policy towards Myanmar, which led to lifting of sanctions.

In the ambassador's view, in his second term as president, Obama is likely to focus more on promoting trade and investment, to ensure food and energy security.

Ambassador Chaiyong Satjipanon visits UC Berkeley to present a cheque to Dean Anthony Cascardi in support of the university's Thai language program. Photo: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

A university in Maryland recently came up with research to identify potential areas in Thailand for American investors and vice versa. A few Thai companies already invest in the US, including Thai Union Frozen Products. Land & Houses has also recently started buying properties state-side.

While the United States is a major buyer of Thai shrimp, Walmart, the world's largest retailer, now imports furniture from Thailand for its outlets. Meanwhile, the US is confident that high-technology products will boost its exports.

On the energy front, the US has recently found success with the fracking technique to extract shale gas, and it is believed by some that this new energy source will force down global gas prices. At present, the gas is available only to FTA partners, mostly its South American neighbors.

"It is a big question on how to place an old ally like Thailand in a position to benefit from this," said ambassador Chaiyong. "Things in the US move so fast. We have to catch up. Our officers [at the embassy] also have to work fast."

He said Obama's visit signaled US confidence and strong support for Thailand's democratic system. In addition, the visit raised the profile of Asean. He added that a number of American politicians were keen on Asia and they very much welcomed meetings with Asian people.

He also foresees another visit by the US president, noting Obama's remark that "next time, I'll come with Michelle", referring to his wife.

In brief...

Posco divests 10% in Thai venture

POSCO has sold a large stake – 779.57 million shares or about 10% of the paid-up capital of Posco-Thainox – to Chalermchai Mahagitsiri at 1.35 baht per share, the company reported to the Stock Exchange of Thailand recently.

According to the deal, Posco's share in Posco-Thainox will reduce from 79.53% to 69.53%.

Hyatt signs new management deal

HYATT Hotels Corporation has signed a management agreement with Pioneer Property Co (PPC), a Bangkok-based real estate firm, for a new Hyatt Place hotel to be located in the heart of the Thai capital.

Hyatt Place Bangkok, Sukhumvit, which will offer 220 guest rooms and seven studio suites, will join the recently announced Hyatt Regency Bangkok, Sukhumvit, also expected to open in 2017.

"As the capital, principal city and economic center of Thailand, Bangkok is strategically important for both business and leisure travelers and we are grateful to have the opportunity to introduce Hyatt Place to this part of the world," said Ratnesh Verma, senior vice president, real estate and development, Asia Pacific, Hyatt Hotels and Resorts.

Frasier & Neave appoints new adviser

THE board of directors of Fraser and Neave (F&N) has appointed JPMorgan as an independent financial adviser to give recommendations to shareholders on two pending offers – OUE and Kirin.

Tourism: Investing in human capital

THAILAND should put more importance on investing in human capital and not just in the "hardware" of the tourism industry, if it wants to secure sustainable development and remain a leader in this field, says Martin Craigs, chief executive officer of the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA).

It's easy to build the hardware of the tourism industry – airports and hotels, for example. But given the boom in tourism and its key role as a driver of the economy, Thailand is facing a labor shortage. Still, this is not yet a major problem when compared with other nations in Asia, he said.

Labor shortages have become common across Asia. China is one example, where it is creating a big headache for the fast-growing tourism industry. Meanwhile in the Philippines, although it produces more than 26,000 graduates to serve the industry annually, 90% of those graduates choose to go overseas. Craigs said Thailand should promote foreign languages to students.

Martin Craigs on a recent visit to Myanmar. Photo: PATA

"The evidence is clear that there are large numbers of Russian tourists pouring into the Kingdom, but there are not enough Russian-speaking locals to take care of them," he said.

He raised the example of Chanin Donavanik, CEO of Dusit Thani. He said Chanin had done a "great" job introducing professional graduates to the industry, and not only to run his hotel chain. This helps secure the industry in the long run, and also promotes regional development.

Craigs says producing professionals for the hospitality industry is the focus of PATA. It intends to help train people from different fields to apply their professions in the tourism industry. The organization now offers four classes per year, each with 36 people for a one-week training program.

"The free flow of skilled labor from the opening of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2015 may not solve the shortage. To the contrary, it could create new problems, as the integration of the European Union did in the beginning. So opening up the region was not a panacea," he said.

But Craigs is confident that Thailand will maintain its leadership after 2015. Clearly, the country is more advanced than its rivals in hotel facilities and attracts the largest number of foreign tourists in the region, he added.

"It is not essential for Thailand to construct manmade projects as a magnet to lure foreign tourists. In fact, the country can sell itself naturally, with both social and cultural aspects of the Thai way of life, beyond the unique natural beauty seen nationwide. ***– The Nation***

Supercars zoom to SMART Expo

PROPERTY Gazette

DREAM MACHINE: SMART Property & Lifestyle Expo will feature the best of Phuket.

Interior of a Ferrari on show at SMART.

THE *Phuket Gazette* caught up with Mr Hoi Cheung, Director of 3:C who are the organizing the upcoming SMART Property & Lifestyle Expo to be held at the Royal Phuket Marina, from December 27-30, 2012.

Phuket Gazette: **What makes Phuket a good destination for the SMART Property & Lifestyle Expo?**

Hoi Cheung: Phuket in recent years has become known as the playground of the world's rich and famous, attracting pop stars, celebrities, supermodels and multi-millionaires. According to the Airport Authority of Thailand (AOT), the "Pearl of the South" has seen a 20 per cent growth in tourism in 2011 from the previous year, with 4.2 million visitors.

Simply, we believe Phuket will become the next Monte Carlo of Asia and the show fits well.

Tell us about the lifestyle elements at the expo. What can visitors see at the show?

The show is about "accessible luxury". We have created a show where there is something for everyone. On site you can see supercars, yachts, take helicopter tours, see luxury property exhibits, attend free seminars and much more. In addition, we have a great kids area by British International School, special food and beverage offers for visitors; you can even attend daily wine and rum tastings for free. It's a great way to see the best of Phuket all under one roof. More importantly entry is free.

I understand you have supercars such as Ferraris and Lamborghinis on display, are there any specific models that really stand out?

We have both the official dealers of Ferrari and Lamborghini at the show.The highlights include the Lamborghini Aventador as well as the Ferrari FF.

Both these cars are over 32mn baht and both have over 600 brake horse power (bhp). In addition, there are other models on display; including a race version of the Gallardo, Lamborghini Super Trofeo, which is actually available for a test drive.

Other than what is on display, I understand there will also be some paid helicopter tours and yacht cruises, which visitors can register for. Could you elaborate on these offers?

Yes, visitors can take a luxury yacht cruise fully inclusive of food/drinks and activities for only 6,900 baht, or enjoy great coastal views via the helicopter tour for 3,650 baht – the pricing is specially discounted for expo visitors.

The idea is that you can literally spend a whole day at the wonderful Royal Phuket Marina – perhaps have lunch, see some great properties, see some supercars, let the kids play in the kids area, take a helicopter ride direct from Royal Phuket Marina, get on an open yacht (there are berthed yachts for visitors as well as paid yacht cruises) and perhaps even have a drink at one the three available restaurants on site. It's a great day out.

What type of properties will be on offer at the expo and are there any amazing deals that you feel would attract a lot of buyer attention?

You will see the best of Phuket and other destinations too. There are a number of projects suitable for investors of all price ranges in Phuket, from affordable holiday condos in Patong [US$199 thousand and up] to oceanfront villas around the island [US$1 million and up]. Additionally there are property projects from other parts of Thailand and Asia.

Tell us about the free seminars. You seem to have some good speakers?

The seminars are a very important part of the show. The aim is to educate property investors on what they need to look out for before they buy, so we address the legal, tax and finance issues, give market overviews of real estate, and generally give an opportunity for the audience to ask questions pertaining to property investment. It's free to attend and highly recommendable for investors looking to buy property. Speakers include billionaires, CEOs of property companies, legal and tax experts and lifestyle gurus.

To hear the seminars and see, feel and taste the luxury life, remember to visit the exhibition. Entry is free.

To register for a free ticket, please visit: smartexpos.com/phuket. ***– Phuket Gazette***

A home for the holidays

Property Watch
By Bill Barnett

'TIS the season, here on the sunny island of Phuket yet again. I'm not quite sure exactly when the vanishing point starts to loom over life's passage.

Could it be 40? That's well and truly passed like the aftertaste of one of those deadly tequila shooters that often ends a long night of social drinking. You can always recall those under the file named "bad ideas".

Or do things start to ramp up once you pass that other mid-century milestone? Been there, done that. My mind drifts off a bit, not unlike one of those summers spent on a water colored palatial lake, with wooden sailboats gently revolving to destinations unknown. Blown along by fuzzy velveteen winds.

Suddenly my mind is about to burst, crying out "get me out of here". This was never my life.

My own journey bears a resemblance to an episode of the Simpsons, blending in some chaotic trauma-induced swerves, dives, climbs and ultimately ending up on a non-English language channel's travel and lifestyle programing.

It's all "lost in translation" and even subtitles can't explain the inexplicable.

Growing up in a suburban California neighborhood, my wanderlust came hard and young. Money or not, my parents always travelled from as early as I can remember. Be it station wagon, or one of those amazing flying machines, which are larger than life when you stare at them with a child's eyes.

BLUE CHRISTMAS: The holidays are a time for reflecting on the past. Inset: Ebenezer Scrooge is haunted by the ghost of former business partner Jacob Marley in Charles Dickens' classic, *A Christmas Carol*. Photos: tat aka t; J Leech

Leaving home in my teens with a bad attitude, no money and a fatal sense of adventure, which took many a wrong turn, the one thing I could always count on was that out there, far away, was a home.

More importantly, were my parents who never quite understood what it was that drove me away, but always welcomed me back with unquestioning love.

Whenever you pair up people, there tends to be a brew of personalities and emotions. Good, bad, ugly and seemingly fragile. Yet they stayed together for longer than I have walked the Earth to this day.

My father still remains an unanswered question in so many ways. And my mom, who had the heart of a lion and spirit of a Scotsman, was just too hard not to end up in a bitter conflict. Not weekly or daily. I'm talking hourly.

My moves kept multiplying in distance, from the metropolitan city of Hollywood nearby, to the mountains of Reno, wilds of Wyoming, Alaskan wilderness and on to Hawaii.

A mounting number of Christmases were missed in rapid succession, though phone calls were made and cards exchanged. We were just a small family and my sister's path kept her close to home, never venturing far. She, to this day, deserves more credit for the vast amount of worry and strife I caused all.

Some 28 years ago I decided that the world wasn't flat, and Hawaii wasn't exotic enough – I needed more. First into the Pacific Islands and onto Asia. I've lived in more countries than I care to remember, though the last 11 years have been spent in Phuket. Finally a lifeless ordinary found a second home.

It's been ten years since I made a trip home with my new wife for Christmas with my parents and my sister's family. That trip gave me my last living memory of my father who passed away less than a month later. A cold December evening, with a decided chill for California, together with a quick hug and mumbled words still linger in my mind's eye.

What was never said, now never will be. After the event my sister and I were talking over old times and she mentioned how every year, when the family would gather, my dad would always wrap some presents and say perhaps this year I just might be home for the holidays.

Life remains as cruel as it is kind. Less than three short years passed and I found myself sitting with my mother in her doctor's office as he mournfully gave her the final ultimatum – wrap up your affairs you have six months left at most.

Somehow in those dark hours, I was lucky enough to pay it down, if only a fraction, a minuscule, a few grains of times' own sand. Crossing the Pacific Ocean from Phuket to Los Angeles came fast and furious, as time doesn't stand still. No matter how much you wish it to be, or pray to whatever spirit is at work in the universe.

That clock on the wall just started ticking slower and slower despite four trips across the ocean and this time there were the moments to say what needed to be said. Not big life-changing thoughts, or one absolutely defining moment. We strung together a chain of our shared lifetime of small remembrances, sharing meals and time outdoors in the sun just talking.

On a Friday in late afternoon, two days before Christmas, I was outside riding my bike. My sister and wife were at the house and a nurse was on call as we'd chosen to let my mother die in her own home. A strange feeling came over me as I cut the trip short, and headed back quickly. While night was close to falling we stood with our mother holding her hands as she passed on to a better place.

A few weeks later, I was sleeping in the bed where I had dreamt those wild adventures as a boy for the very last time. There was no going back, the emotional slipstream was almost too much to take. This part of the passage would end the next day, and there was no longer a home left to come to ever again.

Reflecting on the past, present and future with my own house, wife and two children in Phuket, I'm struck by just how many of us here have travelled through life's circle. Through the joys, sorrows, misadventures and even the everyday to this island place that so many of us call home for the holidays.

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

The start of 'Hobbit housing' in Phuket

JINGLE Bill, Jingle Bill. Is the very merry season here again already?

Apparently so, given the greenscape in every retail space my eyes come to rest on. This year the epic film the *Hobbit* is upon us. Hobbits and Asian real estate have been simpatico for quite sometime.

Certainly, this year in Thailand, Mickey Mouse flats, politely called 'entry-level condominiums' have dominated the center sales stage.

Whether it's been idle chatter from developers in Pattaya saying 20 square meters was far too big, or the recent spate of cheap small condos, which have captivated Phuket, Hua Hin, and Bangkok. A few years ago AirAsia came into the limelight with that adage "Now Everyone Can Fly". For the property market it's a case of "Now Everyone Can Own a Condo".

Phuket's Shire. Photo: Steven Stehling

Recently I took a look at a new, ready-to-be-launched budget condo project's show flat and found my mind drifting to those dog kennels that the privileged class use to house their trophy poodles way up in first class on a legacy airline. But then I realized the genius of this new niche market – Hobbits. Smart money is flocking to Gen-H condos as clearly these people breed like rabbits and royalties from all those *Lord of the Rings* pictures have created a deep market. Silly me. I'd been pondering the rapid rise of the new LCC's (Low-Cost Condos), and it had plagued my downtime for most of the year. Enter a lightning bolt of clarity. Problem solved. While no one is sure how deep the market is, given the region's property experts have yet to figure out the demographics of the Gen-H market.

For now developers will be humming along with Randy Newman, about short people.

-Bill Barnett

Tri Property launch Zcape X2 concept

ESCAPE: Zcape X2 will be located next to Boat Avenue Shopping Street.

URBAN lifestyle condo concept developer Tri Property launched sales of Zcape X2 Condominium in Cherng Talay on December 15, boasting unit reservations totalling more than 60 per cent over the first weekend of the two-week pre-sales period.

Touted as perfectly priced condo units in a prime location, Tri Property CEO Adisorn Vivakanond said the Zcape X2 concept was aimed at offering affordable, up-market accommodation with elements of energy-saving, eco design in a cosmopolitan community near Bang Tao Beach.

"The Zcape X2, fully furnished one and two-bedroom units were very well received when they went on the market priced from just 1.49 million baht – a very affordable option in such a prestigious location," said Adisorn.

Rising seven–storeys, including a parking level, Zcape X2 Condominium comprises three unit designs: Lake View (26.55 – 31.09 square meters); one-bedroom Pool View (31.86 – 36.87sqm) and two-bedroom units (41.05 – 41.11sqm).

Each unit features a variety of innovative, space-saving details in the design, including interchangeable living space, plus a fully-equipped kitchen with plenty of storage space.

On-site facilities include a large swimming pool with children's play pool and hydro jet area that has a view of nearby hills, a pool lounge for recreational functions, a glass-walled fitness center with an all-round view, plus 24-hour manned security, a reception area and CCTV.

"Making Zcape condo units stylish, practical and affordable for the next generation of local residents in such a choice location were decisive factors in the rapid sell out of all Zcape condo units in July," said Adisorn.

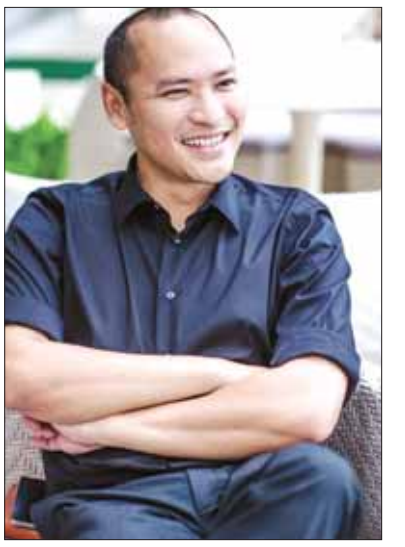
"The Cherng Talay location of Zcape X2 Condominium was carefully selected to give residents the best balance possible to meet today's lifestyle needs. The architecture and north-south alignment of the project take full advantage of the spacious natural surroundings to provide energy-saving solutions in the form of natural shade and ventilation. The condo is also located within walking distance of Boat Avenue's trendy new mall, which is destined to become one of the island's trendiest new meeting places with shops, restaurants, entertainment venues and a Villa Market," he said.

NEW DESIGN: Movable, multi-purpose furniture and sliding partitions.

With the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) integration for Thailand just around the corner, the Tri Property CEO said that Zcape X2 was a highly attractive investment in high-quality housing in a world-class tourist destination. Phuket, he said, continues to boom as a regional hub, where the residential and transient population is increasing significantly year by year.

"Joining the AEC in 2015 will bring an influx of trade and investment that will further fuel the demand in Phuket for high-quality condominiums. Local and international investors have already shown faith in the future of Phuket as a regional commercial and tourism hub," said Adisorn.

The Zcape X2 Condominium eco-design concept extends to many aspects of daily life, such as bicycle parking to encourage pollution-free travel and dedicated storage for recycling rubbish.



CEO, Adisorn Vivakanond.

Tri Property Executive Chairman and Phuket native, Chaiwat Tantiwiwat, said Tri Property's plans for Phuket include at least two or three more condominium and residential projects to be launched in 2013, located on other land plots with similarly high potential. The company is also looking at other sites in southern Thailand, including Haad Yai, Songkhla and Surat Thani.

For more information visit: z-phuket.com or call: 084-444 0707-9.

– Phuket Gazette

The worst expat investing mistakes

Island Investor

Don Freeman

LIVING in Thailand can be a dream come true for many expatriates, but as someone who has resided in Thailand since 2008, I have also seen it become a nightmare for unwary expats who make all-too-common investment mistakes. Luckily, a properly thought out investment plan can help you avoid making the following big mistakes:

1) Understand risk verses return and diversification

Many investors just look at an individual investment's return and do not understand that a high return could mean a high risk for losses.

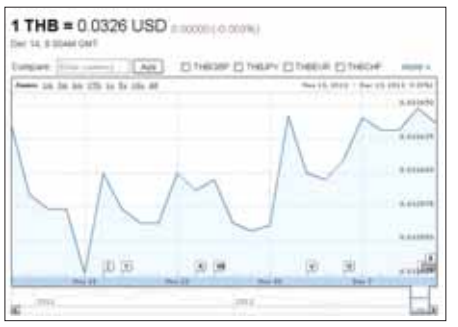
Likewise, many investors are also tempted to have too much of their investment portfolio concentrated, rather than diversifying their investments across multiple asset classes and sectors – including those that might not be "hot" at the moment.

Ideally, investors should have a portfolio with investments spread around because this will produce a much higher overall return in the long-term, and also reduce the risk of large losses.

2) Understand the impact of investment fees

Expatriates in Thailand are often paying investment fees far beyond what they need to be paying, because they have invested in a managed fund or in offshore investment products that come with high upfront fees (often 5% or more), annual fees of around 2% and a sales commission when they are sold.

When these high investment fees are considered with taxes, inflation and currency fluctuations, expatriates can easily be left with little to no return on their investments. In contrast, many Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs) have no extra commissions beyond normal brokerage transaction costs and come with average annual expenses of just 0.49%. The average stock mutual fund costs investors 1.57% in annual fees.



Currency fluctutation in the baht to dollar exchange rate over the last month.

3) Be sure that you consider inflation

Many expats in Thailand come from countries where interest rates are near zero, in part because of low inflation.

However, and as an emerging market, Thailand's inflation rate since the year 2000 has ranged from -4.4% to as high as 9.2%, with the average annual rate being 2.7%.

This means at a minimum, expatriates here will need to achieve an after fee and after tax investment return of 2.7% on their investments just to maintain their current standard of living.

And, if Certificate of Deposits (CDs) don't yield that much back home, expatriates will need to find another way to ensure that their income at least keeps pace with Thailand's rate of inflation.

4) Factor in currency risk

Those who intend to reside in Thailand on a permanent basis need to be aware that over the past decade, the Thai baht has appreciated approximately 28.75% against the US dollar, 43.67% against the GBP and 20.14% against the Euro.

If the Thai baht continues to appreciate, or should Thailand decide to toughen the requirements for retirement visas, many expatriates could be forced to either cut their living expenses or worse – they will need to leave the country.

To avoid currency mismatch between income and expenses, expatriates need to think beyond investments located in their home country or denominated in their home currency.

Fortunately, there are investments that invest in foreign currencies, which can offset the risks associated with having an income in a home currency that is depreciating against the baht.

5) Seek out proper professional advice

Expats living in Thailand should consult with insurance, legal, tax and investment professionals who have expertise regarding such matters here in Thailand and in their respective home countries.

Getting good professional advice will be all the more critical for expatriates who have family both in Thailand and in their home countries.

Getting tax advice will be especially critical for American and Canadian expatriates in light of specific tax rules.

WHEN BLACK TURNS RED: Avoid simple investment mistakes. Photo: Tax Credits

A thorough investment plan reduces exposure to risk. Photo: Steve Wampler

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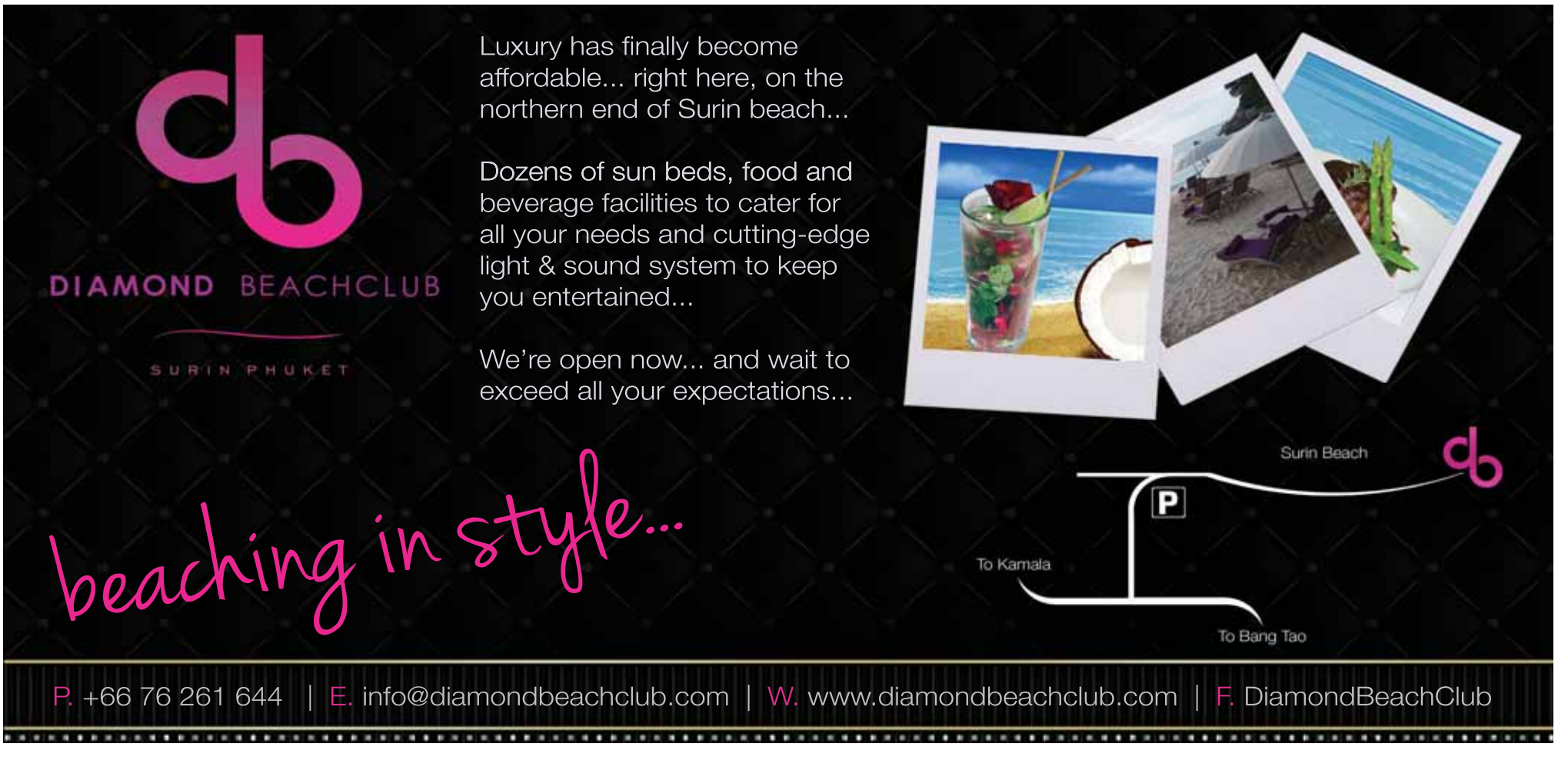

Plus Property gets boost from Sansiri market success

SANSIRI subsidiary Plus Property, a real-estate management and brokerage company, targets growth of at least 20 per cent next year, against expected 2012 income of 650 million baht.

The unit's revenue surge is due to Sansiri's strong growth, which is expected to continue next year, according to Apichart Chutrakul, chief executive of both Plus Property and Sansiri.

Sansiri targets presales of 42 billion baht this year and 50 bn baht in 2013.

"The main driver of Sansiri's business growth next year will come from our new residential projects upcountry, which will account for about 30 per cent of our presales worth 42 bn baht this year," he said.

Up to 90 per cent of the property management business of Plus Property comes from Sansiri's residential projects, which will total some 140 by year-end.

This business has generated about 33 per cent of the subsidiary's revenue this year. "Our property management will focus on Sansiri's residential projects because we want to create the best after-sales service for our customers," says Apichart.

"This is a value-added service for our residential projects," said the chief executive. The property management service will add rentals for holiday business to its portfolio next year, serving customers who buy units upcountry as holiday residences and for rental purposes.

The additional service will generate a return of 6 to 10 per cent a year for customers opening up their homes for rental, depending on the location, Apichart added.

Meanwhile, up to 50 per cent of Plus Property's agency and brokerage portfolio comes from Sansiri's residential projects, and the rest from other property firms. The company now has 16,000 units under management nationwide, worth about 50 bn baht total.

This business has generated around 49 per cent of its revenue this year. The next-largest revenue contributor is the management of commercial buildings. Some 3 million square meters of buildings across the country have generated about 18 per cent of this year's income.

"Plus Property has had revenue growth of 29 per cent this year thanks to our parent company's business growth," noted Apichart.

The company is substantially increasing its staff to support next year's predicted 20 per cent growth, he added.

The number of employees at Plus Property will rise from the current 1,300 to 1,560 during the course of the year. "Staff are the key to driving our business growth in the long term," he concluded. – *The Nation*

ANOTHER HALF DOZEN: Sansiri are launching six new projects this quarter.

The new Quattro condominium on Thonglor 4 road in Bangkok was developed by Sansiri.

Family, the best defense against technology risks

WITH the holiday season upon us, we would like to encourage all of our readers to take a few moments to pause and reflect on how lucky we are to live in this incredible age of technology.

Technology is perhaps the most notorious of double-edged swords. Shakespeare wrote famously in *Hamlet* that "…there is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so."

That statement reflects a healthy skepticism, but it might be a difficult task to sell the idea that guns are "neither good nor bad" to the residents of Newtown, Connecticut, many of whom had to bury their beloved young children last week (see page 10).

The incomprehensible murder of 26 people – mostly kindergarten students – at a school in that town continues to shock the planet.

Most of the civilized world is united in disbelief at how easily US citizens, including the mentally-deranged, can acquire the kind of arsenals needed to carry out attacks like this and the others that came before it.

The continuing incidence of random mass murders has also caused many to question the role of the media in reporting on such events. As impractical as it may be, some have even suggested that traditional media should somehow conspire to "play down" or even stop reporting such events in order to deny potential mass murderers the "attention" they are said to be seeking when carrying out these attacks.

Despite the planet's unsustainable rise in population growth, we are nevertheless slowly developing a global popular culture based largely on the Internet. Quite often the trends are harmless memes, like "planking" or dancing "Gangnam style", but in many cases they can be dangerous, if not outright deadly. "Cyberbullying" resulting in suicide, the empowerment of pedophilia rings, child abductions and the spread of bomb-making technology are just a few of the results that can arise when the nefarious become Internet-enabled.

Here in Phuket, the case of Samudchaya "Nong Pin" Yanpunya, who was only 12 years old at the time she went missing from an internet café early last year, is just one example. Her mother fears she may have been abducted by someone she met online during a Facebook session – though her true fate remains a mystery.

It might be easy to dismiss mass murder attacks as an internal problem for the US, but the reality is that the disease is spreading to Europe and China, through the Internet, of course, And we have all the ingredients right here in Thailand for similar tragedies to occur – most notably the wide-open access to black-market firearms and the ease with which so many citizens are influenced by others, as manifest in the spread of drugs, corruption and the spontaneous formation of mobs.

As is so often the case, the first, best and maybe the only line of defense against these and so many other social ills is good parenting. With that in mind, the *Gazette* would like to extend the warmest of holiday wishes to all of our readers and their families.

Phuket Gazette

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A flying dream: Phuket International Airport

Letters
to the Editor

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

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Property Watch: Welcome to my nightmare, December 17

In response to Bill Barnett's "Welcome to my nightmare" rambling rant about Phuket Airport in last week's issue of the *Gazette*, my girlfriend had absolutely no problems parking one evening last week when she came to collect me on my return from the UK.

Further, I was able to collect my hold luggage just five minutes after arriving at baggage reclaim. I then queued for less than two minutes at immigration, whose desks were fully manned by attentive, smartly-dressed officers.

After a quick visit to an immaculate men's toilet, I was out and past the taxi touts in less than 15 minutes after disembarking my plane.

My experience was a dream in comparison to Bill's bad nightmare, so well done to everyone at Phuket Airport. Keep up the good work!

Andy Phillips
Phuket Town

Cars driving Phuket to a smoggy ruin

Re: Gazette online, Phuket first-time car buyers overload Excise Office, December 14

With a tropical island already suffocating in a cloud of carbon dioxide in the middle of a permanent traffic jam, this would be in all the developed world the last thing to do.

But here, with the help of a government campaign, they are going to make things worse.

Claude
Gazette forum

Ho Ho Ho hum....

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Customs deliver 'crushing blow' to copyright pirates, December 13

What a senseless waste. Christmas is just around the corner. A lot of these items could – or should – have been donated to charities, school kids, hospital patients, homeless and the needy.

So many people could have benefited, including Customs itself, if the Customs "officers" had just spent a little time thinking instead of simply trashing everything.

The Sixer
Gazette forum

The Grinch who stole Christmas

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Customs deliver 'crushing blow' to copyright pirates, December 13

Companies and tax-paying staff and stores are impacted by the sale of fake goods… This [destroying fake goods] is the only thing they should do with the fake junk sold on the streets.

It's only wasteful if it is worth having, and nothing that's fake is worth having. Fake people buy or use fake products.

A Williams
Gazette forum

Putting the brakes on needless deaths

Re: Gazette online, Police to charge tour van driver today over lethal Phuket crash, December 13

It is remarkable, that people must die *before* the police will charge the tour van drivers for reckless driving. We all see, every day, how they drive against red lights, make dangerous overtaking [maneuvers] and, without exception, speed on the way to and from the airport.

When will Phuket do something? I wonder how many deaths these drivers are responsible for? In the past couple of weeks it was three.

Richard
Gazette forum

Parking future lights up south of Phuket

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: Parking management not 'The Impossible', December 16

In some parking garages in Malaysia, including one at a major shopping mall in Penang, there is automated gate control entry to the parking garage.

If the garage is full, it will not allow entry. Once access is gained there are red and green lights over each parking space to indicate where a free space exists. Just look for the green light and you have your parking space. It works beautifully.

Of course, this doesn't solve the lack of parking spaces.

Parking Space Cadet
Gazette forum

The Great Barrier to reef conservation

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Diving: Building the reefs of the future, December 16

As long people keep standing on corals, and instructors feed bananas to fish while their customers/students watch as they kick the last remaining corals, while others take photos, we have no power to preserve the reefs around Phuket.

Open your eyes and look around at what's going on. Reefs are not made for standing on while taking photos.

Stephan
Gazette file

Santa says: A smile is the best Christmas gift of all

On December 25, **Santa Claus** will be attending a plethora of activities being held across Phuket, among them will be the annual Christmas celebrations at Bangkok Hospital Phuket. Here, the jolly "Hospital Santa" explains what Christmas in Phuket truly means to him.

THERE are many foreigners living in and visiting Phuket, and I am sure that they are going to celebrate Christmas or at least take part in some special event on December 25 to mark the occasion. This is why having Santa on the island is so very important.

Being Santa is very special for me because parents usually celebrate Christmas as a way of letting the kids enjoy the season. And as Santa, I get to help bring joy into the lives of the kids by making them feel special.

At the hospital, I will give the children candies and sweets and small presents, such as dolls. These are what my helpers prepare each year. But we will also enjoy fun games and activities, and the children will be encouraged to join me and my helpers in singing carols.

You don't have to buy presents for children to bring joy into their lives. True Christmas presents come in many forms, just making them laugh and smile is a wonderful gift. Even if it is just a small smile, which is so simple, but which I consider to be the most valuable of gifts.

The children on Phuket do not smile enough, so if I can make them smile, it gives me overwhelming joy.

I usually drives a sleigh pulled by flying reindeer, but since I will be the 'Santa of the hospital', I might have to drive a wheelchair down the halls instead. I'll also have to check exactly which gifts I have for the health and safety board this year.

While doing the rounds every Christmas, we also visit outpatients, showering them with gifts while singing carols. They are often in much need of some Christmas cheer.

Purring with happiness and Christmas cheer. Photo: C_Chan808

Being Santa is something that I am very proud of, as Santa brings joy and happiness to many people, and to me, happiness is more precious than money or any other gifts. It is not easy to make people happy, and a chance to bring them happiness does not come often, so on this special occasion I am glad to be the one to fill their hearts with love and bring smiles to their faces.

When will there be an end to the carnage on Phuket's roads?

Righteous road rage

Island View

By Roy McAllum

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

DRIVING my son to school, I witnessed the carnage of the horrific crash involving a minivan and a pickup in which a young girl of nine was killed and other children injured. It was a bright sunny morning, the road was dry and it was early enough that traffic was relatively free flowing. Perfect driving conditions.

If this were an isolated incident there would be no point in me writing this, but this is not the first accident I have seen in Phuket, nor unfortunately will it be the last, and the fact that a young girl died on her way to school brings the insanity of it all into sharp focus.

How have we come to this? A few decades ago, Phuket was a sleepy tropical island with very few cars and those that were here, mostly Suzuki Caribians, bumped along dirt roads at a slow and dusty pace.

Then mass tourism arrived and suddenly buses, vans and tuk-tuks were everywhere, shuttling tourists between hotels, shops and the airport. Tourists have no choice but to take them, as public transport here is pretty much non-existent. That we have so many of these vans is not the problem in itself, as it is testament to how well tourism is doing in Phuket

The real problem is that these vans, ferrying people all over the island, generally do so at great speed. There is no respect for other road users; I cannot count the number of times they speed up behind me and flash me out of the way. An amber street light is an invitation to speed up even more, and the worst of it all is that such behavior goes unpunished. Add to the mix a huge number of motorcycles, stray dogs, lumbering trucks and cement mixers, and the insanity of driving at speed on these congested roads is all too obvious.

Given the lack of policing available in Phuket, I propose two simple solutions. First, station a policeman at main intersections to stop and fine anyone running a red light or approaching the junction at speed.

Second, physically modify these potential killing machines to have a maximum speed of 90 kilometers per hour.

Yes, it will take longer to get to the airport, but people will get used to leaving a little earlier and arriving safe and sound. All our futures depend on it.

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

T'was the tax before Christmas and Santa wasn't about

When my mother informed me that she was popping something small into the post for Christmas, she did warn me not to get too exited.

However, when it arrived I still felt like a little boy on Christmas morning – until I was rudely told that I would have to pay 800 baht import duty.

I argued and stomped, but it was to no avail and so I stumped up the cash. I opened my present (beautifully wrapped in gold paper) and it was a London 2012 t-shirt with the £5 sale sticker still on it!

My point is this: I have no problem paying import duty if I am importing something, but who decided that I should pay 800 baht? How was it decided? Why can I not contest the amount? And perhaps more importantly, does Thailand really need to raise import duty off Christmas presents?

Nick Robinson
Phuket Town

All legally imported packages are taxed, but does Santa import or smuggle? Photo: Jonas N

Pacharatida Sukjit, an officer at the Thai Post office in Phuket Town, replies:

The Customs Department determines the rate of import duty to be imposed on each item imported to Thailand – and every item imported is subject to import duty. This is especially so for popular brand-name items that are not available in Thailand.

However, we only deliver the parcels. You can pay the import duty at the post office, but that duty will only be transferred to the Customs House at a later date.

Passara Soontavareerit, an officer at Phuket Customs House, replies:

Each item imported is charged a different rate of tax according to what type of good it is and its condition. In your case of importing a shirt, the import duty alone is 60 percent of the value deemed by the officer reviewing the article for importation.

However, other fees and surcharges, some of them set amounts, are levied in determining the value of the goods as landed in Thailand. Then Excise Tax and Value-Added Tax (VAT) are calculated based on the value as landed.

All these taxes, duties and surcharges are added together to determine the full rate of import duty that you have to pay.

The *Gazette* notes: For a full example visit Customs.go.th and click "Sample of Duty Assessment" in the left-hand sidebar.

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

YOUR Phuket

PATONG CARNIVAL, DECEMBER 15 2012

The island's premier party town of Patong kicked off the tourism high season with its annual carnival held from December 15 to 20. Organized by the Patong Municipality, the annual festival draws thousands of visitors from all over the world to mark the start of the tourism high season in Phuket.

Photo: danmilesmedia

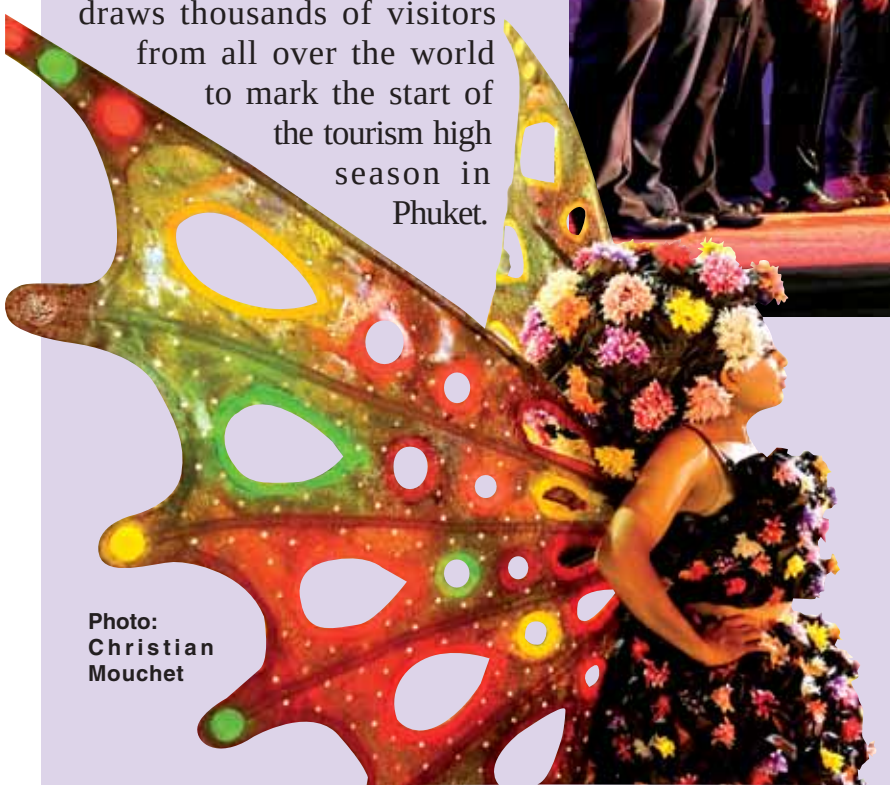
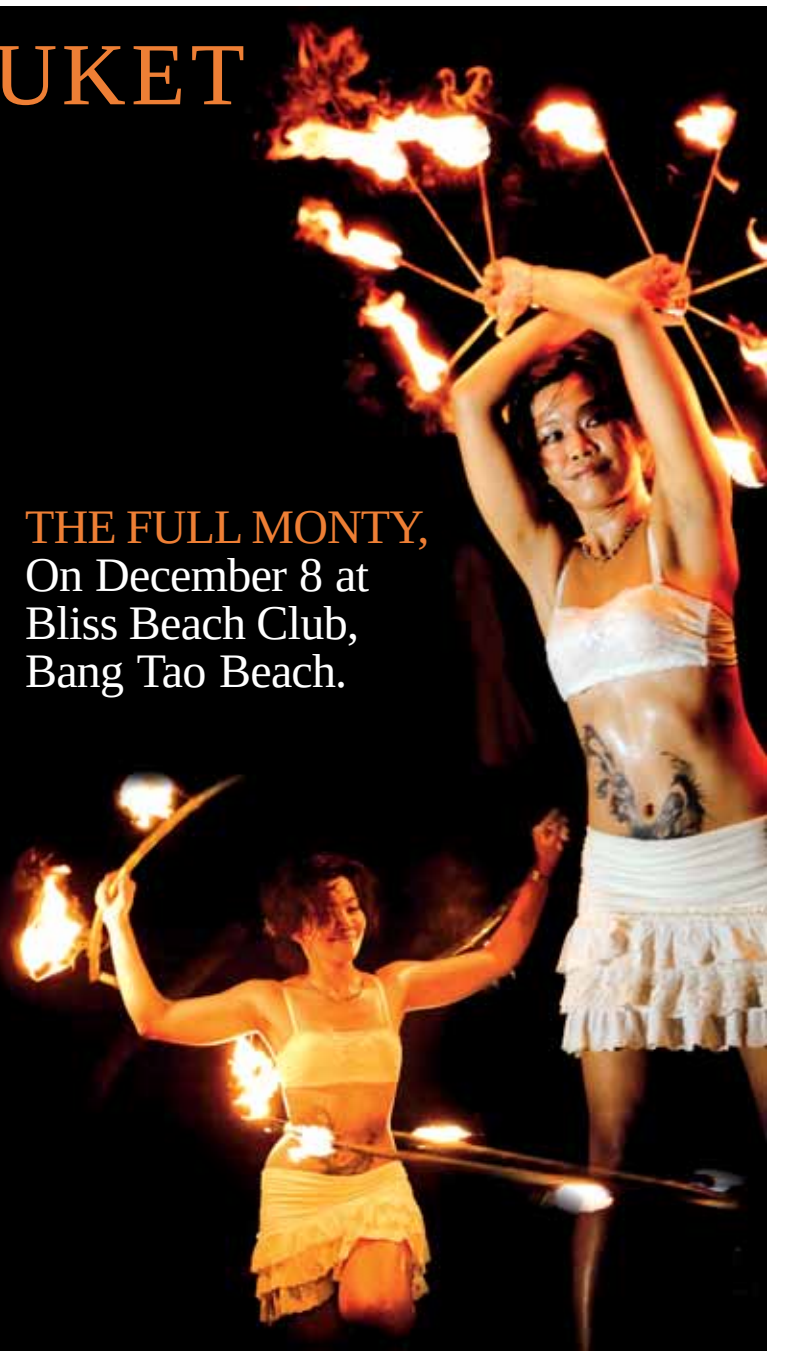


Photo: Christian Mouchet

Photo: Christian Mouchet

Photo: danmilesmedia

SKAL INTERNATIONAL PHUKET



THE FULL MONTY,
On December 8 at Bliss Beach Club, Bang Tao Beach.

The Phuket Gazette's weekly

ISLAND TRADER

Phuket's *LARGEST* CLASSIFIEDS Marketplace – in Print and Online*

December 22 - 28, 2012 | PhuketGazette.Net

PULL ME OUT!

*The Gazette is the top-ranked Website for Phuket. *(Google Analytics)*

PROPERTY of the week

See page 23

BUILDING SERVICES of the week

Bandhit Construction and Service

Bandhit Construction & Swimming Pools

See page 25

DEAL of the week

mobile car rental

See page 30

BOAT of the week

SIMPSON MARINE

See page 31

All Property, Boat and Business Ads are PAID!

– your assurance that whatever's advertised here is seriously for sale.

Gazette Classifieds – they work! Because they're REAL.

Property Classifieds

Properties For Sale

BEAUTIFUL VILLA KARON

Open, an easy-living villa. Enjoy the private pool. 3 bedrooms. Covered parking. Secure estate close to beach, a true piece of art. Price: 13.9 million baht. Tel: 081-719 4688. Email: elbej@hotmail.com

NEW CONDO FOR SALE

Prime location, deluxe apartment, pool, gym, sauna, 43sqm. Sale: 3.5 million baht. Freehold. Tel: 087-978 1947.

GOLF VIEW VILLA FOR SALE

Near British International School, state-of-the-art villa overlooking the Loch Palm Golf Course: 4 bedrooms + maid's room; 485sqm. Built on 1,860sqm land. 28 million baht. Contact owner. Tel: 089-724 7211 (English). Email: julien@phuketimmo.com

STUNNING VILLA SITE

Prime unique development land including:

– 15 rai of chanote land @ 30 million baht per rai.

– Stunning sea views along Karon Beach bay.

– Sloping to allow for views.

– Access from all units.

– Main road access.

– Beach access via right of way.

– Last chanote titled land site from Karon to Patong.

– Some infrastructure work already done.

Tel: 081-895 7727 (English). Email: jmlphuket@gmail.com

CHALONG RESIDENCE PHUKET

Opposite Wat Chalong on the way up to the hill. Fantastic sea view. 1 rai, Chanote, gross floor space: 684sqm, 5 en-suite bedrooms, completed in 2011, pool with over fall, sala, covered carport, only 32.5 million baht. Direct by owner. Tel: 085-654 4011, 089-404 0737. For further details, please see our web site at www.chalong-residence.com

1.5 RAI NEAR LAGUNA PHUKET

Chanote title, quiet location, gentle slope, highest point of Pasak 8, easy access. 8.5 million baht. Tel: 089-875 9609 (English), 087-418 5924 (Thai). Email: claudebaltes@gmail.com http://phuket-land-villas.blogspot.com/

FOR SALE PATONG TOWER

Freehold condos, good rate, sea and mountain views. Tel: 080-692 6114. Email: orsorealestate@hotmail.com

KATA SERVICE APT. BUILDING

Penthouse, 3 apartments. Bistro/bar, building, land, pool. Management company. Forced sale. Best offer for quick sale. Tel: 081-828 0972. Email: sbolls@hotmail.com

RAWAI SEAVIEW CONDO

120sqm, freehold, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished. 7.8 million baht, Rawai. Tel: 086-687 6251. Email: adrian_troy@yahoo.com

HOUSE & FURNITURE

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

D CONDO 1, KATHU

-29.94sqm, mountain view, price 1,278,000 baht.

-29.70sqm, mountain view, price 1,280,000 baht.

-29.79sqm, pool view, price 1,330,000 baht.

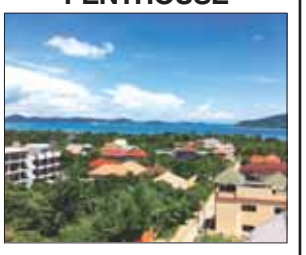
-29.70sqm, pool view, price 1,365,000 baht.

Contact Vutdy on 081-892 3709.

POOL VILLA - NAI HARN

9mx3m pool, open modern design, 2 bedrooms, 2 floors, western kitchen, furniture, 320sqm land, Chanote. Tel: 085-473 7812 (English). Email: vankets@gmail.com

AMAZING SEAVIEW PENTHOUSE

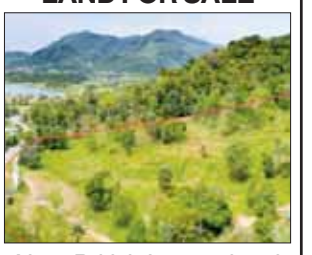


360º panoramic sea view and mountain view. 310sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with option to convert into 3 bedrooms. Spacious living area and balconies. Tel: 086-278 8300. Email: izzy.serenitygroup@gmail.com

BEST FUNCTIONAL HOUSE

3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 1 office, 6 aircons, opposite big common garden, 5 minutes from Central Festival Phuket. 5.9 million baht. Tel: 089-925 5486.

GOLF COURSE LAND FOR SALE



Near British International School, 17 rai with public road access. Suitable for resort or housing project. Can be divided. Price: 4.5 million baht per rai. Contact owner. Tel: 089-724 7211. Email: julien@phuketimmo.com

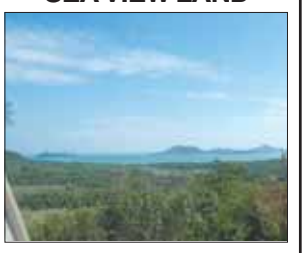
LUXURY VILLA 400SQM

4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 10mx5m pool, modern kitchen, car park for 2 cars, electric gates, filter. 1 rai, 7 minutes to PIA. 14.8 million baht. Email: geta909@gmail.com

PATONG TOWER NEW 1 BEDROOM

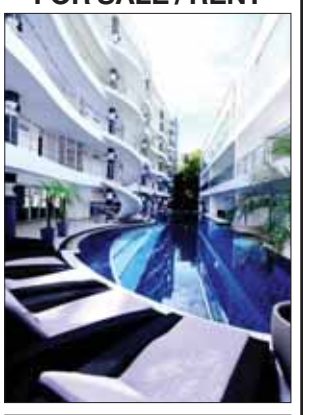
Newly renovated 1-bedroom condo. On the beach in the centre of Patong. Beautiful mountain view. Tel: +45-523 9377 (English). Email: deherder@hotmail.com

STUNNING SEA VIEW LAND



A wonderfully located plot measuring almost two rai, located near Cape Yamu and giving magnificent sea views across Phang Nga Bay. Only 4 million baht per rai. Tel: 076-279280, 087-381 1485, +60-12-303 0790. Email: jaekayjosh@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.phillips-property.com/phu ketproperty/869/land-for-sale-cape-yamu-phuket-thailand/

FOR SALE / RENT



Short or long-term rent available. Fully furnished sea view condo at Sunset Plaza, Karon. 1, 2-bedroom and penthouse. Gym and swimming pool. Also 3 new beautiful houses with swimming pool at Soi Samakki 2, Rawai. Tel: 086-302 9742 (Kae), 081-843 3990 (Komol).

BEACHFRONT LAND FOR SALE

2 rai absolutely amazing beachfront, few minutes boat ride from Phuket, facing west with views of Phuket. 13 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-278 8300. Email: izzy.serenitygroup@gmail.com

30 RAI IN TOWN

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

TOWNHOUSE IN KOH KAEW

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

Live in Cherng Talay?
Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Chaba Supermarket

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

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PAID!

– your assurance that whatever's advertised here is seriously for sale.

Gazette Classads - they work!
....because they're real.

Property Classifieds

LUXURY PANORAMA SEA & ISLAND VIEW

For sale. 3-storey villa, 1 rai, Yamu Hills, 560sqm, living area, 6 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, infinity pool. Sale: 34.7 million baht. Tel: 089-582 8401. Email: pbbronze@gmail.com

1 RAI, SEA VIEW LAND

Opposite Wat Chalong on the way up to the hill. Chanote (36m x 45m approximately). Sophisticated hillside project, proratable. 8.5 million baht. Direct by owner. Tel: 085-654 4011, 089-404 0737.

THIDA HOUSE SALE 27 MILLION

Thai-style modern townhouse with land. Size: 10.50m x 10.85m. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with living room, dining room, kitchen and car park. Single house on land size: 15m by 10.85m. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with living room, dining area/kitchen, terrace and car park. Soi Mountain View Kathu Waterfall. Tel: 081-535 7585, 084-119 4262, 081-356 9754. Email: peecho74@hotmail.com

PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

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

NICE HOUSE 88SQ WAH

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

LAND FOR SALE

Near the main road to Baan Don-Cherng Talay. 68sq wah. 1.1 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118. Email: honda.1437@yahoo.co.th

HOUSE FOR SALE IN BAAN PROMPHAN

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

CONDO IN SUPALAI PARK

for sale. Near Seng Ho Bookstore in Phuket Town. Studio, 30sqm, floor 15, sea view, aircon, furnished. Price: 1.9 million baht. Ready to move in. For more info call 089-472 9118.

HOUSE IN VILLA DOWROONG

Phuket Town. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 47sq wah. For more information please call: 089-909 2771.

PHUKET VILLA 5 VILLAGE

For sale. Price 4.5 million baht. No agents, no furnished, with 4 aircons, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen and car park. Behind Kajonkiet International School on Chao Fa West Road, 5 minutes to Central Festival. For short or long-term rent, 16,000 baht per month. Call to see 087-270 9093.

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.

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

BEAUTIFUL HOUSE FOR SALE

Fully landscaped, 3 air conditioners, telephone and internet, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen. Located near the Heroines Monument towards Pa Khlok. Land size is 53sqw. 3 million baht (negotiable). Tel: 080-520 2989. Email: edc9designs@gmail.com

LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

390sq wah, nice flat land, quiet area, chanote. In Pasak Soi 5 near Laguna Home. Price: 6 million baht. For more information please call: 089-472 9118, 086-709 2933.

LAND NEAR MISSION HILLS

Pa Khlok. 2 rai 32sq wah, 60m wide. 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 KAMALA

For sale. 2 houses on land. 1 ngan 89sq wah. Chanote title, near mountain, peaceful and safe, 10 minutes from the beach. 5.5 million baht direct from owner. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

LAND NEAR KATA CENTER

Great location, road access, 5 mins to Kata Beach and main road, 1,450sqm with title deed. Contact Lychee. Tel: 081-891 3048 (Eng & German).

APARTMENT, HOUSE IN PATONG

For sale. 8 rooms with kitchen, aircon, fan, internet, TV, safe. Sale: 7.5 million baht. Tel: 086-283 1674.

3 & 4 BED POOL VILLAS

Laguna/Layan. Luxury private pool villas in secure development. Available now. All beds on-suite. Fully furnished. Rental programme available. 12-20 million baht. Contact owner. Tel: 085-549 7110.

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE FOR 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

NEW CONDO: URGENT SALE/RENT

Special price, modern style, 30sqm, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, 1 pantry. In Kathu, 3km to Patong. Full set of built-in furniture. Ready to move in! Contact Ya. Tel: 081-797 5138.

HOUSE FOR SALE: URGENT

4.9 million baht, 89sq wah (includes furniture). Stone wall around the house & fruit garden. 4 air conditioners, telephone and internet, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 CCTV. Located near the Heroines Monument, towards to Tesco Lotus Thalang. Tel: 080-520 2989. Email: edc9designs@gmail.com

COUNTRY ESTATE

Exquisite 7 rai, 3 homes, Chiang Dao Estate with B&B. Boutique Nature Resort potential for sale well below market value. Tel: 081-724 9155 (English & Thai), 080-790 5506 (English). Email: mychiangmaiproperty@gmail.com For stunning details, photos & maps, please see our website http://mychiangmaiproperty.com

Classified Advertisements

Please use this form to write your classified advertisement. Then hand it to any of our agents.

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Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 120 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad.

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

Deadline for Dec. 29, 2012 issue is on *Tuesday 18 Dec.* Before 5 p.m.
Deadline for Jan. 05, 2013 issue is on *Friday 21 Dec.* Before 5 p.m.

Looking for land to buy?

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

Property Classifieds

Properties For Rent

1, 2, 3-BED PATONG APARTMENTS

Large pool, gym, parking, maid, free WiFi. Rates from 22,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English & Thai). Email: phvcondo@aol.com

BOAT LAGOON HOUSE

bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Close to Major Mall, beach and school. 1 year minimum. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-958 7684.

HOUSE FOR RENT

Fully furnished, 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, quiet area near Laguna, rental 13,000 baht/ month. Tel: 084-051 1955 (English & Thai), 080-521 9888 (English & Thai). Email: sornin_s@yahoo .com

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen. Near Tesco Lotus Shopping Center, 10 minutes to Bang Tao Beach, Surin Beach and Kamala Beach. 20 minutes to Ao- Po Marina, Boat Lagoon and Phuket International Airport. 10 minutes to Phuket International School. Only 15 minutes to Phuket Town. Available Now! Only 16,500 baht per month. Tel: 089-724 2787.

BAR FOR LEASE SURIN BEACH

Area is about 100sqm internally with patio out front. Prime location on Surin Beach, main High street overlooking King's Park, just yards from 5-star resorts and restaurants (Twin Palms),100m to the beach. Fully furnished with sofas, pool table, 2 x flat screen TVs, cable and UBC, TrueVision TV, Hi Quality Denon Music System with 8 speakers built into ceiling. Rent: 50,000 baht per month. Email: stewartlees@ gmail.com

NICE HOUSE IN CHALONG

Single house (74sq wah) with lovely garden for long-term rent in Soi Parichart, Land & Houses Park. It has 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, 24 hr security + clubhouse facilities. Price: 25,000 baht per month or special price of 20,000 baht per month without furniture. Contact the owner. Tel: 081-867 6466 (English & Thai). Email: bow.jariya@gmail.com

THAI STYLE VILLA

In Nai Harn, 2 bedrooms, pool, furniture, 3-month rent minimum. 77,250 baht per month. Call agent. Tel: 082-420 7052.

STYLISH - BANG TAO BEACH

Newest, 1 bedroom, fully furnished. 40,000 baht for long-term. Short-term available. Tel: 089-795 6363. Email: vicky_grc@hotmail.com

PATONG STUDIO 50SQM

For rent. 14th floor, sea view, pool, garden, bathroom, kitchen, terrace, parking, security, fully renovated. Tel: 081-086 3586.

2 BEDROOM HOUSE

Brand-new house in quiet gated community. 5 mins from shopping malls and Phuket Town. Fully furnished with TV and aircon in all rooms. 2 bathrooms. Hot water & washing machine. Car port & garden. Sat TV & Internet ready. Tel: 081-893 9127. Email: duncan@eclipse marine.net

HOUSE AT PRIME PLACE VILLAGE

Near Heroines' Monument. Furnished, aircon, 3 bedrooms, cable TV, kitchen. Tel: 086-607 7493.

APARTMENT FOR RENT IN PATONG

Apartments for long-term rent in Patong. 25-80sqm. Some have balcony with seaview over the city. 10-20,000 baht per month + electric. Tel: 089-290 9567 (English & Thai). Email: lars@industriby.se

LARGE HOUSE KAMALA

Furnished, 280sqm, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, office, sundeck, pool, jacuzzi, carport. 25,000 baht per week. 35,000 baht per month. Minimum 6 months contract or sale 3.5 million baht lease hold. Tel: 084-716 0502.

PERMSAP VILLA, HOUSE FOR RENT

Near CherngTalay. Plot size: 520sqm with living area 156sqm. 4 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms with garden. Semi-furnished. Automatic gate. 50,000 baht per month. More information please call sales office. Tel: 076-527 869, 081-270 8940. Email: enquiries@ richmondth.com

PATONG APARTMENT LONG-TERM RENT

8,000 - 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-290 9567.

THE WHITE HOUSE FOR RENT

Please check out this wonderful villa for rent. Tel: 081-968 9046 (English & Thai). Email: info@mindproperties.net

THAI WOOD POOL VILLA

3 bedrooms, fully furnished, Bang Tao Beach. 70,000 baht for long-term. Short-term available. Tel: 089-795 6363. Email: vicky_grc@hotmail.com

CONDO FOR RENT

Just 10 minutes to Patong. Studio 30sqm, fully furnished, near swimming pool. Short or long-term rent. Tel: 081-607 8567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

TOWNHOUSE IN KOH KAEW

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

RENT APARTMENT PATONG

Condo, pool, security, 46sqm, furnished. 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

CHALONG BEACHFRONT POOL VILLA

At Rawai. For rent. 3 bedrooms, fully furnished. Land: 1 rai. Contact Siriporn. Tel: 089-649 9939.

LATE DEAL 4-BED VILLA RAWAI

Due to cancellation, we have a luxury 4-bedroom pool villa, recently refurbished, available from now to December 26. 8,000 baht per day. Willing to negotiate. Tel: 089-071 0169. Email: nigelburt51@gmail.com

PHUKET VILLA 5 VILLAGE

For Sale. Price: 4.2 million baht. No agents!, not furnished, with 4 aircons, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen and car park. Behind Kajonkiet Internation School on Chao Fa West Road, 5 minutes to Central Festival. For short or long-term rent, 16,000 baht per month. Call to see 087-270 9093.

PRIVATE POOLVILLA AVAILABLE NOW

3 bedrooms, full furnished, located in security area. Tel: 089-472 9870. Email: dchai but@gmail.com

BIG HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, over 2,500sqm, 2 rai, in Rawai. Long-term rent: 110,000 baht. Short-term rent: 185,000 baht. Call for more information. Tel: 088-765 0886. Email: gm@thenetworkpro perty.com

PRUKSA VILLE - THALANG

3 bedrooms, fully furnished. 20,000 baht for long-term. Tel: 089-795 6363. Email: vicky_grc@hotmail.com

NEW FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE

2-storey house, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 20,000 baht per month, quiet area. Ao Ma Kham Bay, 4km from town, 2km to beach. Tel: 081-892 4311. For further details, please see our website at panwagreen.weebly.com

2-BEDROOM HOUSE, BANG TAO

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, terrace, living room, parking, fully furnished, cable TV, internet, 2 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

Property Classifieds

Property Services

PRO SERVICE AND RENOVATE
- Water leaks
- Sanitation
- Sinks
- Grease Tanks
- Water Heaters
- Sprinkler Systems
- Pressure pumps
- Water Treatment
- Piping
- Deep wells

Data Water Work Ltd., Part. Tel: 081-396 5050.

PROPERTY/VILLA MANAGEMENT
Established company, managed by hoteliers, with individual and condo property management portfolio seeks estates/condos and villas to manage and/or rent. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

NEW REAL ESTATE PROJECT?
Experienced Project Manager. Contact for free initial advice. Tel: 087-975 2326. Email: info@smarthomes-thailand.com

RENOVATIONS, HOUSE REPAIRS
Renovations, house repairs, construction, electric installations, mold decontamination. Free quotes and warranties offered. English, German, Swedish and Thai speaking personnel. Tel: 085- 880 3728 (English), 080-141 4577 (English & Thai), 083-394 8337. Email: mattias@zionproperty.com

Accommodation Available

CHEAPEST ROOMS PATONG BEACH
'No Warrie Bar' has everything. Tel: 084-053 4365 (English & Thai), 090-031 8418. Email: striker_1957@hotmail.com

RENT APARTMENT PATONG
Condo: pool, security, 465sqm studio, fully furnished. Daily/monthly. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

PATONG LUXURY APT
Paradise Hotel complex. 150m to beach. Large, 1 bedroom, kitchen. Light, airy. Tel: 086-276 7608.

ROOMS FOR RENT IN KARON
Fully furnished, cable TV, aircon, Wifi. Daily/weekly/monthly. Tel: 082-270 6385. Email: tkoschig2000@hotmail.com

OCEAN VIEW PATONG CONDO
Upgraded 54 sqm condo. Cable, WiFi, pool, parking. Long term for 18,000 baht per month. Tel: +1-808-283 4188 (English). Email: mauigreg@hotmail.com

2 BEDROOM APARTMENT SURIN
Beautiful 100 sqm pool view apartment. 2 big bathrooms. 4 air cons, ceiling fans, full kitchen, washing machine and dry tumbler. High season 45,000 baht per month, or long- term 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-677 5056 (English), 0 86-940 3270 (English). Email: Cmlundqvist@gmail.com

Holiday Homes & Villa Rentals

APARTMENT RENTAL SURIN BEACH
The Lofts apartments are situated on the beach road in Surin which is fast developing into one of the trendiest areas of Phuket. Overlooking the Kings Park, location of Phuket's first golf course, now a public park, these apartments put you on the front step of all that the area has to offer. The apartments are accessed through a code panel lock with remote entry possible from the apartment for visitors. One bedroom from 33,000 baht. Two bedrooms from 35,000 baht. 2-bed penthouse from 60,000+ baht.Tel: 076-386537, 086-120 0298 (English), 080-995 8609 (Thai). Email: info@rentalpropertyphuket.com For further details, please see our website at www.rentalpropertyphuket.com

Household Items

SOURCE OUTDOOR KING ALL

Weather Wicker Sofa. Conversation set, 3 months old. New: 205,000 baht. Sale now: 120,000 baht. Patio exclusive outdoor furniture-sofa. Tel: 089-043 2954.

Building Products & Services

Bandhit Construction & Swimming Pools
- Building / Home / Swimming Pool Construction Contractor.
- All Enlarging Construction Works.
- Electricity & Water Supply.

Bandhit Construction and Service
085-690 3903 (Thai), 084-845 9208 (Eng)
124/467, Srisuchart Grandview Village 2, Moo 5, T.Rassada, A.Muang, Phuket 83000.
www.bandhitconstruction.com | Email: info@bandhitconstruction.com

EasyHomePhuket® www.easyhomephuket.com
Professional Property & Rental Management
SOS
MAINTENANCE WORKS?
076 383 435

Household Services

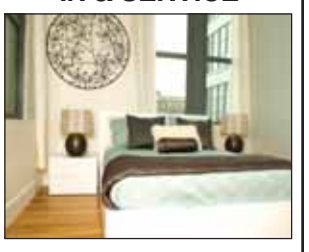
HOME MAINTENANCE
ASC Phuket Co Ltd offers full home maintenance services. Gardeners, maids, pool service, urgent minor repairs (electricity, plumber, etc). Give us a call and we'll take care of your villa, condo or office. Tel: 076-388 065, 081-693 1509. Email: bytonyk@gmail.com

PHUKET HOME MAINTENANCE
Renovations, house repairs, painters, tilers, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, construction. Fluent English-speaking boss. Free quotes given. Tel: 084-193 5124. Email: phukethomemaintenance@yahoo.com

OCEANIC MANAGEMENT
All-in-one property services:
- Renovations jobs
- Repair jobs
- Electrical services
- Plumbing services
- Carpentry
- Painting
- Architect design
- Constructions

For free quotation
Call: 089-7386630, 083-6345916
Email: info@oceanicmanagement.com

FURNITURE BUILT-IN & SERVICE



Phuket Furniture Built-in & Service (P.F.B.S.)

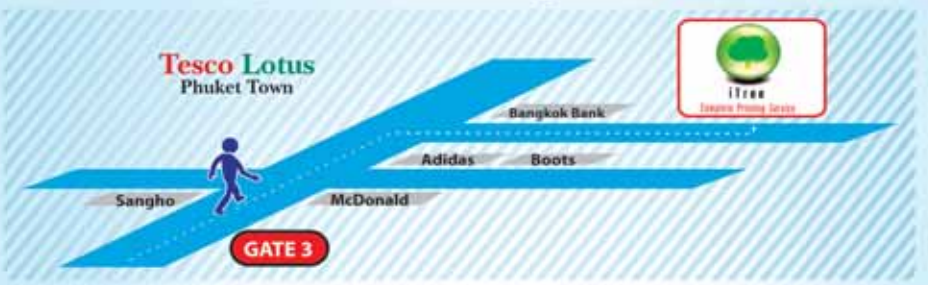
BUSINESS:
-Furniture built-in and renovate for office, house, condo and hotel.
-Decoration.
-Wood furniture and wood project.

FREE QUOTE:
Please contact: 089-292 9095. Email: phuketfurniture@hotmail.com www.builtinphuket.com

Household Help

HOME HELP WANTED
English-speaking housekeeper wanted in Laguna. Immediate start, live-out. Contact Brian. Tel: 084-877 5001.

Live in Town?
Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at
iTree Complete Printing Service



Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with
Khun Nan: (076-255425)

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

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Looking for land to buy?
See more classified ads at www.phuketgazette.net

Classified Advertisements

Please use this form to write your classified advertisement. Then hand it to any of our agents.

|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_| (heading)

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Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 120 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad.

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

Deadline for Dec. 29, 2012 issue is on *Tuesday 18 Dec.* Before 5 p.m.
Deadline for Jan. 05, 2013 issue is on *Friday 21 Dec.* Before 5 p.m.

Island Job Mart

DO YOU WANT TO WORK AT HOME?
We are seeking telemarketing staffs for our detergent sales/ online shop. We are a Finnish company and our operations are located in Finland. However, you can work anywhere in the world. We are not requiring any experience in this field of telemar keting. Please contact us at +358-19-751533 if you are interested and we will tell you more about this work.

SPA RECEPTIONIST
Beautiful spa in Karon is looking for new receptionist and cashier. Good salary. Call for more information. Tel: 087-894 5585.

LIVE IN DRIVER AND MAID
Experienced live-in staff wanted for a holiday villa in Surin start December. Driver must speak English. Tel: 084-689 4658 (English), 081-693 1621 (Thai). Email: malinlson @hotmail.com

MARKETING REPS NEEDED
EZYSTAYS looking for marketing representative. No experience required, full training provided, work permit and good income. Email: leoinphuket@gmail.com

STAFF WANTED FOR BEACH BAR
All staff needed for new beach bar on Surin Beach. Competitive wages, good hours and a fun place to work. Please e-mail your resume. Everyone considered. Email: jessezurn @hotmail.com

LOOKING FOR STAFF (4 POSITIONS)
Phuket Wake Park is looking for Chef of Thai Cuisine, Cook / Waiter, Operator of Cable Ski Line, Cashier. Tel: 084-889 4942 (English). Send CV to office@phuketwake park.com

ANDAMAN CRUISES COORDINATOR
Looking for coordinator who is responsible for working with crew to organize the cruise, manage bookings, provide administrative assistance. Excellent benefits provided. Tel: 076-316 537, 081-370 5689.Email: hr@twinpalms-group.com

SECRETARY KINDERGARTEN
Must have good English & computer skills. Monday-Friday, 7.30am-5pm. Chalong. Tel: 080-624 7060 Email: phuket preschool@yahoo.com www.buds-phuket.com

RESERVATIONS ASSISTANT
Full time. Western. Must have excellent written English, organizational and computer skills. Self motivated / good communicator. Send CV to phuketbookings@gmail.com

SALES CONSULTANT REQUIRED
Club Asia Fitness requires a Sales Consultant. Applicants should be fluent in English and a Thai national. Excellent remuneration offered.Tel: 080-698 5021.

SITE ENGINEER
Will work for Bayshore Projects Co.Ltd. Thai Nationality: Minimum 5 Years experience in residential development. Must hold national diploma in civil or structural engineering. Tel: 081-968 5963. Email: c@ bayshoreprojects.com

SENIOR ARCHITECT
Phuket-based architectural practice urgently requires a senior architect to oversee design of luxury villa and hospitality projects. Proficiency in written and spoken English required. Please send CV and expected salary to: info@imedge concepts.com

WEBSITE PROGRAMMER
Solid HTML and CSS coding experience with knowledge of JavaScript and PHP. Design and English skills are an advantage. Start immediately. We are located in Karon. Tel: 085-758 3780 (English). Email your CV to shotham.hari8888 @gmail. com For further details, please see our website at www.paroot.com

MANAGER - PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
Experienced manager required to manage 30 private residence in Krabi. The manager is responsible for managing all teams for maintenance, housekeeping, office, rental and security. Operate all property in a 5-star manner for both owners and guests. Applicants need to have strong leadership skills, excellent command of English, hotel and/or property management experience. Applicants will be required to have their own car and driving licence, and to be able to work both in Krabi and Phuket. Tel: 081-968 3140 (English), 081-797 3401 (English & Thai). Please send CVs to:manager@engchuan. com, www.engchuan.com, www.krabisunset.com and www.krabihideaway.com

PART-TIME MAID FOR VILLA
Experienced maid to work 3-4 hours in the afternoon, 5 days per week. Tel: 083-399 1323 (English). Email: pruett. kimberly@gmail.com

STOREMAN/SITE CLERK
Will work for Bayshore Projects Co. Ltd. Must be Thai national Tel: 081-968 5963. Email: c@bayshoreprojects. com

SPA STAFF AND MANGER NEEDED
Newly remodeled spa and massage parlor hiring staff for immediate Start. Competitive salaries and accommodation offered! Tel: 083-391 0291. Email: kamal.mail2000@ gmail.com

WAITRESS, SURIN BEACH
New beach restaurant needs highly trained waitress, must speak English and have a bubbly personality. Top wages and benefits. Contact Maya. Tel: 085-783 8938.

GENERAL FOREMAN
Will work for Bayshore Projects Co. Ltd. Thai Nationality. Minimum 5 years experience in residential development as site agent or construction foreman. Tel: 081-968 5963. Email: c@bayshoreprojects.com

LOOKING FOR STAFF
Aroi-Corner Restaurant in Rawai is looking for staff. Waitress and bartender with experience. Working hours: 3pm-11:30pm, one day off, good salary. Contact 084-442 8330. Khun Peter. Email: hp.sch ranz56@gmx.ch

COOKS, MAIDS, MANAGERS
Luxury villas looking for cooks, maids and managers. Live -in and live -out positions available. Tel: 080-699 2436. Email: kokakat@gmail.com

ESTATE / RENTAL MANAGER
Intira Villas is looking for a Thai person with a happy and positive attitude. Must be able to communicate in English and Thai, both in speaking and writing. Experience in management and rentals. Tel: 081-472 4925 (English). Please send CV and salary requirement. Email: jonas@intiravillas.com

ARCHITECTURE
Thai national wanted. Ability to use AutoCAD, Sketch-Up and 3D-Max is a must. Tel: 081-788 1639. Email: sec@ phuketawnings.com

JURISTIC MANAGER
Dependable Thai national needed for Juristic Manager position. Tel: 088-413 8122 (English). Email: phkrealestate @aol.com

MARKETING MANAGER
Phuket Wake Park is looking for a Russian English-speaking person. Salary: 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 082-938 7748, 082-415 4546. Please send your CV to: lizunov.o@mail.ru

NATIVE ENGLISH TEACHERS
Brainy House is an English-language school, which is committed to provide all of our students with quality teaching and prices that are affordable.

Qualifications;

- Applicants must be native English speakers.
- Bachelor's degree and TEFL are required.
- Teaching experience would be an advantage.
- Must be able to start in December.
- We offer competitive salaries and work permit. Tel: 080-907 7466. If you are interested, please contact Sasi or send your CV and recent photo to info@brainy-house.com

WINE & TAPAS BAR
Staff required in Phuket Town, available on October 2012: bartender, helpcook, waitress. Tel: 083-969 7807.

CHEF REQUIRED
Small international restaurant in Kalim Seeks for independent working kitchen chef with experience in preparing Thai and international dishes. Tel: 080-555 2377 (English & Thai). Email: 55inkalim@ gmail.com

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

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

Good salary for the right candidate.

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

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

IT OR AV ENGINEERS
Thai nationality, can speak English. Please send CV to Email: info@techworx-project.com

SCUBA DIVE AND TOUR SHOP
We are looking for a Thai staff to book our scuba diving customers when they come into the shop, and also book the island tours we sell. Must speak, read and write English. Must be very happy and good with customers. Salary: 15,000 to 20,000 baht, depending on the person. Tel: 076-388 684, 082-810 2443 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-388 684. Email: mjrossi2004@yahoo.com

WEBMASTER
Must have at least two years' experience as a webmaster and be able to create websites using flash and others. Good knowledge of computers, IT graphics/photoshop. Ability to edit video would also be helpful. Tel: 081-979 9911. Email: vrit@ boatlagoonyachting.co.th

RECEPTIONIST - KATA
Bliss Boutique Hotel is looking for a receptionist. Good salary offered. Thai national only. Call for info. Tel: 090-705 4373 (English & Thai). Email: info@ blisshotelphuket.com

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

CHALONG
- **Julapan Stationery** (Chaofa East Rd) — Tel: **076-282254**
- **KL Mart** (Patak Rd, Chalong Circle) — Tel: **076-280400**
- **Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe** (Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chaofa East Rd) — Tel: **076-282403**

PATONG
- **Taurus Travel** (Aroonsom Plaza) — Tel: **076-344521-2**
- **Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe** (Aroonsom Plaza) — Tel: **076-290468**
- **Deli Supermarket** (Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd) — Tel: **076-342275**

PHUKET CITY
- **Earth Language Training Centre School** (Phang Nga Rd) — Tel: **076-232398**
- **Sin & Lee** (Thalang Rd) — Tel: **076-258369**
- **iTree complete printing service** (Tesco Lotus Phuket Town) **bank zone** — Tel: **076-255425**

CHERNG TALAY
- **Chaba Supermarket** (at the Laguna gateway) — Tel: **076-325586**

RAWAI
- **The Network property office** (Saiyuan Rd) — Tel: **076-613173**

KARON
- **EuroStyle Tailors** (Luang Por Chuan Rd) — Tel: **076-396911**

Gazette Online Classifieds – 10,000 readers every day!

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER
Female caucasian native English speaking teacher with experience to teach class of 10-12 children, ages 2-6 years old. Monday-Friday 8am-4pm. Chalong. Tel: 080-624 7060. Email: buds.span@yahoo.com www.buds-phuket.com

PRIVATE TEACHER
Looking for private teacher for teaching a 10-years -old child. Any nationality is entitled to apply. as long as fluent in English and certified for teaching. Good salary. Tel: 081-728 8269. Email: psupparin@yahoo.com

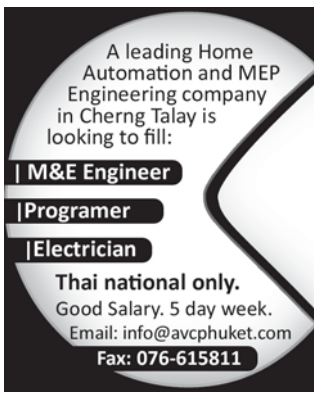
VILLA MANAGER WANTED
Villa manager for a six-bedroom holiday villa in Surin. Live in or live out. Must be able to speak English. Tel: 084-689 4658 (English), 081-537 2549 (Thai). Email: malinlson@hotmail.com

STAFF WANTED
-Receptionist, good written and spoken English is a must. Words and accounting experience is a plus. Must have a friendly outgoing personality. Salary: 12,000-20,000 baht depending on experience.

- Office admin, good computer skills, Excel, and accounting is required. Good written and spoken english is a must. 15,000-22,000 baht monthly depending on experience level.

- Office manager, must be proficient in Excel, written and spoken English. Prior experience required. Salary: 25,000+ baht monthly depending on experience.Please send your resume at smartbusiness phuket@gmail.com

REQUIRES EMPLOYEE
We require an employee to promote the online store on the Internet. Tel: 088-838 3242. Email: zxigor.n@gmail.com



DISTRIBUTORS / RESELLERS WANTED
Thai national. Sales of manufactured modular and customized activation, booth, display and expo solutions. Network and infrastructure in place. Thai/English speaking. Excellent earning. Email: sales@bconcept.asia

VILLA MANAGER
Experienced Villa Manager required to manage an 8-bedroom private residence in Kamala. The VM is responsible for managing an in-house team for maintenance, housekeeping and F&B. Operate the villa in a 5-star manner for both owners and guests. Applicants need to have strong leadership skills, excellent command of English, hotel experience. Applicants will be required to have their own car and driving licence and to be able to live-in when required. Tel: 076-527633, 087-881 0003. Please send CVs to: hr@phuketvillasandhomes.com, www.luxuryvillasandhomes.com

CASABLANCA RESTAURANT
Needs experienced cook and chef. High salary for qualified person. Tel: 081-892 8208.

BARTENDER
More bartenders needed for Elvis Rock & Roll Bar in Kamala. Thai only. Tel: 085-158 7638. Email: info@husi phuket.se

TOUR STAFF NEEDED
Thai staff needed at busy boat charter and events company. Duties include tour guide, wedding & events host and more. Salary + commissions. Tel: 076-221 442, 081-956 9961 (English). Email: info@coralseekers.com

OPERATION/ADMIN MANAGER
Luxury yacht charter company is looking for an Operations/Admin Manager. Thai nationality. Key tasks: yacht provisioning, cleaning control, staff coordination for the charter, secretarial work and basic accounting. Own car is necessary. Email: sales@fivestarseacruises.com For further details, please see our website at fivestarseacruises.com

SALES & MARKETING MANAGER
Luxury yachting company looking for someone with experience of at least 3 years in sales and marketing, especially of high-end luxury products. Industry knowledge of luxury yachts and marine lifestyle, especially of Thailand and Southeast Asia, will be an advantage. Tel: 081-979 9911. Email: vrit@boatlagoonyachting.co.th

SMALL BUSINESS LOOKING FOR
Thai male/female wanted to work in our office. Must have good English (speaking and spelling) and good computer skills. Job involves talking with clients, recording, keeping, and doing quotations. University degree desired, but not required for right applicant. Thai male wanted to work in Phuket. Must have good English (speaking and spelling). Job involves mechanical/electrical engineer work within the marine industry, preferably with experience. 076-239 112. Email: damian@electrical-marine.com

Employment Wanted

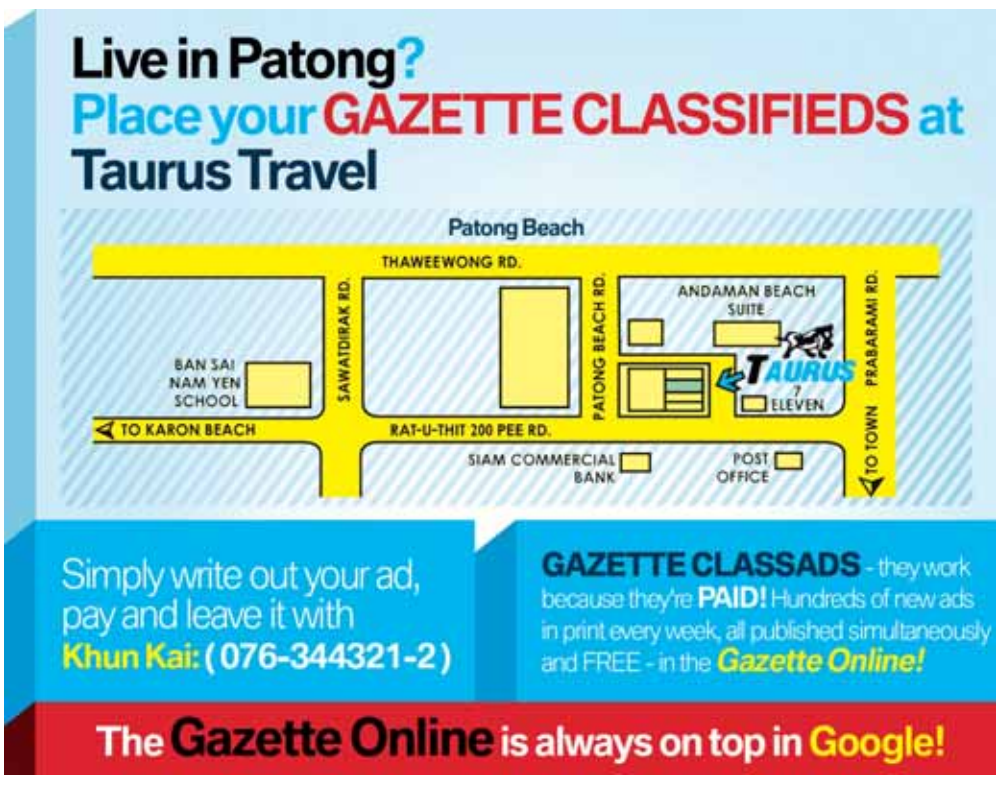
HOUSEKEEPER
For 6 months in Australia. An aussie man with 2 young daughters require help of young Thai woman to assist housekeeping. The candidate must have English skills, passport preferably, age between 25-35, enjoys children. Contact Jum Tel: 087-095 9274.

EMPLOYMENT WANTED
Reliable English-speaking Thai woman with cooking experience in hotels and villas requires fixed-term cooking, childcare or housemaid work, live-in if required. Contact Taew. Tel: 081-084 2708.

RUSSIAN GUIDE
Thai-speaking Russian or Russian national. Urgent! Tel: 089-618 6894.

SALE / MARKETING
Marketing employee urgently needed. Male or female. Good salary. Tel: 089-618 6894.

BARTENDERS AND WAITRESS
Thai national, English speaking, some experience, good looking and manners. Training will start on 1st of November 2012 at Nai Harn. Tel: 084-509 1975(English). Email: laterrazzaphuket@hotmail.com



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

General Classifieds

Education

STEP STUDIO FIT & DANCE

We invite you to: aerobics, pilates, Latino and club, hip-hop. Tel: 091-042 2944 (English). Email: andrey_date86@mail.ru

CHILDREN'S ENRICHMENT CLUB

"Take Care" service, day-time classes, skill development. Birthday parties. Amusement Park. For more information please call: 088-819 2526 (English & Thai). Email: annchik@me.com

THAI TUTOR

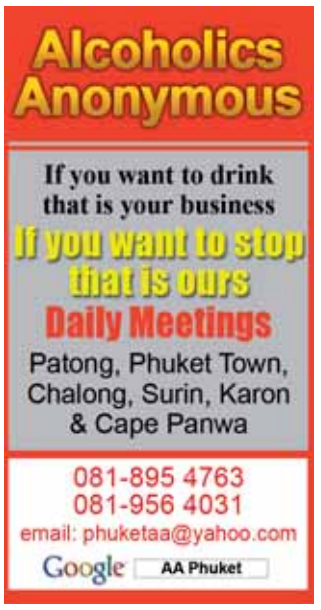
A 5-years-old boy needs for Thai. Tutor must have experience working with kids. Tel: 085-576 9139 (English). Email: Vanyamordred@gmail.com

Shop Equipment

CAKE DISPLAY REFRIGERATOR

Brand Snow Ball, model CKS-SD-90, 790x900 x1,350 cm. Rarely used, excellent condition, same as new. Now sale: 38,000 baht. For more information please call: 080-526 1118 (English & Thai). Email: aldothai@gmail.com

Bulletins



SPONSOR A CHILD

The Phuket International Women's Club is a volunteer organization raising funds for educational scholarships. We rely on the goodwill of donors and sponsors – small and large. If you would like to put something back into the community in which you live, contact us to find out more about giving a prize or being a sponsor. Contact Carol. Tel: 087-417 8860 or contact Sue. Tel: 087-277 6948. For more information please email us at info@phuketiwc.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 clarity, please airmail. Do not Fax!

I hereby authorize payment against my Visa ❑ / Mastercard ❑

❑ 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)

Surname (as appears on card) Given name(s) (as on card)

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Security Code: _____ Last 3 digits on back of card

Issuing Bank: _____ Country: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

E-mail address: _____

Please Deliver To:

Street address

City State or Province Zip Code

Country:

Business Opportunities

BAR FOR SALE NEW TIGER

Bar for sale in new Tiger, Soi Bangla. Third row from the front. 2-year contract remaining. 4.6 million baht. For more information please call: 085-654 8510. Email: typhoon_stjames@hotmail.com

MUST READ: UNIQUE LAND

Enormous Land, next door to the best project in Phuket. Concept: "Sansiri" for the foreign market. International design. Billion in profit! Looking for: Joint venture, investor/partner, loan capital with security. One of the best locations on the west cost, close to beach and everything. Land 250 million baht, plus development investment of 100-150 million baht. 15 years development. Structure for foreign investment. 100% confidential. Email with info about yourself: west phuket@gmail.com

BAR POOL HOTEL + 2 SHOPS RAWAI BEACH

9 bedrooms. For sale or long-lease. Negotiable, 80% owner financing available, land: 700sqm. 60m to beach. For more information please call: 084-242 8914. Email: rawai4@yahoo.com

KRABI DIVE SHOP

3 work permits, registered limited company, 25 school sets, retail stock & fixtures, 600,000 baht. Email: krabidive4sale@gmail.com

WAREHOUSE FOR RENT

At Sapam, Phuket. 210 sqm, suitable for storing yachts or goods. 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-689 3289.

RESORT BANGTAO

4 luxury villas, 2 pools, lush tropical setting secluded on 1-rai land. Money maker. 35 million baht. Tel: 089-594 4067.

WINE & COCKTAIL BAR KAMALA

90sqm, fully equipped. Sale: 800,000 baht. 48 months left renewable. Rent: 8,000 baht per month. Low investment, great potential. Tel: 085-245 8180. Email: siam.elab@gmail.com

PATONG LAUNDRY FOR SALE / RENT

Genuine Sale: 395,000 baht o.n.o. Rent: 15,000 bath per month. No gold mine but solid monthly profit. Contact Warren. Tel: 087-265 4565. Email: waz1944@yahoo.com.au

NEW BAR WITH 4 ROOMS ACCOM

Next door to 350 rooms Centara Hotel Resort in Karon Entertainment District. Newly renovated, 3 storeys, all fully furnished with brand-new bar and furnishings. Asking 290,000 baht. Walk-in, walk-out. Email: shotham.hari8888@gmail.com

GOOD COMMERCIAL

Space for sale at Bang-Tao Beach. On main road. 156sqm, currently set up as a restaurant and bar. All equipment and furniture included. Sale: 1,800,000 baht. Rent: 15,000 baht per month for 10 years contract. Tel: 081-733 9498, 080-700 3775.

RESTAURANT + BAR

40/30 seated restaurant with bar and pool area. This business is located in beautiful setting and has every last detail to open next day. Also 3 bedrooms, and living area included. Price: 500,000 baht. Contact Steve. Tel: 088-097 1200.

BAR FOR LEASE SURIN BEACH

Area is about 100sqm internally with patio out front. Prime location on Surin Beach, main High Street overlooking King 's Park, just yards from 5-star resorts and restaurants (Twin Palms), 100m to the beach. Fully furnished with sofas, pool table, 2 x flat screen TVs, cable and UBC/True Vision TV, Hi Quality Denon Music System with 8 speakers built into ceiling. 50,000 baht per month. Email: stewartlees@gmail.com

FOR SALE PATONG

Phuket Palace, cheap investment. For more information please call: 080-692 6114. Email: orsorealestate@hotmail.com

RESORT IN KHAO LAK FOR SALE

15-room resort with restaurant for sale at a central location in Khao Lak, includes 1 rai land. 12 million baht. Tel: 081-857 5881 (English). Email: keeshuahinth@hotmail.com

RESTAURANT FOR SALE

6-year contract, great location in Patong Beach Road. Full equipment. Tel: 087-075 2166 (English), 090-175 9126. Email: omaralquraini@hotmail.com

URGENT SALE!

Nice hair salon and spa in Nai Harn. 2 floors with professional equipment and products. Price: your budget possibility (make an offer). Tel: 089-622 0101.

KAMALA RESTAURANT & BAR

On going stock, pool table, pizza oven, UBC, WiFi. 12,000 baht per month. Daddys Cafe. For more infomation please call: 084-850 0568.

BAR FOR SALE OTOP MARKETS

Good bar, good location, all keymoney and rent paid up for next 2 years, nothing more to pay, walk-in, walk-out, 1.8 million baht. Tel: 082-273 1282 (English), 089-713 0184 (Thai). Email: kiwinoz_69@hotmail.com

PATONG BAR FOR SALE

Popular bar, open air. Beer bar in busy tourist area, fully furnished. Urgent sale: 1.6 million baht. Tel: 081-550 7379, 087-893 1753.

SMALL RESORT COMPLEX, 24MB

Here is for sale an excellent opportunity to own a well-established business with minimum 10% return yearly on investment. Year lease also available on suitability.

MAIN FEATURES:

- 2 x 2-storey detached buildings. Total 7 apartments which consist of 2 x 2-bedroom large apartments, 2 x 1 bedroom, and 3 studio rooms, swimming pool, jacuzzi, BBQ, landscaped gardens. All essential amenities close by.
- Run by current management team on your behalf.
- Good existing customer base, ongoing occupancy.
- Perimeter wall surrounds the 880sqm complex.
- Excellent location at Kamala Beach.
- Private road.
- Thai limited company.

Please contact with inquiries at Kamalarob@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 084-837 5985. Website link for further pic's on request.

RENOVATION JOB, PATONG

European Standard: Scandinavian villa owner needs help to repair damage left by local builder: Tiling, painting (outside and inside), carpentry and all round work. A foreigner with good experience and references is preferable. Ready to start in 1-2 weeks. Contact by email: myhomephuket@gmail.com

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G.A.M. Enterprise Company Pty. Ltd. Room 3914, Level 39 Citigroup 2 Park Street, Sydney NSW 2000, Australia Tel No.: +61 2 9211 6449 Fax No.: +61 2 9211 6734

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1,500.-	Daily Visa Run To Ranong Border. Fully Includes Food - Drink - 10$
1,800.-	Daily Visa Run To Andaman Club Hotle Fully Includes Food - Drink - 10$
4,000.-	To Penang, Malasia For Apply New Visa Including 3 Star Hotel, Food & Drink. Single Room By VIP. Van (Night time)

BUSINESS VISA 15,000 B. MARRIED WITH THAI PEOPLE VISA 25,000 B.
ONE YEAR VISA FOR AGE UNDER 50 YEARS 25,000 B.
RETIREMENT VISA 25,000 - 32,000 B.

Trip To Malaysia	Day	Oct.'12	Nov.'12	Dec.'12	Free pick up Around Island
	Wed.	3, 10, 17, 31	7, 14, 21, 28	5, 12, 19, 26	
	Sun.	7, 14, 21, 28	4, 11, 18, 25	2, 9, 16, 23	

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Phuket's oldest international child care facility. High-quality, time-proven schedule and curriculum. Now in brand-new purpose-built school. Experienced native English teachers to teach ages 1.5-8. Monday-Friday 8am-5pm. Bus service available from Patong, Karon, Kata, Phuket, Rawai and Chalong. Tel: 076-384638, 080-624 7060. www.buds-phuket.com

DETOX TO YOUR DOOR
9,500 baht for 7 days. Tel: 084-100 6274. www.clearercleanse.com

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New sugar waxing, located at Chalong. Men - Women. No pain! Tel: 082-456 6791.

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PCC MEMBERSHIP
For sale. Please call: 082-287 5702.

BLUE CANYON CC
Family membership. Price: 790,000 baht. Free transfer. Tel: 081-086 2690. Email: dcw1004@gmx.com

Computers

ENGLISH COMPUTERMAN SHOP
Sales, service, repair, and accessories. Also tuition in English/Thai. Tel: 076-384 259, 084-625 7744 (English). Email: computermanphuket@gmail.com

Dive Gear

VDO CAMERA & HOUSING
Sony HDR HC1 + Gates Housing. W/A port. Man W/B. Pro set-up ready to go. 75,000 baht. Tel: 081-271 6250. Email: mattysiam@gmail.com

Personals

BACKGAMMON
Players wanted. Tel: 081-577 8443. Email: phuketconnection@yahoo.com

Pool Tables

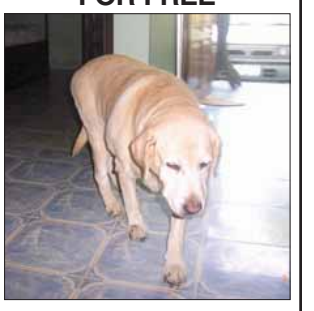
POOL TABLE BILLIARD - GAMES
Pool tables, billiards, football, touch screen, and air hockey for rent and profit sharing. All accessories for sell & services. Call now. Tel: 081-823 4627, 085-797 0202, 085-797 0303. Fax : 076-264461. Email: ying@phuketpooltables.com

Pets

ARE YOU LOOKING TO ADOPT A DOG?

Many homeless pups & adult dogs, all breeds & sizes looking for a loving home & someone to take care of them. Please contact:
Gone2thedoggies@gmail.com

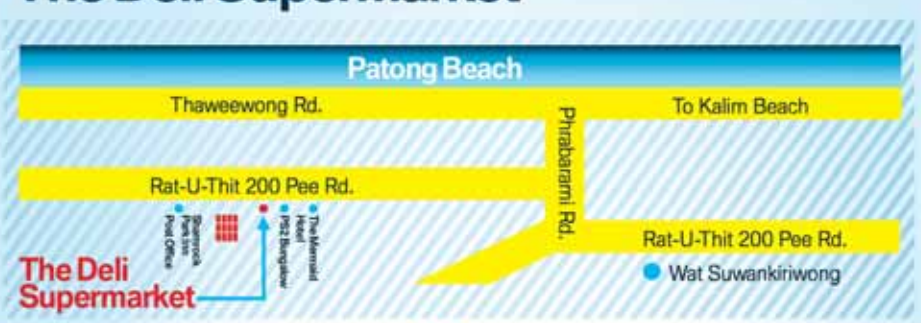
GOLDEN RETRIEVER FOR FREE



We have 10 years old Golden Retriever, calm, good watchdog, doesn't bite. Because my health problems I have to leave Thailand and we are looking for somebody to take care of our "Bee" (her name). Please give her a good home. Tel: 076-278121, 089-970 8227 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-278121. Email: mellaerts9@hotmail.com

AMERICAN BULLIES
Available: 1 male and 2 female, ears cropped, UKC pedigree, shots and dewormed. For more details please cal: 086-120 6934.

Live in Patong?
Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at
The Deli Supermarket



Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with
Khun Damrong:
(076-342275)

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The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Live in Chalong?
Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at
Julapan Stationery

Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with
Khun Aoi: (076-282254)

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The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Saloon Cars

BMW 320I SE

September 2011. As new. 14,000km. Black with beige leather upholstery. All extras. 1.9 million baht. Tel: 076-613 269, 081-084 9566 (English), 081-698 5780 (Thai). Fax: 076-613270. Email: nicholas@idecnet.com

BMW 523I

2002, one owner, excellent condition. Well maintained by BMW. 65,000km approximately and only 650,000 baht. Tel: 076-239 423, 081-893 0272 (English), 081-797 0835 (Thai). Fax: 076-239424. Email: info@deraniyachts.com

DAEWOO AUTO 98,000 BAHT

Daewoo Espero. Automatic transmission, power steering, in very good running condition, cool aircon, CD/MP3 player.Tel: 083-252 5509.

TOYOTA SOLUNA GLi
1999, 102,136km, Max 15" Skirt & Spoiler, Rear JBL Speaker
225,000 BAHT
081 691 5617
thiansin@hotmail.com

LINCOLN STRETCH LIMOUSINE

Only Lincoln Stretch limo in Thailand. Year model 2004. Perfect for A/P, hotel, and nightlife transfers. Call for price and Info.Tel: 089-932 5175 (English), 080-145 0082 (Thai). Email: wojidkowbengt@hotmail.com

MERCEDES ML320, 2002

110,000km, just serviced. Sale: 1.4 million baht o.n.o. Tel: 086-276 5117.

HONDA CIVIC 2.0LT 2004

50,000km. 2 German owners, in very good condition, all car options, all services. Gray metallic, black leather, automatic. Sale: 499,000 baht. Tel: 087-060 8400 (English). Email: bbonello@web.de

SALE FORD ESCAPE 495,000

Ford Escape 3.0 XLT. Year 2004. 140,000km. Price: 495,000 baht. Contact Noppadol. Tel: 089-589 5453. Email: sopasalon@hotmail.com

Motorbikes

HONDA BROS 650 V TWIN

Retro. Naked 650cc V twin motorbike, green book, tax, vgc. Cool bike for Phuket! 80,000baht o.n.o. Tel: 081-968 0030 (English & Thai). Email: Oliver_paul_bates@hotmail.com

HARLEY XR-1200

Harley XR-1200 for sale. 2009 model. Only 8,000 km. Perfect condition. Fast and fun. Priced to sell quickly at 550,000 baht. Tel: 081-734 8309 (English). Email: ducphuket@gmail.com

KAWASAKI

125 dtracker. 5,100km, 12 month reg, green book, sport muffler, 58,000 baht. For more information please call: 087-320 0725 (English). Email: gphol67@gmail.com

WANT TO BUY MOTORBIKES

Want to buy 1-3 years old; Click, Mio, Fino, PCX. Tel: 085-158 7638. Email: info@husiphuket.se

HONDA STEED 400

Good condition, black, comes with beautiful plate number one. Asking 125,000 baht. Call for seeing. Tel: 087-270 9093.

KAWASAKI ER6N 650

A black beauty in new condition! Only 8,000km. Price: 199,000 baht. Tel: 089-195 4005 (English). Email: dennyphuket@hotmail.com

TRIUMPH SPEED TRIPLE SE-10

Arrow 3-1 sport exhaust, flyscreen, bellypan, rear seat cover, and etc. New price with extras 900,000 baht. Sale: 735,000 baht, includes 11 months first-class insurance. Tel: 076-384228, 084-246 6608 (English), 084-246 6605 (Thai). Email: addepow@gmail.com

HONDA FORZA 250

2007. Black, low mileage, in need of repairs. Sale: 60,000 baht. Tel: 086-561 5597.

HONDA MOTOCROSS

250cc. Very well maintained with green book. 49,000 baht. Tel: 081-084 5903. Email: rochindaniel@gmail.com

YAMAHA FINO

2008. Lady owner, ridden only in Phuket Town, with green book. Asking price 23,000 baht. Tel: 084-889 2676.

Rentals

CHEAP CAR FOR RENT

Available now in Chalong. Tel: 087-689 9679. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com

CARS FOR RENT

Cheap cars with first-class insurance and free delivery service. Tel: 088-819 7028.

TOYOTA AVANZA 2011

Black, 7 seats, full options. For rent: 18,000 baht per month or sale in cash payment. Tel: 081-892 8208.

CHEAP CAR RENT

Brand-new car rental, top model, year 2012. Small car, medium car, family car, first-class insurance, delivery, 24hr roadside assistance, GPS, baby seat. Short or long-term rent. For more information please call: 089-772 7012, 081-326 3233. Email: gupri2955@gmail.com

A1 CAR RENTAL

Fully insured, 12,000 to 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-831 4703. Email: a1carrent@gmail.com

NEW JAZZ FOR RENT

Short or long-term with insurance and delivery service. Tel: 081-607 8567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com, for further details, please see our website at www.phuketcarsrent.com

Others

CDT BUGGY AS NEW

Moses basket.
Cost : *over 22,000 baht.*
Sale : *8,000 baht.*
Call : *084-054 8122.*

Wheels & Motors

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All advertising must be paid for in advance.

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Asia's Leading Yacht Brokers Since 1984

2007 PHINISI SCHOONER 26 m.
EUR 195,000

2004 VRIPACK 69
EUR 800,000

2008 PRINCESS P42
USD 485,000

- She has been very well maintained, the owner has overhauled the port engine and also carried out antifouling in 2012.

Mario Zanasi
+66 (0) 86 273 4149
mario.zanasi@simpsonmarine.com

Sergio Loiacono
+66 (0) 86 277 3360
sergio.l@simpsonmarine.com

Максим Волков
+66 (0) 84 745 9900
maksim.volkov@simpsonmarine.com

พลวัต ณ นคร (แมทธิว)
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THAILAND'S LEADING BROKERAGE & NEW YACHT DEALERSHIP

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International Marine Brokerage

Please visit our website for more listings

Riviera 33 (1996)
- Twin Cummins 6BT 5.9M 210hp
- Kohler 8kw
- Cruisair a/c throughout
- Furuno Radar
- 2.8M RIB w/ 5hp Mercury outboard
- Underwater lights
- Outriggers for fishing
- Electric windlass
- Major refit 2009

Tayana 55 (1990)

$325,000 USD

North Wind 60 (1988)

349,000 Euro

66ft Norman Wright (1987)

$995,000 USD

Sea Ray Sundancer 375 (2005)

$175,000USD

leemarine.com

Riva FERRETTI PERSHING PRESTIGE YACHTS

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

Brokerage Office
The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
Contact: Marcus Overman
Mobile: 081 968 1437
Tel/Fax: 076 239 729
Email: marcus@leemarine.com

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

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

LUXURY 20M YACHT

Built in Spain. 235,000 euros. 4 double cabins. Tel: 086-953 5357 (Thai), 087-886 5425 (English & Thai). Email: allasiayachts@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.allasiayachts.com

2009 POWER CATAMARAN

45ft. 4 cabins. Volvo D-4 IPS 300. Genset. Aircon. "Bose" surround. Ray marine. Low hours. Fully loaded. Fast and economical. As new. Bargain. Only 395,000 euros. Tel: 089-971 0278. Email: eddyelan@yahoo.com

NEW KARNIC 1851

90hp lean-burn, 4-stroke Suzuki O/B. Bimini and trailer. 999,950 baht. Now in stock. For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 087-283 1674. Email: boats@andamanboatsales.com

NEW ALESSANDRO MARCHI

"Carenacorsa 18". Hypalon RIB, light and fast. 90hp lean-burn, 4-stroke Suzuki O/B. Bimini and trailer. 1,150,950 baht. Arriving mid-December. For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 087-283 1674. Email: boats@andamanboatsales.com

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Tel:+ 66 76 273 385

www.lambertbrothers.co.th

HUNTER 280 (LEGEND) SAILBOAT

1996 Yanmar 2GM20F, Ray marine, windlass, mooring, ready. 1.25 million baht or offers. Tel: 087-269 3743. (English). Email: davidrwarburton@hotmail.com

FOUNTAIN 31R 2005

2 x 200hp Yamaha, 250hr, never been rented. Price: 1.9 million baht (VAT included). Quick sale. Email: jyfievet@gmail.com

YACHT FOR SALE

Beautifully maintained Wauquiez cruising yacht. 41ft with two cabins with en-suite heads. Tel: 087-632 8259 (English). See all specs & pictures at www.wauquiezforsale.blogspot.com

NEW ALESSANDRO MARCHI

"Carenalunga 21". Hypalon RIB, light and fast. 140hp 4-stroke Suzuki O/B. Bimini and trailer. 1,795,000 baht. Arriving mid-December. For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 087-283 1674. Email: boats@andamanboatsales.com

SAILBOAT FOR SALE

Beneteau - Evasion 34 - 1981 motor sailer located in Phuket. In very good condition. Only 1,490,000 baht. Tel: 086-2746 272 (English & Thai). Email: nihat_gunduz@hot mail.com

YAMAHA VX CRUISER

Farang sells. 160hr warranty, dealer maitenance perfect. 210,000 baht. Tel: 083-635 2414. Email: pierrekojfer@gmail.com

Looking for a boat?

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

HYPALON DINGY 3.3M

Brand-new with UV cover and storage cover, pump, oars, kits. Only 125,000 baht. Tel:089-971 0278. Email: eddyelan@yahoo.com

NICE BOAT

26 foot center console. Good condition twin outboards, trailer, and more. Mail for more pics and info. Tel: 085-691 1837, 076-054 4141. Email: mangeolsson@hotmail.com

PLABIN 9, SPEEDBOAT FOR SALE

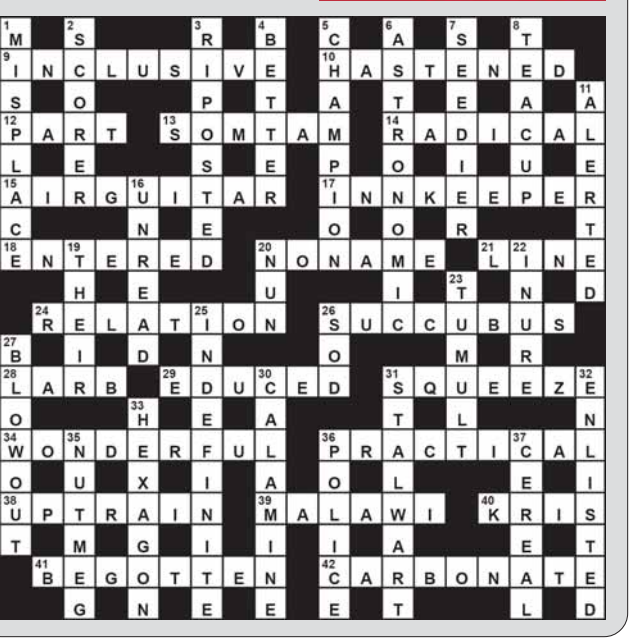
Price: 850,000 baht. Tel: 081-894 2124. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

NEW KARNIC 2052

140hp 4-stroke Suzuki O/B. Bimini, trailer and marine heads. 1,399,950 baht. Now in stock. For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 087-283 1674. Email: boats@andamanboatsales.com

SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S CrypticCrossword

COFFEE break



General Aviation

Aircraft For Sale

YOUR HELICOPTER

Flying and owning your own helicopter has just become possible. Free complete flight instruction course with your purchase. Email: pat@aeropromgr.com

HAVE A PASSION FOR AVIATION?

If you have an aircraft for sale or an interest in aviation and wish to learn how to fly or buy an aircraft or arrange a private flight, etc. Website: www.aeropromgr.com/newsletter

AIRPLAY ALTIS MICROLIGHT

Superb trike with Konig radial engine. Great economical fun. Little used. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-111 6457 (English & Thai), 081-397 7598 (English & Thai). Email: kajoda1954@yahoo.co.uk

1999 ROBIN 2160i

I would like to sell my Robin aircraft or trade it for a 4-seat Cessna or Piper (based in Hua Hin). The Robin: TTAF 300hrs. SMOH 60hrs. This is a well-equipped, two-seat aerobatic aircraft. Has the Christen inverted oil system. Excellent inside and outside. King KMA24 audio panel, KX155 nav/com, KI203 vor, KY197A comm, KN64A dme, KR87 adf, KT76A transponder, CSPA400 i-com, FP5 fuel computer, CHT, OAT, Pitot heat. Price: 4 million baht. Please contact Thom. Email: thos_w@hotmail.com

TECNAM P-92

- Price: 1.5 million baht
- Registration: U-B08
- Year of Manufacture: 2002
- Equipment: Full standard equipment
- Engine: Rotax 912-80HP 350hrs.

Please contact for more information. Aircraft is based at Klong 15. Tel: 081-840 8418.

Notice from Thai Flying Club: There is a very nice Piper Cherokee airplane at the Thai Flying Club (TFC) in Bang Phra. It has fallen into disrepair. Someone took out the seats and some other parts... and then went away.

Owner Wichai Pettongkam loves this airplane and wants to get it back in the air. If you like flying and might want to be a partner in the plane, please come to the TFC to have a look, or contact **Khun Tom** (email tom@thaiflyingclub, Tel: 089-092 2711). Or talk to **Khun Wichai** directly on 081-633 7082.

Khun Wichai does not want to sell the plane, but would welcome a partner who can help to get it flying again. This could be a very good opportunity for someone to get a share in a nice airplane for a very good price. All negotiable.

Rockwell Commander 114 HS-AWS

Built: 1976

Registration: HS-AWS
(in Thailand for the last 6 years)
Previous Registrations:
N4798W – USA
N479GE – USA
I-ECCE – Italy
G-BVNL – UK

Lycoming IO-540-T4B5D (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:

Horsepower: 260	Gross Weight: 3140 lbs
Top Speed: 166 kts	Empty Weight: 2094 lbs
Cruise Speed: 157 kts	Fuel Capacity: 68.00 gal Usable
Stall Speed (dirty): 55 kts	Range: 700 nm
Rate Of Climb: 1088 fpm	Fuel Av Gas 100LL
Ceiling: 17,400 ft	1 crew plus 3 passengers

Radio and Navigation Configuration: Fully IFR equipped. 2 Garmin GNS430 VHF/COMM/NAV/GPS/TERRAIN. Garmin GI-106A VOR/LOC/GS/GPS CDI. King KN64 DME. Garmin GTX 320/327 Transponder with Mode C via Ameri-King AK350-30 Height Encoder. Garmin GMA 340 Audio Panel. Bendix King KR-87 ADF. Sandel SN 3308 EHSI. Century IIB Autopilot Dual Axis and S-Tec Altitude Hold. WX-500 Stormscope.

Price: 3.75 million baht. Located at Thai Flying Club, Bang Phra.

Contact Tony Scragg at 081-906 3250, or email ***tony_scragg@hotmail.com***

General Aviation

- Aircraft for Sale
- Aircraft Wanted
- Aviation Services
- Aircraft Sharing
- Aircraft Charter
- Flying Lessons

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Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 120 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad.

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

EMIRATES AIRLINE OPENS DIRECT FLIGHTS FROM DUBAI TO PHUKET

Mr Salem Obaidalla (left), Emirates' senior vice president, commercial operations, Far East & Australasia and Mr Manit Boonchim, executive director of Europe, Africa and Middle East region, Tourism Authority of Thailand.

Emirates Manager for Thailand and Indochina Mr Jabr Al-Azeeby, poses together with stewardesses after giving an interview to PGTV (*Phuket Gazette* Television) on the official opening day of direct flights between Phuket and Dubai on Emirates Airline.

THE 15TH ANDAMAN MOTOR SHOW 2012

The 15th Andaman Motor Show 2012 was held at Central Festival Phuket East (HomeWorks Exhibition Hall) between December 5 to10. Many car companies joined in to promote their vehicles and enjoy some fun activities.

Pictured are Mr Kritphanat Patwarasit, managing director of N.D. Production (center) together with his team.

INDIAN CURRY BUFFET

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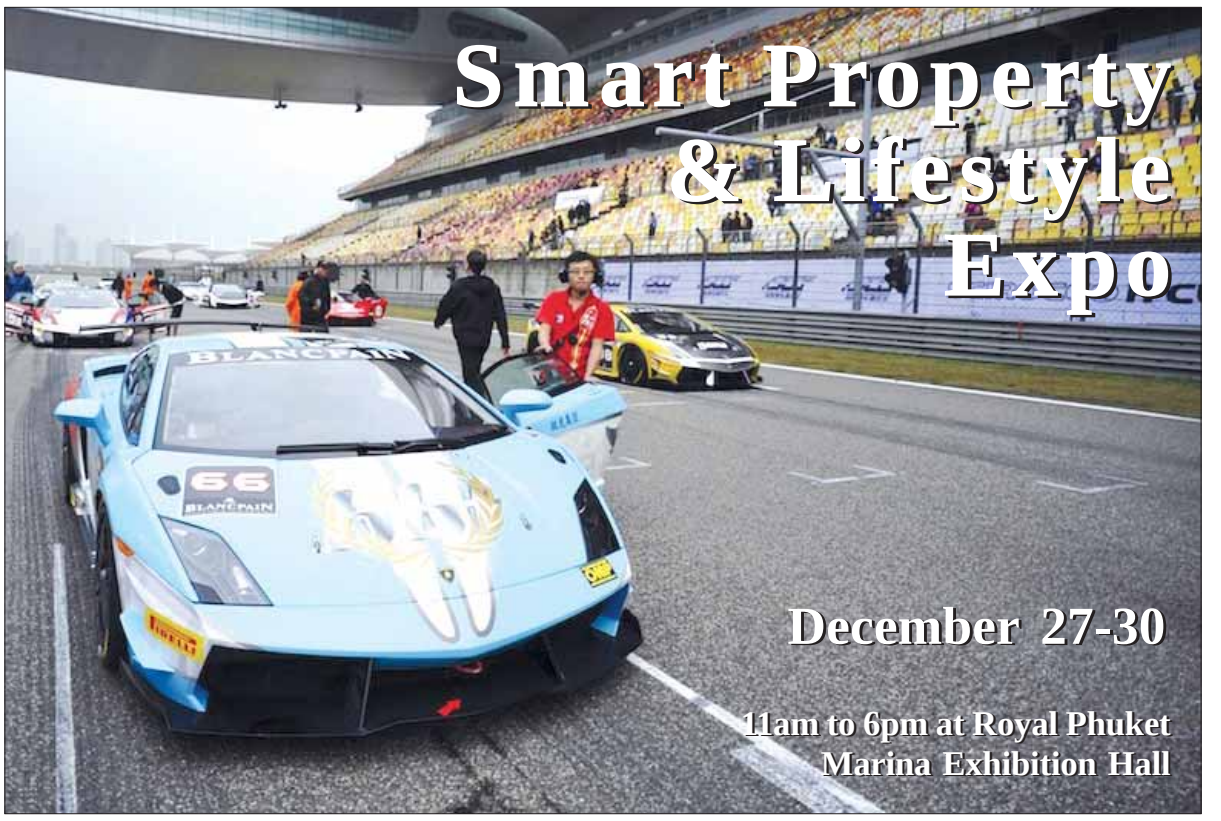
WHAT'S ON in Phuket

December 22-28; 7 to 11:30pm: Robin Gillow's Contemplative Oils at Boathouse, Kata Beach
A month-long exhibition of oil paintings of the rural Thai landscape by renowned Australian artist Robin Gillow. The exhibition, titled *Contemplation*, presents Robin Gillow's quiet meditations on Thai traditional rural life, particularly its less populated corners and the local inhabitants who make their lives there.

December 22-26; 8am to 11:30pm: Christmas at Oasis Restaurant in Patong Beach
Join us for a traditional Christmas Dinner at Oasis, Rat-U-Thit Rd, South Patong near the Blue Ocean Resort. Enjoy starters, roast turkey with all the trimmings, Christmas pudding with brandy butter or custard. Enjoy beers, spirits and our extensive wine list. We offer free pick-up service within Patong. Please call 081-895 9568 or 086-273 8978 to book. We look forward to sharing a very Merry Christmas with you at Oasis.
We are open every day, so enjoy the Holiday Season with us for traditional Thai cuisine, Western dishes and our famous pizzas.

December 22-23, 9:30am to 4:30pm: Phuket Youth Sailing Club Last Chance Regatta
Open to all Dinghy Classes and Beach Cats. Skipper briefing at 9:30am to start racing at 10am. Classes for Optimist Open (born 1996 or after) Racing on Saturday and Sunday, and Topper Open (Junior, Youth, and Adults) Beach Cats.
Entry Fees (includes BBQ): Members, 250 baht per person; Non-members, 350 baht per person. Crew needed and boats available for charter. Come and join the club's Christmas BBQ for 150 baht. Cold beers and soft drinks available. Prize giving at 3pm. Enjoy sailing? Come join the Phuket Youth Sailing Watersports Club – open every weekend. For more info contact Paul Firmin on: 082-814 6007.



December 24, 7am to 11pm: Christmas Eve Buffet Dinner at Boathouse Wine and Grill, Kata
Watch the sun setting over the Andaman Sea with Christmas cocktails in the sunset lounge, followed by a sumptuous buffet dinner with abundant Christmas specials, regional specialties and festive desserts along with Christmas carols, a visit from Santa and our Jazz Quartet. Cocktails at 7pm, Dinner from 8pm onwards. Cost is 4,500++ per person. For more info contact Annie Sukanya Chuaywang, tel: 66-76-330015.

December 24, 7 to 11pm Chilled-out Christmas Eve at RE KÁ TA Beach Club at Boathouse
Chill out with cool sounds on the beach over a welcome cocktail, before enjoying an amazing four course menu by Chef Bryan Burger in the stunning new RE KÁ TA Beach Club, overlooking Kata Beach. Our DJ line-up will heat up the pace with party music until late. Welcome cocktail at 6pm, Dinner from 8pm onwards. Baht 3,800++ per person, paired with wines. Baht 2,500++ per person without wines.

December 24, 6 to 11:30pm Christmas Eve Dinner at Friendship Beach Resort
Friendship Beach Resort's famous Christmas Eve Dinner. A fabulous night for the whole family. Great festive buffet, live entertainment. Drinks start from 6pm; buffet opens at 6:30. Live music starts at 7pm. This dinner is a sellout every year. Book now to avoid disappointment. Call Chef Charlie on 089-728 5304.

December 24 9am to 11pm: Christmas Eve at Mix Bistro Restaurant
Dinner includes four-course Christmas set menu and a first drink. Young children's choir will sing beautiful Christmas songs to bring you into the Christmas spirit and a visit from Santa Clause at 8pm. Price: Adults: 799 baht net per person, and Children (6-16 years old): 400 baht net. Menu: Pan seared tuna roll, pumpkin soup, lemon sorbet, roasted turkey with apple stuffing or grilled beef tenderloin and tiramisu with vanilla ice cream. Dress code to suit Theme: White and gold dress. For reservations contact Khun Kwang: 076-349800

December 24-25, 9am to 11pm: Christmas with Two Chefs Bistros, Phuket
Christmas time at Two Chefs Bistros in Phuket. In our newly opened bistros we are going to serve a classic Christmas plate, one that will include pepper-smoked salmon, different kinds of herring, Christmas ham, veal pâté, meatballs, bread and so much more. You can't miss it! It's only 695 baht and there are no extra charges. So welcome to Two Chefs Bistros. Call 076 333 239

December 25, 1 to 9pm Christmas Dinner at Islander, Soi Patong Resort
Enjoy our Traditional 3-course Christmas Dinner at the Islander, Soi Patong Resort (off Bangla Rd), Patong Beach.
The menu includes a prawn cocktail starter, main course of roast turkey with all the trimmings, Christmas pudding with custard for dessert, plus a glass of house wine – all for only 895 baht. To be sure of a seat, please book early with our cashier, or call Khun Kanha on 081-893 6072.

Informal Sunday morning computer clinics

Do you have a question about computers, Windows, or the internet in Phuket? Need to find out where to get things fixed, or the best places to shop for new computer stuff? Drop by one of our FREE informal computer clinics. Every Sunday morning, starting around 10am or so, a group of computer savvy locals meet for breakfast at the Chalong/Fisherman's Way Sandwich Shoppe, 1 km north of Chalong Circle on Chao Fah East road.

Don't be bashful: introduce yourself to the group at the big table, and ask away. You might even find an iPad/iPhone, Android or Mac guru, if you're lucky.

Sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.

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On the tin trail

Lost treasure and an ancient trade highway to the Siamese capital

Looking Back
By Anand Singh

TOWARDS the end of the 18th century, trade and logistics was a tough business. Phuket, or Junk Ceylon, during that time was rich in tin, a semi-precious metal that was highly sought after by European and Indian traders. Tin mining was therefore an important source of revenue for the island. Because tin mines in Junk Ceylon were considered government property, a large chunk of trade revenue had to be sent to the capital on a regular basis.

In a time long before banks and money transfers, revenue collected in the form of silver, gold or bartered goods had to be physically transported to the capital to be handed over to the King.

A rare document dated around 1785 explained this process.

It was mandated that tin revenues from Junk Ceylon and nearby towns, as well as merchandise imported from eastern India had to be transported to the capital on a regular basis.

In the 18th century Siamese merchants used a route that started from Takua-Pa, a town just north of Junk Ceylon. Travelers and caravans would then pass through Khao Sok in Surat Thani, an area that is covered with thick tropical rain forest and steep hills even today. The caravans would have to penetrate the tropical jungle to get to Thaphanom canal. From there government officials would arrange for the goods to be taken to Chaiya. The cargo of tin and other goods would then be transported by small boats sailing along a connection of small rivers and canals until it reached the Siamese capital in the central plains. Up until 1785, the trail had been used by merchants to transport goods to the capital since the Ayutthaya period. It was also used by traders who wished to avoid sailing all the way around the Malay Peninsular to reach the Bay of Bengal.

In order to ship tin revenues from Junk Ceylon to the capital, the governor of Thalang would arrange to send the cargo up to Takua-Thung. The governor of Takua-Thung would then arrange to forward the goods to Takua-Pa so that it could be transported along the trail.

The overland route was used for many reasons. It was an old route that had been used for years by merchants, since the ancient days when Takua-Pa, or as it was called, Takola, was still a thriving trade center. A network of deep canals had been dug so that merchandise could be transported by large boats to different towns.

The town of Chaiya on the Kra Isthmus was also a popular stop for merchants and traders.

Using this route was hard, considering merchants had to transport their heavy cargo for miles overland through harsh terrain. But it remained the preferred route because sailing around the Malay peninsular was considered even more dangerous. Storms would wreck countless ships and opportunistic pirates infested the sea trade routes.

However in 1785, the Burmese invaded Siam and war broke out between the two Kingdoms. Whilst Junk Ceylon managed to fend off the invaders, the ancient land route to the capital that had been used for centuries was cut off by Burmese troops that had taken over parts of the isthmus.

It soon became impossible to transport tin and other revenues from Junk Ceylon to the capital since major towns like Takua-Pa, Takua-Thung, Chaiya and Chumporn had fallen under Burmese control. Stocks of tin, fabrics from India and an array of weaponry bound for the capital began to pile up at the Khao Sok pass for years. Much of the cargo was lost, damaged or stolen during this time.

After the war, King Rama I wanted to establish a new trade route from the south to Bangkok. He asked Phraya Surintharaja, a high ranking noble, to find a new shipment route that would connect the coastal towns on the south-west with the capital. Phraya Surintharaja was the governor of eight coastal towns in the south of Siam, including Thalang (Junk Ceylon), Takua-Pa and Takua-Thung, so he knew the geography of the area quite well. These towns made up a major part of the old route. The arrival of the Portuguese, Dutch and English also meant that sea voyages were becoming safer and more advanced and can be utilized to a greater extent.

Initially Phraya Surintharaja was asked by King Rama I come to Bangkok to meet with him. There the King told him that a high ranking minister had just passed away and that he wanted Phraya Surintharaja to take the vacant position. Although highly honored, Phraya Surintharaja did not want to stay in Bangkok and told the King that he'd lead a happier life if he was allowed to remain the King's viceroy in the southern coastal towns.

King Rama I ordered the construction of a new trade route connecting southern towns of Siam with Bangkok. Photo: adaptorplug

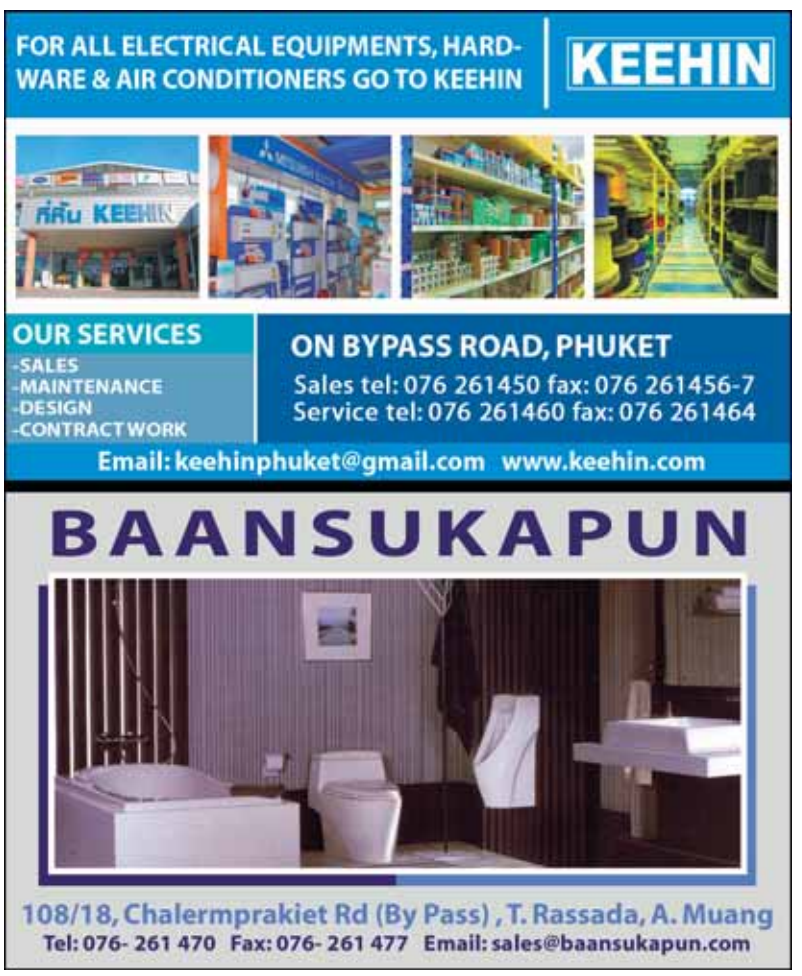
ROAD TO RICHES: The 17th Century trade route to Bangkok started from Takua-Pa, just north of Phuket (then called Junk Ceylon). Photo: davecito

In return, he promised King Rama I that he would open a new trade route that would connect the southern towns of Siam with Bangkok. The King agreed and Phraya Surintharaja set out to plan the new route. He asked the King to grant him the use of ten elephants from Nakhon Si Thammarat and another ten from Chaiya, in addition to a large workforce that will be recruited from the nearby villages. The King approved of his request and the large project to clear a new route to Bangkok was underway.

The new route that Phraya Surintharaja built was a much needed replacement to the old one that had been in use for centuries. Using the new route, it only took three days for goods to reach Bangkok from the south.

The journey was also much easier and less prone to sudden flash floods that had in the past destroyed a lot of precious cargo. The new route not only allowed for easier transportation of imports and revenue to the capital, it also made the administration of southern provinces easier and more effective.

Anand Singh is an avid historian based in Phuket. Contact him at: as.pkt@hotmail.com



The Portuguese and Siam

IN 1961, then *'Charge d'Affaires'* of Portugal in Thailand, Mr Inácio Rebello de Andrade wrote a 92 page essay on the Portuguese presence in Siam, which he called *"Os Portugueses e o Siao no Contexto da Peninsula da Indochina"* (The Portuguese and Siam in the context of the Indochina Peninsula).

His preoccupation throughout the text was to underline links between events in Siam and what was occurring at the time in the neighboring countries. The original typescript of that essay is preserved at the Siam Society's Library where it was found, fifty years later, by the current Ambassador of Portugal to Thailand Dr Jorge Torres-Pereira who is proposing to revisit the theme and underlying approach.

Evidence of the first westerners in Siam at Wat Pho. Photo: dhammajak.net

Dr Torres-Pereira, who joined the Portuguese Diplomatic Service in 1987, has been immersed full time in "Portuketology" (Portuguese in Phuket) since his arrival in Thailand at the end of 2010, with objective of energizing the Commemorations of 500 years of diplomatic relations between Thailand and Portugal.

– Phuket Gazette

Piyarat Kulvanich

THAI gallery

By Nanthapa Pengkasem

PHUKET-born Piyarat "Jiab" Kulvanich grew up in a typically extended Thai family. Within the circle of relatives, friends and neighbors, she remembers that there was a strong community spirit where everyone looked out for each other.

"On Thalang Road, where I grew up, my friends and I could play and end up at any house where we would be as welcome as in our own home. It was a safe and secure environment and that kind of spirit stayed with me long after I left."

In her role as marketing manager for Phuket International Hospital (Siriroj), Piyarat strives to establish the same sense of community among her staff and patients.

"Patients' experience is important as we like to think of the organization as 'the hospital of choice for Phuket,' so we must make patients feel they are part of the family."

Armed with a Master of Science in business administration qualification, Piyarat started her career in the marketing sector in Bangkok, where she remained for 10 years. She came back to Phuket in the late 1990s and worked for Bangkok Hospital Phuket as its marketing manager.

She tried changing her line of work once, working for a software company, but she returned to the healthcare business and joined Phuket International Hospital in 2006.

A stalwart in marketing and public relations, Piyarat brings her experience to bear on the complex business of hospital management, but is quick to point out that marketing is not just about advertising.

"It's a question of ethics. Hospital work is a matter of life and death and therefore cannot be bragged about openly in the media. In other words, the hospital can not and will not say that it can cure such and such disease," says Piyarat, adding that:

"It is more about projecting confidence and professionalism to prospective and existing customers, and about developing staff who are sympathetic, patient and capable. Our staff work hard to create trust in patients."

Even if she admits that her work is detailed and complicated ("in the service area it's impossible to achieve zero defect"), Piyarat thoroughly loves what she does.

"It's all about viewing obstacles as opportunities and using creativity to solve problems," she says.

Piyarat believes in giving back to the society and for this reason she is actively involved in many charitable works. As one of the founding committee members of the Thai Peranakan Association, she takes part in its numerous activities to raise awareness and preserve the heritage of old Phuket customs and traditions. She is also an active member of the Phuket Community Foundation, which is part of the global network of societies dedicated to the social and educational improvement of needy people, as well as being a Rotarian attached to the Jungceylon sector.

"My hospital and charity work compliment each other but are not totally mutually exclusive. I represent the Hospital, which supports certain causes and society then learns about the work I do at the hospital. It's a kind of 'network marketing' if you like."

For Piyarat, there's always time left in the day to share a passion or interest with others. Recently, she has discovered a special herbal product to help with a multitude of hair problems. She is so impressed with it that she decided to open Mamma Hair Spa on Chao Fah West Road.

"My aim is not commercial but to share this extraordinary product that is based on local wisdom. The spa is also a place where I meet up with friends and relatives. This, and the charity work I do give me that sense of community and belonging that I grew up with."

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.

An Einsteinian speed anomaly

Live Wire
By Woody Leonhard

LAST week I talked about the best-known internet speed measuring web sites – not the ones your Internet Service Provider (ISP) sets up and gooses to show impossible scores, but the sites that are internationally recognized as providing a reasonable indication of the speed your line actually delivers.

Some of you wrote to me and said that you don't care about your internet speed. I think that's great: if you don't mind missing out on news broadcasts and sports shows, YouTube and Skype, then I salute you and envy your isolation. But I'd also note in passing that in a few short years, it'll be possible to watch all of your favorite TV shows over a fast connection, for a tiny fraction of what TV costs now. You'll also be missing out on interactive college courses and free international phone calls – and a thousand other applications that nobody's dreamed up yet.

Others wrote to me and said that their internet connection is just fine, thank you very much, and if I'm having trouble with mine, I should have the phone company check and see what's wrong with my line – instead of whining about it in the *Gazette*. That, too, is an admirable position to take, but I'm not just whining about my lines (I have four – including 3G – and always recommend at least two, from different service providers). I'm also whining about the lines attached to hundreds of additional internet customers on the island.

Speed's important for most people. My two-year-old has been learning some English language phrases lately. His latest: "The internet is very slow." It's a refrain he invokes when YouTube doesn't play his Gor-Gai video, or the Gigglebellies. The internet's become an important part of many lives.

Last week I left you with an agonizing dilemma: the four internationally-best-known speed testing sites, when accessed from Phuket, give wildly different results. In my case, using a True 10 Mbps (megabits per second) ADSL line, I saw everything from 9 Mbps in tests to Los Angeles on OOKLA's Speedtest.net, down to 1.6 Mbps on DSLReports' test to LA.

I tried using a different line – a nominal 10 Mbps 3BB line – and the speeds were all a little slower, but not by much. On any single line, the speeds stayed consistent, regardless of which computer I was using (including a Mac), which operating system (Windows 8, Windows 7, OS X), or which browser (IE, Chrome, Firefox, Safari).

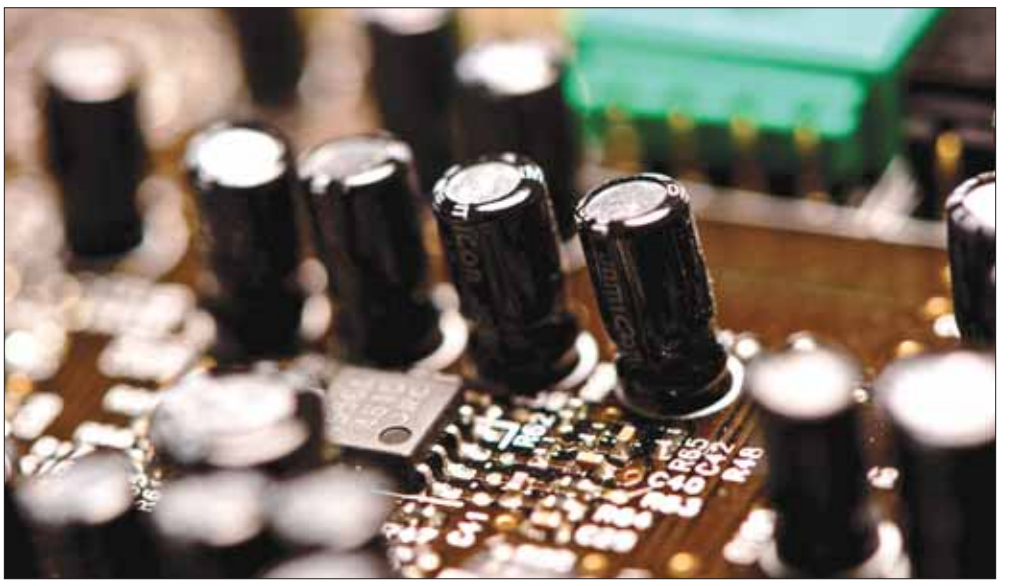
To further confound matters, when I run a "ping" test on the OOKLA Speedtest.net to Los Angeles, I get a result that shows the ping is running faster than the speed of light. Perhaps True and 3BB have had consultations with Dr Einstein, but I rather doubt they've figured out how to make an internet connection run faster than light.

It gets worse. If I use a downloader with multiple concurrent threads – basically different download sessions, all mashed over the same ADSL line – I get 9 Mbps, consistent with OOKLA. Which is inconsistent with Einsteinian physics.

I still have no explanation – and can't recommend one testing site over another.

Phuket isn't unique in having inconsistent speed test results. Even the US Federal Communication Commission, which has a huge vested interest in monitoring broadband speed, have basically thrown up their hands and refused to choose one testing site over another. Right now they're hop-scotching between Speedtest.com and MLab, unwilling to commit to one or the other, and unable to offer a third alternative.

There are more anomalies in Phuket. A friend of mine, let's call him "Khun Roger", downloads lots of torrents at night. I won't justify his torrent predilection, except to note that he can't see the movies he wants to see in Phuket, can't read books he wants to read, can't listen to or buy music he wants to hear, so he turns to the pirate sites.



LIGHTSPEED LIARS: Some internet speed tests for Phuket show a ping that's faster than the speed of light, which is impossible given Einsteinian physics. Photo: Randy Pertiet

Khun Roger has a 3BB ADSL connection, and he's been tracking his actual download speeds closely with a piece of software called NetMeter. NetMeter watches the data coming into the computer; it doesn't try to measure how fast the line can go, it just counts as the data comes in.

What Khun Roger has found is that his 3BB line gives him about 1.2 Mbps until midnight, and then at precisely midnight, the download speed goes up to 12 Mbps. For whatever reason, 3BB is throttling his line until midnight, every night, and then suddenly increases his bandwidth by a factor of ten.

It isn't clear to me if this is a throttling performed on Khun Roger alone, or if it's indicative of 3BB download speeds (or at least torrent download speeds) in general. But the effect is very striking – and quite replicable, on the nights when he kept track in September and October.

Here's another anomaly.

When TOT rolled out its Fiber 2U service, many of us were ecstatic. At last, we figured, we'd be able to get fast fiber speeds for about 1,500 baht/month.

And we did. For a while. But on October 7, 2011, quite suddenly, the average Fiber 2U international speeds dropped by about 80 per cent. One day, we were seeing 8 to 10 Mbps. The next day it was down to 1 or maybe 2 Mbps. The speeds have never gone back up.

As a result, the TOT Fiber 2U service, which was once the fastest internet in Phuket, is now just barely keeping up with ADSL lines that cost half as much.

My guess is that somebody flipped a switch in Bangkok – that up until that fateful day in October 2011, the Fiber 2U lines had access to unthrottled international access. Then somebody decided they better toss the Fiber 2U international lines in with the ADSL lines. As a result, it's very hard to recommend that people spend twice as much on TOT Fiber 2U as a plain-vanilla ADSL line.

We're running informal computer clinic roundtables every Sunday morning at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong, located 1 km north of Chalong Circle on Chao Fah East road. If you have a Windows problem that needs to be solved, or a question about internet service in Phuket, drop by and ask one of the assembled gurus. 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.*

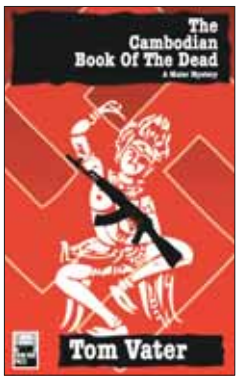
The Cambodian book of the dead

Books

By James Eckardt

A VETERAN journalist on the Asian beat, Tom Vater certainly knows Cambodia. In the crime novel *The Cambodian Book of the Dead* (Crime Wave Press, Hong Kong, 2012, 287pp), his descriptions of Phnom Penh, Kep and Siem Reap are spot on.

The hero is Maier (no first name) who grew up in East Germany under the communist government, where he worked as a foreign correspondent in East Europe. He slipped over to the West before the Berlin Wall fell and became a war correspondent for a German news agency for the next decade.



This career ended when his Cambodian colleague Hort was killed by a Khmer Rouge mortar shell. Maier then became a detective for a Hamburg agency that specializes in taking on international cases.

The case he is on now brings him back to Cambodia.

Maier is hired by the heiress to a coffee fortune to report on her only son and induce him to come home. Rolf Muller-Overbeck is running a dive shop in the seaside town of Kep in the south of Cambodia. He is also involved with a beautiful Cambodian woman named Kaley.

On the flight to Phnom Penh, Maier provides a thumbnail history of Cambodia: medieval empire, French colony, an independent nation under Prince Sihanouk, the American B-52 bombings, the terror of the Khmer Rouge, the Vietnamese invasion:

"Finally, UNTAC, the United Nations Transitional Authority of Cambodia, had shown up, organized elections of sorts and had then fled the burnt out, tired country as quickly as possible."

Maier surveys his fellow plane passengers now: "Young, self-confident backpackers in search of post-war adventures, a French tour group in search of temples and a few old men in search of women, or children, or anything else that would be available in hell for a few dollars, had replaced the soldiers and gangsters who alone dared to fly into Phnom Penh a few years earlier."

In Phnom Penh, Maier heads for the Foreign Correspondents Club of Cambodia and his description of the riverside Sisowat Quay is brilliant as well as everyone's favorite late night dive of choice, The Heart of Darkness, throbbing with disco music and wreathed in clouds of marijuana smoke.

He runs into an old flame, Carissa Stevenson, a Kiwi reporter from the UNTAC days, who leads him to meet Pete, an English wide-boy, who is Rolf's partner in the Kep dive shop. With him at a table are Tep, a former Khmer Rouge general, and his murderous son who actually does plug an obstreperous bar customer that night.

The scene then shifts to Kep. Maier meets Rolf and accompanies him on a drive trip to Koh Tonsay or Rabbit Island.

There is a magnificent description of sharks eating a corpse, which has been recently deposited on the seafloor with his feet tied to stones.

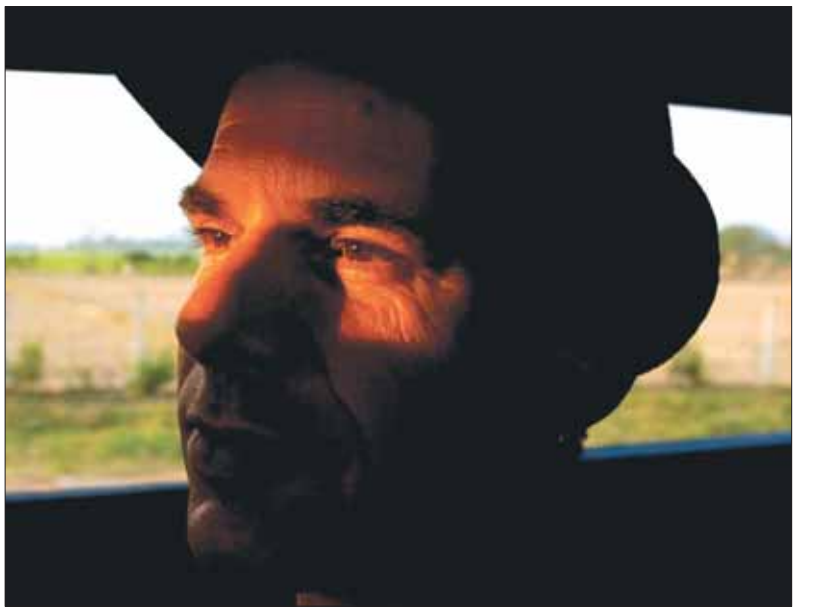
Rolf knows who the victim is, it's Sambat, the co-founder with his twin sister of an orphanage in Kampot.

We're nearly a third of the way into the book now and the plot loses its wheels.

There's the mysterious Kaley who may be a reincarnated malevolent spirit; a mysterious German, "The White Spider", with a Nazi and Yugoslav Communist past who had been an adviser to General Tep and the Khmer Rouge, and a mysterious Russian, Vladimir, who is holed up in the old French hill resort of Bokor, an old, fat homosexual giant alcoholic who may possibly be a world-class professional assassin.

All these are jumbled together in a plot of increasing complexity and absurdity. Maier is captured, drugged and tortured not once, not twice but three times.

The story also moves, absurdly, to an ancient temple in the Angkor Wat complex, hundreds of miles to the north, the headquarters for a cadre of crop-haired teenage orphan girls clad in black pajamas and rubber-tire sandals, who have been trained as Khmer Rouge-style killers. There are heaps of bloody explosions and large dollops of violence and torture porn.



CAMBODIAN CRUSADER: Tom Vater weaves a grizzly tale of worry and woe.

The novel, which had begun with such style and promise degenerates into a ridiculous shambles, amid much pretentious verbiage about how Cambodia is cursed, doomed and riddled with ghosts.

It is cursed by one seemingly skilled writer who actually turns out to be a hack.

Flowers for the King

KNOWN for its fascinating landscapes and enchanting hill tribes, Chiang Mai – the Rose of the North – is also known for its annual flower festival. Spanning an area of 10 rai (4 acres or 1.6 hectares), HM the King's Horticultural Exposition showcases over 100 varieties of flowers.

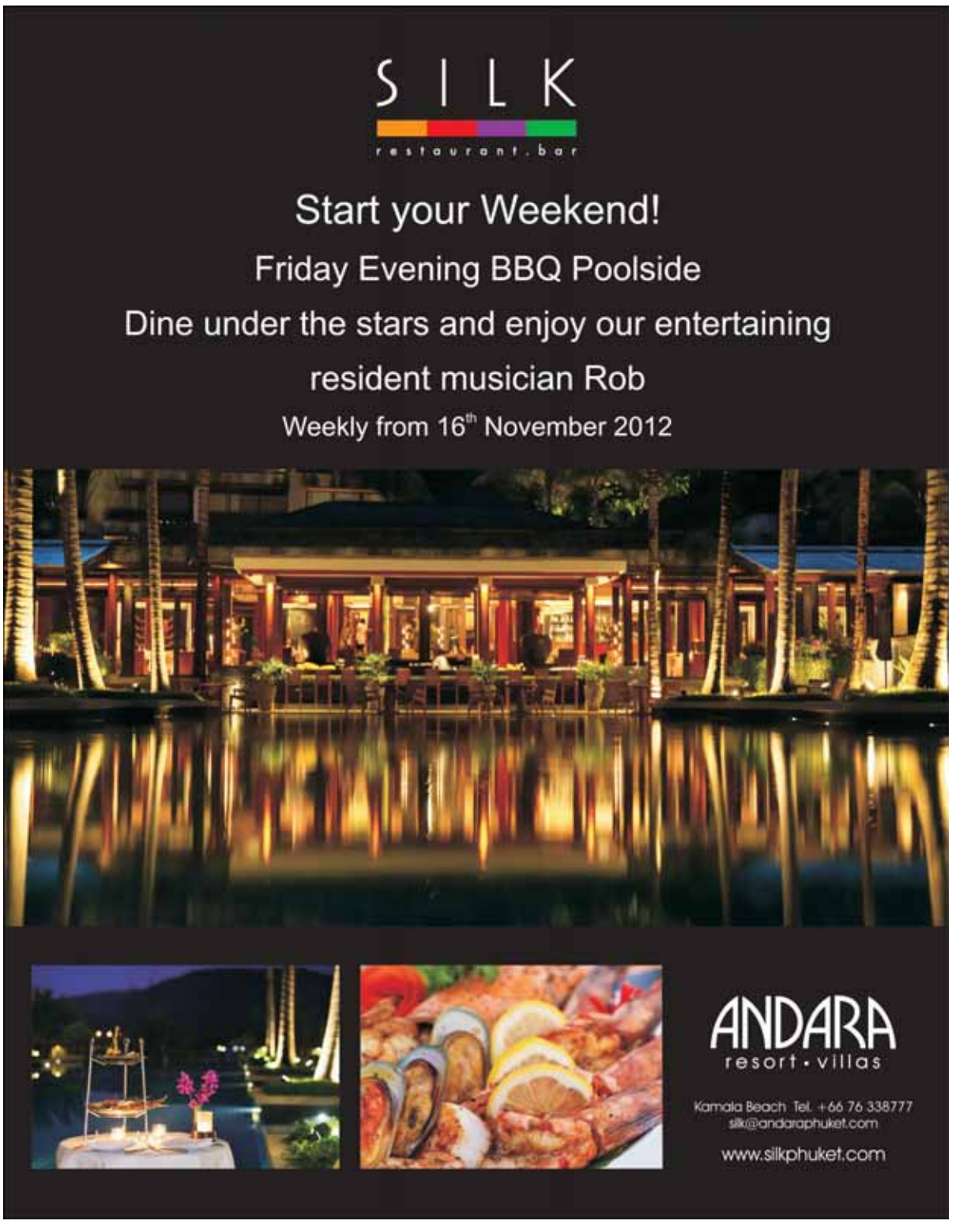
This year's horticultural show displays flowers, which are native to colder terrains, such as the rare Orange Lily or the famous Holland Tulips. Alongside architectural displays of major worldwide tourist sites, there are also displays of vertical gardens, as well as a tower, which provides a vantage point for a 360 degree view of the whole exposition.

Another exhibition taking place is the renowned Royal Flora Rajapruek Show, which is back once again displaying countless varieties of flowers. Graciously granted the name by HM the King in 2010, this event celebrates the 60th anniversary of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's accession to the throne in 1950.

Holland Tulips. Photo: Brent Ozar

Tasanee Srimonkol, Royal Park Rajapruek director, in Chiang Mai, said this year's show has been gaining more and more popularity. Organizers suggest the event could reach 300,000 visitors this year.

More information about entrance fees and other inquires can be found at royalparkrajapruek.org or by calling 053-114-110-5. The exhibitions are open through February next year. ***– Mcot***



Flower power at Boathouse

On the Menu

By Sam Wilko

ANYONE who has ever tempted fate by trying the ersatz vegetarian food at Phuket's annual Vegetarian Festival will more than likely agree that it's all deep fried; it's not actually very good for you and it may look like a sausage or a chicken drum-stick but it actually tastes like soaked cardboard.

So when word got out that Marco Westmass, a renowned vegetarian chef from The Hague, was breezing into town and putting on some swank dinners at Boathouse and Trisara, to showcase his justly famed dishes, the urge to try vegetarian fare that didn't actually taste like the *Phuket Gazette* was irresistible.

SWEET: A colorful dessert.

And lo, there's the great man himself, serving up some pretty meaty gin and tonics at RE KÁ TA's upstairs bar on Kata Beach. The growing queue at the bar testifies to the fact that the evening's punters would much prefer a good slug of gin to the bubbly *prosciutto* bottles standing forlorn to the side like so many rejected suitors.

A posse of wait staff circulate, distributing *amuse bouches* from Boathouse until another wave introduces us to Marco's cuisine in the form of bitterball crispy Dutch shrimp and dried lupine sausage along with gin glasses of cherry tomato, parmesan, yoghurt and basil.

It's all very tasty and the fact that this food is made from common-or-garden lupines is actually quite incredible. But it's true, so onward we plunge with a tasty treat of potato, caviar, Nori seaweed, bread, amaranth and mache lettuce.

How far away can you get from deep-fried cardboard? A long way, we soon learn.

A notable taster is the watermelon 'steak tartar' which captures the taste, if not the texture, of steak with an uncanny resemblance.

And so we all sit down to a wonderfully decked out table in RE KÁ TA's main dining area.

It's all very jolly, with cool jazz tumbling out of the top-of-the-line speakers, the odd thump and hiss of the incoming waves and the relentless whine of an American lady recounting her visit to the Holy Land to an unsuspecting Norwegian couple.

Scallops, lard anchovies, lime, oyster and caviar are next and the salty tang of the dish leaps out and slaps diners hard in the mouth – it's not dissimilar to a mouthful of seawater, albeit in a pleasant way.

A tangy German Riesling washes it down well.

Langoustine, yoghurt, parmesan, cabbage, rhubarb and lemongrass are next prompting the tempting question:

Does Chef Marco Westmass produce these dishes, *then* name them or does he set out to create a laugoustine dish *until* he gets the combination right?

But there's no such doubt about the excellent wine parings of the evening – each a light and tasty accompaniment to these creations.

Next up is a sole, lobster, baby carrot, dashi and lemongrass paired with a Vacheron 2010.

Good stuff, and as I wander off to chat with the resident DJ a sirloin 'dry aged' along with Enyingi mushroom, eggplant and Shanghai *bok choy* is waiting for me when I return.

This is incredible – such authenticity, such talent – it's just like the real thing: That's because it is – a genuine steak to round the mains off. With hindsight I really should have known, but so much magic was going down you could have told me that it was also made of lupines and I would have believed you.

RE KÁ TA is at 182-184 Koktanode Road, Kata Beach, Phuket, 83100 Thailand (next to Boathouse). Tel: 076 330 421

MARCO WESTMASS: Changing our perceptions of vegetarian food. Photos: Boathouse, Trisara

THE REAL DEAL: Dry aged sirloin with mushroom, eggplant and *bok choy*.

SOLE OH MIO: Dover sole, lobster, green tea with baby carrot, cabbage and dashi.

A LICK OF SALT: Scallops, lard anchovies, lime, oyster and caviar.

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Rendezvous in retrospect

From left are Captain Charles Dwyer of *Yanneke Too*; Tanyuta (Jojo) Sutjacharee of Asia Pacific Superachts; Samantha Caalsen, event organizer and Gordon Fernandes, GM of Asia Pacific Superyachts on board S/Y *Silolona*.

LUXURY living

WATCHING the first fun race of the annual Asia Superyacht Rendezvous from the 30-meter S/Y *Asia* this week was a great way to experience the event up close.

Sailboats *Shamoun*, *Twizzle*, *Yanneke Too*, *Si Datu Bua*, *Silolona* and *Asia* raced on a course in Bang Tao Bay, which *Twizzle* comfortably won.

S/Y *Asia* is crewed by husband and wife Paul and Debbie Johnson along with a deck hand and hostess. The yacht has a cutter rig sloop, is finished in Burmese teak combining luxurious leather sofas in the saloon with practical sofas in the pilothouse and cockpit.

The many soft furnishings, Balinese-inspired artwork and accessories throughout have an Asian flair to suit the theme of the beautifully decorated yacht.

FULL SAIL AHEAD: The striking shapes of several superyachts dominate the vast Andaman Sea.

The opening night of the Rendezvous, held recently, started with a cocktail party on board the classic Indonesian-style Phinisi ketch *Silolona*.

Sitting proud in the middle of the bay, the 50-meter wooden yacht played host to an evening filled with traditional Indonesian music on classic instruments, accompanied by traditional Indonesian canapes.

After the first days racing, participants headed to Xana Beach club where all yachts, along with host hotel and sponsor Angsana Laguna Phuket, entered their teams into the popular Feadship Challenge.

The Challenge involves teams constructing a model sail boat from a kit provided, which included items such as: sheets of paper, wood and drawing pins for sails and plastic foam for the boat itself.

Once the teams completed their masterpiece, they then picked a member from their team with very strong lungs to blow their model sail boat along the metal gutters, which were filled with water.

It was a close call between crews from *Callisto*, *Helix* and *Samax*, but the final race winner was *Callisto*.

– Phuket Gazette

RED ROCKET: A new Ferrari FF at the Renaissance Phuket Resort & Spa.

Friends and new Ferraris

CAVALLINO Motors – the sole official importer of Ferrari in Thailand – has joined the growing list of car companies to choose Renaissance Phuket Resort & Spa as the luxurious setting in which to showcase their latest models to VIP *clientele*.

In December 2012, the Bangkok based luxury car importer allowed potential customers to test drive the new Ferrari FF and Ferrari California, this special deal also included a stay at the luxurious Renaissance Phuket Resort & Spa on northern Phuket's beautiful Mai Khao Beach.

With Renaissance Phuket Resort & Spa an official partner for the event, Cavallino Motors' VIP guests were treated to stays in the resort's stunning Pool Villas, a test drive of the Ferrari FF and Ferrari California models from Phuket to Khao Lak's Lam Ru National Park and a luxury motor yacht cruise on the Andaman Sea. They were also presented with tailor made Ferrari-themed chocolates and cakes, produced exclusively for the occasion.

The Ferrari test drive event was the fourth such event to be held at Renaissance Phuket Resort & Spa, since its full opening in October 2010. The resort was also selected as a partner for the Thailand launch event of the Ford Fiesta in August 2010, the Thailand test drive of the Mazda 2 in August 2011 and the Thailand launch of the 2011 Range Rover in October 2011.

"With its picturesque location on Mai Khao Beach and world-renowned blend of luxury, sophistication and chic style, Renaissance Phuket Resort & Spa is the perfect choice for global brands like Ferrari, Range Rover Ford and Mazda, when it comes to creating ultimate experiences for their VIP clientele. We are extremely proud to be associated with these prestigious events and look forward to staging many more," said Renaissance Phuket Resort & Spa's General Manager Jason Nuell.

– Phuket Gazette

Going for a 'grubby' Christmas

By Baz Daniel

THE holiday season is here and the Phuket geese are getting nervous. But tropical heat and looking good on the island's beaches may require something a little lighter than all that turkey and Christmas pudding. As an alternative consider a Holiday Season dinner comprised of the local creepy-crawlies that many Phuketians love to eat.

REACH FOR THE STARS: (above) Starfish, scorpion and seahorse skewers make a change from other seasonal treats. Photo: Marieke Kuijjer
Tarantula appetizer (below), locust satay. Photos: Istolethetv

PICK N' MIX: A healthy protein snack. Photo: ADwarf

The Locust Eaters

Insects are full of protein. A few of decades ago a large swarm of locusts blew clear across the Indian Ocean and started munching on Thai crops. Scientists recommended that the farmers start eating the locusts in turn.

Fair's only fair, if an insect eats your dinner, the law of Karma almost mandates that you turn him into dinner in return thereby ensuring that what goes around comes around.

Thais have been enjoying locusts ever since. In Phuket you can buy a bag of *tukataen* – fried locusts with dipping sauce. In fact these days they're considered a bit of a delicacy and are pricey.

When eating your locust, pull off the hind legs, which are rather prickly. The rest is nice and crunchy and goes well with a cold beer… in fact the more cold beer you drink, the better they taste.

As Smooth as Silk

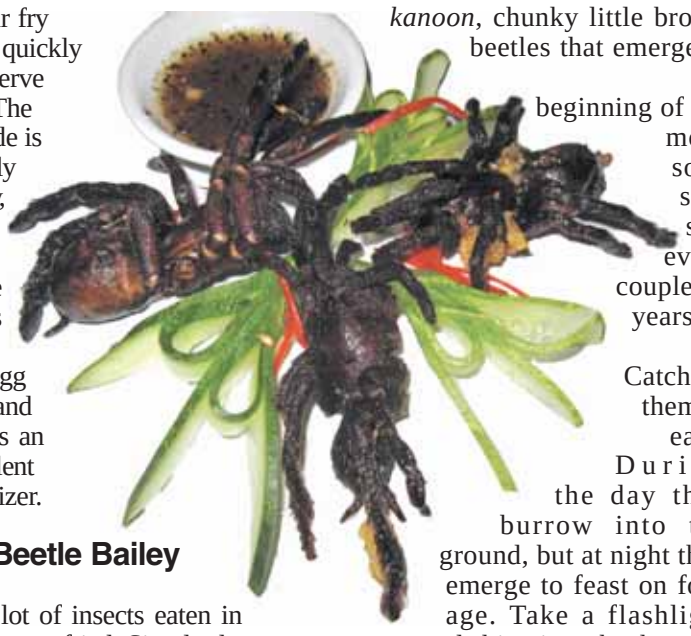
The life cycle of the silk worm involves a couple of months incarnated as a feeding machine, in the form of a caterpillar, munching on Mulberry leaves. Once gorged, they spin a cocoon of silk around themselves and go into their pupa stage for a nice long sleep.

This is when you pounce.

Silk farmers dump the cocoons into boiling water and boil off the silk. This doesn't bother the worms as they are undergoing the "big change" and inside are just basically biological soup.

After skimming off the silk, the farmers are left with the pupae which look rather like a grubby Nike running shoe, about a quarter of an inch long.

Stir fry them quickly and serve hot. The outside is slightly chewy, but the inside tastes like a fine egg yolk and makes an excellent appetizer.



Beetle Bailey

A lot of insects eaten in Phuket are fried. Simply drop your creepy crawlies into a saucepan with a little oil, chili and garlic and hold it over the heat, giving an occasional shake to ensure that they are evenly cooked. When the last one stops kicking, it's time to eat.

This is a good way to eat *meng kanoon*, chunky little brown beetles that emerge at the beginning of the monsoon season every couple of years or so. Catching them is easy. During the day they burrow into the ground, but at night they emerge to feast on foliage. Take a flashlight and shine it on bushes and you'll see the beetles because their eyes reflect the light with a lovely golden glow.

Most will then make a beeline, or a 'beetle line', for the light and can be easily harvested. They take only a couple of minutes to fry, but pull off their wing casings before eating as these are hard and have rather sharp edges.

Termite Time

Swarming termites erupt during the rainy season from huge underground nests and come in a variety of sizes, with the prized specimens having a massive wingspan of up to two inches. To catch flying termites place a bowl of water under the light on your balcony.

Many of the termites, thinking that they have seen the moon, will dive straight into the water. The next morning separate the termites from their wings and you'll end up with a very tasty meal. Fry 'em up and chow 'em down.

Ant-i Pasta?

If you want to eat ants with your pasta, try the abundant red ones found in Phuket. These deserve to be eaten, as they're the blighters that drop from vegetation onto unwary passersby and try to bite a piece off their body to carry back to their nests.

You need to collect a lot of ants for a good feed, so go hunting for their nests. These are fairly easy to spot hanging off branches.

Approach the nest with a bucket of water, a stick and a sharp pair of scissors. Very carefully (unless you enjoy being bitten by ants) position the bucket below the nest and snip it away from the branch so that it drops into the water.

Quickly stir the water with the stick to break up the nest and drown the ants. Leave it for a while, as even drowning ants have a remarkable ability to bite! You'll probably find lots of little white blobs mixed in with the ants. These are their eggs and are also highly edible.

Red ants are best eaten as *larb*, a Laotian style specialty, also found in northeastern Thailand. Mix the ants with mint, chilies, fish sauce and lime then add course-ground toasted rice. The whole mess is chopped up very finely and served with sticky rice.

The result will not be an ant-i-climax!

Everybody gets a leg

Tarantulas are mega-spiders that have a leg span of up to four inches and live in holes in the ground. Experts can tease the spiders out of their holes and quickly grab them. They're actually a lot less venomous than their scorpion cousins and have plenty of meat on them.

Scorpions have less meat and of course, an outer carapace, but once cooked are harmless and so can be gulped down sting and all.

Mmmmm… munchy, crunchy and with plenty of roughage!

All joking aside, one of the great benefits of eating insects and arachnids, as some locals do in Phuket, is that they contain a very high concentration of protein.

If you can get your head around the aesthetics of their consumption, you are actually dining on a very healthy food group indeed.

So as an alternative to all that turkey and Christmas pudding, consider giving the "Bugger's Diet" a try during the this festive season.

EGGS AND EGGS: Ant eggs in a chicken egg omelet which is cooked inside a banana leaf cup. Photo: Takeaway

Prime real estate for Optimus Prime . Photo: Isaac Stone Simonelli

THE ACID TEST: Yup, it passed. Photo: pawpaw67

Watch THat Caps Lock.
Photo: Fredrik Thommesen

Vital Signs

Still waiting for that bus?
Photo: Fredrik Thommesen

Maybe it's a brand name. Photo: McKay Savage

One way to put on weight.
Photo: Andy Mitchell

Sorry to bring this up. Photo: Isaac Stone Simonelli

Bah humbug: A Christmas advisory

PLEASE be advised that any one planning to dash through the snow in a one-horse open sleigh, going over the fields and laughing all the way is required to undergo a risk assessment addressing the safety of open sleighs for members of the public. This assessment must also consider whether it is appropriate to use only one horse for such a venture, particularly where there are multiple passengers. Please note that permission must also be obtained, in writing, from landowners before their fields may be entered. To avoid offending those not participating in celebrations, we request that laughter is moderate only and not loud enough to be considered a noise nuisance.

Benches, stools and orthopedic chairs are now available for collection by any shepherds planning or required to watch their flocks at night. While provisions have also been made for remote monitoring of flocks by CCTV cameras from a centrally heated shepherd observation hut. An emergency response plan must be submitted to account for known risks to the flocks.

Mr Rudolph at the trial. Photo: istolethetv

The angel of the Lord is additionally reminded that – prior to shining his/her glory all around – she/he must confirm that all shepherds are wearing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment due to the harmful effects of UVA, UVB and the overwhelming effects of Glory.

Following last year's well publicized case, everyone is advised that EEOC legislation prohibits any comment with regard to the redness of any part of Mr Rudolph the Reindeer. Furthmore, any exclusion of Mr Reindeer from reindeer games will be considered discriminatory and disciplinary action will be taken against those found guilty of this offence.

While it is acknowledged that gift-bearing is commonly practiced in various parts of the world, everyone is reminded that the bearing of gifts is subject to Hospitality Guidelines and all gifts must be registered. This applies regardless of the individual, even royal personages. It is particularly noted that direct gifts of currency or gold are specifically precluded under provisions of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

Finally, in the recent case of the infant found tucked up in a manger without any crib for a bed, Social Services have been advised and will be arriving shortly.

Say it with flowers

Christmas presents

IN THE SPIRIT: Norfolk Island Pine grows well in Phuket and is a great substitute for an artificial Christmas tree. Photo: Ian Page-Echols

Poinsettias make the perfect Christmas gift. Photo: davidd

Gardening
By Patrick Campbell

"SAY it with flowers" is a popular mantra of the florist business.

And for most occasions and certainly for most ladies, a romantic bouquet of roses or lilies speaks louder than words.

For Christmas though, and for the keen gardener, something a bit more practical is the order of the day.

Indoor potted plants are always a sensible choice. They can grace the festive table and afterwards be transferred outdoors. The number one choice world-wide is what Thais refer to as *kistmas*, a euphorbia called *poinsettia*, which has huge red (sometimes yellow, green or cream-colored) leaves, which are in fact bracts. *Euphorbia pulcherrima*, are now appearing everywhere in plant nurseries and can be kept indoors, provided it is not in a draught – air-conditioning will cause both bracts and leaves to drop. Put outside, it will require some protection from the full tropical sun, but in the right conditions can become a small tree.

Like the holly and mistletoe of Christian myth, the *poinsettia* is associated with religion. Legend has it that a poor Mexican girl, unable to provide a Christmas gift for her local church, gathered weeds and placed them outside the building. Miraculously, they blossomed and became poinsettias. Of course the vivid hue is also associated with the blood of Christ.

Another American native is the Jerusalem cherry. As a child, I remember we always had one at Christmas. A member of the *solanum* family (think potatoes and tomatoes), it is an excellent choice as a seasonal present and has masses of large, glossy, round berries in shades of green, yellow and orange. As a small plant with deep green leaves, maybe eighteen inches high, it makes an attractive table decoration.

Lotus seed-heads can be used with straw flowers for Christmas decorations. Photo: Inthebug

Don't over water, since this will result in leaf and berry loss, but do mist occasionally with a spray.

Whether the Jerusalem cherry will translate afterwards to your garden is open to question, but I would suggest filtered sunlight or semi-shade.

Need a Christmas tree? My third, more ambitious gift suggestion, is the Norfolk Island pine. As befits a conifer from the South Pacific, it grows well in Phuket. With its conical shape and layers of horizontal and profusely needled branches, it looks like an exotic Christmas tree and will tolerate life in a container. You will find young potted specimens in local nurseries. I bought a small one years ago; it now stands about three meters tall.

Re-potted once, it would still do service as a Christmas tree if I had the strength to carry it indoors.

I am not a fan, but you might want to consider artificial flowers as a seasonal gift. Their quality has certainly improved beyond measure in recent years. The Index store, for example, has a huge range, from neat pots of tulips, *proteus*, *zinnias* and the like, to large single- stemmed versions of *delphiniums*, lilies and sunflowers. If you prefer the real thing but want longevity, try dried arrangements of lotus seed-heads, teasles or straw flowers.

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

Tip of the Week

Fruit types

THE term fruit refers to the product of a plant's reproductive system. Most, but by no means all, are produced by trees. Shrubs that bear edible fruit include the *caramba* or country gooseberry, the roselle (*hibiscus sabdariffa*) whose small red fruits are made into a refreshing drink popular with Thais, and the pomegranate (*punica granatum*) which is full of flesh-covered seeds, and usually ends up as vitamin-rich juice.

Pomegranate. Photo: Prato

Fruits range in style from a fleshy berry (mulberry), a drupe with a hard interior pit or stone such as a *mangosteen*, *lansium* or *langsart*, *rambudan*, to a pome (think apples, *guavas*), There are also nuts with a hard outer shell such as coconuts, and legumes which produce pods (*tamarind*, *sator*, *senna*). Oddly, the peanut is a legume. Not all are edible and a few are toxic: for example the drupe of *thevetiana* (yellow oleander).

FLOATING PALACE: Feadship's *Helix*, the fifth of the F45 series, was launched from the Royal Van Lent shipyard.

Bas accepts a gift from the crew of *Silolona* at the Feadship challenge.

The Einstein-inspired concept boat *Relativity*. Photos: Asia Superyacht Rendezvous

A rendezvous with Feadship

By Andrew Scott

The *Phuket Gazette* was lucky enough to catch up with Bas Nederpelt of Feadship recently to talk about the success of the recent Superyacht Rendezvous and his company's commitment to the event.

Why do you continually support the Asia Superyacht Rendezvous?

Feadship started to support the event because we thought it was a nice initiative 11 years ago. We felt that this would become a developing market for yachts.

Recently we have been really pleased that we aligned ourselves with this event as this is the most successful region for superyachts.

Has the yachting potential for this region been fully realized?

One of the reasons we joined is that we love the region and knew that it had to develop. I think the potential will grow exponentially now and we are seeing a lot more yachts.

There are five or six Feadships in this region, including the three that attended the Superyacht Rendezvous – more than any other year. Many people from Europe who can't go to the Caribbean for winter look to this region, and Phuket is an unavoidable stop.

Is this why you chose Phuket to hold this event?

Phuket is better equipped than other areas in this region to host this event. Cruising in this area is different as it is more adventurous in a way and the rewards are huge as you have the Andaman islands, Burma and other exciting destinations nearby. The people here are so nice, there's excellent food and the supplies are here.

It is very different to the Caribbean, which is the most popular cruising ground in winter, but there are now too many yachts and people and less to be discovered.

How did you start out at Feadship?

I joined them five years ago. Before that, I was in the industry for five years. At some stage in a career it is great to be able to join the best builder. Feadship is an international company that sells worldwide. It is nice to sell a product where every deal, client and project are different.

How do you brand the Feadship name?

Feadship was the first to start superyacht building, well over a 100 years ago. The brand as such was created in 1949 after the Second World War. There was no demand in Europe at this time so we went to the US.

The present name was created to cater to the American market, which has been our most successful market.

Now we are a strong player, hopefully the leader in custom-built motor yachts from 35 to over a hundred meters. We started selling in Asia 20 years ago and now we hope to sell a lot more.

What can you tell me about Steve Job's yacht *Venus*?

Nothing. We never disclose information about our clients.

Feadship unveiled *Relativity* at the Monaco Boat Show. Why choose a design for Albert Einstein and what does the yacht offer?

At Feadship we like to be an innovative player and six or seven years ago we started spending a lot of time and effort with our design teams and naval architects and all that was in-house. We have the biggest naval architecture office in the world. We challenge them every year to come up with an original idea.

Although we don't normally make a concept for a client – we normally show them ideas and directions – this year we decided to create an idea for a client.

It was difficult as we had to imagine a client who was no longer alive and someone who really changed many markets and thoughts. So we came up with this idea of creating a design for Albert Einstein.

What does the boat feature?

It features a floating platform so that Einstein and his fellow great thinkers can enjoy spending time on the yacht. It has a dedicated deck for thinkers and families. There are lots of areas to help with thinking possibilities.

There are always the technical aspects. Our guys came up with a very green propulsion package and in the end we decided to stay away from hydrogen and we came up with a green propulsion system that saves over 30 per cent in fuel.

Who do you plan to do a yacht for next year?

I sincerely don't know. We instructed our guys two weeks ago to develop an idea. What is nice about these concepts is that they are rarely adopted 100 per cent. We make things that could never work but we also make things that do.

A few years ago we introduced a new propulsion concept, which we are now building for the first time, and also design concepts are adopted on certain projects. These concepts are there to inspire us and our clients to come up with a more advanced product.

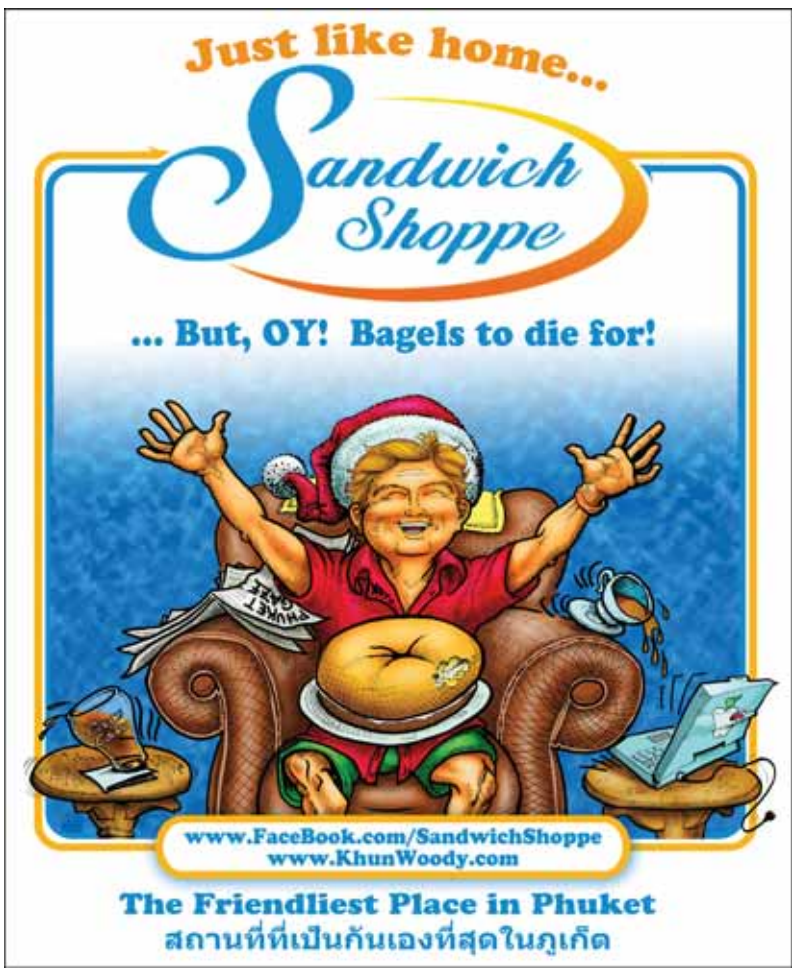
What do like about the Superyacht Rendezvous?

We want to keep it almost the same as it's spot on. It's a gathering of clients and people active in the industry and those who promote the industry in all their different roles.

It is not meant to be a sales driven event. For example, we have the 'Feadship challenge' where crews have to build a small yacht out of wood, which we would never consider stopping as it's one of the highlights.

The sailing is not competitive either and we will certainly continue to sponsor the event in the near future.

For more information on Feadship visit: feadship.com or for more information on the Asia Superyacht rendezvous visit: asia-superyacht-rendezvous.com



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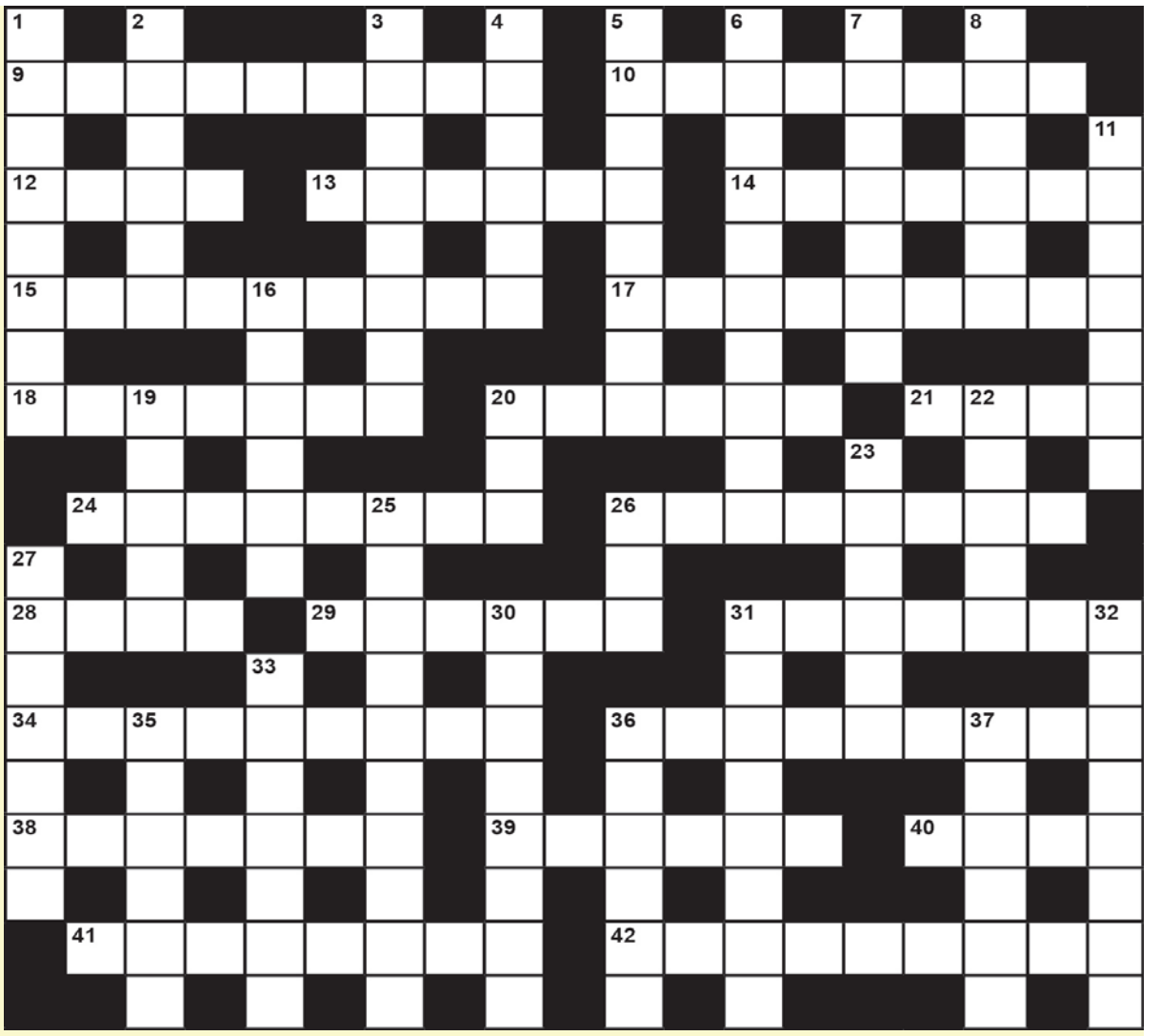


COFFEE break

Across:
9. Taking everything in across-the-board (9)
10. Rushed, and these became jumbled (8)
12. Bit of a theatrical role (4)
13. Tom's Ma cooked a Thai dish (3,3)
14. Fundamental principle of daughter in racial movement (7)
15. In appearance, instrument for make-believe rock music (3,6)
17. Keep inside ring next to the bull, Mine host (3,6)
18. Gained access to tender out East (7)
20. Am having none around not being a recognizable brand (2,4)
21. Lien discharged for a band (4)
24. The Spanish ration out for a family member (8)
26. Upsets us, copies socially acceptable coach becoming sexy female demon (8)
28. In a small laboratory, right to make Thai spicy salad (4)
29. Brought out Editor, badly cued (6)
31. Extort press (7)
34. Frowned, possibly turn fifty. Splendid (9)
36. Pal, arctic reshaping is common sense (9)
38. Turn past coach in railway transport going into town (2,5)
39. Graduate wail about African country (6)
40. Thousand rupees is for Malay weapon (4)
41. Having brought about, earnest plea to return ten (8)
42. A bore can't possibly make effervescent (9)

Down:
1. Lose claims P.E. is out (8)
2. One who scratched, one who got a point! (6)
3. Made rapid return, stop, ride out (8)
4. Gambler streets ahead (6)
5. Chap I'm on could be the outright winner (8)
6. Can I, or most, become immense? (10)
7. Maybe reside out East, more sordid! (7)
8. Ace put out by cooking measure (3,3)
11. Told to be watchful for the French in free trade (7)
16. And rue becoming not versed in a subject (6)
19. Maybe either out East belonging to them (5)
20. Sister, the Northern French one (3)
22. Habituate to ruin out East (6)
23. Familiarly, stomach last month in uproar (6)
25. Not clear fashionable fancy diet fine (10)
26. Thus died a piece of turf (3)
27. A flat for a big party (4-3)
30. Calm in a strange Eastern soothing liquid (8)
31. Staunch in awful last war time (8)
32. Signed up, lent side out (8)
33. Figure hag mixed up with oxen (7)
35. Idiot Margaret briefly gets spice (6)
36. The law enforcers keep in order (6)
37. Church of England has genuine breakfast food (6)

Cryptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Answers on page 31.

YOUR horoscope

By Isla Star

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20): Where work and finances are concerned, the stars advise those born under the sign of Capricorn to strike while the iron's hot. This could cause inconvenience in the midst of the holiday period, but results will prove worthwhile. If your birthday is due this week, there are signs that you will find it easier to get what you want in the coming year. Wear the color tangerine to make a statement this Christmas.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19): It may be difficult for Aquarians to feel the Christmas spirit, but the stars recommend taking things at your own pace. A fire sign friend could show you an escape route out of the festivities. Disappointment in the realm of romance should be put down to experience; Cupid is ready to show you the way towards a meaningful relationship with another air sign early in the New Year.

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20): Persistence pays off for Pisceans this week. There are signs that something you have wanted to happen for a long time is about to be realized. If this relates to a romantic relationship, expect another water sign to return your interest. Those already committed are forecast to learn that their partner has had a change of heart concerning an ongoing disagreement. Wear sparkling silver to encourage a festive feeling.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20): Making new connections is highlighted over the holidays and this can encourage Arians to discover skills they didn't know they possessed. The stars suggest that you will end the year with different priorities. Romance remains uncertain until the end of the year; too much Christmas cheer can lead to a commitment being made that you will regret. Exchanging gifts with friends may mean some awkward moments this weekend.

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21): Hard working Taureans will be relieved to take a break during the festive season. A quiet time lies ahead, with the focus on sharing simple pleasures with close friends and family. Last minute Christmas shopping is well-starred this weekend; you should find the perfect gift to please a partner. Those seeking romance can meet their match when an air sign makes contact. Money matters are auspicious on Monday and Tuesday, with unexpected gain highlighted.

GEMINI (May 22-Jun 21): There are signs that Geminis may be less than enthusiastic about spending Christmas with certain family members, but the stars advise keeping your discontent quiet. Emotions can run high and disagreements are best avoided. Where work is concerned, a bumpy road is forecast to become smoother as the year draws to a close. Your romantic outlook is affected by the seasonal spirit; an earth sign is ready to share celebrations with you.

CANCER (Jun 22-Jul 23): A weak link in the world of work threatens to disrupt your plans, but the stars suggest that this matter can be left on hold until the holiday period has passed. Meeting under the mistletoe can be the ideal opportunity to make a romantic connection with an earth sign, but another water sign is not forecast to respond positively to your approach. Finances are well starred later in the week.

LEO (Jul 24-Aug 22): The week passes peacefully for those born under the sign of Leo, with your plans for low-key celebrations working out well. Financial worries can be forgotten while relaxation is top of your agenda, and there are signs that the New Year will bring welcome solutions to ongoing cash flow problems. Wear the color holly berry red to enhance your charisma – an air sign is bound to see you in a new romantic light.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23): Virgoans are predicted to enjoy themselves more than expected during the last week of December. The stars suggest that surprises are in store, one of which can be the sudden arrival of a family member in time to share Christmas. Romance should bring some excitement; a secret admirer is poised to reveal their identity during the festive season. Those already committed will be touched by their partner's choice of gift.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23): Your talents for creating a party atmosphere are appreciated over the holiday period as there are hints that friends could call for last minute help to organize celebrations. In the realm of romance, playing the waiting game while a fire sign decides what they really want can lose appeal. Those in a committed relationship may be dismayed when they discover that their partner has been on a spending spree recently.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22): Scorpios who were seeking solitude during the Christmas holidays may find this difficult. Another water sign won't take no for an answer, and family will do what it takes to convince you to join in with festivities. A forgetful mood on Monday and Tuesday can cause you to lose important possessions; the stars advise against being distracted on those days. Wear the color cinnamon to encourage a sweeter mood.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21): Personal relationships fall under the spotlight during the remainder of December. Christmas can be the ideal time to bury the hatchet with someone you fell out with lately; a water sign is waiting for you to make the first move. Sagittarians who have been caught up in a romantic dilemma start to see an easy way out. The stars advise putting your personal finances in order before the end of the year.

INTERNATIONAL Sport

Barca tie Messi down

By Mark Elkington

BARCELONA secured the futures of leading players Lionel Messi, Xavi and Carles Puyol with renewed contracts on Tuesday.

World Player of the Year Messi's deal has been extended by two years to June 30, 2018, which ties him until he is 31, the La Liga leaders said in a statement.

The 34-year-old Puyol, the club's captain, has agreed a three-year extension to June 30, 2016, which would effectively see the Spanish international through to the end of his playing career at 38.

Xavi's existing deal ran until June 2016 depending on appearances but the 32-year-old midfielder's new contract would now end then regardless of the number of times he played, Barca added.

The new contracts will be signed in the coming weeks.

"It is with great satisfaction that the board are able to bring continuity to this successful project with the renewed deals for Xavi, Puyol and Messi," Barcelona director Toni Freixa told a news conference.

"Puyol, Messi and Xavi are three basic pillars. It was essential to have our principal figures tied to the club.

"The buy-out clauses remain the same until there is a financial improvement."

Offering Messi a further two years indicates how important the Argentine is to the club and ensures they secure his services over the peak of his playing career, injury permitting.

At 25, Messi has already set a number of club scoring records and is favorite to win a fourth World Player of the Year award next month.

He has been the top scorer in the world's highest-profile club competition, the Champions League, for four years in a row, and hit the headlines recently as he racked up his 90th goal in 2012 for club and country.

Barca built their team around the fleet-footed forward over four trophy-filled seasons under coach Pep Guardiola until he stepped aside last May, and the transition to former number two Tito Vilanova has failed to upset 'the flea's' rhythm.

Messi has already scored 25 goals in 16 La Liga games this season, the latest being a double against second-placed Atletico Madrid in a 4-1 victory on Sunday which left Barca clear at the top, and 13 points ahead of their great title rivals Real Madrid.

Puyol has been a central figure at the heart of the Barca defence for more than a decade, famous for his commitment and aggression. His return after a string of injuries has settled a backline that looked distinctly shaky earlier in the campaign.

Speaking at a news conference on Monday, Puyol said: "I want to play until I am 40. I want to continue playing... but when it doesn't feel right I will stop whether I have a contract in place or not."

Like Puyol and Messi, playmaker Xavi is a product of the club's acclaimed youth academy, and has pulled the strings in midfield for more than a decade.

With Cesc Fabregas settling into the side more, and the talented Thiago Alcantara emerging, Spanish international Xavi has increased competition for his place but remains a vital part of Vilanova's plans.

MAGICAL: Lionel Messi celebrates after scoring against Real Zaragoza on November 17. Photo: AFP

EPL weekend round up

ASTON Villa turned on the style last weekend beating a resurgent Liverpool side 3-1 at Anfield.

Young Belgian star Christian Benteke bossed Liverpool's defenders all game and he was rewarded with two goals. Benteke's cheeky back heel set up Anders Weimann for Villa's second, in a game that left Liverpool reeling after their manager claimed before the match that his team could make a top four finish.

Brendan Rodger's footballing philosophy seems to be taking shape at Liverpool, but he will need to add to a lean squad in January's transfer window if he intends to make good on his audacious claim.

Aston Villa's starting 11, with an average age of 23, is the youngest team fielded in the Premiership this season. Paul Lambert's bright young players have reached the semifinals of the Capital One Cup and they continue to slowly move away from the relegation zone, currently sitting in 14th place.

QPR moved off the bottom of the table with their first win of the season against Fulham.

The 2-1 scoreline made it a nervy last few minutes for Harry Redknapp and his team but an inspired performance from Adel Tarabat was enough to ensure victory.

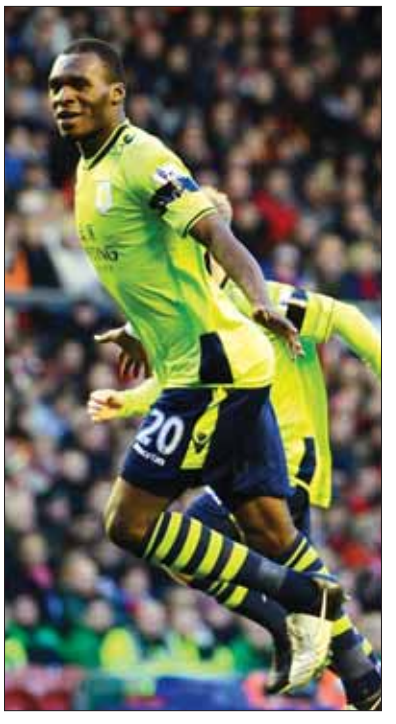
Manchester United brushed aside a poor Sunderland team 3-1 at Old Trafford. The score line flattered Martin O'Neill's team as the hosts missed a number of chances throughout the game.

Robin Van Persie and Tom Cleverly scored in four first half minutes to seal the victory but Manchester United should have won by a larger score line.

United go into the Christmas period at the top of the league, and after this sort of attacking display and the return from injury of Nemanjic Vidic to shore up their defense, the red side of Manchester is looking good.

Manchester City helped push Newcastle United closer to the relegation zone with a 3-1 win. The victory from City was the perfect response after they lost the Manchester derby a week earlier to a late Van Persie goal.

Arsenal beat Reading 5-2 in the Monday night game thanks to a hat trick from Santi Cazorla. Arsenal banished the memory of their humiliating Capital One Cup defeat to Bradford and ensured Reading stayed bottom of the league.



Benteke celebrates. Photo:AFP

Other results:

Norwich 2-1 Wigan

Stoke 1-1 Everton (Everton's Marouane Fellaini has been suspended for three games after he headbutted Ryan Shawcross in this match)

West Brom 0-0 West Ham

Tottenham 1-0 Swansea

– Andrew Scott

PREMIER LEAGUE TABLE

	TEAM	PTS
1	Man Utd	42
2	Man City	36
3	Chelsea	29
4	Tottenham	29
5	Arsenal	27
6	Everton	27
7	WBA	27
8	Norwich	25
9	Stoke	24
10	Swansea	23
11	West Ham	23
12	Liverpool	22
13	Fulham	20
14	Aston Villa	18
15	Newcastle	17
16	Sunderland	16
17	Southampton	15
18	Wigan	15
19	QPR	10
20	Reading	9

PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES

SAT, 22 DEC 2012 19:45
Wigan vs Arsenal

SAT, 22 NOV 2012
TOTTENHAM vs STOKE
22:00

SAT, 22 DEC 2012 22:00
Newcastle vs QPR
Southampton vs Sunderland
West Brom vs Norwich
West Ham vs Everton

SAT, 22 NOV 2012
MAN CITY vs READING
22:00

SAT, 22 NOV 2012
LIVERPOOL vs FULHAM
00:30

SUN, 23 NOV 2012
SWANSEA vs MAN UTD
20:30

SUN, 23 NOV 2012
CHELSEA vs ASTON VILLA
23:00

Year of the 'Celtic Tiger'

By Mark Lamport-Stokes

RORY McIlroy's dominance on both sides of the Atlantic and the clearest hint yet at the exciting potential in China were the biggest storylines in what may prove to be a truly transformational golfing year in 2012.

The coronation of McIlroy as the game's leading player was confirmed in sensational fashion when the exciting Northern Irishman cruised to his second major title by a record eight shots in the PGA Championship at Kiawah Island in August.

Dubbed 'Boy Wonder' in his homeland for the past decade, McIlroy fully justified his other nickname of the 'Celtic Tiger' as he ended the year being showered with virtually every accolade available to him.

He followed in the footsteps of Luke Donald when he became the second player to win the money list titles in both Europe and the United States and he strengthened his position as world number one with an extraordinary run of form.

Long regarded as heir-apparent to Tiger Woods as the game's greatest player, McIlroy has smoothly taken over that role while Woods, despite triumphing three times on the 2012 PGA Tour in a welcome return to winning ways, has had to take a back seat.

The 23-year-old McIlroy is almost certain to be a dominant figure in golf for at least another decade but 14-year-old Chinese Guan Tianlang gave a strong indication of the likely impact from his part of the world well beyond that time frame.

Guan ensured he would become the youngest player ever to compete at the Masters by winning the Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship last month, tantalizing proof of the vast golfing potential in the Chinese market.

The world's most populous nation had celebrated another coup just five months earlier when Shanshan Feng, 22, clinched the LPGA Championship by two shots in Rochester, New York to become the first person from mainland China to win a women's major.

Remarkably, Feng was born just five years after the first golf course was opened in China.

There were several other highlights during 2012 with Bubba Watson producing arguably the shot of the year to win the Masters in a two-way playoff and Ernie Els ending a decade-long drought in the majors to claim his second British Open.

The belly putter was also thrust into the limelight when Webb Simpson, at the US Open, and Els, at Royal Lytham, joined 2011 PGA Championship winner Keegan Bradley as the only players to triumph in the majors using a long putter.

BOY WONDER: Rory: McIlroy has been the dominant golfer of 2012. Photo: Reuters

That trend, coupled with the growing number of younger golfers opting to anchor putters to their chin, chest or belly, prompted golf's rule makers last month to propose a ban on the technique, which could come into effect by 2016.

However, McIlroy's stellar play around the world gave golf fans their most stirring memories in 2012.

He recorded four wins on the US circuit among 10 top-10s in just 16 starts before ending the season being named the PGA of America Player of the Year, the PGA Tour's Player of the Year and winner of the Vardon Trophy for the lowest scoring average.

McIlroy clinched the Arnold Palmer Award as the PGA Tour's leading money winner, with earnings of US$8,047,952, and was delighted to follow that up with the European Tour order of merit with two events remaining.

"Winning a second major already made it a fabulous season, but then to follow Luke in becoming number one in both Europe and the States is the icing on the cake after a fabulous season," he said.

Hardly surprisingly, McIlroy finished his 2012 campaign on a triumphant note when he won the European Tour's season-ending DP World Tour Championship by two shots in Dubai last month.

"I didn't want the year to just tail off, I wanted to end it in real style," he said after spectacularly making birdies on the last five holes to close with a 66.

While the richly talented McIlroy is a gifted shot-maker, left-hander Watson delivered the 'blow' of the year with a miraculous escape from pine straw to win the Masters in a playoff with South African Louis Oosthuizen in April.

On the second extra hole, the long-hitting American ended up well right and deep in the tree line off the tee from where he had a narrow avenue to the green.

Undaunted, Watson struck a stunning hook off the pine straw with a gap wedge, his ball bending 40 yards in the air to settle 10 feet from the pin before he claimed his first major victory with a two-putt par.

"I got in these trees and hit a crazy shot," said Watson, a self-taught golfer who learned the game by hitting wiffle balls around his house. "I just hooked it up there and somehow it nestled close to the hole."

In June, Watson's good friend and fellow American Simpson clinched his first major title with a nerve-jangling one-shot victory at the US Open after overhauling overnight leaders Jim Furyk and Graeme McDowell.

The following month, 42-year-old South African Els won the British Open at Royal Lytham by one stroke from Adam Scott after the Australian agonizingly bogeyed the last four holes.

Unquestionably the greatest comeback of the year, and perhaps of all time in golf, came at the Ryder Cup in September when Europe overhauled a deficit of 10-6 going into the final day to beat the United States by 14-1/2 points to 13-1/2.

Guan Tianlang waves to the crowd at the Asia Amateur Championship. Photo: Reuters

Inspired by the spirit of the late Seve Ballesteros, Europe sent out their best players early and rode a wave of blue numbers to retain the trophy when Germany's Martin Kaymer defeated Steve Stricker one up.

"Seve will always be present with this team," a teary-eyed European captain Jose Maria Olazabal said of his fellow Spaniard, friend and mentor. "He was a big factor for this event, for the European side."

That same month, South Korean Shin Ji-yai romped to a nine-stroke victory at the Women's British Open at Royal Liverpool in England to complete a stunning Asian sweep of the year's four women's majors.

Shin's compatriot Yoo Sun-young won the Kraft Nabisco Championship in a playoff at Rancho Mirage in April and Choi Na-yeon, also of South Korea, claimed her first major title by four shots at the US Women's Open in Kohler, Wisconsin in July.

Australians in isolation

AUSTRALIA have put their squad into "quarantine" before next week's second test against Sri Lanka to make absolutely certain there are no additions to their already lengthy casualty list, according to coach Mickey Arthur.

Captain Michael Clarke and pace bowler Ben Hilfenhaus were injured in the first of the three matches against the tourists, which Australia won by 137 runs

Clarke and Arthur are confident the captain will recover from his hamstring injury for the Melbourne test, which begins on December 26, but Tasmanian Hilfenhaus's side strain means he will miss out.

Mitchell Johnson, who should replace Hilfenhaus in the starting line-up, and Usman Khawaja, brought in as backup for Clarke, were withdrawn from matches in the domestic Twenty20 league when they were called up to the test squad.

"We feel the test match on Boxing Day is massively important, we want to quarantine the 13 players. We're sitting with enough injuries as it is.

"We just think it's in the best interests of those 13 players to get ready for Boxing Day."

Hilfenhaus joins young quick bowlers Pat Cummins, James Pattinson and John Hazlewood in the treatment room, resulting in Tasmanian paceman Jackson Bird getting his first call-up to the Australia squad. ***– Reuters***

Sport

PSS U9 team wins group

PHUKET Soccer Schools (PSS) took their Under 9 and Under 13 Academy teams to British International School last Sunday to participate in the JSSL Arsenal International Phuket 7s Soccer Tournament.

In the morning, the Under 9s took center stage and the PSS Academy team started their group games strongly dispatching the host team, JSSL Arsenal from Singapore, 5-1 and local team Kajonkiet FC 3-0, with Micah D scoring three goals, Joe H two and Luke C, Fard and Daniel C all getting on the score sheet.

Up next, the confident PSS boys took on a strong Samui United Academy and despite scoring early through captain Micah D, they were unable to hold their lead, eventually drawing the match 1-1.

In their final group game, PSS knew that a win was important and another local team Darasamuth stood in the way of a semifinal spot.

But PSS again scored early through Luke C before adding two more goals through Joe H and Fard to storm through to the semifinals, with a 3-0 win.

PSS U9s won their group with 10 points and found themselves up against Headstart for a place in the final. After a slow start PSS then took a grip of the game with Joe H scoring a long range effort before he popped up again to find the back of the net after some excellent build up play by Luke C and Daniel C. PSS won the match 2-0 and found themselves in the final against the same Samui United Academy team that they tied with in the group games.

THE INVINCIBLES: Victorious under 9 team.

The PSS team, now brimming with confidence and goals from Daniel C, Joe H and Micah D, went on to comfortably win the game 3-0 to be crowned the Under 9 Division Champions. Joe Hunter was named man of the match for his excellent performance on and off the ball and finished the tournament with five goals.

In the afternoon, the Phuket Soccer School's Under 13 team were hoping to emulate their U9 club mates.

The U13s made an excellent start beating Kajonkiet FC 4-0 with goals from Jakk S, Koji M, Liam D and Danny P.

In their second group game, PSS dominated possession against Darasamuth but were unable to get a breakthrough and tied the match 0-0.

A single lapse of concentration cost them the result against JSSL Arsenal losing 0-1.

In the next two matches, the PSS team were up against some strong competition from Samui United Academy and Youth Football Home. Despite starting each game promisingly the U13 were unable to cope with their opponents' movement and attacking play, losing both matches 0-3. But, in the final group game against Headstart, PSS Academy had to win to sneak into the semifinal in 4th place.

It was a cagey start from both teams as neither wanted to make mistakes and in the end both defenses held firm, and each team had to be content with a share of the 0-0 tie.

This meant that PSS Academy U13s finished joined 5th in their group and just missed out on a semifinal place. Despite this disappointment the boys had a great experience and learned a lot from each game they played. Ian Santos was awarded the man of the match award for his strong and disciplined performance in defense.

Special guest Paul Parker.

Head Coach Martin Hill says: "A well run tournament with fantastic weather and good company, PSS always looks forward to this tournament every year and we would like to thank JSSL Singapore for the invite. Our Under 9 squad put on a fantastic show of football to go unbeaten all tournament and were proud winners of their age group."

Phuket Soccer Schools International Tournament for U8 – U14's will be held at TSLC February 9 and 10 from 9am-2pm, with clubs from all over Asia invited. Phuket Soccer Schools are running football camps for ages 4-16 around Phuket over the Christmas and New Year holidays.

For more information please e-mail: info@phuketsoccerschools.com

ROC fails to rock Bangkok

Romain Grosjean driving at the Race Of Champions. Photo: Reuters.

LOCAL rising star Tin Sritai says hosting a Formula One race in Bangkok would turbo-charge Thailand's interest in motor sports, after a disappointingly small crowd turned up for the star-studded Race of Champions in Bangkok.

Less than 1,000 fans witnessed the opening ceremony last Saturday night at the 50,000-capacity Rajamangala National Stadium despite the appearance of the world's best drivers including current and former F1 world champions Sebastian Vettel and Michael Schumacher and MotoGP legend Jorge Lorenzo.

But more fans showed up later and eventually filled almost half the arena in support of Tin and Nattavude Charoensukawattana in the ROC Nations Cup, which was won by the German team for a sixth straight year.

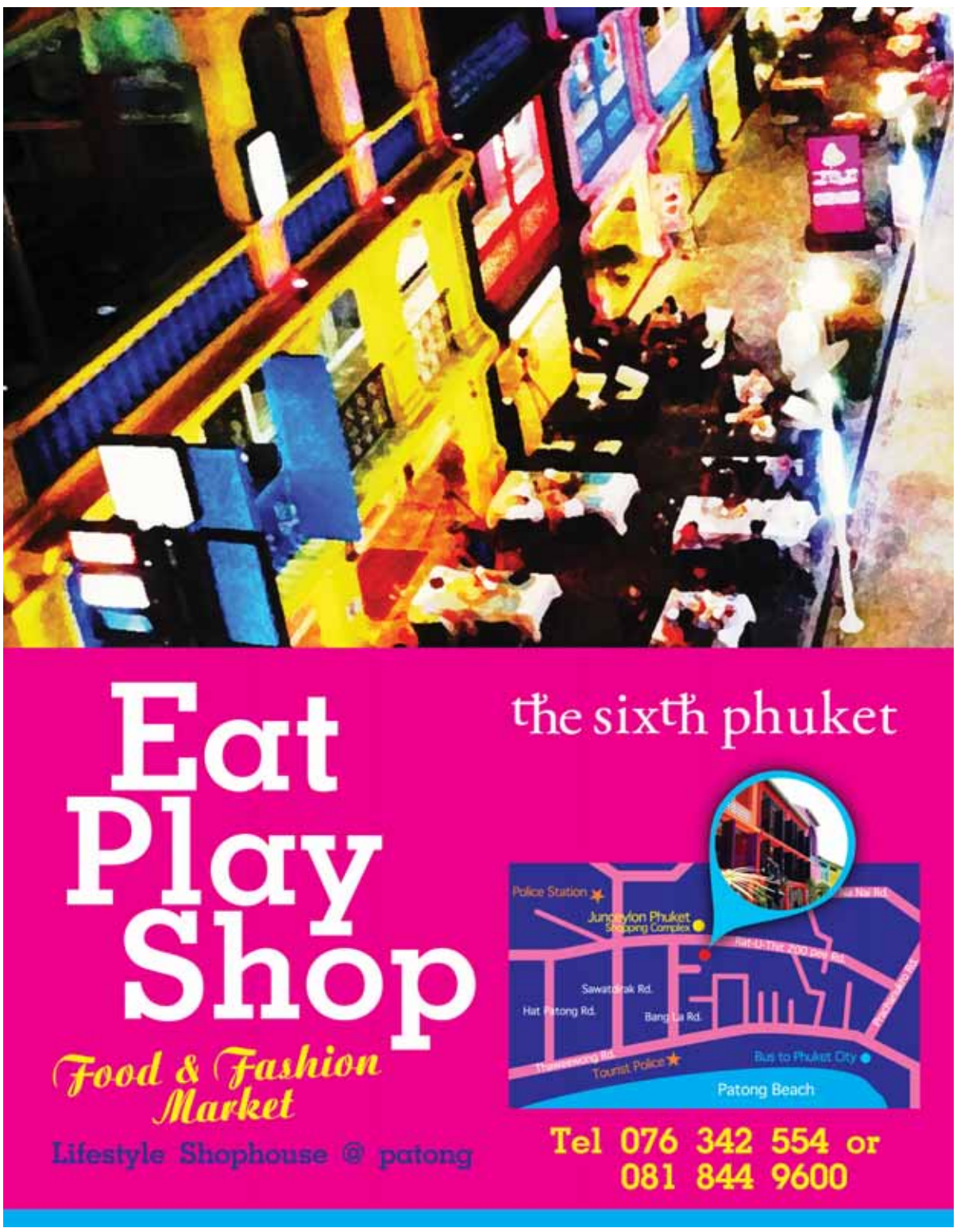
Tin, a 23-year-old touring-car racer from Khon Kaen, commented that the event was still new to fans, but said that a F1 Grand Prix in Thailand would stir up huge potential public interest in motor sport.

"Local fans are unfamiliar with the tournament as this is its first time in Thailand. If we hosted an F1 race here, people would definitely be more interested in motor sports," said the current Asian Touring Car winner.

However, Tin says he would prefer a permanent F1 track for any future Thailand Grand Prix, rather that the street circuit that is currently being mooted for 2014.

Last Saturday night, Team Germany's Schumacher and Vettel added to their incredible run of success by winning their sixth consecutive ROC Nations Cup title. Legends of world motor sport teamed up in pairs to battle for national pride.

They raced a mix of cars – including the Audi R8 LMS, VW Sirocco, Lamborghini Gallardo Super Trofeo and the Toyota GT86.



Sport

Phuket United made homeless

By Andrew Scott

PHUKET United narrowly defeated Samut Songkhram 2-1on Sunday, December 16 at a recent "home-away-from-home" game at Fashion Island Stadium, Bangkok.

Phuket went on the attack early in the Thai Futsal Premier League (TFPL) match, with two of Phuket's three Brazilians, Jackson Santos and Rogerio Moreira, linking up for the latter to miss a chance in the 7th minute.

Natthapong Buachai made up for that miss by scoring the first goal of the game with the help of the post.

Samut Songkhram equalized in the 25th minute through Rattakorn Tubduang.

The Andaman Pearl's Brazilian imports were a constant threat, as Jardel played in Jackson Santos to score the winning goal.

Both teams continued to attack, with Rogerio Moreira and Korawit Sae-ngow each missing opportunities for the hosts, and Rattakorn Tubduang wasting chances for Samut Songkhram late in the game.

The island's only pro futsal team have recently been forced to relocate from their home at the 4,000-seat Indoor Stadium in Saphan Hin.

RED TAPE: The newly built stadium at Saphan Hin is currently unusable.

Phuket City Municipality officials banned them from using the stadium last week, citing fears the players could damage the floor.

Municipal officials have asked that the parquet surface not be used until it is relayed with rubber, but have yet to set a date for that to happen, as reported online by the *Phuket Gazette*.

"Phuket City Municipality will not let us play [home] matches until we can find rubber to cover the parquet floor," says team manager Chalermpol Gerdsub, who recently came back from Chiang Mai where he was coordinating with the SAT to rent rubber for the pitch.

Phuket United (blue) in action.

"So, now we are waiting for the rubber to be transferred," he added.

Samak Rattanadilokna, director of Phuket United says the team were given the opportunity to play as the home team at Fashion Island Stadium in Bangkok, but have chosen to remain in Phuket for the fans.

"If we want to make everything much easier we could play all of our games at the central futsal pitch at Fashion Island in Bangkok," says Mr Chalermpol.

"To rent the field in Bangkok is about half as expensive, 20,000 baht for one match, compared with 43,000 baht to play at the stadium in Saphan Hin. But, I would like the people of Phuket to see our futsal team, which consists of local young people. This will encourage children to take an interest in the sport."

Mr Chalermpol is upbeat about his team's chances on the pitch after back to back wins.

"All of the players on our team are in good spirits and they are already 80 per cent fit. We have a new player from Brazil on loan, Jardel, who is a friend of our two current Brazilian players."

Jardel during a training session.

Phuket FC unveil trio of new players

THE Islanders have signed 27-year-old Cameroonian center back, Moudourou Swa Moise, on loan from Suphanburi FC.

Moise played for Thai Port FC and scored a penalty during the Thai Com FA Cup in 2009, which ultimately won the game for Thai Port.

He also helped Thai Port to win the Toyota League Cup in 2010, when they beat Buriram PEA FC.

In 2011, Moise signed for Suphanburi FC, who then sent him out on loan to Chainat FC.

Moise told the *Gazette* he thinks Phuket will win promotion to the Thai Premier League in 2014 and he wants to help Phuket achieve this.

Phuket FC have also signed two attacking midfielders, 29-year-old Georgian Giorgi Tsimakuridze from Thai Premier League team Bangkok Glass FC, and Korean Yagin Chun, who is the twin brother of Phuket FC's Boas Chun, from PTT Rayong FC.

Moudourou Swa Moise.

Georgian Giorgi Tsimakuridze.

Korean Yagin Chun.

Team manager Jakkapop Soo-ngan.

Team manager Jakkapop Soo-ngan told the *Phuket Gazette* that Moise is a good center back, who he hopes can help the team next season.

However he says he is still looking to sign one more Thai player and one more foreign player to help the club secure promotion to the Thai Premier League.

The team currently competes in the Yamaha League 1.

In their build up to next season, Phuket FC are training everyday at the 40 million baht FIFA pitch in Panwa, that was opened in 2009 by FIFA President Sepp Blatter. – ***Wisuwat Romin***

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ICC beat Patong

JABUDAY's ICC took on TNT in the third match of the Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL) League on Sunday December 16, with both teams looking for their first win of the season.

After winning the toss, the TNT boys strode out to face the onslaught of the ICC bowling attack.

Despite losing two early wickets, TNT were able to post their first 50 runs in quick time.

After drinks, ICC started tightening the screws and the TNT run flow dried up. This was predominantly due to a good bowling display by Imtiyaz Mushtaq, 2 for 21 and Ali Ahmed, 2 for 13.

Besides a solid innings by Anthony Dupont, 47 not out, no other TNT batsmen really troubled the ICC attack, scoring 165 after 35 overs.

With a relatively low total the ICC run chase would always be a comfortable one.

Despite the TNT bowlers giving it their all, Imtiyaz Mushtaq led the charge to victory, 54 off 67. He was supported by S Kumar, 32. In spite of a sprawl of wickets falling towards the end of their innings, ICC scored the winning runs in the 31st over.

Bowling attack by ICC.

The next game in the JLL league will be played January 6 when Patong take on The Village at the Alan Cooke Ground.

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Managing Director, Charn Issara Development Public Company Ltd.
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3:00 pm, 29 Dec 2012

Poomipak Julmanichoti
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Vittawat Chinabarramee
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