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End of landfills in sight

By Sitthipong Nongkaew

THE days of the landfills behind the Phuket City Incinerator at Saphan Hin may be numbered following confirmation that the new incinerator, currently under construction at the site, will use any extra burning capacity to reduce the huge stockpiles of trash.

Phuket City Deputy Mayor Thaworn Jeeraphat told *Gazette* that contractor PJT is bound by the terms of the tender to burn initially at least 300 tons of trash a day as well as any excess it can from the landfills.

Currently more than 250 tons of trash are dumped at the landfills each day, as the existing incinerator can dispose of only 250 tons of the more than 500 tons of trash brought to the facility each day.

Mr Thaworn added that Phuket City Municipality will take steps to reclaim whatever recyclable materials can be salvaged from the landfills before trash is taken for incineration.

"We must think carefully about how we take waste from the landfills. We cannot just take it and



The Saphan Hin landfills are targeted for burn-off and redevelopment into useable areas. Photo: Sitthipong Nongkaew

burn it. We have already done a test run separating recyclable trash on Landfill No 5, and we found that 30% of the trash could be recycled. The rest will be burned," he said.

Prachoom Suriya, who heads

the Phuket City Municipality Environmental Division said, "The maximum burn-off capacity of the new incinerator plant will be 700 tons a day, so it depends on the quantity of the trash delivered each day from around the island.

"For example, if 600 tons of waste is sent to the plant, another 100 tons from the landfill would be incinerated," he explained.

The boost in burn-off capacity from 600 tons to 700 tons a day follows PJT redrafting the plans

for the new facility to ensure more trash could be incinerated.

Aongart Chanachanmongkol, chief of the Phuket Provincial Office of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE), said, "It would be good for PJT to take trash from the landfill to burn off because they could produce more electricity."

PJT is to generate electricity from exhaust turbines and plug the power back into the grid. Most of the electricity will be used to power the plant itself, but any excess is to be sold to Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority.

Mr Aongart also explained the end goal of the project: "The principle is to empty the landfills to support our trash management policy and so the area can be reused in the future."

However, Mr Aongart cautioned, "But don't expect too much when the new incinerator first comes online. By that time, there will be much more trash to dispose of than there is now.

"I'm not sure whether the volume of waste to be disposed of will be less than the new incinerator's capacity," he added.

Climate change experts to converge on Phuket

THE Thailand Environment Institute (TEI) will hold a seminar in Phuket bringing together key business people and nearly every branch of local government to raise awareness of climate change and the possible consequences for Phuket and its valuable tourism industry.

The seminar, to be held on October 7, is being organized as part of the Rockefeller Foundation's US\$70 million climate change resilience initiative: the Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network (ACCCRN).

A venue for the event, scheduled from 8:30am to 4:30pm, is to be confirmed.

"Phuket is famous as a tourist destination with beautiful beaches. Millions of people come to Phuket each year, generating a lot of income for the island," said a statement issued by the ACCCRN.

"Climate change effects that will affect Phuket tourism include changes in sea water temperatures, which will affect coral reefs and marine ecosystems. It also includes increases in sea levels and

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Patong smoking crackdown

PATONG business operators have been given one month to post No Smoking signs and set up smoking areas in their air-conditioned restaurants and nightclubs, or face a fine of up to 20,000 baht.

Smokers found breaking the law will face a fine of up to 2,000 baht.

The deadline was handed down by Kathu Police Superintendent Arayapan Pukbuakao on September 14.

At Kathu Police Station to hear the news was Preechavude "Prap" Keesin, the son of Patong Mayor Pian Keesin. Mr Prap is also president of the Pisona Group of



companies and president of the Patong Taxi Federation.

Also present to hear the news on behalf of some 200 entertain-

ment operators in the area were Weerawit Kurasombat and Sompetch Moosopon, respectively the current and former presidents of the Patong Entertainment Business Association.

Col Arayapan said the crackdown was the result of Kathu police receiving many complaints, mostly from tourists.

"There have been many complaints that this law was launched a long time ago, but that people still smoke in nightclubs and restaurants. We have been asked why this law is not being enforced," he said.

- Pimwara Choksakulpan

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This Week

Déjà Vu

Rajprasong fills with 10,000 red shirts for the coup anniversary.

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Find out the origins of the Vegetarian Festival and its rituals.

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

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Sport



Brave amateur golfers to play professionals in Phuket.

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Sugar palms to help revive Phromthep

PHUKET Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop on Saturday led a group of Phuket VIPs in a tree-planting ceremony aimed at increasing the number of palm trees on Phuket's iconic Phromthep Cape.

Accompanying Gov Wichai was his wife Taisika, Phuket MPs Tossaporn Thepabutr and Rewat Areerob, Phuket Senator Thanyarat Achariyachai and Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr, Deputy Secretary to the Prime Minister's Office.

Local officials included Rawai Mayor Aroon Solos and Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pekad Tantipong, who together led villagers from Rawai, Cherng Talay and Kamala in planting 46 sugar palm saplings and 200 sugar palm seeds.

The saplings, each about two meters tall, were provided by the Pattaya adventure park Nong Nooch Tropical Garden, while the sugar palm seeds were provided by Rawai Elders Club.

Governor Wichai said sugar palm trees have been recognized for centuries as the icons of Phromthep Cape.

The cape today is one of Phuket's top tourist attractions, especially at dusk when people gather there to view sunsets over the western horizon.



A sugar palm is crane-lifted into place at Laem Phromthep. Photo: Gazette

However, the number of the trees on the popular peninsula has started to decline.

The trees are dying from old age, changes in weather patterns and fire damage, Gov Wichai said.

The newly-planted trees and seedlings will be watered through a system of PVC pipes installed under the ground. The amount of

water needed is large, working out to about 30 liters per tree daily, he said.

A team of specialists has been contracted to ensure the project is a long-term success.

"We also plan to plant other types of trees [here] next year," said Mayor Aroon.

— *Phuket Gazette*

Engineer slain in Thalang

A CONSTRUCTION engineer was gunned down on September 15 on the Baan Don-Cherng Talay Road..

Police received the report at 9:30pm. Arriving at the scene, Superintendent Witoon Kongsudjai and duty officer Capt Tatchagrit Ritnuang found the bloody, bullet-riddled body of Sirichai Suphansai, 33, lying under a motorbike on the side of the road.

It has not yet been determined whether Mr Sirichai was driving the motorbike at the time of the shooting, police said.

There were three bullet wounds to Mr Sirichai's body, police said: one pierced the right side of his chest and exited through his back,

another was at his left ear and one was under his chin.

The size of the bullets remains unknown.

Local villagers told police that they had heard several shots and went outside of their homes to see what happened. They saw Mr Sirichai's body, but no sign of the murderer, police said.

The victim, a native of Ubon Ratchathani, was a project engineer at the Tamarind Hills condominium construction site on Soi Layan 2 in Cherng Talay.

Capt Tatchagrit speculated the murder could have been the result of one of three issues: a love affair, personal problems or business problems.

Climate change confab in Phuket

From Page 1

coastal erosion along land that is currently home to seaside communities, resorts and hotels.

"If people don't do anything to stop the problem, it will affect the number of tourists coming to Phuket, in turn affecting tourism and local communities," said the statement.

Some 80 participants have been invited to the conference, including relevant figures from local government agencies, private organizations, educational institutions and local branches of environmental NGOs.

High on the agenda are raising awareness of climate change and its impact on Phuket and to encourage local figures to start devising strategies to cope with the potential effects.

Among the speakers being lined up to make presentations at the event are Senior Director of TEI and ACCCRN Project Director for TEI Chamniern Paul Vorratnchaiphan and director of Southeast Asia START Regional Research Center Dr Arnon Sanidwong na Ayudhaya.

Dr Arnon made headlines earlier this month when he released his prediction models of climate

change effects on Thailand indicating that average temperatures would rise by up to 4°C.

The models also showed that sea levels would rise by 14-15 centimeters, affecting the coastal areas from Bangkok to Rayong and Phetchaburi all the way to Narathiwat, he said.

Representing Phuket, John Gray, lecturer in coastal tourism management at Prince of Songkla University's Phuket campus, will talk about readiness and handling climate change.

Interested members of the public are invited to attend the event. Entry is free.

The announcement of the TEI conference in Phuket follows ministers at the September 22 opening of the 6th APEC Tourism Ministerial Meeting in Nara, Japan, urging the sustainable growth of tourism.

"In particular, ministers discussed the need for protection of the region's natural and cultural assets to create a more environmentally sustainable sector. Creating more stable workforces in the sector and enabling tourism to generate business opportunities for small and medium sized enterprises would also lead to more inclusive growth of the sector that benefits more sections of society," said an official release.

— *Atchaa Khamlo*

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Sea gypsy cultural center moves ahead

THE award-winning design of the Orang Laut Culture Center is one big step closer to construction now that the extra budget needed has been approved.

The Phuket Cultural Office (PCO) has announced they will soon be seeking tenders for construction.

The center, which takes its name from the Malay Orang Laut, meaning "sea people", will be built at Baan Laem Tukkae on Koh Sireh.

PCO chief Tawichart Intarit said the extra funding of 4,838,200 baht had been approved under the *Thai Khem Kaeng* (Strong Thailand) scheme.

This will be used in conjunction with the original budget of 2.1 million baht sourced from the 2010 provincial budget, applied for under the original plans for the center.

"The PCO assigned the Phuket Provincial Public Works Office to draft the Terms of Reference and to hold an e-auction to hire the construction company," said Mr Tawichart.

"We expect construction to start this year," he added.

Patong villagers ramp up protest against tunnel

By Atchaa Khamlo

MORE than 100 villagers from Baan Mon community in Patong descended on Provincial Hall on Monday, September 21 to hand a formal letter of complaint to the governor against the proposed Patong tunnel project.

The villagers vowed to fight any government effort to expropriate their land, which is needed for the project.

Current scheduled rates for expropriation set by the Land Department would never cover the high costs of finding new homes in Patong, they said.

They also called for another public hearing on the project, now that a Korean firm has expressed interest in funding construction.

Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop readily accepted the villagers' concerns. "It's good when people stand up to voice their opinions. Any project must have minimal negative impact on the people."

"However, the tunnel project



Baan Mon is home to the Ratchapathanusorn, which commemorates HM The King's visit to Patong on March 11, 1959. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

still has many steps to go through," he said.

Witsanu Yidsua, village headman of the 3,000-member community, said about 30 of the community's 380 families would lose their homes from expropriation if the project becomes reality.

"We only found out that our village would be affected after it was announced that this plan had been chosen," said Mr Witsanu.

Fellow Baan Mon representative Kittisak Sa-nguanporn said, "Baan Mon is the only village in Patong that still keeps its village

lifestyle. Everywhere else is jam-packed with apartment blocks and hotels."

The previous town council rejected the tunnel project in 2008, but the current board continues to push for it, he said. "This option was chosen because it costs less, but they didn't think about the cost to our village," he said.

"The project will affect the village's water supply from the dam in the forest in the hills above, which was built after HM The King visited."

Baan Mon is home to the Ratchapathanusorn on Phisit Gorani Road. The site commemorates HM The King's visit to Patong on March 11, 1959.

Mr Witsanu said the monument will undergo a complete rebuild for next year's annual celebration marking the event. "The design is already being created by renowned artist Chalermchai Kositpipat and Patong Municipality will provide the budget of more than 10 million baht to build it," he said.

August drug cases up 70%

AUGUST saw a 70% jump in the number of reported drug cases year-on-year in Phuket, according to statistics released by the Phuket Provincial Police.

According to the statistics, 333 were people arrested in 305 drug cases last month, a 70.1% increase on the number of cases reported in August 2009.

However, the numbers for last month were down compared with July this year, when 438 people were arrested on drug charges.

Most of the drugs arrests were for *ya bah* (methamphetamine), with 235 people arrested in 225 cases, with 9,935.4 *ya bah* pills and 132.7 grams of *ya Ice* (crystal methamphetamine) seized.

Other drug arrests included: Heroin (nine arrests in seven cases, 32.9 grams seized); mari-

juana (25 arrests in seven cases, 128 grams seized); *kratom* (31 arrests in 18 cases); cocaine (one arrest, 11.2 grams seized).

There were 173 arrests for prostitution last month, a slight rise (5.5%) on last year.

There were 169 arrests in 51 cases of gambling, down 32.3% year-on-year. Twenty-six people were arrested in cases involving underground lotteries, a significant decrease (29.3%) compared with August 2009.

The number of fraud cases (six cases, three arrests) were down compared with August 2009 (15 cases, 10 arrests). Embezzlement was down 35%, with no arrests in nine reported cases.

Murder suspect endures '10-hour grilling'

THE prime suspect in the investigation into the murder of a karaoke hostess whose body was found south of Patong presented himself at Chalong Police Station on September 15.

Phitsanulok native Nipon "Maew" Pongpanit, 20, was subjected to more than 10 hours of questioning by police.

He was wanted for questioning over the rape and murder of his former girlfriend, Anicha "Nan" Khaigunha, 21, a hostess at a

karaoke bar in Patong whose body was found on September 14.

Mr Nipon, who lives in Kathu, arrived at Chalong Police Station at about 11am shortly after his close friend Aot Nanmuang, 18, from Petchabun, who lives in Karon.

Despite the marathon grilling by Inspector Lt Col Jaran Bangprasert, who is leading the murder investigation, both denied killing Ms Anicha, saying they knew nothing of her murder until Col

Jaran told them about it.

The last time they had seen the victim was on the night of September 8 at her home on Nanai Rd, they said.

The suspects were released after 9pm.

Col Jaran said the investigation so far had revealed that Ms Anicha was flirtatious and had many boyfriends, which led officers to believe jealousy was the prime motive for the killing.

— *Phuket Gazette*

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Ghost ambulance gives lucky numbers

A HOMEOWNER in Thung Song District in Nakhon Sri Thammarat is thanking a "phantom" emergency rescue vehicle for her luck in winning over 500,000 baht in the underground lottery.

The bizarre tale began shortly after midnight on September 3.

Pracha Ruamjai Foundation coordinator Akhom Phumiwetphong said that as rescue workers were relaxing at the station that night, one of their Isuzu pickup trucks converted for use as a makeshift ambulance suddenly switched on its engine.

The sound of the engine starting did not give the crew a shock, but what did frighten them was the fact that the doors were locked and the keys were safely in the hands of its owner, who was chatting with friends.

The driverless ambulance then pulled out of its parking spot, heading away from the foundation building.

The rescue workers tried to



stop the slow-moving vehicle, but to no avail.

After traveling about 15 meters, the ambulance crashed into the wall of a house diagonally across the street, Mr Akhom said.

The vehicle then switched on its tail and emergency lights, and the engine stalled.

None of the rescue workers, often derisively known as "body snatchers" in Thailand, dared to approach the vehicle.

They waited until the following morning because they were sure it had been "driven" by the angry spirit of someone who had died in the vehicle while on the way to hospital.

The rescue workers, who had begun to forget about the automotive apparition after a few weeks, got yet another surprise later on November 19.

The owner of the home the vehicle had run into appeared at the station at 8am with a strip of 500 firecrackers and some food offerings.

The woman, who asked that her name not be reported, wanted to hold a ritual to pay respect to the vehicle after hitting it big in the underground lottery.

She had been playing her own house number "423" in the illegal lottery without success for some time, she said.

After the house was rammed, she decided to change the number she played to 422, the number of the Ruamjai Foundation's headquarters.

The move paid off on September 16, when she won over half-a-million baht, she said.

— Khao Sod/Siang Tai Daily



The road remained incomplete for more than two years. Photos: Gazette/file

Officials mark the end of a blackspot

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

TOP Phuket officials, including Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop, on September 18 attended Muslim and Buddhist ceremonies for those who died at a notorious 20-meter stretch along Wiset Road in Rawai in recent years.

The section of road, where Soi Ruamjai 1 joins Wiset Road, was a center of controversy for more than two years because the land owner refused to sell it to the Phuket Provincial Highways Office (PPHO) so it could be included in a road-expansion project.

Since then, many people have lost their lives in accidents at the traffic blackspot.

The ceremony follows landowner Krissana Samart agreeing to sell the entire 400-square-meter plot, not just the 20m by 5m section that is now part of the road, for 2.5 million baht. The price is in accordance with the government schedule of "fair prices for land expropriation for government projects" as of April 8.



Anchalee Wanich-Thepabutr (left) being welcomed to the ceremony.

Among guests making merit were Rawai Mayor Aroon Solos, Governor Wichai and his wife Taisika, Phuket MP Rewat Areerob and Anchalee Wanich-Thepabutr, the Deputy Secretary to the Prime Minister's Office.

Although the section of road has now been paved, the ceremonies affected traffic passing by from 4pm through to about 5:30pm.

Mayor Aroon said that no accidents have occurred at the site since the road was paved.

After the ceremony, the guests marked the occasion with a feast at nearby Nuruddeeniyah Mosque.

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Tickled pink by national award

THE Phuket Provincial Administration Organization's "Pink Bus" project providing reasonably-priced public transport for Phuket City residents has won a national award for "Local Innovation" from the Prime Minister's Office.

The award was one of 61 awarded to local administration offices by a new Prime Minister's Office committee on decentralization of power to local administration organizations. A total of 1,003 projects were nominated nationwide.

PPAO President Paiboon Upatising accepted the award from Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva at Government House in Bangkok on the morning of September 17.

It was the first-ever presentation of the Thai Local Innovation awards, a project started by the Abhisit administration.

The presentation was followed by speeches by academics on the topic of "Local Innovation in the First Decade of Decentralization". Attendees also viewed exhibits detailing the various projects on display in the Santi Maitri Building at Government House.

In his address, PM Abhisit de-

finied the term "local innovation" as any change in government service with a clear public benefit. The awards will help local administration organizations learn from each other in adopting such innovations, he said.

Mr Paiboon said the Pink Bus project was nominated by a team of researchers from Walailak University in Nakhon Sri Thammarat. The academics served as consultants for the Prime Minister's Office for the southern region.

The Pink Buses, known locally as *poh thong*, were introduced by PPAO President Paiboon in September last year.

The fleet of 16 *songtaew* ("two-row") open-air buses gradually replaced a fleet of mechanically-plagued air-conditioned minibuses introduced by a previous PPAO administration.

None of the 16 green minibuses are still in operation. A source at the PPAO said the organization was still unsure what to do with old green buses, as they were too run down to justify the cost of repair or replacement.

The Pink Buses run the same two routes as their predecessors: Route 1: Big C to Saphan Hin; and



The award-winning Pink Buses plying the streets of Phuket Town. Photos: Stephen Fein/Phuket Gazette

Route 2: Super Cheap to the Fresh Market on Chao Fa East Road. Fares are 10 baht for all journeys and free for children.

A third route connecting Koh Sireh in Rassada to Phuket Town is the next route planned.

In the latest development, PPAO officials are now inspecting 73 newly-installed signs at bus stops along both routes.

Chutaporn Chantat, an officer at PPAO Supplies and Property Division, said work installing the

signs was carried out under a two-million-baht budget, with work beginning March 31 and ending September 15. As with other projects carried out by the current PPAO administration, the signs are pink. — *Phuket Gazette*



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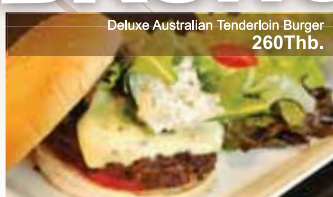
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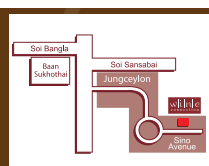
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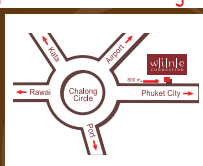
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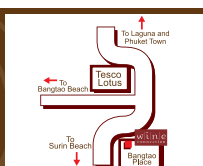
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Broker of dreams and ambitions

By Janpen Upatising

AS SCORES of Burmese workers rush to become legal workers in Phuket, Thanadech Supasuwan has stepped up to take care of guiding laborers through the bureaucratic maze – a task many see as monumental and sometimes dangerous.

Mr Thanadech runs Noom Broker Co, a Burmese citizenship verification coordination center on Thepkasattri Road that facilitates the process of legalizing foreign laborers amid an initiative by the Thai government to have a fully legitimate workforce within two years.

BEGINNINGS

It's a line of work he fell into as a matter of circumstance, Mr Thanadech explained to the *Gazette*.

His father owned a fishing vessel and had between 40 and 50 Burmese workers under his care. It was his responsibility to submit foreign labor applications for the crew. Proving himself adept at handling the process, many of his father's friends asked him to help them as well, he said.

In the past, the Thai government limited Burmese laborers to working in the fishing industry. Nowadays they work in many fields, such as construction, gardening, housekeeping and laundry, he pointed out.

"At that time, we thought that making applications for Burmese laborers in the fishing industry would be enough for us and the Thai government didn't allow migrant workers to come to Thailand and work in various industries like they do nowadays," he said.

THE BUSINESS

Mr Thanadech started the business 14 years ago to deal with document preparation and to coordinate between government



Mr Thanadech (inset) helps Burmese become legal in Phuket. Photo: Gazette file/Janpen Upatising

agencies and employers.

At the "heart" of the process is the nationality verification workers must obtain from their home country, he said.

His company helps Burmese laborers verify their nationality by first submitting applications to Phuket Provincial Employment Office. From there it goes to the Bangkok office, Embassy of Myanmar Thailand, to Yangon and then to relative provincial offices in Burma, he said.

He added that it takes at least two months before identification certificates are sent from Burma, to Thailand and onto his desk.

After receiving the documents, he can assist Burmese workers in applying for temporary passports at Kawthaung (formerly named Victoria Point), a village in Burma reached through Ranong, Thailand.

It's a one-day process in which Mr Thanadech's company provides

a bus for workers to Ranong where they cross the border, get their temporary passports which are valid for three years, then receive a two-year non-immigrant visa on re-entry to Thailand, he said.

Back in Thailand, the workers must report to Phuket Immigration within seven days and apply for a work permit within one month.

Noom Broker takes care of preparing and submitting all of the documents to the Phuket Provincial Employment Office for processing, which takes two to three days, he said.

The whole process, Mr Thanadech said, from nationality verification to work permit, takes approximately three months. The total, per-person cost charged for the entire process, including travel to Ranong, is 500 baht.

Noom Broker General Manager Prathtana Kanjanavanon said, "The process is so complicated and takes so much time. It's also confusing for employers because the government officers tend to use formal language that is unclear to them."

So far, Noom Broker has successfully obtained temporary

passports for 600 Burmese workers on Phuket. According to the Phuket Provincial Employment Office's latest statistics, there are 4,470 Burmese workers holding passports registered with the office. Unofficial estimates of the total number of Burmese workers on Phuket go as high as 200,000.

TROUBLES

There have been rumors among Burmese laborers that they would not be able to return to their homeland, as they fear extortion. A major concern is that the Burmese junta would levy excessive taxes against their family members remaining in Burma, as the government assumes workers in Thailand are commanding much higher wages.

Beyond the myriad difficulties and confusion Burmese citizens face in the process, local employers are also uncertain.

Rachanee Danurakchai, owner of MS Food, said she attended a meeting with the Ministry of Labor in Bangkok about foreign workers illegally working in Thailand.

"At the meeting, employers were

told that after the workers run the term of their passports, they will be sent back to Burma and cannot return to Thailand for at least two years. We, as the employers, are confused. We will be in trouble because we won't be able to find more workers when the others return home. All we can do is wait for clear orders from the government," she said.

Suthichai Pinkate, a building contractor in Chalong, said, "I went through the temporary passport application process by myself [without hiring a broker]. However, after the Burmese workers got their passports and work permits, more than 160 of them quit their jobs and left me without reason."

THE FUTURE?

Mr Thanadech said that the younger generation of Burmese on Phuket wish to work in other fields, outside of manual labor.

"I have talked to some workers who graduated from Yangon University. They are just as talented as Thai people are; they have English as a second language. It's just that their opportunities are limited.

"However, if the Thai government allows them the opportunity to work in other fields, Thai workers would suffer because the competition would be greater in the future," he said.

Mr Thanadech said that for now, despite the obstacles, "some of the Burmese are delighted to make everything right. They want to work and return home legally. They feel more secured and accepted by being able to go anywhere and do anything they want. Most of them, after getting their passports and work permits, are very happy.

"They can apply for driving licenses, open bank accounts and catch flights. They [wishing to stay in Phuket] think it is not good for them to return to Burma anyway."

The national verification process will run until the end of February 2011, after which Burmese workers in Thailand without passports will be sent back to Burma.

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Reds pour in for ceremony

MONTHS after the bloody crack-down that ended this year's red shirt protests, Bangkok's Rajprasong shopping district was once again engulfed in a sea of red.

About 10,000 red shirts gathered there on September 19 for a peaceful rally to commemorate the fourth anniversary of the coup that ended Thaksin Shinawatra's premiership.

The protesters demanded that the killers of the 91 people who died during the protests face justice.

Events also took place in the red-shirt strongholds of Chiang Mai, Phitsanuloke, Phayao, Ubon Ratchathani, Ayudhaya, Rayong and Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

Despite earlier fears, there were no violent incidents.

Sombat Boon-ngam-anong, the red shirt leader who organized the Rajprasong rally, said more people turned out than expected.

The high numbers led to Mr Sombat calling off the event an hour early at 6:30pm.

The crowd was getting too difficult to control without loudspeakers, which are banned under the emergency decree still in place in the capital, he said.

The large gathering brought traffic at Rajprasong intersection



AROUND THE
nation

to a halt for most of the afternoon.

The protesters released red balloons and lit candles in remembrance of the dead.

There was little sign of Mr Thaksin's influence over the rally. Department of Special Investigation director-general Tharit Pengdit told the *Bangkok Post* that there was no indication of money flowing in from abroad to fund the activities.

The character of the event was



Red shirts in Chiang Mai September 19 participated in "mock clashes" (left), while despite rains more than 10,000 flooded Bangkok. Photos: AFP

more in keeping with the peaceful and symbolic protests held by Mr Sombat and his Red Sunday group in recent weeks.

Student activists re-enacted the suppression of protesters and the crowd cheered a man impersonating the late Maj-General Khattiya "Seh Daeng" Sawasdiapol, the red shirt army specialist killed by a shot to the head by a sniper.

Nevertheless, many protesters

were angry. Some repeatedly shouted "Abhisit, get out!" and "B***** ordered the killing."

Mr Sombat told the crowd that he would like to apologise to businesses affected by the latest rally and those in April and May.

"We should come back and apologise. I and all red shirts would like to apologise. I'll also come back and shop here," he said.

— *Phuket Gazette*

Burma vote spurs Thai drug surge

ETHNIC rebels in Burma are ramping up their supply of *ya bah* (methamphetamine) to Thailand as tensions increase in the run-up to the Burmese elections in November, AFP reports.

The northern branch of Thailand's Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) has reported a surge in seizures of methamphetamine tablets to 10.8 million between January and August 2010, from 2.9 million in the same period last year.

Burma has been torn by civil war since independence in 1948, with ethnic minorities fighting domination by the Burmese junta.

The country is preparing to hold its first elections in 20 years on November 7. The elections have largely been dismissed by observers as a sham designed to cement military rule.

In the run up to the polls the government has sought to force many ethnic rebel groups to join the Burmese army as border guard forces.

Many of the groups oppose the plans, and fighting looks likely to break out again after a recent lull.

The trade in opium and *ya bah* (methamphetamine) funds many of the rebel groups' activities.

Aung Naing Oo, a Burma analyst based in Thailand, told AFP the rising threat of hostilities has led to increased drug trafficking on the border by rebel groups because they need money to fight the government.

Chief among the traffickers is the United Wa State Army (UWSA), the military arm of the Wa people. It has been described as the "leading heroin and methamphetamine trafficking organisation in Southeast Asia" by the US Drug Enforcement Agency.

The UWSA invests much of the profits from the drugs trade into its military.

Saudi Arabia hits back, 'killer cop' retreats

THE NEXT in line to become assistant national police chief, Lt Gen Somkid Boonthanom, will not accept the position after Saudi Arabia strongly objected due to his alleged involvement in the disappearance of a Saudi businessman in Bangkok 20 years ago, *The Nation* reported.

Lt Gen Somkid is one of five suspects indicted in the 1990 disappearance of Mohammad al-Ruwaili.

The Saudi embassy as of September 21 had returned 1,035 visa applications from Thai Muslims wishing to take part in the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca this year and was refusing to accept any more, according to a *Khao Sod* report.

The move prompted Thailand's Hajj Organizers Association (HOA) to demand the government take action to end the dispute.

On September 15, Deputy Prime Minister Suthep Thaugsuban and Saudi Charge d' Affaires Nabil Hussein Ashri met with a House of Representatives committee.

Mr Ashri told the committee that "if the promotion was not revoked, it might affect bilateral relations, the quota of Thai Muslims going on Hajj and tourism between the two countries," according to committee chairman Pracha Prasobdee.

Culture Minister Niphit Intharabombat denied that the halt in the processing of visas was related to



Lt Gen Somkid will not accept his promotion. Photo: Khwandow Jitraporna

Lt Gen Somkid's appointment.

Diplomatic relations appeared to sour further after a meeting on September 18 between Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva and Mr Ashri.

After Mr Abhisit made a statement about the meeting which

appeared to claim Mr Ashri was "ill-informed", the Saudi envoy released a statement blasting the government.

"I strongly object to comments made by Thai officials to the public claiming my misunderstanding or 'ill information' of local issues and laws regarding the promotion of Pol Lt Gen Somkid," he said, according to the *Bangkok Post*.

The Police Commission is likely to hold a special session September 24 to amend police appointments, *The Nation* reported September 22.

The Saudi Embassy has resumed issuing visas to Thai pilgrims. There are about 13,000 Thais planning to go on Hajj this year.

— *Phuket Gazette*



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Religious tolerance a hallmark of Phuket

Re: Phuket Gazette, Muslim prayer hall is part of Phuket life, September 18

When I first came to Rawai 19 years ago, it was obvious to see that a large proportion of the "locals" were, and still are, of the Islamic faith.

And may I add, they are seemingly living in peace and harmony with their Buddhist neighbors – and the (relatively) recent arrival of us tourists.

I'm not up to date on my Muslim history in the region, but I'm fairly sure these Thai nationals have been practising their choice of faith for many centuries in this part of their country – says it all, really.

But I am very glad these locals are tolerant of people like myself, who has made Rawai a permanent home for the past three years.

*Charlie
United Kingdom*

Tourism being strangled by filth

My wife and I have just returned to Australia after a stay in Phuket, namely at Kata Beach.

I was heartened by the warmth of the Thai people, their dignity and friendliness. Unfortunately, I was less impressed with the rampant pollution.

Karon Beach appeared at first glance to be beautiful, but when we looked at the foreshore we saw an unbroken line of rubbish including plastic bags, old rope and bottles that must have been there for years.

Kata Beach was covered with refuse every day. I noticed that some of the restaurants and small stall vendors on the beach tried to remove some of the rubbish each

Setting the stage for a new start

Phuket Gazette

A MEETING earlier this month about problems facing the central stage area at Saphan Hin ended with an unsurprising result: a new committee will be formed to deal with the issues involved.

For readers who missed the *Gazette's* online report ('Phuket Town officials tackle Saphan Hin woes', September 18, 2010), the key issues are economic, although some stakeholders have donned the mantle of environmentalism to help further their goals.

Few would argue that the central stage area at Saphan Hin and its surroundings are strained by the number of people attending events there. Anyone who has visited the area the morning after a "big night" cannot fail to notice the piles of garbage, stench of urine and other manifestations of a collective environmental hangover – one that has to be cleaned up before the next round of partying begins.

That task generally falls to the event organizers and the municipality, who generally do an impressive job of moving the mountains of unsorted waste to the incinerator and landfill, conveniently located a kilometer away.

Among those complaining about the events are small business operators nearby. These people pay rent to the city, only to find the masses shunning their establishments in favor of the great food, cheap draft beer, amusement park entertainments, live performances and other attractions at the main stage area.

They certainly have a right to complain, but

day, but only in small areas.

Every time I went surfing, my legs were entangled in plastic and rubbish. After a small storm I noticed a more worrying trend of glass bottles and wood with exposed nails being washed up and left ashore. Even if I wanted to pick up some of the rubbish, there

they should consider that these events also draw a lot of people to the area who might otherwise stay away, not an irrational decision given all the violence that has taken place there over the years. In some cases, notably the Halal Festival and Local Food Fair when no alcohol is available, nearby shopkeepers also enjoy record sales.

Saphan Hin offers island residents year-round, authentic Thai fun and good value for money. Rather than consider moving some of these events to Patong, which is already choking under the volume of waste it generates, let's put more emphasis on organizing events at Saphan Hin in an environmentally-friendly way.

A good start would be to provide different bins for organic, non-organic and recyclable wastes and force vendors to use biodegradable containers, not plastic. All the different agencies that stage events there bleat endlessly on these issues, then organize events in the most hypocritical fashion imaginable.

If raising public awareness is so important, what more appropriate place could there be to start than at Saphan Hin? Not only is it the receptacle of 500 tons of waste daily from all over the island, but it wouldn't even exist if not for the environmental sins of our tin-mining forefathers.

was only one bin on the whole beach. The saddest experience was snorkeling at Khai Island. The fish were gorgeous, but a little distance from the tourist beach I saw a trail of used disposable nappies left lying on the ocean floor.

In summary, Phuket is in danger of being strangled by filth. I

have had beach holidays in Bali, Sumatra and Fiji, and I have to say that Thailand is a disgrace by comparison.

It is obvious that in Phuket the local authorities have no overall strategy to collect rubbish and instead rely on half-hearted efforts by others.

I would love to return again, but won't until this problem is tackled. I don't want to waste my time traveling to an island paradise only to wade in filth. I certainly can't recommend the trip to others.

*Dr Peter Patmore
Australia*

Minimum pricing across the board

Re: Phuket Gazette, Patong hotels call for price war truce, September 11

I was so pleased to see the great idea that the PHGA had about minimum prices for hotels. This could logically extend to all businesses in Phuket.

I have a bar, and business is bad. Some bars are selling beer at discount prices, and extended happy hours. If we set the minimum price for a beer at 100 baht and eliminated happy hours, this would solve the problem of low revenue in the bar business.

Also, my Thai girlfriend rents mopeds from in front of her hair-dressing salon/massage parlor, as do countless business on Nanai Road. They are all starving because they can only get 150 baht a day from renting each motor-bike. A minimum price of say, 300 baht a day, would make it better.

Then of course, the luxury property market could thrive again and my three-bedroom condo in Rawai would fetch me the 28 million baht it was supposed to be worth by now.

We should learn a lesson from the tuk-tuk drivers. These guys know how to take care of their markets. Having over 2,000 tuk-tuks in Phuket, yet still high prices, is proof that with some simple organization between operators, minimum prices can be achieved.

*Billy Bouts
Patong*

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Issues & Answers...

Phoning a Firefly

Lately, the front page of every issue of the *Gazette* has featured an advertisement for Firefly Airlines.

As I have no access to the Internet and there are no other contact details in the ad, would you please give me their telephone number, as I intend to book a trip through them?

*Gustav Garmaun
Cape Panwa*

Vutti "Woody" Trichaisri, general manager of Thailand Discovery Aviation and Tours Co Ltd, the official agent in Thailand for Firefly Airlines, replies:

You can book trips through our Phuket airline marketing representative office located on the third floor of Phuket International Airport.

The office's phone number is 076-351477.

Our other Thailand offices are in Bangkok (02-2681280) and Koh Samui (077-601400).

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

How do I know if the bill collector is legit?

I have been a customer of Phuket Cable TV for some time. I recently noticed a public service announcement on Channel 1 warning people not to hand over any money to unauthorized bill collectors posing as legitimate Phuket Cable staff.

I usually just go to the office to pay myself, but how can I know if the bill collector is legit or not? Is this a big problem for Phuket Cable?

If so, how many people have been scammed? I would also like

to know more about the broadband Internet service you now advertise. Can I get it at my home in Rassada?

*Jeremiah Long
Rassada*

A customer service officer at Phuket Cable Company replies:

So far there have been no customer complaints about "fake" Phuket Cable staff collecting bills, but as a precaution we ask all Phuket Cable customers to verify the status of bill collectors.

They can do this by asking to see their employee ID cards, which state their full name and position. The card also features the company logo. Customers can also call the company office to ask whether the person is an employee.

As for our broadband service, it is currently available only at Land and Houses Park residential estate on Chao Fa East Road in Chalong. Many people have expressed interest in this service, which we plan to extend island-wide by the end of next year.

Cultural tourism is no small attraction

FIRST PERSON

THE upcoming Phuket Vegetarian Festival is the one major cultural event in Phuket that has plenty of activities all in the one festival. This makes the Vegetarian Festival look much more interesting to tourists than other festivals, such as the Moon Festival that got underway earlier this week.

The Moon Festival is too small, not powerful enough to attract many tourists. Small festivals like these could potentially attract more tourists, but part of the problem is that tourists don't even know when the festivals are on or when to join in the activities, enjoying things to see and do.

Tourism organizations such as the Tourism Authority of Thailand should promote these small events more, perhaps by producing a festival calendar or promoting them through a tourist information center, or posting more details about them on the Internet or in newspapers.

Our cuisine and cooking traditions are tourism resources, but they need to be better promoted. Food vendors should coordinate more, offering tourists a wider range of dishes to try.

If one vendor isn't offering one particular dish that a tourist asks for, then the vendor should direct the tourist to a vendor who does have it.

For example, this month is the *Sart Duen Sib* festival, or "10th



Renowned historian Assist Prof **Sommai Pinphutthasin**, 64, is director of the Phuket Mining Museum. The Songkhla-born Master of Education was a lecturer at what is now Phuket Rajabhat University from 1976 until 2006. Here he shares some thoughts on how Phuket could better benefit from cultural tourism.

month merit-making festival", in Nakhon Sri Thammarat. It is being well promoted, which means fewer people will be coming to Phuket.

But here in Phuket we can promote the traditional foods associated with this festival, such as *Khanom La* and *Khanom Tian*. All we need to do is tell tourists where they can find it, such as at the many fresh markets where they are available.

The sea gypsy boat floating festival, held in the middle of the sixth and eleventh lunar months, is another cultural event often overlooked.

If the TAT provided more details on what is happening in which village on which days, tourists wouldn't have to miss a thing. Just for example, if they missed the boat floating ceremony on Koh Sireh, they could go to the one in Rawai the following day.

Other Thai festivals are well known, but not well run in Phuket. Loy Kratong is not a big celebration in the South, but we can make

it into a big festival. We have rivers, canals and the sea for people who want to organize big events. The only problem is the rain at that time of year.

Songkran is another festival in Phuket that runs for just a short time. This one also needs more activities, other than just splashing water at each other.

Phuket has a mixed culture blending together Chinese, Muslim and even Western people. We can take all these cultures offer and offer them as one.

For example, on Songkran we should hold activities in which young people show respect to elders.

We could invite important people, such as the governor or even ambassadors, to join a water-pouring ceremony to ask for blessings from a respected elder.

This would highlight to tourists the beauty of this festival while bringing together people who would otherwise never have met. It would be such a good activity.



3G: We're just not switched on

Island View

By Terry Seagram

THE current fiasco over the National Telecommunications Commission wanting to auction 3G internet licenses is impressive. After all these years, we still do not have 3G access.

I do feel sorry for all those people who rushed out to spend their hard-earned baht on an iPhone, thinking they would be able to get the most from their 20,000-plus baht purchase.

When Thaksin set up the NTC years ago, there was a furore over how many people he handpicked to join the committee. But now with 20-20 hindsight we can see that despite the obvious shortcomings of having a group of people ready to serve one person's interests, that might just be better than actually having many people each scrambling to maximize their own personal gain.

I guess in that way the situation is like comparing Pattaya with Phuket. Both places are very popular with foreigners and both

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

have very well developed entertainment industries, much of it of a dubious nature. In short, they are both very lucrative places for doing business.

But Pattaya was raised under the guiding hand of one man, Somchai Khunpleum, better known as Kamnan Po. Phuket, however, has been developed through a never-ending procession of government officials and a handful of privateers doing the best they can for themselves, as is the nature of the free market.

At least Pattaya got a "baht bus", where people can hop on and off along the circuitous routes for just 20 baht.

The day Phuket has even that seems far, far away.

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

After the market stalls have gone

I live near the "old", abandoned temporary market (on Wirat Hongyok Road) and pass by it every day.

All the rubbish has been left there since it closed. Isn't anybody responsible for cleaning up the area? Are there any plans to do so? If so, when?

*Market forces
Phuket Town*

Wina Pikunphon, chief of the Division of Public Health and Environment at Phuket City Municipality, replies:

We are now arranging to take bids from contractors to demolish the building at the old temporary market site on Wirat Hongyok Road.

The rubbish will be collected when the demolished building is cleared away.

We expect it will take about two months to find a contractor to do the work.

Does the 80-meter limit still apply?

On September 17, 2002, the *Gazette* reported that Prasong Iam-anun, then head of the National Environment Board committee, announcing at a seminar at The Metropole hotel that the ban on building construction at heights of 80 meters above sea level or higher were continue for at least another year.

Is this rule still in force today?

*Bird's Eye
Patong*

Natthaporn Jarunkiatkhajorn, an officer at the Phuket Natural Resources and Environmental office, replies:

The ban on construction above 80 meters above sea level is still in force. As we do not have enough officers to check everywhere, people need to inform us of anyone breaking the ban, then we can go out to investigate.

Actually, the local municipalities, which know their areas very well, have greater authority than



us in such matters. Complaints can be made by calling us at 076-211067.

Choesita Panchue, Secretary to the Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) at Patong Municipality, replies:

The building on the top of the

hill is a radar center and belongs to the military and the other building below is the military residence. The land belongs to the government.

If anyone wants more information about projects in our area, they can call Patong Municipality at 076-344255.

Deposit refunds a vision to behold?

When you cancel your True Visions package, do you really get your deposit back?

*Large William
Patong*

Tannaree Tonkaew, customer service officer at Southern Television Co, the agent for True Visions in Phuket, replies:

The first thing you will have to do is notify us [Southern Television Co, the True Visions office on Phang Nga Rd in Phuket Town] of your intent to cancel your subscription.

Then we can send a technician to collect the receiver dish and/or the decoder box.

This should take no more than one day.

Then we will coordinate with the True Visions head office in Bangkok to have your deposit refunded to you.

You should receive a refund check within 45 days.

On The Move *Introducing the island's movers and shakers*



Sheraton Grande Laguna has appointed **Ms Luxme Wongsaraya** as the new Assistant Director of Event Sales. Based in the Bangkok office, she will manage MICE and group markets. Ms Wongsaraya brings a wealth of knowledge in sales and MICE markets, with over 12 years hospitality experience. She has previously held a number of senior sales positions within international hotels in Thailand.



The Pavilions, Phuket is delighted to announce the new appointment of **Ms Linda Augier** as Guest Relations Manager. French national, Ms Augier, joins the Pavilions team after four years working for Relais and Chateaux hotels around the world, including Eden Rock Hotel in the Caribbean island of St Bart and Le Taha'a Island Resort & Spa in the French Polynesian Islands.



Mrs Kanokporn Ilstam was recently appointed the Managing Director of the new early childhood development program Gymboree Phuket in Central Festival. Mrs Ilstam has 10 years experience working in the hospitality industry, as a Guest Relations Manager for Le Meridien Phuket Yacht Club and as a Senior Assistant Spa Manager at Banyan Tree Spa.

West Sands enters timeshare market

WEST Sands resort has launched its Vacation Club scheme.

The scheme is designed to boost the Mai Khao resort's timeshare investments.

Using a points system, investors can reserve any room type, at any time, in over 2,500 resorts worldwide under the arm of the Interval International timeshare group that West Sands has joined.

Project Director of the Vacation Club Oliver Hartwig said the new points scheme is "bringing timeshare out of the 80s and into the 21st Century".

Mr Hartwig said the 3,600 investment points option will be very popular.

Members can stay one week per year in a two-bedroom unit, or up to three weeks in a studio during the high season.

Alternatively, the points can be used to stay in a two-story penthouse or in a beachfront pool villa for two nights.

There are also finance options available for all nationalities interested in investing in the new scheme.

— **Phuket Gazette**

Google takes to the sky

By Alastair Carthew

I BET a few of you saw this coming. The next big thing in the airline industry is "Google Airlines".

Google has entered the airline industry through ITA Software, a major US flight information software company that will encourage users to purchase flights online.

This USD 700 million acquisition Google has made will benefit passengers, airlines and online travel agencies by making it easier for users to make comparisons of flights and airfares.

They will do this by directing more potential customers to the websites of airlines and online travel agencies. Google will not be setting airfare prices, that will still be up to the airlines. They also have no plans to sell airline tickets to consumers.

The acquisition means Google has access to ITA's QPX software system, an efficient management system for airfare pricing and shopping.

QPX can search a billion combinations per query for fares, schedules and availability of flights.



WORLD DOMINATION: CEO Eric Schmidt has plans for Google to expand beyond Google Earth and into the skies. Photo: Jolie O'Dell

Its XML interface lets customers make changes more quickly and efficiently, respond to shifting market conditions, drive sales and reduce distribution costs.

The Google purchase might present a threat to existing online travel agencies [OTAs] like Hotels.com and Expedia.

ITA's technology would enable Google to consolidate the search for hotels and airlines with the actual booking process, eliminating a need for travelers to search on a search engine and then book on an existing OTA's booking engine.

On the other hand there are a

multitude of search engines in the cyber sphere that could still make them competitive.

Certainly the reactions in the blogosphere to the Google announcement were mixed. One anonymous user contended that consumers are going back to the travel shops such as Kayak, Expedia and TripAdvisor who are the "real" travel experts.

Other industry experts see the Google power brand as giving it a pivotal position in the travel planning process and an impact on consumer traffic patterns.

Another thought the threat to the OTAs from Google is significant as it would give "highly qualified" leads for good purchases and override commissions for a ticket sold through an OTA.

A survey from Jupiter Research,

a US based company, showed that Internet searches have surpassed referrals from friends or family and visits to the travel agent's office as the main source for determining where to go on holiday (20%).

That is considerably ahead of the next source; online advertisements and television advertisements at just under 10% each followed by emails and newsletters (6%), radio ads, magazine ads and newspaper ads each around 2%.

Google has already taken the lead on smart phone platforms such as iPhone, Nokia Symbian and BlackBerry, so if it were additionally to become the number one travel search and booking site, it would be a one-stop-shop that no other OTA could compete with.

An alternative point of view comes from Graham Turner, managing director of large Australian based travel service provider Flight Centre Ltd. He believes that online travel buying has reached a plateau, saying that online margins were very low. As Flight Centre Ltd was not an online agent, he was not concerned about the Google purchase.

But the Google move does have other sectors of the travel industry worried, fearing Google will use its enormous power to cut out competition from the likes of OTAs such as Kayak, Orbitz and Microsoft's Bing. Kayak, in fact, backed by Expedia Inc. tried to buy ITA instead of Google to stop the deal, but failed.

The deal still has to get regulatory approval.

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Wage hike sought for low-earners

By Sitthipong Nongkaew

PHUKET'S minimum wage could rise by 10 baht per day following a local committee agreement.

The hike would see base wages jump from 204 to 214 baht if approved by the Central Wage Committee this month.

This could place Phuket ahead of Bangkok and Samut Prakan, currently the highest in the country at 206 baht per day.

Phuket's Minimum Wage Committee announced the move at Phuket Provincial Hall on September 15.

Director of the Phuket Provincial Labor Office Suthipong Saiskarej, said the current minimum wage did not reflect the high cost of living on the island.

"Employees spend most of their money on living [expenses] and

there is also inflation, so our top priority in making this decision had to be for the employees.

Mr Suthipong said many Phuket employers already pay higher than the minimum wage and would not be affected by the increase.

Chairman of The Federation of Thai Industries (FTI) Phuket Chapter Ornanong Suwannakarn, said increasing the minimum wage may adversely affect the Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) and Phuket's economy.

"Some SMEs are not capable of paying an increased wage and will have to consider more carefully the number of employees they can afford," she said.

In making its decision, the committee considered the cost of living expenses in Phuket, local employers' capacity to pay, and the province's current economic climate.

The committee also considered Phuket Provincial Labor Office (PPLO) statistics for January through August this year.

According to the statistics, 25,624 workers lost their jobs and 34,140 workers found employment during the period.

Meanwhile, the PPLO job center recorded 4,307 workers applying for jobs and 3,841 positions being filled during the period.

Although the general consensus is that the minimum wage hike will be good for the island, Phuket Chamber of Commerce (PCC) President Dr Sirichai Silpa-archa believes that the problem has not been fully solved.

"I agree with the increase, but the real problem is that the cost of living in Phuket is so high. This is the issue that needs to be addressed, and reduced," he said.



HAPPY WORKERS: The minimum wage rise of 10 baht will please many Phuket workers on low-income salaries. Photo: AFP

Phuket-Chiang Mai long haul set for 2011



WAITING TO BE GREEN: The new buses before their green paint job.

TRAVELERS with plenty of stamina will soon be able to travel directly by bus between Phuket and Chiang Mai, a journey of nearly a full day.

Green Bus, which already holds a concession for air-conditioned bus transport in Northern Thailand, plans to launch the service in early 2011. The journey will take 22 to 23 hours.

Somchai Thongkhamkhon, managing director of Green Bus parent company Chaipattana Transportation, said the company won the concession for the service from the Department of Land Transportation in mid-August.

The company has ordered five new air-conditioned "VIP" buses at a cost eight million baht each to service the long-haul route.

While normal Thai "Standard 1" VIP buses are 12 meters long with 24 seats, the new buses will be 15 meters long and seat 30, Mr Somchai said.

A Chaipattana Transportation representative told the *Gazette* the cost of a round-trip journey is tentatively set to cost about 1,700 baht. The service will probably start in March, she said.

Thai Airways and Thai AirAsia currently operate daily direct flights between the two cities, which take around two hours.

Admitting the journey for the new service was rather long, Mr Somchai said the route would help train company staff in long-distance driving.

The company also plans to launch bus services from Thailand

to Kunming in China, he said.

Following the new Asian Highway R3a, the route will leave Thailand at Chiang Khong in Chiang Rai Province, pass through Laos and connect to Kunming in China's Yunnan Province.

— *The Nation and Stephen Fein*

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A Comanche Indian empire strikes back

Books

By James Eckardt

Empire of the summer moon

By S.C. Gwynne

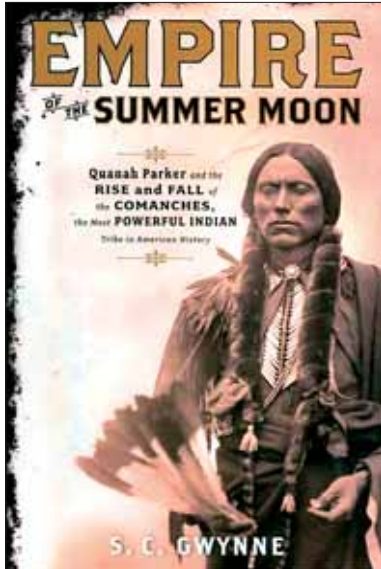
THE greatest western ever made was the John Ford/John Wayne epic *The Searchers*. It is the tale of two Texans searching for a white girl abducted by the Comanches and raised as one of their own. Alan Le May, who wrote the novel upon which the screenplay was based, researched no less than 64 cases of white children raised as Comanches.

The most famous was Cynthia Ann Parker. She was nine in 1836 when the Comanches killed and mutilated the rest of her family and she was rescued by the Texas Rangers in 1860 at the age of 33. Except she didn't want to be rescued.

She was a Comanche with a husband and three children. The oldest was Quanah Parker, aged 12, who would become the tribe's greatest warrior chief. He was the leader of the last free band of raiders and buffalo hunters who finally surrendered to the whites in 1875.

S.C. Gwynne's *Empire of the Summer Moon* (Scribner, New York, 2010, 371pp) is a rousing history of the Comanches, a tribe that never numbered more than 20,000, whose mounted warriors held back the march of millions of whites into much of Texas for over half a century. They also terrorized Mexicans and Apaches, raiding freely over the American southwest.

"The Comanche male was thus gloriously, astonishingly free," Gwynne writes. "He was subject to no church . . . no state, no police, no public law, no strict rules



of personal behavior, nothing telling him he could not leave his band and join another one.

"They would meet their match with the Texas Rangers. The Texans were unlike the Spanish or the Mexicans. 'They were tougher, meaner, almost impossible to discourage, willing to take absurd risks to secure themselves a plot of dirt.'"

Quanah Parker was 12 when his mother was abducted by the whites. He achieved early fame as a raider and stealer of horses.

He defeated the first detachment of the US Cavalry sent out to chase him down in his stronghold of the Staked Plains desert of West Texas. He stole their horse herd and dispatched them off on an ordeal by foot across the desert back to their fort.

He successfully fought off three army campaigns against him until he and his band of 1,000 were alone on the plains. After his surrender, he prospered as a rancher and farmer in Oklahoma, filling a large house with his seven wives and 23 children, some of whom married white men. Cynthia Ann's ending was sad. She never accepted the white world and tried

time and again to escape back to her people, the Comanche.

The notion of a white woman becoming an Indian wife and mother horrified the polite society of the time. To the whites, the Comanche were the savages in black war paint and buffalo-horned caps who attacked farmhouses by night, burning, looting, raping, killing, inflicting horrible torture and mutilation.

But to Cynthia Ann, the Comanche were her people. Though as a woman her lot was hard, following the buffalo herds to do the butchering and skinning, her memories of camp life were happy ones.

Her heart was broken when her four-year-old daughter Prairie Flower died in 1864 of influenza and pneumonia. She herself died in 1870, believing that her two sons were dead out in the prairie.

Quanah Parker died in 1911, but not before reinterring his mother from Texas to a plot near his home in Oklahoma. His most precious possession, kept on a wall above his bed, was a photo of Cynthia Ann taken in Fort Worth in 1862, with Prairie Flower nursing at her breast.



Behind the pages

Elizabeth Gilbert

AMERICAN author Elizabeth Gilbert, most famous for her 2006 memoir *Eat, Pray, Love*, has found her way into many women's hearts with her honest and intimate recollection of self-exploration and discovery into what it means to be living as a woman today.

Her appeal as an author lies in her emotional relation to billions of women on the planet and how

every woman at some point, like the author, has doubts about the life path they chose.

Determined to shed light on commitment, marriage and family life, she poses questions of compatibility, infatuation, fidelity, family tradition, social expectations, risks and responsibilities.

Her latest memoir, *Committed: A Skeptic Makes Peace with Marriage*, released in January this year picks up where *Eat, Pray, Love* ended.

This time, instead of struggling to come to terms with spending her life in purgatory in the institute of marriage and leaving her husband, she is forced to wed and face her fear of commitment or stand the chance of losing her new found love, Felipe.

It is through glimpses of her self-reflection and thorough investigation into marriage – from historical and modern perspectives – that the reader takes their own lessons and relates.

Eat, Pray, Love fans have recently enjoyed the release of the film version of the book, starring Julia Roberts.

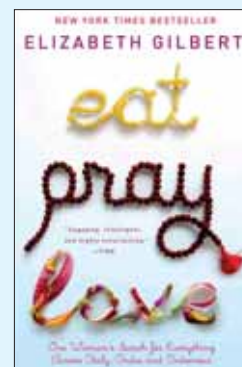
– Nicky Vermeulen



Bestsellers

English language books in Thailand

- 1) **The Lost Symbol**
Dan Brown (325 baht)
- 2) **What The Dog Saw**
Malcolm Gladwell (350 baht)
- 3) **Nightfall**
Stephen Leather (350 baht)
- 4) **Eat, Pray, Love**
Elizabeth Gilbert (325 baht)
- 5) **The Girl Who Played With Fire** – Stieg Larsson (350 baht)



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LIGHTING THE WAY: The front facade of Blue Elephant restaurant in Phuket Town. Photos: Blue Elephant



FINE FOOD: Exquisitely presented dishes are in abundance at the restaurant.

There's an elephant in the attic

IN PHUKET town's much-vaunted old quarter lies a strikingly attractive former governor's mansion that is one of the town's most beautiful buildings.

Straddling the corner of Krabi and Satun roads, The Blue Elephant has a rich and well-documented history of previous familial incumbents – all tin barons with names that would rack up triple-digit Scrabble scores.

But times have changed, so, over the years, what was once a powerful symbol of the barons' power has gradually morphed into something of a white elephant.

No wonder the owners decided to change it into a blue one.

Blue Elephant restaurants and cooking schools franchise have branches in 12 countries around the globe and are to be found at some pretty snooty Parisian and Brussels addresses.

This makes it sort of logical that the Phuket Branch would be

On the Menu

by Sam Wilko

barracked in an impressive *pieta-terre* in such tropically verdant surroundings.

The seemingly endless rooms and halls at the colonial Chinese mansion have had a major makeover and pretty much the only original trappings remaining nowadays are the green-and-white checkered flooring tiles along with teakwood fittings and stairs.

Still, display cupboards throughout are full of items that have long since gone the way of the rotary dial telephone.

The main dining room is, despite the indignant protests of several local hoteliers and restaurateurs, the most elegant place to dine on the island, if not in the whole of southern Thailand. But that's a matter of opinion.

The main vision behind Blue Elephant was conceived by Chef

Nooror Somany Steppe, the "Unofficial Culinary Ambassador" for Thailand since 1980 and it basically consists of her reinventing "forgotten" Thai dishes and resurrecting them for this generation.

This is all on top of a healthy dose of Royal Thai Cuisine, which can't be bad. As a result, the whole evening at this restaurant adds up to little short of the spectacular.

Dining with polished brass cutlery and hand-beaten brass plates under white arches and Doric columns beats munching on a mutated hamburger under the auspices of the Golden Arches any day of the week.

Décor and odious comparisons aside, the menu is a veritable treasure trove of international and Thai classic dishes.

But be warned. The blue pachyderm certainly doesn't swing its proboscis at budget prices.

My starter of eggplant salad is undoubtedly tasty and yielding but costs a hefty 380 baht.

The accompanying imported *foie gras* in tamarind sauce at 720 baht also rings up a cheerful "Ddring!" at the cash register.

These may be jumbo-like prices, but they are served in undeniably princely settings.

A filet of parrot fish marinated with herbs and served up in an interesting-looking bamboo case (480 baht) is filling and rich in taste and texture.

We order a bottle of refreshing Tavel Beaurevoir 2007 (3,920 baht) and it's the perfect dining companion – not imposing on the rich flavors of the dishes served and light to the taste but with enough punch to stun a buffalo.

Indeed, the ensuing buffalo satay (320 baht) with homemade peanut sauce is excellent.

All this is accompanied by organic brown or white jasmine

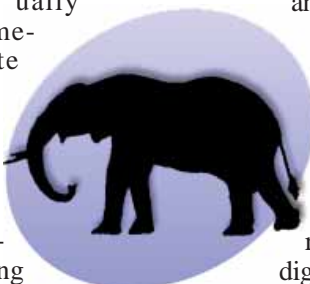
rice and the upstairs rumble and chair-scraping of a crowded back-slapping convention.

It almost sounds as though there's an elephant in the attic.

I could go on and on, trumpeting about the stunning delicacies served up at Blue Elephant but it wouldn't be entirely fair to the restaurant as they're reviewing their wine and menu listings.

Suffice it to say that the evening was impressive, in a gargantuan way. It was a genuine pleasure to dine there.

For more information on the Blue Elephant Restaurant and Cooking School T: 076-354 355, 076-354 357



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Bruce Stanley

I'M OFTEN asked why I have spent 20 years, the "main course" of my life, on Phuket. Perhaps it has something to do with having spent my youth growing up in Las Vegas, the happiness center of North America.

My family owned a resort which catered strictly to a clientele of women from around the United States who came to Las Vegas to get a quick divorce.

In the 1950s, divorcing was a major legal procedure which took many months to achieve in most places, but in Las Vegas it only required a six week residency. And even back then, there were lots of women who wanted to get divorced quickly, and often for strange reasons.

I'm not sure it was the best place for my parents to raise their only child but, then again, maybe it was the best place of all. I spent my childhood listening to stories of despair and hope from the mouths of women who had been sent into desert exile to end their married lives.

At some point, I began writing down their stories in notebooks. By the time I was ten, my first story was published – in the *Las Vegas Sun*!

It was about Rita Sprague who used to wash her thin, frizzy hair in beer every day to give it shine

EXPAT gallery

By Bruce Stanley

and body. That story began my career as a writer.

As a child, living in Las Vegas was almost intolerable, especially during the day. There were no air conditioners back then and staying cool often meant lying on the concrete floor inside the house and waiting for the sun to pass behind Mount Charleston.

I spent every afternoon lying on that floor watching my favorite television show, Tarzan, who lived in a tropical jungle and got around by swinging from the trees. I decided at a young age that when I grew up I would live in a tropical jungle.

I was told early on at school that I was not very intelligent and had few talents. That's why I became a journalist.

I was good at asking questions and listening to people's stories. And I was fascinated by words and how combinations of words could affect the imagination and the emotions.

After graduating from college with a journalism degree, I

decided to fulfill my dreams and head to the tropics. I wanted to live in a big tree and swing from the vines. But first I had to work.

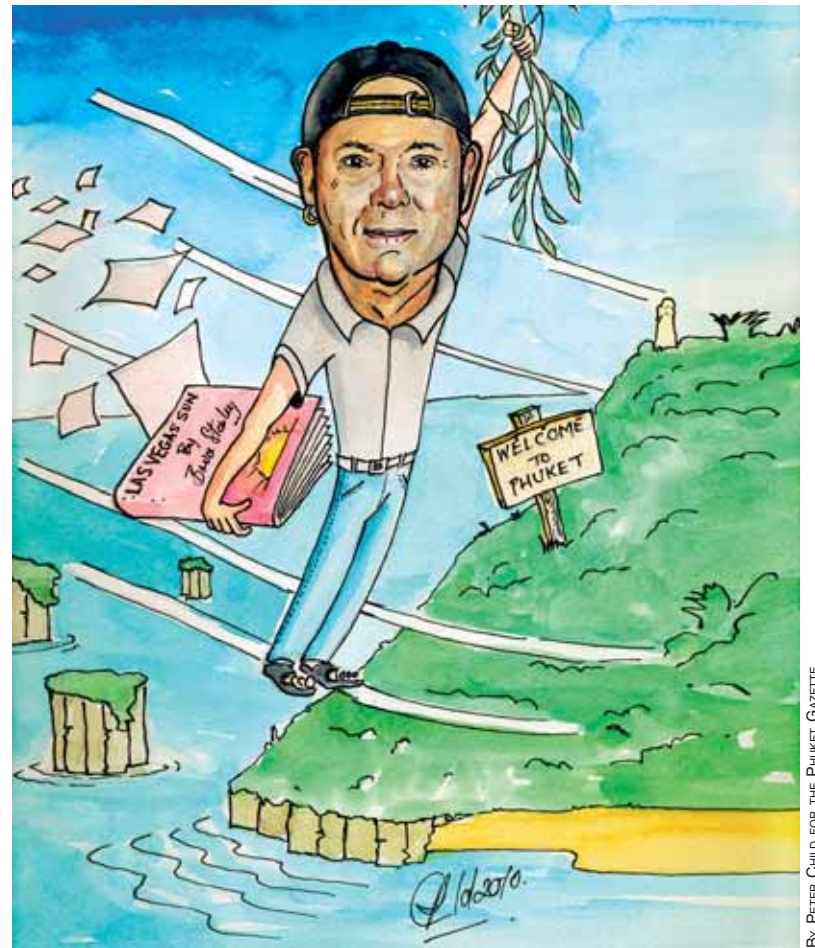
I was hired as a stringer for a variety of publications to write travel stories. This turned into quite a few years of living and writing about civil wars in unappealing places in Latin America and Central Africa.

Even though I spent years in the tropics, it was never as appealing as the Tarzan movies. At least not until I got to Phuket 20 years ago and thought I had found the place I was looking for all my life.

Phuket is like Las Vegas in that people come here to have a break from their ordinary lives or to relaunch a new life in new surroundings with new people.

I always heard as a child that people had to work hard in order to earn enough money for a vacation in a magical place. It occurred to me that it was a better idea to simply live in the magical place in the first place.

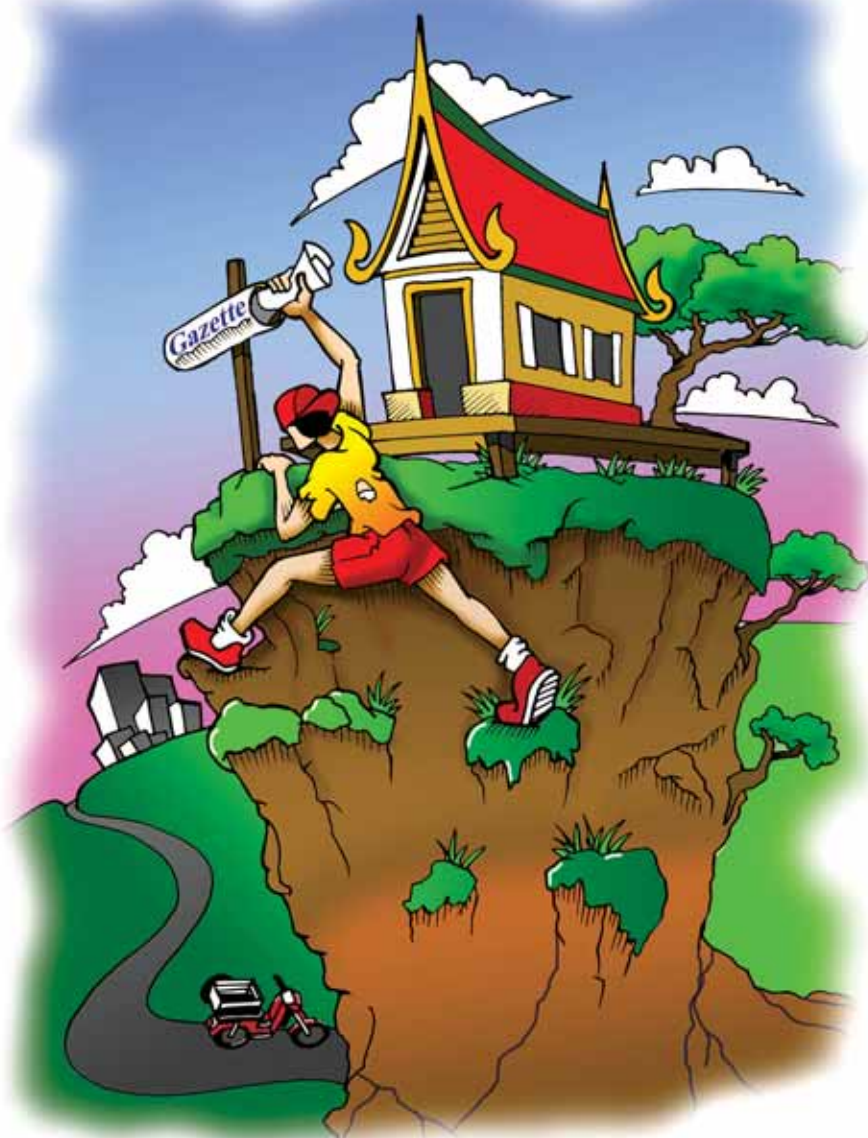
Phuket is a magical place. It's like an enchanted jungle full of opportunities to experience life like one never could have done back home. I still spend my time talking to people and writing down their stories. It's the only thing I can do well.



BY PETER CHILD FOR THE PHUKET GAZETTE

About Expat Gallery

The individuals profiled in "Expat Gallery" are chosen on the basis of their contributions to Phuket, and for having made those contributions in successful partnerships with Thais. For many, the contributions have entailed significant investment, often in the mid-80s and 90s when the rules of business were, ahh, not always clear. Some are not in business at all, but all have one thing in common: if there were a *Who's Who in Phuket*, they'd be in it.



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Revered monk celebrates his 114th birthday

By Atchaa Khamlo

HUGE crowds of nearly 8,000 people turned out over two days to help respected Buddhist monk Luang Pu Supha celebrate his 114th birthday on September 17.

Luang Pu Supha lives at a temple in Chalong named after him in his honor. In his long life he has helped build 38 temples throughout Thailand and is regarded as a theological figure of inspiration to many.

More than 200 monks from around the country joined the celebrations to pay tribute and take part in religious merit-making ceremonies.

In the morning, 119 birds were released to freedom, 260 scholarships worth 520,000 baht were presented to Phuket children from 25 schools and hundreds of locals brought gifts and prayed before the great monk.

Luang Pu Supha was born in Sakhon Nakhon in northeastern Thailand on September 17, 1896, which unofficially makes him the oldest man on the planet.

The monk was born four days earlier than American Walter Bruening, currently recognized as the World's Oldest Living Man by Guinness World Records.

Mr Bruening celebrated his 114th birthday on September 21.

But his remarkable longevity isn't important to Luang Pu Supha and the temple committee who care for him. His Buddhist teachings and the monk's spiritual path are their concern.

The secret to the aged monk's longevity is to "eat less, speak less and always speak the truth."

Luang Pu Supha eats only nine mouthfuls of food at each meal. He avoids spice in his diet, but is said to have a sweet tooth, his favorite dish being *Kao neaw kaew* (sticky rice cooked in sugar).

But Luang Pu Supha believes moderation is the key to success in life.

"Take care of your mind, don't get angry and don't be greedy," he says.

Earlier this year, Luang Pu Supha was admitted to Siriraj Hospital in Bangkok to receive treatment for an "enlarged heart", but he has been recovering well, his carers say.

Amazingly, last month Luang Pu Supha flew to Medan, Indonesia with his aides on a five-day pilgrimage. But Luang Pu Supha is a monk used to life on the road.

When he was nine years old Luang Pu Supha's father took him to a temple in Ubon Rachathani where he was ordained as a Buddhist monk.

He stayed at the temple until 1917, when he set out on his official ordination pilgrimage into Laos. In 1923, he traveled to Burma where he met other Thai monks who were on a pilgrimage to India.

Luang Pu Supha joined them and embarked on a series of adventures which took him into the foothills of the Himalayas, then to China in search of a monk who reportedly achieved a high meditation level. The monk's travels also took him to Europe.

When he was 62, Luang Pu Supha returned to his birthplace, Sakhon Nakhon, where he visited relatives he hadn't seen since he was ordained as a monk more than 50 years earlier.

He moved to Phuket 30 years ago, to help the impoverished Morgan sea gypsy villagers in Koh Sireh, who had no religion.

The villagers embraced the Buddhist faith and Luang Pu Supha helped them build their own temple.

At the birthday celebrations last week, many locals told the *Gazette* that Luang Pu Supha held a special place in their hearts.

Malee Boonyapongchai, 55, said the aged monk respects all religions.

"He is generous to all people, no matter what religion they



HIGHLY RESPECTED: A monk kneels before Luang Pu Supha. Photo: Jim Welch

follow. His teachings are very popular here in Phuket," she said.

"Seeing Luang Pu Supha today makes me adore him even more. You can see by how many people are here, how loved he is," she added.

Car salesman Peeraroj Boon-

siroj, 43, from Nakhon Sri Thammarat said this was the second year in a row he had come to celebrate the monk's birthday.

"Luang Pu Supha teaches only good things, today is a joyous occasion and he is a source of inspiration to all," he said.



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When Phuket gets possessed

THE Phuket Vegetarian Festival will explode onto the island next month for nine days of self-mutilation, fire walking, oil bathing, and firework dancing to appease the gods.

There will also be a spot of vegetarian food to sample.

The Chinese Taoist festival will be held from October 8 to 16 at temples around the island.

Families of Hokkien Chinese descent living on the island have celebrated Phuket's most infamous festival for over a century.

The tradition of keeping to a purely vegetarian diet for nine days from the start of the ninth lunar month is done out of reverence for the gods and legendary heroes in traditional Chinese beliefs. It is a way to purify the body and make merit.

The festival is believed to have begun in Kathu district during the mid 19th Century. Many Hokkien Chinese workers lived in the area and worked in the abundant tin mines. For many years the flourishing tin industry in Phuket had led to a growing population of Chinese immigrants on the island.

The Hokkien Chinese had great reverence for their gods, enlightened beings and even their ancestors, who they believed protected their families and

Looking Back

By Anand Singh



Fireworks go off in the crowds.

communities from harm.

Sometime in the mid 19th Century a traveling crew of Chinese opera performers visited Kathu where the Hokkien tin miners lived.

Performers often visited Chinese mining communities to entertain the workers. Visiting performers would often stay for months in the district because the mining industry in Kathu was flourishing.

But after performing for the community in Kathu for some time, some of the performers fell ill, stricken with horrific disease.

They realized they had made a grave mistake because they had forgotten to pay their respects to the nine emperor gods, by observing the tradition of keeping to a vegetarian diet for nine days, like they would every year in their hometown.

The performers decided to hold the vegetarian merit making ceremony that year in the makeshift theater they built in Kathu district. They asked the gods they revered for forgiveness and to ward off the evils that had befallen them.

After they held the ceremony and observed the nine days purification ritual, the plague that had stricken their crew and the Kathu mining community was gone before long, to the amazement of the local Chinese community. The mystic benefits associated with practicing the age old tradition soon became the talk of the town.

The performers advised the local Chinese community in Kathu that it was necessary to pay their respects to the nine emperor gods yearly and invite them to descend from heaven.

It was believed the gods would protect them and ward off evil and misfortune that may befall their families. It was also important to keep to a strict vegetarian diet as a way of making merit and purifying their bodies during the duration of the ceremonies.

From then on the festival has been widely practiced by the local community of Phuket every year. Today the festival is celebrated throughout the country but is still at its height in Phuket, where it started many years ago.

The Phuket Vegetarian Festival



GRISLY WORSHIP: A Mah Song with facial piercings last year. Photos: Jim Welch

has developed a unique tradition of its own and does not mimic the original traditions practiced in China.

The tradition of *Mah Song* does not feature in the vegetarian festivals held in China today. *Mah Song* refers to devotees who invite the spirits of the gods to possess their bodies and use them as "vehicles".

To be a *Mah Song*, the devotees must keep themselves pure during the duration of the festival, refraining from meat and engagement in any "unclean" activities.

After they are possessed by spirits of the gods, they are able to perform grizzly acts self-mutilation, often piercing their cheeks and other body parts with sharp

knives, swords and iron rods. It is believed that when possessed the *Mah Song* can endure super-human pain thresholds.

The gory tradition of the *Mah Song* has become one of the most recognizable traditions of Phuket's Vegetarian Festival over the years.


The practice of self-mutilation is believed to have originated, not from China but from southern India, with striking resemblance to the Tamil festival of Thaipusam. In this festival, devotees often pierce their faces with similarly sharp objects in the belief that it will constantly remind them of their revered deity.

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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

Sep 25-26. Weekend Wine & Food at Les Anges

Les Anges invites you to join them in their food & wine extravaganza. Delicious finger foods and pastries and free flowing wine. Enjoy an evening at the Royal Phuket Marina, Les Anges boardwalk from 6pm-8pm. 850 baht per person. Contact Mr Murat on T: 081-797 3364, E: muratc@royalphuket-etmarina.com or visit W: royal-phuketmarina.com for more information.

Sep 25. SALA Chill & Grill BBQ

Join SALA Phuket for their special barbecue event. DJ Tommy will spin groovy beach tunes with live percussion. Children can enjoy the pool and loads of garden games. Chef Jan will be serving up his barbecue fare, including Australian ribeye, slow-smoked pork ribs, grilled veggies, fresh salads and all the fixes. SALA's "Chillin' and Grillin' Ocean BBQ" is held on the last Saturday of every month, from 1pm-5pm, 950 baht per person including a bottle of Peter Lehmann shiraz or unoaked chardonnay per couple. Contact Tibor Baan on T: 076-338888, E: fbphuket@salaphuket.com or W: sala-phuket.com for more information.

Sep 25. 2010 AFL Grand Final

At the Australia Bar & Grill, Kata Beach from 10:30am-2am: AFL 2010 grand final live on the big screen (50 inch TVs). Free Aussie "Sausage Sizzle" at half time. Contact Gavin Hennig on T: 089-226 2878 E: gavinhenning@gmail.com or visit W: australiabargrill.com for more information.

September 25. Sea Bees International clean-up day

The Thai Diving Association, Scuba Schools International and Sea Bees dive operator are holding a big clean-up dive off Phuket to help save local reefs. The meeting point will be at the Anchor Inn restaurant in Chalong at 9am. Finger food will be served. The day trip is free of charge. Please bring your own equipment, and please send your booking to info@sea-bees.com. Space is limited so be quick.

September 25-26. Scuba Cat Int. Clean-up Day dive

Scuba Cat Diving, Patong, will hold a clean-up weekend in and around Phuket waters from September 25-26 with an overnight stay, on-board the MV Scuba Cat Liveaboard vessel at Racha Yai Island. Divers and non-divers welcome. T: 076-293120 E: bookings@scuba-cat.com

October 1. Phuket 2.0 Opportunities for the future

The American Chamber of Commerce in Thailand is teaming up

Oct 12. Friendship rocks!

The Friendship Beach Music Extravaganza will feature performances by The Colin 'Illy' Hill Band, The Fuzztones, Rockin' Angels, Groove Doctors and more. Special buffet for only 290 baht. Call Margy on 089-908 7486 or Charlie on 089-728 5304, 089-728 5304, E: chef@friendshipbeach.com



ROCKER: Colin Hill will take to the stage at the next Friendship Beach event.

with Laguna Property, C9 Hotelworks and Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket for a special business event. Mark Armsden of Delivering Asia Communications will join a panel of industry experts to discuss Phuket opportunities in the following areas: Hotels and property (Michael Ayling of Laguna Resorts and Hotels), media (John Magee of the *Phuket Gazette*), legal (Desmond Hughes of Limcharoen Hughes & Glanville), education and sports (Nick Seaver of Phuket International Academy), technology (Woody Leonhard, IT expert and author of Dummies Guides to Microsoft Windows) and the marina and yachting industry (Vincent Tabuteau of Asia Marine). The event is free, but pre-registration is required. Contact Sheree Tanpensuk, Am-Cham General Affairs Manager, at E: sheree@amcham-thailand.com or T: 02-2541041 ext 212.

October 1-3. Asian Hospitality & Travel Show

The Asian Hospitality & Travel Show will bring together suppliers and exhibitors in industries from all over Asia and will offer professionally coordinated business appointments between sellers and suppliers. Over 2,000 visitors are expected. From 11am-8pm at the new Häfele showroom on the bypass road. Contact Simon Samaan for more

information. T: 084-7680536 E: simon@events-thailand.net W: eventsthailand.net

October 1. Curry Fridays

Every second Friday is "Curry Friday" night, where you get the chance to enjoy an authentic and lavish Indian curry buffet. Selections include all-time favorite chicken tikka masala, very spicy mutton vindaloo, juicy kebabs, chickpea curry and much more. Served with nan bread and basmati rice. All you can eat for only 399 baht. Draught Beer by the glass for just 50 baht. Special discount on beverages. Venue: Navrang Mahal Indian Restaurant at Karon Sea Sands Resort & Spa. Time: 7pm-11:30pm. For reservations, please call: 076-286464, ext 4. For other information contact Mr Seemant Raju. T: 081-629 5063 E: sm@karonseasand.com or visit W: karonseasand.com. The next Curry Friday will be held on October 15.

Oct 10 - 12. Alternative Ownership Conference Asia Pacific

9am-5pm at Millennium Resort in Patong. This is the second annual two-day Alternative Ownership Conference for Hotels and Resorts, Asia Pacific. Leading speakers in the fields of property development, fractional ownership, vacation clubs and exchange registries will share their thoughts and visions for the industry, delivering ideas and experiences and discussing future plans. Book now to avoid disappointment. Contact Chanut Nawnarong or Nungruthai Julakul on T: 089-512 7030, E: info@aocap.org or visit W: aocap.org for more information.

Free Computer Clinics

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October 3 - Patong, October 10 - Laguna,
October 17 - Chalong
October 24 - Chalong

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YOUR Phuket

PIWC ladies get ready for One Night in Rio



FROM LEFT: Nittaya Darroch, PIWC President Wipa Tanmanatragul, Jennie Speed and PIWC Secretary Carol Fryer.

TWO airline tickets to Brazil will headline the auctions at this year's gala event by the Phuket International Women's Club (PIWC). The prize, donated by Qatar Airways, supports the theme of the evening "One Night in Rio".

The annual fund raiser, a highlight on the Phuket social scene, will be held in the ballroom of the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort and Spa, in Karon, on Saturday November 13, from 6.30pm. The guest list is expected to exceed 250 and the proceeds will go towards the PIWC's education scholarship fund, which gives assistance to disadvantaged children from Phuket and surrounding areas.

Recently the PIWC issued 55 new scholarships, many of them funded by last year's event, bringing the total number in its 21-year history to 627.

"While our main objective is to boost our fund the other aim is to provide a great value-for-money evening for our supporters," said

Wipa Tanmanatragul, the PIWC President.

"The theme for this year will be everything Brazilian and the Rio Carnival, from the cocktails and buffet, to the live music.

"Ticket sales to date are above expectations and we recommend early bookings to avoid disappointment," she added.

The all-inclusive cost for the function is 3,000 baht per person. However, pre-paid tables of 10 booked before September 30 will attract a 10 per cent discount, bringing the price down to 2,700 baht for each ticket.

The Hilton also will be offering discounted packages for those wishing to stay overnight.

"Apart from the live auctions there will be silent auctions and raffles. There will be plenty of time for fun on the dance floor," said Khun Wipa.

For tickets contact Sue Arnulphy T: 082776948 E: info@phuketiw.com.

Groms carve up a



FLYING HIGH: Panu Wisetsombat in action during the RipCurl Grom Search competition. He came fourth overall in the under-15 category.



AWESOME: Panjo Schneider showing the judges why he won first place in the under-15 division of the competition.



GRINNING GROMS: The final heat of the RipCurl Grom Search surfing competition was held at Kata Beach on September 18 and 19. Clear skies and big waves ensured competitors were happy surfing in prime conditions for the three-part series finale.

MAIN PHOTO: FRONT ROW; Panjo Schneider (yellow) won the under-15 division along with 10,000 baht in prize money. The only girl to get a podium place was Annissa Flynn (red) who won a second prize of 8,000 baht. Jimmy Partenent (blue) won third place. In the under-18 division (back row), Oliver Penmit (yellow) won top spot and 10,000 baht with Amnat Cheusaman (red) winning second place and 8,000 baht.

Photos by Apinun Saithong

WEEKLY THAI BUFFET DINNER



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Kata storm



IT'S ALL WHITE: Twinpalms Phuket Resort celebrated its sixth birthday on September 18 with a white party.



Doing the white thing



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Pruerk-Ampai

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Ladachon

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 172 sq.m.

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Pruerk-Ampai	111	6,570,000	100,000	3,185,000	3,285,000
Ladachon	100.72	6,980,000	100,000	3,390,000	3,490,000

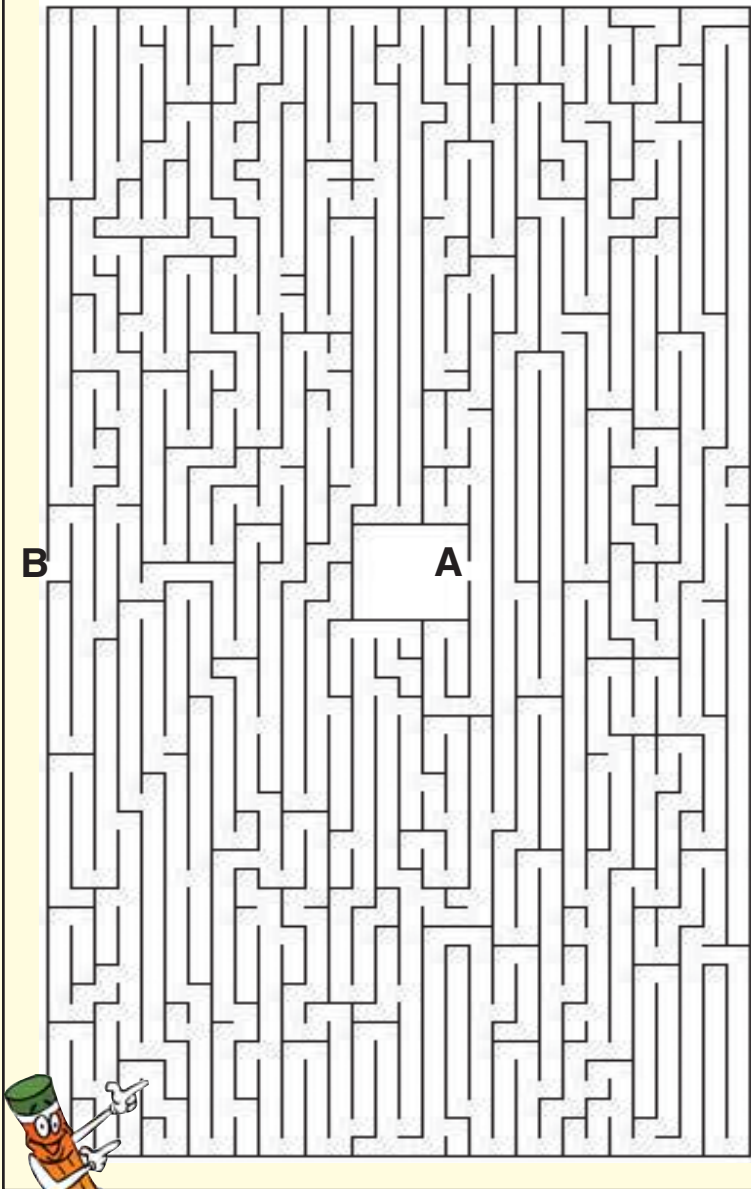
- * These prices include air-conditioners, wall paper, kitchen and garden
- * 2-year-free use of the club facilities except spa and restaurant
- * The price and style of the houses may be changed without prior notice

For further information please contact our office
Tel: 076-381151-2 Fax: 076-381111
Email: info@lhphuket.com <http://www.lhphuket.com>





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

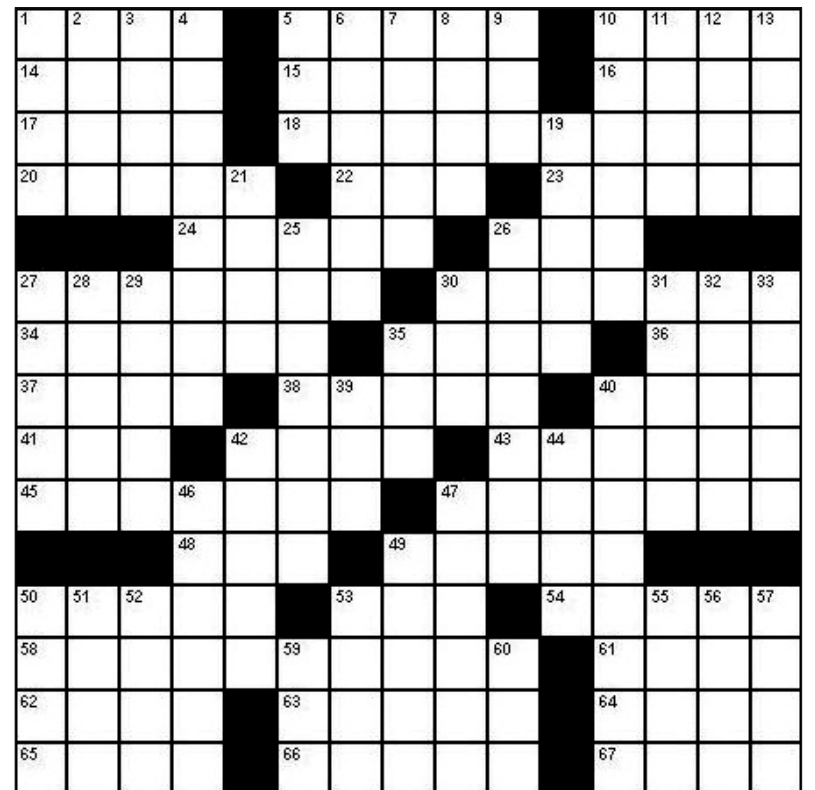


Across

1. Beginning
5. Bellowing
10. Back talk
14. Edible corm
15. Slow, musically
16. Busy as ____
17. Level
18. In all places
20. Freud contemporary
22. Actress Balin
23. Like Cheerios
24. Walked back and forth
26. Sheet music abbr
27. Disown
30. Wears away
34. Dinner course
35. Forever's partner
36. AOL, e.g.
37. Internet alphabet, 1337 e.g.
38. Treegum
40. Am. Theater Organization
41. Song syllable
42. Decree
43. Short swordlike weapon
45. In any case
47. Pink-flowered, canid
48. It may be picked
49. Columbus' birthplace
50. Severe
53. Pound sound
54. Wine fruit
58. Holder of public office
61. Bakery worker
62. Camaro model
63. Move rhythmically
64. So be it
65. Taboo
66. Summed
67. Emperor of Rome 54-68

Down

1. ____ boy!
2. Aforementioned
3. Pitcher Hersher
4. Front half of a horse, e.g.
5. Bass, e.g.
6. Critique
7. Upright
8. Gillette brand
9. Siegfried's partner



10. North African desert
11. Encourage wrongdoing
12. Shrivelled and dry
13. Observed
19. Fret
21. Pan's opposite
25. Get along peacefully
26. Forsake
27. 4th letter in Greek alphabet
28. Inactive
29. Pilfer
30. Nabokov novel
31. Wild dog of Australia
32. Adlai's running mate
33. Surplus

35. Cockpit abbr
39. Sun ____-sen
40. Agricultural
42. Lacking brightness
44. Awestruck
46. Physicist Fermi
47. Disfigure
49. 9 to 5
50. Whirl
51. Bull
52. North Carolina college
53. Mil. school
55. Apex, pinnacle
56. Juror
57. Cube creator Rubik
59. United Nations agency
60. Actor Beatty

Provided by BestCrosswords.com.
Used with permission.

Puzzle solutions on page 33

LIBRA (September 24-October 23):



The last week of September will see many Librans making last minute travel plans. The stars suggest that an overseas trip may have to be brought forward. Money matters fall under auspicious astral conditions – investments made from now until the end of October are forecast to bring good returns. Those with a birthday in the days ahead can expect romance to flourish more easily in the year ahead.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22):



Too much stress can lead to Scorpios feeling under the weather this week. Aim to end September on a more relaxed note by refusing to get involved in others' problems. The stars suggest that family members could be relying on your support too much. The astral atmosphere will back your attempts to talk tactfully to those concerned on Tuesday. The number nine can bring good luck next Thursday.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21):



A quieter mood overtakes most Sagittarians this week. After a busy period, you will be grateful for less pressure and should take advantage of the chance to rest for a while. Your luck in love improves – those who have been

trying to get noticed by an earth sign finally receive recognition. Monday is the most auspicious day for a first date. The number seven can bring good fortune midweek.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20):



Capricorns could find it tricky to plan their agendas during the last week of September. Where business is concerned, you will have to be as flexible as bamboo to make an important appointment with an air sign. A flirtatious encounter with another earth sign this weekend will put a smile on your face. Lucky days for finances are Tuesday and Wednesday. Wear the color ivory to encourage a calmer outlook.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19):



A failure in business is indicated this week. Aquarians could be disappointed to have missed the boat, but keeping ideas afloat won't be a waste of time. Regarding romance, bad advice from an earth sign could cloud your vision this week. The stars predict that following your heart will lead to a happy conclusion. Those already committed find that their relationship benefits from more spontaneity. The number three is lucky next Thursday.



PISCES (February 20-March 20):



Pisceans are forecast to enjoy the final week of September. Accepting a social invitation from someone you recently met will result in new friendships. Those who are single learn that an air sign is keen to get closer. If your financial situation has been a cause of worry this month, the stars indicate that improvement is on the way. This week, you discover a way to make your income go further.

ARIES (March 21-April 20):



Ambitions are highlighted to become within your reach. During the last week of September, Arians will learn of something to their advantage which should lead to faster progress during October. The stars indicate that friends and family may try to involve you in their stressful situations this week. Stay more in your own space to avoid this happening. Lucky days for romance are Sunday and Monday. Financial agreements are best made on Wednesday.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):



Taureans will have more success with team work this week and the trend should continue well into October. Trusting others becomes easier when you see that they are more than capable of doing a good job. Finances require some juggling at the end of September, particularly if you have travel plans for October. Your romantic outlook lightens; a water sign could be the soul mate you have been waiting to meet.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



Geminis should soon have the freedom to concentrate on projects that bring more satisfaction and wealth. Tying up loose ends is recommended this week so that you can begin October with a clean slate. Delay bureaucratic appointments until later in the week. The stars advise that communication will be smoother after Wednesday. Romance is subject to misunderstandings this weekend – give clear reasons if you have to postpone a date.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):



Cancerians could be feeling off color as the month of September draws to a close. The stars suggest that recent stress is dissolving, but you are advised to keep activities to

a minimum this week. An on-off relationship with a fire sign is likely to fizzle out completely, but this will leave you free to pursue another romantic interest. The number four can bring some good fortune next Thursday.

LEO (July 24-August 22):



Most of those born under the sign of Leo should end September on a positive note. Lessons learned this month will allow you to make the most of opportunities in October. Finances become more stable, but miscalculations are highlighted to happen when your attention is diverted midweek. If romance has not been an important part of your life lately, this could be about to change. Wear the color emerald green to enhance your charisma.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23):



Employment begins to be better starred. Those Virgoans who turned down an offer made earlier in September should be able to change their minds this week. If you are self-employed, an Arian has an interesting proposition. Romance with Scorpio takes off, but flirtation with an air sign is likely to be one-sided. Wear the color sapphire blue to encourage stronger luck to come your way.

PROPERTY Gazette

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A LONG WAY TO GO: The Chalong site as it looks today. Photo: Janpen Upatising



NEW LOOK: How the new Phuthai Souvenir Market could look when complete. Image: Phuthai Souvenir Market

Phuthai market makes a move

By Janpen Upatising

PHUTHAI Souvenir Market is in the process of relocating to new premises with a grand opening slated for October 1.

With tourists as their main customers, the market is a popular source of traditional Thai antiques, home decor, leather apparel and other souvenirs.

Founding members of the business believe the new location

will be more beneficial when it comes to attracting customers.

The market is currently located on Soi Taiad in Chalong and will move 1.5 kilometers to its new site opposite the Chalong power substation on Chao Fa West Road.

"The new premises have the same setup as the old location, with the same style and decoration, but this move will greatly reduce the monthly costs because the buildings are ours," said

co-founder Dong Sik Han.

Work on the 15 million baht project began in April, with two buildings being erected on the 7.5 rai property.

One of the buildings will sell their regular items, which include Thai souvenirs, and the other building will be used to provide free day care to about 30 children from poor families in the area.

Monthly profits of between

100,000 and 150,000 baht from the souvenir market will be used to cover the costs of the day care facility.

"We wanted to make a contribution to society since we started our business two years ago.

"Once the nursery is finished, poor families will be able to leave their children in our care," said Mr Dong.

Customers at Phuthai Souvenir Market will also be able to enjoy

refreshments such as fruit and juices that will be sold in front of the building.

Phuket Ruchchakorn Construction is the contractor for the project which is due for completion by the end of this month, with the market opening shortly after.

Contact T: 076-521-560 or visit W: phuthai-phuket-souvenir.com for more information.



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AOCAP ahead of the curve

PHUKET will host the Alternative Ownership Conference for Resorts and Hotels – Asia Pacific (AOCAP) 2010, the largest property event of the year, from October 10-12 at the Millennium Resort in Patong.

The event – in its second year – was well attended in 2009 by local, regional and international developers and leading industry experts.

The AOCAP conference provides a platform for industry specialists to discuss new market trends and products at a time when innovation is needed on the back of the world financial crisis.

While property sales in many parts of the world have sharply declined, consumers continue to become more sophisticated.

In the age of Google, Facebook and Amazon, buyers have moved into new realms of consumerism. Keeping up is priority number one for tourism and property market leaders.

More and more buyers are demanding flexibility in their purchasing methods, value for money, and to some extent, alternative methods of ownership.

At the AOCAP conference, industry leaders will discuss these trends.

Alternative property ownership has a variety of options under its belt: private residence clubs, vacation ownerships and fractions, and destination clubs to name a few.

One perk of this kind of



Property Watch
By Bill Barnett

ownership is the variety it affords investors in terms of location, products, and of course, not being hampered by a lump sum investment.

Instead, alternative property ownership allows buyers to make bite-size entry investments.

Buying what you need, and more importantly, what you want.

The notion that market value only goes up and never down has been blown out of the water following the world financial crisis. It seems things can, and do, go horribly wrong sometimes.

For many island businessmen and women who have blossomed over the years – brokers, consultants and developers – many hours have been spent rubbing the magic lamp and waiting for the genie to appear in the last few years.

For now, the best strategy is to look at alternatives, and AOCAP seems a good starting point in the information trail.

There are rarely opportunities on the island to see this much expertise gathered at one venue, and such an array of international firms joining arms.

In Phuket, we have a number of large business players who have been successful in alternative ownership: Banyan Tree, Laguna Holiday Club, Marriott Vacation Club and Absolute World to name a few.



MEETING IN SESSION: Last year's AOCAP conference brought together an array of tourism and property leaders.

As we see more international events coming to the island, it's important to realize that for so many of those dealing with international property, our local brand continues

to set gold standards in innovation. Staying ahead of the curve remains a far greater challenge though.

For more details on the event

visit www.aocap.org.

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

In brief...

Strong baht a threat to property investors?

AS the Thai baht continues its steroid appreciation, Kasikorn bank's Head of Financial Markets has been quoted saying the US\$ rate could hit US\$29.5 next year. This comes hot on the heels of the baht reaching its strongest currency rating in 13 years.

For Phuket, which has high exposure to both the tourism and property markets, there is a link to the large expat retirement market. Many non-US-nationals have US\$ savings, investments or recurring pension payments. For them, high inflation and weakening spending

power is a hindrance, and could impinge on new arrivals looking to stay and buy real estate.

Chiang Mai beats Phuket to the punch

CHIANG Mai officials expect a 1.8-billion-baht convention center to open in early 2012.

Management for the facility is undecided and public bidding is expected for the role.

Meanwhile in Phuket, the long awaited Convention and Exhibition Center in Mai Khao is moving at a modest pace, with public hearings about the environmental approval needed before building underway.

West no longer best for condos

RECENT research by leading Thai developer Raimon Land on the state of the condominium market points to some significant changes in buyer demographics.

While Thai domestic buyers still add fuel to the fire as the economic market soars in Bangkok, overseas composition has slid away from Western purchasers.

The new face of foreign demand for now looks to be Asian.

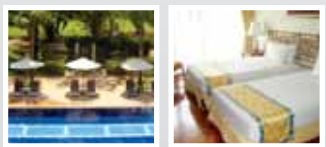
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LAGUNA

PROPERTY RESALE

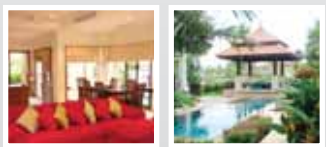
Properties for sale within Laguna Phuket

1 Allamanda 2-Bedroom Suite THB 8 M



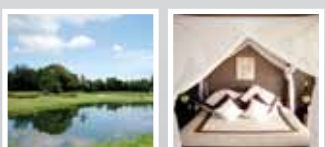
- 2 beds 2 baths Apartment
- fully furnished • freehold
- golf course view

2 Laguna Village Townhomes THB 21.3 M



- 2-storey 4 beds 3.5 baths
- partly furnished
- lagoon view • leasehold

3 Laguna Townhome THB 24.5 M



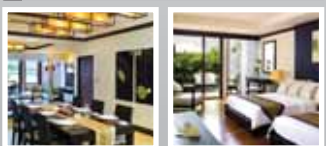
- 2-storey 4 beds Townhome
- fully furnished • private pool
- golf course view

4 Laguna Village Residence III THB 27.5 M



- 4 beds 3 baths Residence
- maid quarter
- private pool • lagoon view

5 Dusit Thani Pool Villa THB 33 M



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Accessing all areas, legally

PURCHASE of property, either completed or off-plan, in property developments has gained popularity amongst buyers recently.

Property buyers seem to prefer living in a gated community rather than dwelling in a stand-alone residence.

The reasons for this may vary from buyer to buyer, but the wide range of management services and amenities typically provided in property developments seem to be what is making the difference for buyers.

Property developers often maintain their own management company or contract a manager who will provide management services and amenities.

These may include 24 hour security, garbage collection, pool keeping and gardening.

Furthermore, common areas and facilities such as club houses, restaurants, pool areas, spas and fitness centers are often provided for use of the community members and its dependents.

When buying into a property development, buyers often focus exclusively on their chosen unit and the legal documentation to be executed with it.

This means that they may

Property Legal

By Michael Greth

neglect to pay attention to their rights regarding the common areas and facilities as well as professional management of the project.

This mistake can have severe consequences, particularly in cases where no statutory provisions or regulations provide minimum standards and legal framework in this matter.

In case of condominium unit purchase, buyers certainly benefit from laws and regulations such as the Condominium Act which is not only influenced by the principle of consumer protection but also includes a legal framework and minimum standards regarding project management.

For instance, it provides owners with rights to participate in the management and control over common areas and facilities in the project.

When it comes to control and securing a buyer's say in the management of a project, it is crucial to verify if the applicable laws or legal structure underlying a project provides for this purpose.

For instance voting rights in the



BIG PICTURE: Buyers are moving away from stand alone homes and looking to community projects. Photo: Jim Welch

corporate body or committee managing the project, and, in addition, how such right to participate in the management will be established and allocated.

This is of importance as such right to participate in the manage-

ment might be worthless in cases where a majority buyer (or a developer retaining majority amount of units), controls the management with no protection for the interests of minority groups of buyers.

Therefore, when considering

purchasing a property in a managed project it is advisable to investigate the proposed management and its underlying legal structure and carefully review all legal documentation.

A buyer would be well advised to check if certain parts of the common areas and facilities will actually not be part of "the common areas" to which all owners shall have unrestricted access and usage rights but privately owned by the developer.

If this is the case, buyers may face a situation where their access to "common areas and facilities" shall be subject to the discretion of its owner and/or certain conditions.

For example, acquisition of a club house membership which shall be granted upon payment of an additional membership fee.

To summarize, secured participation in the project management is of paramount importance for property buyers to protect their interests in a professional, transparent and balanced management for the benefit of all occupiers in a project.

Contact the International Law Office, Patong Beach Co. Ltd. E: michael@ilo-phuket.com T: 076-222 191-5.

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Watching your little ones grow

SOWING seeds or striking from stem cuttings may be the two most common ways of propagating your plants, but there are other methods which require a bit more skill and patience.

To an extent it depends on the growing habit of the plant.

Plants with no single stem or crown, but which grow as a clump, are probably best propagated by division of their root systems.

If the case for treatment is in open ground, carefully dig it up, and upend it so you can see the roots. Shake out surplus earth.

If the plant is in a container, then water liberally a day or so before removal, and ease it out of its pot while supporting the top growth.

Banging the pot gently on the ground can help loosen the soil if the plant tries to stay put.

Look for sprouts or eyes, and try to ensure that each separated section contains one or two of these growth points.

It is best to pull the plant apart gently, so that the roots separate in a natural way, but if they are too intertwined, then use a sharp knife or, more crudely, a spade. After this trauma, the new segments will need to be potted up straight away, and kept well-watered while they recover.

Gardening

By Green Sleeves

Plants that are suitable for this kind of treatment include *hosta*, *aglaonema*, *calathea*, *spathiphyllum* and most members of the ginger family, such as the popular French kiss variety.

Plants which produce tubers (*rhizomes*) or bulbs are easier to divide. In the case of rhizotomous plants such as the canna lily, or members of the *heliconia* genus, just separate the tubers and plant afresh.

With bulbs or corms such as *gladioli*, small clones form at the base of the parent bulb can be easily removed.

The only snag is that these bulbs will take two or three years to develop into flowering plants.

Some plants regularly produce offsets or offshoots from the base of the parent plant after flowering.

These are small versions of the main plant, and can be cut off when they are about a quarter the size of the parent.

The plants should be cleanly severed close to the point where they sprout, and be re potted in a medium like moist coconut husk.

Most members of the huge genus of *bromeliads*, of which the pineapple is the best known, multiply in this way.

Since they are frequently cultivated in containers, the offsets are easy to spot.

It is even possible to propagate some flowering plants from individual leaves, though it is unlikely that the plants in question, namely *begonias*, *sedums*, *calanchoes* and African violets, will figure prominently in your Thai garden.

They are more likely to decorate Western drawing rooms as house plants.

But if you do want to try, take a leaf and trim off about a third of the lower part. Plant the leaf stem, so about half is immersed in a sandy mix. With luck, small leaves will appear after few weeks.

Air layering is an altogether more demanding procedure, but well worth the attempt, especially if you have leggy plants which would be better cut back.

To air-layer or marcott, cut two rings around a woody part of your chosen shrub about half to an inch apart, and just deep enough to remove the bark and inner cambium.

Choose your cut at a height where you would consider pruning anyway.

Spread moistened coconut fiber or peat both over and around the exposed wound, and wrap it firmly in place with a clear plastic sheath tied at both ends. After a few weeks, new roots should fill the ball.

Cut off the contraption just below the rooted portion, remove the plastic wrapping, and pot the new plant. Happily, the truncated stem on the mother plant will also develop offshoots.

So the benefits are dual. *Hibiscus*, *allamanda*, *croton*, *dracaena* and *euphorbia milii* are all suitable subjects for this treatment.

If you have a garden that you would like to be featured, please email pcampbell45@gmail.com



SNIP SNIP: Gardener Somyong takes cuttings from plants. This is just one of many propagating methods. Photos: Alexandra Andersson.

Tip of the week

Sizing things up

WHEN creating a garden, thought needs to be given to the selection of shrubs and trees.

On the one hand, you will want substantial plants to provide quick cover, and to create patches of shade or dappled sunlight.

On the other hand, you don't want specimens that will out-grow their surroundings and dominate everything else.

Remember that plants grow at vastly different rates: a papaya or banana tree will mature in a year or so; small shrubs

such as euphorbias, adeniums and most *ixoras* will develop slowly.

A general rule of thumb is the bigger the mature plant, the more rapidly it is likely to skyrocket. Fast growers are normally gross feeders too.

Although palms generally do not possess massive root systems, yellow cane, bismarck or traveller palms will give short shrift to other shrubs planted too close to them. And pruning isn't always an option.


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3-BEDROOM HOUSE

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

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PRIVATE SALE OF HALF ARAI

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

MISSION HEIGHTS



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in Phuket Inter villa project for sale. 2.3 million baht. 36.5sq wah. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, includes furniture, curtains, kitchen, 1 aircon unit, common pool access. Tel: 089-873 1009 (English), 081-893 8524.

NICE PLOT

For sale. Near Layan Hill Estate (Manik-Bangjo area), ready to build housing. Price: 7.2 million baht. Chanote title included. Please contact owner. Tel: 081-538 7050.

PATONG CONDO SEAVIEW

Freehold, 125sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, big living room, Western kitchen, terrace with nice sea, mountain, city view. 11th floor, corner, big pool, car parking. Price: 10.8 million baht. Tel: 081-824 1385 (English). Fax: 076-293149. Email: jbiwo@csloxinfo.com

3 OR 4 BED VILLAS

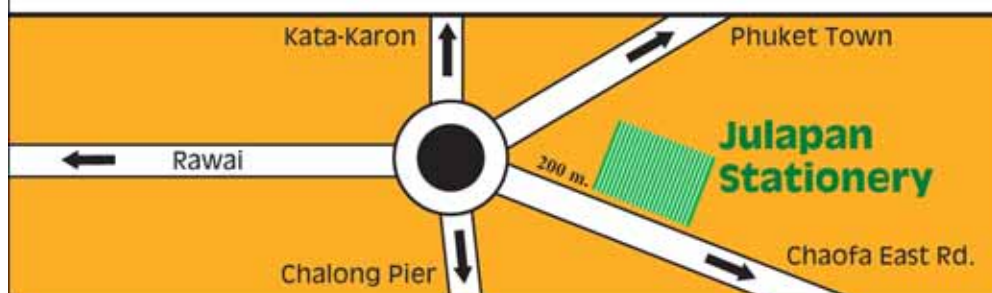
Rawai private pool, quiet area, fully furnished. Full aircon. Sale or rent. Tel: 087-893 8747.

KATHU: LUXURY GOLF VILLA

4-bedroom, state-of-the-art villa with view over the Loch Palm Golf Course. 16.8 million baht. Tel: 076-321445, 089-724 7211. Email: info@botanvillage.com

Live in Chalong?

Place your **CLASSIFIED ADS** at **Julapan Stationery**



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

GAZETTE CLASSADS - Hundreds of new ads every week!

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at www.phuketgazette.net

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

The map shows a central intersection with a black circle. To the left is Silayan Road, with an arrow pointing left towards Rawai. To the right is Kata-Karon Road, with an arrow pointing up towards Kata-Karon. To the bottom right is Chaofa East Rd, with an arrow pointing down-right towards Chaofa East Rd. To the bottom left is Chalong Pier, with an arrow pointing down-left. A red 'X' marks the intersection, with a sign that says 'The Network' property office. A small logo for 'The Network' is also shown.

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

GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work because they're PAID!
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The *Gazette Online* is always on top in Google!

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LEE MARINE
International Marine Brokerage

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Princess 20M (1997)

- Twin generators inc almost NEW Kohler
- Bow and Stern thruster
- 7 Cruisair air-conditioning systems
- PC based GPS & Chartplotter
- Furuno Radar
- ST7000 Autopilot
- Watermaker
- Zodiac tender

549,000 Euro

Beneteau Cyclades 50.4 (2000)

215,000 Euro

Jeanneau Sun magic 44 (1990)

2,700,000 THB

Maxim 640 (2007)

1,195,000 USD

Crownline 315SC (2008)

EXCELLENT VALUE

3,950,000 THB

leemarine.com

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

Brokerage Office
The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
Contact: Andrew de Bruin / Marcus Overman
Tel: 086-690 0444 (English), 085-887 7414 (Thai). Email: rico@yachtcharter-asia.com

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

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

NEW 35 FT POWER CAT
Almost completed. All fiber glass with fly-bridge. Perfect for diving, transfers. Please contact for more info. Email: tony@steppaboats.com

55 FT CRUISING CATAMARAN
6 double cabins, 105sqm sails. 2009 in composite, no engine. Price: 1.5 million baht. Contact for more information. Tel: 087-461 8089.

38 FT CATAMARAN
4 double cabins, 2 toilets. New, composite, not finished. Price: 480,000 baht. Contact for more information. Tel: 087-461 8089.

8M SAILING CATAMARAN
Open bridge, wood, epoxy, fiberglass composite. 15Hp Yamaha. All 2 years old, antifouling new in 2010. Good condition and ready to sail. Equipped to fishing with 6 rods holder. 2 cabins and storage place. Thai registered with book. Price: 440,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: +49-33-22293 0210. Email: stier@net-print.de

19FT ELITE RIB



100Hp, 4 stroke engine. Trailer. Price: 679,000 baht. Contact Kim. Tel: 087-275 5563.

4.5M RUNABOUT
GRP Bimini top, 30Hp Yamaha. Great little boat at 175,000 baht. Please see our website at: www.boatshedphuket.com

AZIMUT 46 (2001)
For sale. New listing. Very good condition, mail for brochure. Please call for more details. Tel: 086-690 0444 (English), 085-887 7414 (Thai). Email: rico@yachtcharter-asia.com

TRANSPAC 49 MK II (1981)
A beautiful bluewater cruising boat with a huge inventory. Price: US \$189,950. Website: www.boatshedphuket.com


SELLING YOUR BOAT?
With 70 offices worldwide and more than 360,000 registered customers. Call Alan on 084-842 6146. The "No sale, No fee" brokers. Please see: www.boatshedphuket.com

2 CRUISING CATAMARANS
55', 6 double cabins, 1.5 million baht. 38', 4 double cabins, 480,000 baht. All in composite. Tel: 087-461 8089.

BAYLINER 245Hp (2009)
Like new. 300Hp Mercruiser includes air berth. Price: 2.7 million baht. For further details, see our website at: www.boatshedphuket.com

CHRIS CRAFT 216 (1992)
Cuddy cabin and 200Hp Mercury with low hours. Price: 900,000 baht. Visit website: www.boatshedphuket.com

SPEED BOAT



35ft Yamaha 200 6V 25 people with big sound system and 2 engines. Included: life jackets, fins, masks, snorkels, banana boat that fits 3 people & all security items. Price: 1.25 million baht. Call for more details. Tel: 087-035 9241 (English), 083-102 5444 (English & Thai). Email: yellowsharktour@hotmail.com

ONAN GENERATOR
Onan MDL3 Marine Generator 12kVA at 1,500rpm, 2,600hrs. Excellent condition. Recently underwent major service: new engine mounts, water pump, hoses, etc. Includes sound shield and muffler. Tel: 081-821 1812 (English), 081-819 5152 (English & Thai). Email: leigh@glslithotripsy.com

BAREBOAT WANTED
Wanted: bareboat motorsailer for one or two weeks around Phuket for a Swiss inventer and a Lincolnshire farmer with 30 years experience. Please text Graham as above for more information. Tel: +44-179-076 3249, +44-777-447 3916. Email: gla myman@btinternet.com

WHARRAM TIKI 30 (2009)
Professional build and nearly new. 4-stroke O/B. Price: 2.15 million baht. For further information, visit our website at: www.boatshedphuket.com

ROYAL PHUKET MARINA BERTH
20m front line Royal Phuket Marina berth to let by private owner. Please email for more information on flexible terms and greatly discounted rates. Email: james@shayler.co

POLYESTER MOTOR SAILOR
6 meters. 28Hp Yamaha engine. Price: 260,000 baht. Contact for more info. Tel: 087-893 8747.

MOTORSAILOR



Neptunian 33. Bluewater cruiser. New paint and varnish, inside and outside. Sailed single-handed from UK. Tel: 081-968 1437 (English). Email: bobedward1@hotmail.com

NEW BOAT SUNNAV 18FT



For sale. Highest quality with trailer. Price: only 270,000 baht. No engine. Tel: 089-476 7443, 085-352 1940, 076-377577. Contact for more details, email sales@sunnnav.com or visit: www.sunnnav.com

BENETEAU OCEANIS 351 (1995)
Great condition. Awlgr paint job. Price: US\$ 89,950. For more details, please visit our website: www.boatshedphuket.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, Thepkasattri Rd
T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang, Phuket 83000

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

I hereby authorize payment against my Visa ☐ / Mastercard ☐
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City _____ State or Province _____ Zip Code _____

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To ensure clarity, please airmail. Do not Fax!

SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES

Crossword puzzle:

1	A	S	O	F	5	A	R	O	A	R	9	S	A	S	13
14	T	A	R	O	15	L	E	N	T	O	16	A	B	E	E
17	T	I	E	R	18	E	V	E	R	Y	19	W	H	E	R
20	A	D	L	E	21	I	N	A	22	O	23	A	T	E	N
24	P	A	C	E	25	A	R	R	26						
27	D	I	S	A	V	O	W	30	A	B	R	A	D	E	S
34	E	N	T	R	E	35	A	D	A	Y	36	I	S	P	
37	L	E	E	T	38	X	Y	L	A	N	40	A	N	T	A
41	T	R	A	42	F	I	A	T	43	D	A	G	G	E	R
45	A	T	L	E	46	A	S	T	47	D	O	G	R	O	S
48	N	I	T	49	G	E	N	O	A						
50	S	T	E	R	N	53	A	R	F	54	G	R	A	P	E
58	P	O	L	I	T	59	C	I	A	N	60	I	C	E	R
62	I	R	O	C	63	D	A	N	C	E	64	A	M	E	N
65	N	O	N	O	66	A	D	D	E	D	67	N	E	R	O

**NATIVE ENGLISH
TEACHER**

Female Caucasian to teach class of 10-12 children, 3-7 years old. Located in Chalong. Work hours: Mon-Fri (8 am-4 pm). For more info. Tel: 080-624 7060. Email: phuketpreschool@yahoo.com

**CANVAS CREATORS
NEEDED**

2 positions open for sewing machinists for leading marine fabricator making covers for boats around Asia. Thai nationality, female 25-35yrs. Friendly open atmosphere, based in the Boat Lagoon. Tel: 076-238946, 081-370 1600. Fax: 076-238946. Email: canvas@loxinfo.co.th

**PR JOBS - 8 LEFT -
EARN 60,000+**

English, Scandinavian, German or French speaking. Visa, paper work, and work permit supplied to the right candidates. Must enjoy working outside. Tel: 076-326292, 087-975 5462 (English). Email: opc_simon@yahoo.com

**ADMINISTRATOR
WANTED**

Female, Thai with good English, written and spoken. Computer literate with good knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook and Internet. Working Hours: Monday - Friday 9.00 - 18.00. If you are interested in this position, please submit your CV with covering letter in English to: Kanthira@limcharoen.com or contact Khun Meaw. Tel: 076-342 882-4 For further details, please see our website at www.limcharoen.com

**SECRETARY
KARON BEACH REAL ES-
TATE**

- Female
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Computer knowledge
- Basic accounting skills
- Salary, bonus and commis-
sion.
Tel: 086-952 2070. Email: sales@phuketislandreal estate.com

TOUR GUIDE WANTED

English speaking guide wanted. Contact K. Pornpip. Tel: 076-280116. Fax: 076-383617. Email: info@siamssafari.com

TEACHER WANTED

We are seeking to recruit experienced teachers of Maths and English. IGCSE. An ability to deliver a second subject to KS3 an advantage. Tel: 076-612876, 080-534 5006 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-612877. Please send CV to: eugene@headstartphuket.com

**TEACHERS WANTED
IN PHUKET**

Satree Phuket School is seeking 1 full time native English speaking mathematics teacher for 11 - 18 year-old students. Salary with B.A. degree in English, drama or science begins at 35,000 and M.A. degree in English, drama or science begins at 40,000 baht. Both include 4 weeks paid holiday, a government health plan and 3,000 baht housing allowance. Minimum requirements: Bachelor's degree or above, plus TEFL or CELTA certificate or equivalent. We can only reply to applicants who meet the minimum requirements. Please email your CV with covering letter to: joeynho@gmail.com; toptip4736@yahoo.com. Or call Tel: 084-666 3557. Be prepared to present all original certificates at interview and do teaching demonstration.

TEACHER WANTED

We seek to recruit 3 secondary teachers specialising in Maths, ICT and Science. Tel: 076-612876, 080-534 5006 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-612877. Please send CV to eugene@headstartphuket.com

STAFF WANTED

European-managed restaurant and hotel requires an experienced seafood chef, the salary depends on level of experience. Thai national. Good opportunity. Other positions; English speaking bartenders, waitresses, waiters and kitchen helpers. English speaking hotel receptionists and driver. Guaranteed all season jobs. Hotel located at Ao Nang Beach, Krabi. Tel: 075-637767, 083-640 8003, 085-150 4840 (English & Thai). Fax: 075-637812. Email: aningrestaurant@hotmail.com

**THEATRE &
RESTAURANT**

Palazzo looking for Stage manager and Light - Sound technicians. Must be experienced in the entertainment industry and have good English. Positions: Floor manager, Bar manager, Bar tender, Waiters, with artistic skills and ability to perform in the Entertainment area. Tel: 076-202277. Email: info@phuket-palazzo.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuket-palazzo.com

STAFF WANTED

For serving seafood and Thai food. Good spoken English. Salary+commission. Tel: 082-283 3154.

**LOOKING FOR
ACCOUNTS ASST**

1 position. Knowledge of basic accounting and English required. Tel: 084-849 7212. Email your resume to: zeycoth@gmail.com



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

Sales Representatives

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

Salary, benefits, generous commissions, and easy hours

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

**Real Estate, Phuket**

Ocean Worldwide is a leading real estate agency that offers a proven international marketing system balanced with dedicated personnel who are committed to maintaining the highest standards of conduct and professionalism. An opportunity is available for an individual to work with our international clients to proficiently communicate information on our recommended Phuket properties. We are looking for a conscientious and ambitious person to join our team.

Sales Support Executive

You must be enthusiastic, have a positive attitude and possess above average communication skills. You will be expected to liaise with existing and new clients in person, on the telephone and through email correspondence. You will enjoy a dynamic lifestyle with high earning and advancement capabilities. Basic Salary + Commission + International travel expenses for property exhibitions.

Personal Assistant

We require a Personal Assistant to work closely with the directors of a successful real estate company. It is imperative to have had a minimum of 2 years experience in a similar role and also be fluent in both Thai and English, written and spoken. This position requires: Monitoring and updating the Director's daily diary, Receiving and managing Director's emails, telephone calls, faxes and post deliveries, Maintaining and improving office organization systems, Preparing Director's international travel itineraries. Priority will be given to individuals who are resourceful, have strong time management ability, able to prioritize multiple tasks, are exceptionally organized, able to work effectively both in and out of the office, are detail oriented, and comfortable communicating with a variety of people in a relaxed and confident manner.

Email your CV, with references to sandra.oneill@oceanwwp.com

Ocean Worldwide Company Limited
382/76 Lagoon Road, Chergntalay
Thalang, Phuket 83110 Thailand
Tel: +66 76 325 986 Fax: +66 76 325 988
www.oceanwwp.com



Phuket International Hospital is a leading provider of Plastic Surgery to overseas clients and is seeking to employ a Foreign Coordinator.

**Foreign Coordinator
Phuket International Aesthetic Center**

This is a full time position open to both Thai and Foreign nationals

Duties include assisting the hospital with the daily management and administration of our plastic surgery department.

Essential Qualifications

- Excellent English language skills, including written skills
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Good computer skills
- Willingness to work on weekends

Desirable Qualifications

- Clinical, nursing or other relevant health care skills or experience
- Marketing or Management experience
- Professional presentation
- Demonstrated ability to meet defined objectives and deadlines

Interested candidates should contact Peter Davison for a position description and forward their CV-supporting documents to peter@phuketinternationalhospital.com

WHITE BOX RESTAURANT IS HIRING...

CHEF DE CUISINE
(THAI & EXPAT)

COMMIS HOT KITCHEN

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BENEFITS:

GOOD FIXED SALARY
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PLEASE CONTACT US: 076-346271 OR INFO@WHITEBOXRESTAURANT.COM
www.whiteboxphuket.com / 247/5 Prabamee Rd., Kalim Beach, Patong

G-1 Land Co.,Ltd.**Positions:**

• Sales	2
• Administration	3
• Administration (Night time) Man	2
• PR	1
• Waitress	2
• Maid	5

Qualifications:

- Male/Female, Thai nationality 25-35 years old
- Experience in the real estate market would be an advantage
- A minimum of 2 years experience in property sales
- Strong command of English, both written and spoken
- Good interpersonal and communication skills

Contact: G-1 Land Co.,Ltd.

Tel: 076-385441, Fax: 076- 385442

E-mail: info@kamalaregent.com or
info@theregent.com

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



Sunparadise (Thailand) Co Ltd., is a manufacturer for the highest quality Aluminum Window and Door Systems from Switzerland established in Thailand since year 2001. Due to our business expansion, we are looking for highly motivated candidates to join our team.

Marketing / Sales Executive (2 positions)

Position Requirements:

- Male/Female Bachelor's degree in any fields
- Computer literacy (MS Word, Excel, etc.)
- Good command of English conversational, written and willing to learn new things
- Customer service-oriented mindset, high self discipline, eager to learn and self develop
- High responsibility, energetic and self-motivated, self-supervised, punctual and able to handle jobs independently
- Ability to work under dynamic environment and manage aggressive timelines
- Able to provide quality service and support to customers at all times
- Enjoy meeting people with warm and outgoing personality
- Possess a valid car driving license will be an advantage

Interested candidates are invited to write in with full resume, stating present and expected salaries and enclosing a recent photo to email address: supapatr@sunparadise.co.th

WEB MARKETER/ ADMINISTRATOR

Established real estate agency looking for web marketer/administrator. Good written and spoken English is a must. Good remuneration for the right candidate. Training provided but some experience and computer skills required. Thai nationals only. Email: luc@phuket-tropicalrealestate.com

EARN 50,000 BAHT PER MONTH

Outgoing, self motivated, English-speaking marketers required. Must enjoy working outdoors and meeting people. Work permit and documentation for 1 year visa supplied to the right candidates. Please contact for more additional details Tel: 076-326292, 086-120 1837. Or send email to: shane.ztif@hotmail.com

Employment Wanted

RUSSIAN SPEAKER

Do you need a russian speaker? Available for your business to interface with russian tourists coming to Phuket. I will accept all interesting offers. Tel: 089-934 2329. Email: vincent68tm@gmail.com



The Racha is one of Thailand's leading 5 Star beach resorts. It is located on the beautiful island of Koh Racha Yai, just 30 minutes by boat from Phuket.

We are growing and looking for the following talented individuals to join our dynamic team:

Marketing & Communications Manager

Requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree in Marketing or related fields
- Knowledge of graphic design software packages
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Creative with good initiative and leadership abilities to manage marketing programs, events and projects

Sales Coordinator

Requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree in related fields
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Customer focused, with a service mind

Reservation Officer

Requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree in related fields
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Customer focused, with a service mind

Beach Club Manager

Requirements:

- Prior hospitality management experience
- Enthusiastic, energetic, diligent and personable
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Expatriate preferred

Cost Controller

Requirements:

- Prior hospitality management experience
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Expatriate preferred

Waiter / Waitress / Bartender

Requirements:

- Diploma in hospitality or related fields
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Friendly, approachable and able to work in a team



A member of
Small Luxury Hotels
of the World

If you have what it takes and wish to join a people-oriented company that prides itself in excellence and the belief that people are our most important assets, then please submit your resume and a recent photo to our Human Resources Department as follows:

The Racha
Human Resource Manager
Email: hr@theracha.com
www.theracha.com

42/12-13 Moo 5, Rawai, Muang,
Phuket 83130, Thailand
Tel: +66 (76) 355455 Fax: +66 (76) 355637

EXPERIENCE A CAREER OF EXCEPTIONAL QUALITY WITH SIX SENSES ON OCTOBER 2-3, 2010 FROM 10:00-19:00 HRS. AT HOMEWORKS PHUKET 1ST FLOOR.



Evason Phuket is set amongst 64-acres of beautifully landscaped tropical parklands and gardens, and looks out to stunning views across the Andaman Sea, is currently looking for qualified candidates as the following positions.

ACCOUNTING

- F&B Cost Controller

CUISINE

- Demi Chef
- Cook Helper

ENGINEERING

- Duty Supervisor
- Electrician
- A/C Technician

FOOD & BEVERAGE

- Banquet Crew
- Waiter/Waitress

FRONT OFFICE

- Guest Relations Officer
- Guest Service Butler
- Driver

HOUSEKEEPING

- Room Attendant

HUMAN RESOURCES

- Training Manager

JEWELRY

- Jewelry Shop Attendant

SPA

- Spa Receptionist
- Spa Therapist

SPORT & ACTIVITY

- Just Kids Attendant
- Sport & Activity Attendant/ Yoga Instructor



EVASON PHUKET
& SIX SENSES SPA

If you are experiencing difficulty for self-applying please contact us by email: hrco-phuket@sixsenses.com

Evason Phuket & Six Senses Spa

100 Moo 2, Vised Road, Tambol Rawai, Muang, Phuket 83130 T: 66 (076) 381010 F: 66 (076) 381024

Six Senses Yao Noi with 56 private pool villas, set even higher benchmark for excellence in Asia would like to offer you the opportunity to become part of our team.

ACCOUNTING

- Senior Accountant
- General Cashier
- Paymaster

CUISINE

- Chef de Partie (Pastry)
- Chef de Partie (Canteen)
- Commis I (Western/Thai)
- Commis III (Western/Thai)

ENGINEERING

- Assistant Chief Engineer
- Junior Duty Supervisor
- Pest Control Manager
- EE/AV Technician
- Kitchen & Laundry Tech
- Carpenter

FRONT OFFICE

- Butler
- Guest Relations Agent
- Bell Boy/ Driver

FOOD & BEVERAGE

- Restaurant Captain
- Outlet Captain
- Head Bartender/ Bartender
- Hostess & Waiter/Waitress
- Order Taker

HOUSEKEEPING

- Housekeeping Clerk
- Ambience Service

IT

- IT Supervisor

SPOT & ACTIVITY

- Assistant LIFE Manager
- LIFE Attendant

SPA

- Spa Therapist



SIX SENSES
YAO NOI

If you are experiencing difficulty for self-applying please contact us by email: hrco-yaonoi@sixsenses.com

Six Senses Yao Noi

56 Moo 5, Tambol Koh Yao Noi, Koh Yao, Phang-Nga 82160 T: +66 (0) 76 418 500 F: +66 (0) 76 418 518

Six Senses Destination Spa provides the feeling of wellbeing in a sustainable learning environment that inspires lifestyle choices, creating harmony through nourishing products, transformational treatments and passionate service, we would like to offer you the opportunity to become part of our team.

ACCOUNTING

- AP Supervisor
- AP Officer
- Purchasing Officer

FOOD & BEVERAGE

- Chief Steward
- Assistant F&B Manager
- Chef de Partie (Hot Kitchen)
- Bartender
- Chef de Partie (Thai Kitchen)
- Waiter/ Waitress
- Host Restaurant Chef

HOUSEKEEPING

- Asst. Executive Housekeeper
- Villa Supervisor
- Villa Attendant

INTEGRATIVE HEALTH

- Dir. of Integrative Health
- Naturopath

SPA

- Spa Receptionist
- Fitness Instructor



SIX SENSES
DESTINATION SPA
A WELLNESS RETREAT - PHUKET
AN ERAWAN PROPERTY

If you are experiencing difficulty for self-applying please contact us by email: career-naka@sixsenses.com

Six Senses Destination Spa Phuket

32 Moo 5, Tambol Paklok, Thalang, Phuket 83110, Thailand T: +66 (0) 076 371 400 F: +66 (0) 76 371 461

Articles For Sale

POND BIO FILTER FOR SALE

Pond Bio Filter Model CBF-1100 1.0 Hp. with UV Light. Included submersible Pump Arwan model:KSV-151. New release price: 30,000 baht. Second hand price:12,500 baht. Tel: 076-273087, 081-9785901 (English), 081-9563775 (Thai). Fax: 076-273087. Email: moose@waterworkwarehouse.net

BABY CAR CAPSULE

Baby car capsule for a new born and up to 1 year old. Keyfit 30 by Chicco, red color and in Good condition. Fits all cars, very quick & easy to put in and take out. Price: 8,000 baht. Tel: 086-270 3517 (English & Thai). Email: john_kennedy67@yahoo.com.sg Website: http://www.snugasabugbabyslins.com/im-ages/00000118423-ChiccoKeyFit30InfantCarSeat-large.jpg

TEAK, RATTAN FURNITURE

High quality furniture for sale: 5-seater modular rattan sofa, 2 plantation chairs, customised Balinese teak shelves, wooden benches & more. Leaving Phuket. Must sell by month end. Call to view. Prices negotiable. Tel: 085-791 0691 (English). Email: vjmisso@gmail.com

WOOD PLANER

Makita 1650W 304MM 12". Still in box, selling for 10,000 baht. Please phone: 089-594 4017.

ELECTRIC HOT PLATES: 2 RING

Electric hot plates, 2 rings. Both rings have quick heat up sensors. Has adapter plug for common house powerpoint, but can be hard wired also. 10 months old. Price when new: 5,500 baht. Will sell for 3,200 baht. Tel: 085-275 3720. Email: russcottent@hotmail.com

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Young golfer leads the way



BUDDING TALENT: Young Newport Laparojkit, 12, leads the Order of Merit in the tournament. Photo: Richard Valentine

A 12-YEAR-OLD Phuket golfer is leading the way in the Phuket-Times.Com Amateur Golf Open, following the competitions third round at Blue Canyon Country Club earlier this month.

Newport Laparojkit still leads the Order of Merit with Laong Cameron sitting pretty in second place.

Richard Dunn is keeping himself in contention with a very respectable third place, not far behind the leaders.

With an ever-increasing field of local talent vying for a spot in the Grand Masters Final in May next year, the September 5 tournament was a tough bout.

So far, the 10-leg competition has brought out some of Phuket's best golfing talent and also many golfers wanting to participate to find out if they can be up there with the best.

The next round of play will be held at the Red Mountain Golf Course on October 15.

It promises to be the best qualifying heat yet, with the winner getting a wild card entry into the Pro-Am Asian Senior Masters event on one of Asia's finest courses.

This would present an opportunity for the winner to test their skills and play against some golfing greats in spectacular surroundings for free.

There is also an opportunity to drive away a prize for the person who gets the first hole-in-one on hole seven on the Red Mountain Golf Course.

Places are still available for all qualifying heats.

The top 25 players in the order of merit rankings will automatically win a place in the masters final, as well as the winners of each category in each qualifying heat.

– *Phuket Gazette*

If interested, contact Neil Taylor or Khun Laong T: 0822803486 or visit www.phuket-times.com.

New PIA project to help locals kick off

By James Goyder

THE Phuket International Academy (PIA) have recently launched a football project to encourage local Thai children to use the facility.

An 11-a-side league is in the process of being set up which will be sanctioned by the Football Association of Thailand and feed into Division Two (Southern Section) of the national league.

PIA are hoping to develop grass roots soccer in the Thalang area with a view to the eventual formation of an official Thalang team.

There were 45 children at the very first session on September 4 and the sessions are growing.

PIA are providing transport for the children and the free use of the facility.

Members of the AFL have

offered to help donate their time, kits, footballs and money.

Martyn Ware, the head of sport at PIA, hopes this will be the first of many such sessions,

"At PIA we are committed to allowing the community to use our state of the art sports facilities. There is a real shortage of decent pitches in Phuket and this is a great opportunity for local children to be able to experience playing football on a quality playing surface. It was great to see so many children here and we are hoping there will be even more in the future," he said

The coaching sessions are every Saturday from 9am to 12am.

If you are interested in getting involved contact E: martyn@phuketinternationalacademy.com



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Brazilian Football Academy
Brazilian Soccer Schools has a structured training programme specific to each age group and each ability level, for boys and girls.



Aquatics Academy
The aquatic programmes include aqua aerobics, recreational lap swimming, leisure play, competitive swimming and coaching for a range of sports including triathlons, surf lifesaving and water polo.

Upcoming Events



Creative Arts
Drama Class with "Denise Bertrand", Phuket's only freelance drama educator. With over 25 years experience, Denise Bertrand is a child-centered teacher and has a gift of bringing out each child's unique expressive arts talent. Every Wednesday, from 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm at Drama Room, PIA Day School



BSS Premiership 3V3 Tournament
3 V 3 Youth Tournament for kids aged 7 - 12 years old. There are 2 leagues for U9's and U12's, 6 teams of boys and 6 for girls. The leagues are played on the artificial turf FIFA approved soccer field at PIASLC. October 10th, the U9's start from 8:45 am – 11:45 am and the U'12's start from 4:45 pm – 7:15 pm



BSS Mid-Term Camp
Brazilian Soccer Schools (BSS) will be heating up the mid-term break during October 18th – 22nd from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm for boys and girls, aged 6 – 16 years old.



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Free Master Class on September 18th and 6-week course starts October 30th
From 10:00 am – 11:00 am for kids 4 – 7 years old,
From 11:00 am – 12:00 pm for kids 8 -12 years old.



Ironkids Camp
PIASLC's first Triathlon specific training camp on October 18th – 22nd for kids 6 – 14 years old, where young athletes will learn everything to complete an IRONKIDS Triathlon. The training includes specific tips on triathlon swimming, cycling on local roads and runs through shaded trails. Athletes will also learn how to transition between events, bike setup and maintenance, pacing and sportsmanship. Swim, cycle, and run to become an IRONKID!

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Asia's best to play Pro-Am

By Fraser Morton

PHUKET'S first Pro-Am charity golf tournament is coming to the island, with over 30 big names from the PGA Asian Tour already signed up to take part. And there's still time to get involved.

The 2010 Phuket Property Dot Com Pro-Am Invitational will pair professional golfers with Phuket amateurs at Phuket's Blue Canyon Country Club for the 18-hole tournament on November 5.

Tour players confirmed include five-time Asian Tour winners Simon Yates and Scott Hend, 10-time winner Gerry Norquist, three-time winner Terry Pilkadaris as well as Jason Knutson and Anthony Kang, currently on the Asian Tour's top 10 earnings list.

Simon Yates said with the level of professionals already signed up for the tournament, there should be stiff competition and it will be a "great event".

"Hopefully we can raise plenty of money for children in Phuket," he said.

The tournament will raise money for over 700 underprivi-



Terry Pilkadaris (left) and Simon Yates will also be taking part.

leged children cared for by the Phuket Has Been Good To Us foundation.

Since its inception in 2004, the foundation has improved the economic opportunities of young people by providing free-of-charge English language education out of Kalim and Kamala based schools.

Some of the children will also be taking part in the Pro-Am by caddying for the professionals.

Foundation Director of



BUNKERS TO BEACHES: Top Thai golfer Udom Duangdech is set to play in the charity Pro-Am. Photo: OneAsia

Operations Tina Hall, said the support from the Asian Tour professionals could lead to the Pro-Am becoming an annual event and she was confident that Phuket golfers and residents would lend their support too.

Co-founder of Phuket Property Dot Com Peter Bolton said the event will cement Phuket's reputation as a golf destination.

"The top-class venue and the golf professionals coming to take part underscore Phuket as a top golf destination on the world stage," he said.

Being the only three-time host of the Johnnie Walker Classic – 1994, 1998 and 2007 – the Canyon Course is renowned for its difficulty and will test professionals and amateurs alike.

Entry for members of Blue Canyon Country Club is 7,000 baht and 9,000 baht for non-members, with over US\$150,000 in prizes set aside for winners, including a condominium valued at 3.1 million baht for any golfer who shoots a hole-in-one on the par three 17th hole – once described by Fred Couples as one of the best short

holes in the world.

Golfers will also receive a gift bag valued at over 3,000 baht upon entry.

In addition, prizes will be on offer for nearest to the pin on each hole and for overall tournament winners.

Following the golfing action will be a four-course gala dinner, held at the Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket resort.

If you want to get involved, contact Graham Haslam at graham@phukethasbeengoodtous.org

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