

Phuket Gazette

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Foul play suspected in lawyer 'suicide'

POLICE are investigating possible foul play in the death of lawyer Supachai Singjan, 54, who specialized in defending poor villagers in land rights.

Mr Supachai's body was found hanging by the neck from a door in his apartment in Rassada last Saturday in an apparent case of suicide.

For more than 20 years, Mr Supachai defended poor villagers in land-rights cases – without remuneration.

He won many cases, and made many enemies in the process.

Police are considering this may have inspired an "influential person" to order the killing of Mr Supachai.

Mr Supachai apparently tied a bedsheet to his neck, looped it over the door and bent his knees until he was dead.

Police found no sign of injury on Mr Supachai's body except around the neck, and no sign of struggle inside the apartment.

Kusoldharm Foundation rescue workers transported Mr Supachai's body to hospital, where doctors will attempt to determine the exact cause of death.

Bar raids hit Rawai

Five venue operators arrested in 45-minute sweep

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

NIGHT raids at bars and other nightspots across the island will continue this weekend to enforce closing times and other entertainment venue regulations.

Provincial Administration Group Chief Wigrom Jarkti on Wednesday declined to confirm where the raids will focus on next, though the *Phuket Gazette* has received many queries from venue operators asking when the officers will target Patong.

Mr Wigrom, with 25 members of the Phuket Provincial Volunteer Security Force dressed in camouflage fatigues, raided five popular nightspots in Rawai last Friday.

Within 45 minutes, starting at 1:30am, the squad had taken into custody the managers of Freedom Bar, Nikita's Restaurant, Sunshine Bar, Jasmine Bar Asia Bar and the proprietor of Buppha Karaoke.

All five were taken to Chalong Police Station and charged with late trading and the illegal sale of alcohol.

The manager of the Buppha Karaoke was also charged for operating without a license.

The island-wide crackdown was ordered by the Interior Ministry following the December 27 signing of a Memorandum of Un-



Punters remain calm as officers raid a bar. Photo: Pimwara Choksakulpan

derstanding (MoU) by Deputy Interior Minister Thavorn Senniam and the night-venue operators, who agreed to strictly enforce six regulations.

Under the MoU, all nightspots must be legally licensed, ban entry to anyone under 20 years old, observe designated closing times and prohibit drugs, weapons and

lewd performances anywhere on their premises.

Noticeably closed when the team arrived were the popular Laguna and Icon bars, two venues that the Phuket Provincial Office has received repeated complaints about from local residents about noise and failure to observe closing times.

Despite the seriousness of the situation and the commando-style garb worn by the volunteers, the mood was relaxed during the raids. Patrons continued to enjoy their drinks even as the venue owners were being escorted off, in some cases with smiles on their faces.

Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha said the task force will continue making rounds two or three times a week throughout January.

"Entertainment venues without special licenses can remain open until midnight. Bars, restaurants and karaoke clubs must close at 1am. Nightclubs can stay open until 2am.

"Any operators caught breaking the law will have to pay a court fine for the first infraction," he said.

Violators are subject to fines for the first two infractions and closure for an "unlimited" time for a third offense.

Gov Tri said there were 313 licensed entertainment venues on Phuket, but that the actual number of nightspots on the island was over 1,000.

Regarding a request to allow Patong venues to trade until 5am, Gov Tri said he had passed the request to the Interior Ministry – but had yet to receive a reply.

Coral bleaching threatens dive sites

THE Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) will file a request to close parts of the Similan and Surin national parks to protect dying corals.

DMCR Director-General Kasemssan Jinnawaso announced that his department would file the request with the National Parks, Wildlife and Plants Conservation Department, which manages the national parks.

"We will request closure of only certain parts within the Similan and Surin national parks. Tourists will still be able to dive in the parks, but certain parts will be off-lim-

its to allow the coral to recover," Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) Director Wannakiat Thubthimsang confirmed on Tuesday.

"Officers in the parks will need to be more strict about park regulations, especially with tour boats and visitors dumping trash into the sea. We are still finding tourist trash, such as empty water bottles, beer cans and snack packets floating inside the parks," Director Wannakiat said.

"Also, all boats entering the park must have septic tanks installed and operators will face stiff penalties for discharging their

tanks inside the park," he added.

The new measures being proposed are to protect corals already suffering from rising sea temperatures.

"Coral bleaching is from global warming, which is happening the world over..."

"Coral needs zooxanthellae to survive. When temperatures rise, the zooxanthellae starts dying, and that means the coral starts dying, too," he said.

However, Mr Wannakiat confirmed there will be no request to close the reefs off Phi Phi Island and Maithon Island.

– Samaporn Janyanon



Bleached coral at Mu Ko Surin National Park.

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This Week

Business

More diesel subsidies to keep prices down. **Page 8**

Entertainment



Looking forward to the Blues Festival. **Page 11**

Travel



Hidden gems at the Emerald Pools. **Page 16**

Construction



Beachfront luxury villas coming to Koh Sireh. **Page 21**

Classifieds

Everything you need at prices you can afford, from jobs to homes. **Pages 25- 34**

Sport



New FC Phuket manager sets out his stall for the season. **Page 35**

Saturday



23 - 32

Sunday



23 - 32

Monday



22 - 31

Tuesday



22 - 31

Wednesday



23 - 32

Thursday



23 - 33

Sea rescue boot camp opens at Mai Khao

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

PHUKET became the sea rescue training center for all marine national park officers in Thailand on Monday with the opening of the Maritime Rescue Network Coordination Center in Mai Khao.

Natural Resources and Environment Minister Suwit Khunkitti explained at the official opening that the center will be used to train officers stationed at the five marine national parks along the Andaman coast: Mu Ko Lanta, Mu Ko Surin, Mu Ko Similan, Ao Phang Nga, and Khao Lampi - Hat Thai Mueang National Park in Phang Nga.

Located between the Tah Chat Chai police checkpoint and the Sarasin Bridge, the facility will also be the training center for all officers stationed at the Marine National Park Operations Center in Chanthaburi, which is responsible for all marine national parks in the Gulf of Thailand.

Wearing the new standard-issue orange jumpsuit with "Park Rescue" emblazoned on the back,



Marine park officers are to use their new life-saving skills in the field.

Mr Suwit said, "Many people are worried about natural disasters such as tsunamis. This project is to help ensure the safety of visitors in marine national parks."

To provide better emergency rescue services in the parks, the center will train officers in search-and-rescue skills using speedboats and dinghies, beach rescue techniques and first aid.

Some officers have already

passed their basic training in search and rescue, said Mana Phernpool, chief coordinator of the center.

"Officers at the center are currently teaching directors and assistant directors of all 26 marine national parks in the country how to scuba dive. The training is being conducted at Khao Lampi - Hat Thai Mueang National Park in Phang Nga," he said.

Caddie killer quartet arrested

FOUR people have been arrested for the shooting murder of golf caddie Amornrat Petchtrong.

Ms Amornrat, 26, was killed by a single gunshot to the head outside Mission Hills Golf Club early on December 7.

Four suspects, Ms Prathum Chumrat, Mr Paisan Preecha, Mr Pongsak Boorana and a 17-year-old boy, were presented at a press conference at Phuket Provincial Police headquarters on Tuesday.

Prathum, 42, said she did not approve of Ms Amornrat's relationship with her brother Udom Noona.

"She took my brother's money little-by-little - more than 100,000 baht. She also convinced my brother to divorce his wife and leave his [then] two-month-old child," she said.

"And recently, while my brother was staying at a temple as a monk, she [Ms Amornrat] was with another man," she added.



Prathum Chumrat

Prathum asked her friend Paisan, 33, to find a gunman to kill Ms Amornrat, police alleged.

At Prathum's bidding, Paisan hired Pongsak and the 17-year-old to do the job for 30,000 baht. Paisan also provided the murder weapon, police said.

According to a police statement, on December 7 Paisan drove a motorcycle to Mission Hills golf club to identify Ms Amornrat as she was driving her motorcycle to work.

Meanwhile, the boy, with Mr Pongsak as a passenger, waited nearby on another motorbike.

Once the "mark" was made, the duo approached Ms Amornrat and Mr Pongsak shot her in the head, the statement read.

Immediately after the murder, Pongsak and the boy fled to Songkhla, and Paisan stashed the murder weapon at his cousin's home on Koh Yao Yai, the statement read.

Prathum, Paisan and the 17-year-old have been charged with conspiracy to commit murder and Mr Pongsak with premeditated murder.

All four have confessed to the charges, police said.

- Pimwara Choksakulpan

Two tourists drown same day

TWO tourists drowning at Karon Beach last Friday has prompted another warning from lifeguards about entering the surf when red warning flags are flying.

On a day of unseasonably high tides on Phuket's west coast, two men lost their lives while another man was admitted to Phuket International Hospital.

Erik Larsen, 58, from Denmark, was pulled from the surf at Karon Beach at 11am.

He was resuscitated on the beach before being taken to Patong Hospital, where he later died.

That afternoon an unidentified Russian man in his forties drowned at the same beach.

A Swedish man in his sixties

was also rescued from the surf at Karon before noon. He was taken to Patong Hospital, but was later released.

The two latest victims brings the number of drownings on Karon Beach alone to eight since June.

Meanwhile, German national Gisbert Mergler, 49, was in serious condition in the intensive care unit of Phuket International Hospital after almost drowning at Kata Beach that same day.

Kata lifeguard Utane Singsom said that waves of up to three meters at Karon and Kata beaches on the day made swimming treacherous.

He urged tourists to obey the warnings and not enter the sea when red flags are posted.

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Gang rape report sparks warning

FOLLOWING reports of a 23-year-old British woman allegedly being gang raped near Patong, police are urging young women to exercise caution while on holiday in Phuket.

Patong Police Superintendent Arayapan Pukbuakhao told the *Gazette*, "It is hard to prevent this kind of situation from happening. Sometimes tourists let their guard down to strangers. Tourists should be careful and be alert wherever they go," he said.

Col Arayapan also urged victims of attacks to report them to police immediately.

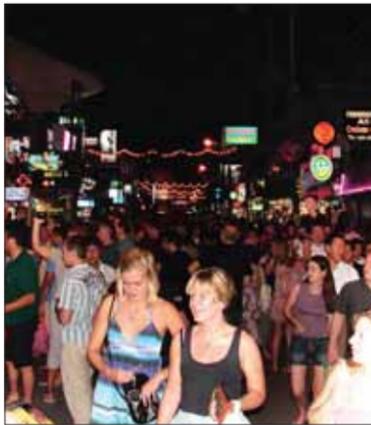
"If it does happen, the first thing people should do is report it to the police. Otherwise, it is impossible for us to investigate or arrest the culprits. If the victims report such attacks to us quickly, we can at least try to help them," he said.

The plea comes after reports surfaced of the alleged gang rape of a 23-year-old British woman for more than two hours in a room near Patong.

The *Daily Mail* reported that the woman returned to a room near Patong Beach with a Swedish man for a party, but once she was inside the room she discovered five other men already there.

During the ordeal, the men called the woman's mother and threatened to rape her daughter again if she did not send them money.

Sources confirmed to the *Gazette* that the woman did present herself to Patong Police Station,



Female tourists are urged to be alert to danger while on holiday.

but although an embassy representative was present and police reportedly handled the issue appropriately, the woman decided against filing an official complaint.

In August last year, honorary consuls on the island called for Phuket police to establish an anti-rape unit to investigate such reports and provide support for victims.

Phuket Police Commander Pekad Tantipong told the *Gazette* that honorary consuls asked for English-speaking female officers with experience in sexual assault cases to take care of rape cases.

"We are having difficulty finding female officers especially to investigate sex assault cases. We are looking for them now," he said.

"We have a few female officers in Phuket, but none of them are investigators. We have to wait for them to be assigned from Bangkok," he added.

- Janpen Upatising

Phuket beaches to be assessed for pollution

By Janpen Upatising

THE Pollution Control Department (PCD) will assess the level of pollution at 16 Phuket beaches as part of its "star rating" campaign to rate beaches along the Andaman Coast and the Gulf of Thailand.

Beach quality will be rated in four key areas: pollution, natural condition, tourism management and environmental management, said Chutamad Kawinseksan, Acting Director of the PCD's Marine Environment Division.

The PCD will evaluate seawater quality and the volume of waste in the sea, while local committees will evaluate the environmental quality of the beaches.

"Local committees will begin their assessments in February or March and submit their evaluations to the PCD, which will conduct the final assessment," said Phuket Natural Resources and Environment Office Director Ongart Chanachammongkol.

The results will be announced around the end of this year.

The 16 Phuket beaches are up against beaches in 17 other coastal provinces.

Thirteen Phuket beaches were entered in the 2009 evaluation received three stars, while the beach at Ao Por got just two.

Mrs Chutamad explained that factors hindering higher ratings at Phuket beaches were environmental quality issues including high coliform bacteria counts in sea-



Tourist-packed Patong Beach will be included in the star-rating project.

water, usually the result of poor wastewater management.

An overabundance of beach chairs, umbrellas and sunbeds also contributed to the problem.

Director Ongart expressed hope that some beaches will receive higher ratings, but added that beaches located in environmental protection areas enjoy better chances.

"I think beaches in national parks have a chance to get higher ratings since they are well managed in terms of cleanliness and wastewater treatment," Mr Ongart said.

Phuket beaches to get PCD star ratings in 2011:

1. Rawai
2. Koh Hei (Coral Island)
3. Plubpla Beach, Racha Island
4. Nai Harn
5. Mai Khao
6. Layan
7. Naiyang
8. Karon
9. Karon Nui
10. Kata
11. Kata Noi
12. Nui, Karon
13. Mai Ngao
14. Patong
15. Koh Naka
16. Laem Singh

New one-way confounds motorists

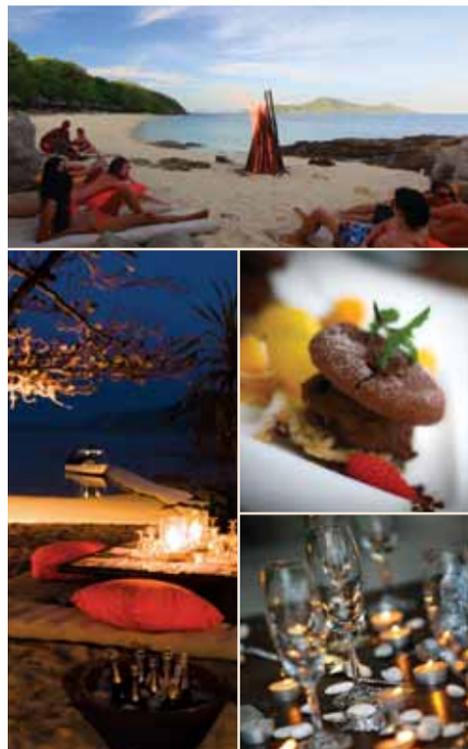
THE new one-way traffic system in Patong came into effect last Saturday, with one change from the original plan: Soi Ruamjai is now one-way heading toward the beach, not away from the beach.

However, the new traffic flow has come under some heavy criticism from motorists, with some pining for more changes and others calling for the old system to be reinstated.

Yet, Rune Hyll Krantz of the Tourist Police Volun-

teers reported that traffic seemed to be moving smoothly. "This is normal every time there's something new. It just takes time for people to get used to it," he added.

Patong Police Superintendent Arayapan Pukbuakhao explained to the *Phuket Gazette*, "This is not final. We will review the new one-way system's effectiveness and discuss it with Patong Municipality, maybe next week."



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Sky-blue robotic cat invades temple

A TEMPLE in Suphan Buri province has become a national sensation after an unusual character was spotted hiding in its wall paintings: the Japanese cartoon character Doraemon.

Noticing Doraemon's huge popularity with Thai schoolchildren, artist Rakkiat Lertjitsakun added the sky-blue robotic cat to murals at Wat Samp Pa Siew in Muang district.

Now Doraemon and his school-boy friend Nobita can be seen in scenes depicting heaven, hell and the 10 incarnations of the Buddha.

The cartoons are small and quite hard to see, making spotting them a little like reading a Where's Waldo book.

The trick has been a massive hit with local children, who are flocking to the temple to catch a glimpse of the characters – and learning Buddhist teachings along the way.

In one scene, Doraemon is in hell being fried in a pan with other

QUEER
news

screaming sinners and in another, he guards the Buddha.

There are other scenes with more modern themes. In one, Doraemon and Nobita are shown together in front of the Thai national flag, one wearing red, the other wearing yellow in an allusion to Thailand's current political divisions.

There are also scenes showing love between men, one in which Doraemon spies on a male angel, and a dog with three legs, the real counterpart to which actually lives on the temple grounds.

Villagers in the temple told a *Khao Sod* reporter that they thought the cartoons were a playful way to bring the paintings up to date.

They said the important thing was that they showed their children why they should do good and not evil.

Temple abbot Phra Maha-anan, who hadn't noticed Doraemon's presence in the murals until he was told about them by a *Khao Sod* reporter, said he wasn't angry at all. Mr Rakkiat was just trying to help today's children learn about good and evil and heaven and hell, he said.

Mr Rakkiat, 34, said he had painted murals in many temples and started work on those in Wat Samp Pa Siew in 2005.

He said he was merely following an old tradition of inserting hidden messages into temple paintings. Artists of yore had hidden depictions of sex in their murals, he said.

By adding Doraemon and modern themes to the paintings, Mr Rakkiat hoped they would preserve today's world as history on the temple walls.

– *Khao Sod*



Curry drive-thru

THE owners of a mom-and-pop store in Thalang got a rude awakening early last Thursday when two men crashed a car into their home after a night out in Phuket Town.

At 2:45am Thalang Police received a report that a Honda Civic had crashed into the curry shopfront of a home on the northbound side of Thepkrasattri Road.

Still at the scene was the driver, Krabi resident Boonyaan Boonthip, 28, and his passenger Worawit Royroongruang, 26, from Songkhla.

Fortunately, the owners of the shop who were sleeping nearby were protected from the car by a cement wall at the back of the curry shop. After being awoken by the crash the shop owners didn't mince words in letting the men know what they thought of them.

Whether Boonyaan will be charged with drunk driving depends on his blood alcohol test, the results of which are still pending, police said.

Police pounce on porn pirates

COORDINATED raids on a counterfeit video manufacturer and three sales outlets have led to the arrest of six people and seizure of more than 30,000 discs, some of them pornographic.

Fifty provincial and Region 8 police officers divided into four teams set out from Phuket Provincial Police headquarters on January 12 to make the arrests.

Joining them were representatives of firms holding copyright licenses to a wide range of discs, including CDs and DVDs of Thai and foreign movies and music.

The first team proceeded, with search warrants, to the Kathu Village 7 home of Kanokwan Suriyajan, 33, and her husband, whose name was not reported.

Inside they found computer equipment, printers and four 12-disc copy machines along with some 10,000 titles, including movies currently playing in cinemas on the island.

Meanwhile, the second team arrested a Burmese man, identified only as "Gunshy", in the act of selling counterfeit discs to foreign tourists in front of Dino Park in Kata. His stock of 10,000 discs, supplied by Kanokwan, was seized as evidence.

The third raid took place in front of the Expo shopping arcade in Kata where police arrested Theerapon Wong-ngen, 29, and seized his stock of 5,000 discs.

The final raid took place in front of the Marisa Hotel in Karon.



Thousands of discs were netted in the raids. Photo: Yodsak Jarana

Police arrested Kanokwan's younger sister Jiraporn and her husband Sup and seized 5,000 discs.

Police identified Kanokwan as the head of the network and owner of all four operations.

Her business had been running profitably for many years, allowing her to buy a nice home and car, they said.

Mrs Kanokwan confessed to charges of production and sale of counterfeit goods and her associates admitted to helping distribute them.

Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pekat Tantipong said the raids were part of ongoing police efforts to suppress the sale of pirated goods.

The effort is difficult because of the high demand for counterfeit discs and the ease with which they can be produced. This causes new distributors to spring up all the time, he said.

– *Yodsak Jarana*

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Teacher shoots student, self after family discovers affair

A MARRIED teacher shot his 16-year-old student dead at school before turning the gun on himself after the girl's family discovered the pair were having an affair.

The girl's relatives had reportedly demanded PE teacher Buntham Bunchuen, 49, pay them 400,000 baht in "damages".

The affair came to a head on the afternoon of January 17, when gunshots rang out in Baan Khaoyai Kata School in Lopburi.

When Chaibadan Police arrived at the scene they found the girl lying dead in the school car park. She had been shot at least six times.

Buntham had already been rushed to the hospital after being found with a bullet wound to the head. He later fell into a coma and died.

The teacher, who was married with children, transferred to the school at the start of the current term. He reportedly became

obsessed with the girl, who was described as very attractive.

Buntham had asked the girl to go out with him several times until December 30, when she disappeared from her family home. The family discovered she had gone away with Buntham and alerted the police.

On January 3, Buntham returned the girl to her family. After finding out what happened, the family called him and demanded they make a deal, asking for 400,000 baht.

Buntham asked to meet the family on January 17 to make an agreement. The meeting never took place.

That afternoon, teachers and students saw Buntham and the girl talking near the site of the shooting.

Suddenly, at class recess, they heard about 10 gunshots.

Teachers then found the bodies of the two lying on the bloodied ground – the girl dead, Buntham barely alive.

Stakes are raised in 'Thai Seven' fiasco

THE DISPUTE over seven Thais arrested by the Cambodian authorities for trespassing is becoming increasingly serious after two of the group were charged with espionage, carrying a possible sentence of 10 years in jail.

Meanwhile, a nationalist pressure group is threatening to bring down the Thai government over its alleged lack of action. The so-called Thai Patriots Network has petitioned HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej to intervene to help free the seven.

At the time of writing, six of the group had been bailed, with only Thai Patriots Network leader Veera Somkwamkid still in custody.

The group was arrested on December 29 after allegedly crossing into Banteay Meanchey in Cambodia from Thailand's Sa Kaeo province.

On December 13, two of them, MP Panich Vikitsreth of the Democrat Party and Narumol Jitrawarattana, were granted bail on health grounds. They are understood to be sheltering in the Thai embassy in Phnom Penh.

Five days later, four of the remaining five were also bailed. The group faces charges of trespassing into Cambodia and entering a military area without permission.

AROUND THE nation

Former "yellow-shirt" People's Alliance for Democracy leader Veera and his secretary Rtree Pipatanapaiboon have both received an additional, serious charge of "gathering information that could affect national defence," according to AFP.

Veera has allegedly trespassed repeatedly into Cambodian territory, angering the Cambodian premier Hun Sen.

Mr Hun Sen has dismissed calls by the Thai government to free the seven, claiming the matter is in the hands of Cambodia's "independent" courts.

Influential political magazine *Maichon Weekend* this week noted Mr Hun Sen has used the argument to confound Thai PM Abhisit Vejjajiva, who has repeatedly cited the independence of Thailand's courts when accused of interfering in the judicial process.

Meanwhile, the Thai Patriots Network has threatened to prolong an anti-government campaign until Mr Abhisit steps down.



NATIONALISTS: The Thai Patriots Network has taken to the streets of Bangkok over the past two weeks. Photo: AFP

On January 13, group members marched to the Foreign Ministry to pressure Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya to step down for an alleged slow response in helping the seven.

On January 18, it marched to the Royal Palace in Bangkok to request that HM The King intervene to help the group.

Chaiwat Sinsuwong, one of the Thai Patriots Network's key leaders, claimed it could mobilize 50,000 supporters.

He claimed the Thai govern-

ment had lost legitimacy to run the country after it accepted that the seven Thais had intruded on Cambodian land.

The group claims the land where the seven were seized belongs to Thailand.

- *Phuket Gazette*

Brutal abbot murder shocks nation

A ROBBER stomped a 78-year-old temple abbot to death while high on *ya bah* (methamphetamine) on January 16 in a case which has shocked the nation.

Kamphon "Tam" Phara, 23, confessed to killing Phrakhrui Wiriyakan while he robbed monks' quarters at Wat Nongpratun in Ratchaburi province.

Around 5am, Kamphon climbed into the quarters. When Phrakhrui Wiriyakan saw him, he tied a yellow cloth over the old abbot's eyes before stomping on his chest until he died.

Mr Kamphon gathered a bundle of cash and just as he was jumping out the window, he was seen by Juea Thapha, 71, a local worshipper. Mrs Juea shouted for help.

Around 97,000 baht fell out of Kamphon's bag as he frantically ran from chasing villagers.

Police eventually caught Kamphon hiding in a sugar cane field and found another 74,000 baht in the bag.

Phrakhrui Wiriyakan was saving the money to pay workers building new monks' quarters at the temple.

- *Khao Sod*

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Closing dive sites won't help

Re: Gazette online, Phuket marine center moves to save bleached coral, January 17 (see page 1)

Wannakiat Thubthimsang, director of the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR), did not say anything about the fishing boats that fish night and day in the marine parks.

If you go to the Similans, you will see fishing boats at Island Number 1 and 600 meters off Island Number 5.

There is also a lot of garbage in the sea in that area that comes from fishing boats.

Maybe the marine park can remove the three fishing cages at Island Number 9. Three days ago, I came up from a dive at Richelieu Rock and a fishing boat dropped its anchor 50 meters from the rock and started fishing.

It is probably a good idea to close some dive sites, but I don't think that's going to help much. In 10 to 20 years – maybe – the reefs will recover.

PS: Open Fantasea Reef, I have never understood the reason for closing that dive site.

Micke

Kristianstad, Sweden

Phuket Town: Keep it real

Reading the front page story of last week's paper about Phuket Town's possible listing as a UN World Heritage site was encouraging.

I have for a long time thought Phuket Town was underrated, and that if the beautiful old architecture was taken care of and restored, as it has been on

Soi Romane, it would be able to shine in all its glory.

I hope the prospect of being listed as a World Heritage site will be enough incentive to get officials to actually pull their fingers out and do what they say they would.

I do however hope that if Phuket Town becomes a focus

for development, that it is done with preservation and restoration in mind.

It would be a terrible shame to see all the charming independent cafes and restaurants replaced by McDonald's and Patong-style nightclubs.

Dorothy Lovejoy,
Rawai

'Study' aside, our beaches need help

Phuket Gazette

of Phuket, no longer nest on our beaches... and the list goes on.

As depressing as all this might be, hope lies in the fact that if we simply cut back on our inputs of household waste, untreated wastewater, sediment-laden surface runoff, petrochemicals and other debris, the water quality at our beaches would immediately begin to rebound.

Phuket beaches enjoy two high tides a day, unlike Gulf Coast beaches which have only one, and strong-monsoon season currents produce strong mixing rates most of the year.

Unfortunately for the state of our beaches, the pace of development on the island shows few signs of slowing.

The island's population continues its meteoric rise, and last week alone a provincial committee approved eight more residential estate projects.

Last year the number of passengers arriving at Phuket International Airport surpassed the seven million mark for the first time, while the government's airport expansion plan is designed to increase passenger traffic capacity to 12.5 million by 2013.

These signs, plus the lack of community-based management strategies, do not bode well for the future of Phuket's beaches.

In today's world, awareness, empathy and philanthropy are vital, particularly from the more fortunate.

What has been done for these two children is mind blowing, and all those who donated deserve every ounce of pride and happiness they feel inside.

Don't let it stop there though. As we all know, there are millions more children and adults to whom a little to you would mean a lot to them.

Go out and keep giving – the rewards are immeasurable.

Astrid
Chalong

Hero's death deserves a hero investigation

Re: Gazette online, Phuket hero lawyer in apparent suicide, January 16 (see page 1)

Mr Supachai should be honored from the top down for the work he has done – and the risks he has taken – for free and for so many years in order to help the poorest of Phuket.

With my sincere respect to you, Khun Supachai, I hope that the police and other authorities will work *really* hard to find the *truth* about your death. R.I.P.

Dennis
Phuket

Long road to common sense

Patong one-way: Wow.

Perfect timing, just when things start to get a little busy, the weather finally turns a little nice, and some wizard decides to change a perfectly fine traffic pattern.

James Bond
Phuket

Keep on giving Phuket!

It's great to see the outpouring of support for little Tuptim and Rino – two children who have been given a second chance at life thanks to donations from generous supporters.

Phuket Gazette

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Issues & Answers...

Can I refuse to pay a service charge?

I always ask how the service charge at restaurants is divided between the staff and quite often I am told that it goes to pay for uniforms, broken crockery and other such things with only a small percentage actually going to the staff.

I know in most countries you can refuse to pay a service charge, is this possible legally in Thailand? I would much rather give the staff the money and let the company buy its own dishes.

Mark Allen
Rawai

Chamnong Phongjarus, a tax auditor at the Revenue Department office in Phuket, replies:

In Thailand, consumers must pay for any expenses incurred by placing an order. If a service charge is on the bill, you must pay it.

Any restaurant that adds a service charge to its bills must report to the Revenue Department how much revenue has been collected

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/
IssuesAnswers

as service charge – just like they must do with VAT.

Service charges levied must be passed on to the staff, and is usually considered part of their salary. Some businesses use the service charge as a way of guaranteeing minimum salaries for their staff.

Normal procedure is for a restaurant to collect all service charge revenue together and then deduct costs for any breakages from the total before dividing it among the staff.

It is done this way because otherwise the restaurant will deduct any breakages from the salary of the particular staff member responsible for the breakages.

This latter method has proved to

make more trouble, and unhappier staff, than the way it is done now.

A work permit to write letters?

I'm an elderly lady, retired, who sometimes writes letters to newspapers. I've been told that the Labor Department considers writing as being work. Do I need a work permit to write letters to newspapers in Thailand?

Constance
Bangkok

Jeerapan Sukwan, a labor specialist at the work permit division at the Phuket Provincial Employment Office, replies:

If the letter a person writes to a newspaper is a suggestion or complaint about their inconvenience or something like that, then there is no need to get a work permit.

But if the "letter" is a message or article, for example writing for advertising or writing about tourism and is published many times in a column and that person is paid

Park closure not the answer to coral rescue

FIRST PERSON

I DO not agree with the request [to close marine national parks to tourists] because I think tourism activities, which can be controlled, have only a slight effect on coral bleaching. However, the rising temperature of sea water, which cannot be controlled, has a much bigger effect.

Coral was present on Earth many years before humans and it is still alive now. Coral bleaching is a natural phenomenon that happens all over the world and it is an effect of global warming. The level of damage depends on many factors such as place, underwater currents and the changes in water temperature; some years coral is bleached in a few, small areas and some years in a lot.

Bleaching just changes the social structure of coral and marine life, but not to the extent that it will become extinct.

Normally, every national park has to close six months a year to give time for nature to gradually develop. So, anyway, in three months time when the monsoon arrives, both Mu Koh Surin and Similan would be closed as normal to let the coral and underwater environment restore. It takes about three to five years to restore completely.

So don't panic too much that tourism activities like scuba or skin diving will kill all of the coral, and don't use this reason to stop diving in these areas. Instead, these activities should be monitored in



Mana Phempool, chief of the Marine National Park Operations Center (MNPOC) Andaman region, was deputy chief of Mu Koh Similan National Park before being promoted to head of the MNPOC. Here he gives his thoughts on the recent closure of parts of Mu Koh Surin and Similan national parks due to coral bleaching (see page 1).



each area with coral damage and more measures should be put in place to prevent possible damage caused by tourism activities.

I can say that scuba diving has very little effect on coral damaging, but I must admit that skin diving can sometimes cause small amounts of damage to coral by touching or stepping on it.

However, there is still no official report showing the percentage of damage caused by these tourism

activities. As we have yet to obtain such a document, diving should not be prohibited in those areas.

It would be better to be more strict with protection measures such as allowing only diving boats with septic tanks into the parks, laying buoys to mark coral areas, and training operators and divers on environmental awareness.

Enforcement officers alone are not enough. The visitors themselves must help protect our parks.

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

for it, then we consider that as being work and the writer is advised to get work a permit.

If you have any questions, you can contact us in person at our office in Phuket Town or call us at 076-219660-1 ex14.

Are go-go poles illegal?

I am thinking of buying a bar on Bangla Road in Patong but have been told that all go-go poles in bars are illegal and will have to be removed. Is this correct?

Concerned Patong

Ms Meena Panun, a sanitary officer at Patong Municipality, replies:

It is not illegal to have a dancing pole in a bar, however it is illegal if the dancers using the pole are performing obscene acts or displaying private body parts.

So as long as the dancers obey the law regarding this, the dancing poles can still be used in Patong bars.



Pole dancers on Soi Bangla in Patong.



BARE ESSENTIALS: Nudism, even 'quasi-nudism' is illegal in Thailand.

NIPPLEWATCH: Staying abreast of nude Phuket

Island View

By Blair Christopher

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

NIPPLE-wielding beachgoers should take note: You could find yourself spending a night in the can instead of getting that all-body tan, if you don't take note of the law of the land.

Ignorance when it comes to nudism in Phuket, through my peepers, seems to be on the rise.

Perked and sagging, jiggling and swinging – more and more Western boobs are turning heads on our beaches this high season.

Prude as it may sound, Western ladies – and men in some cases – should be a tad more sensitive to the culture we live in – it is frowned upon here.

Lessons can be learned from one love-struck Thai woman who whipped off all her clothes and ran down Soi Bangla after her fiancée proposed to her last year. She was arrested and fined.

Exciting as her 100-yard birthday-suit dash must have been, the fine and next morning's wake up call would have been a sobering reminder that nude is defiantly rude in Thailand.

Swinging your best bits around like it's Woodstock '69 won't cut it here with the law – beach or no beach.

Sun, sand and sea may seem like an excuse, but they are not.

Honor the legal system here and please think twice before you let it all hang out.

Observing the steady rise of pseudo-nudism (tits out) over the past few years, I can't help but think it's getting out of hand.

Unimaginable was one such incident on Phi Phi, as our party ambled along the busy side streets en route to the ferry pier.

Loitering next to a male food vendor were two brunette 20-somethings, wearing only bikini bottoms and sandals, casually conversing with the man.

Delight was smeared across the faces of the teenagers milling

around out of earshot behind the brunettes, but there were plenty of furrowed brows around from other stall owners showing their disapproval of the boob show before them.

Before the young ladies could buy their fruit, an elderly Thai lady from the next stall waded in and spat out her disapproval, handing the nimble temptresses a dirty old sarong for cover.

Eager not to upset the already hostile elderly woman, the ladies covered up and scampered off, no doubt to the beach to strip off again.

Crikey, I thought, some people just don't get it.

Endearing yourself to the culture here is not achieved through displays of flesh. In fact, quite the opposite.

Nudity is against the law in public places in Thailand and just because other people do it, doesn't mean that the police won't fine you if they catch a glance of a stray nipple.

Should you feel the real pang to peel off, then there are a few places that might be able to help your need get your kit off.

Oogle thailandnaturist.com and you may find some pointers you're looking for, or check out the SUN – not that one, the Society for Understanding Nudism.

Regular bloggers on the SUN's website seem to find all manner of useful info to unzip their naked queries.

Even the most hardy of nudists, or quasi-nudists (tits out), should think before stripping down in public in Thailand.

Don't want to spend the night in the clink, do ya?

More subsidies to ease diesel prices

By Anand Singh

A SECOND increase in the subsidy for diesel in two months has been approved by the Energy Policy Administration Committee in order to keep retail prices below 30 baht per liter.

This follows a five-billion-baht subsidy by the National Energy Policy Council to stabilize the price of diesel in December, *The Nation* reports.

This latest increase brings the total subsidy to 2.5 baht per liter for B5 diesel, and 1.65 baht per liter for B3 diesel.

There are several external factors contributing to rising oil prices worldwide, says the Head of Phuket Provincial Energy Office, Mr Jirasak Thammavej.

But oil prices are rising faster this year than last because of increased demand from Asian economic powerhouses, such as China and India, and also due to

the economic recovery in Europe and the US, said Mr Jirasak.

Biodiesel retailed in Thailand is usually mixed with three to five per cent palm oil, but recently there have been severe shortages of palm oil, prompting retailers to ration their stock and increase the price.

"The diesel subsidy has been put in place to protect local industries from rapid price changes, which is likely to destabilize production costs and lead to higher retail prices," he said.

"If the price of diesel is allowed to rise nationwide, many retailers in Phuket may also have to increase their prices due to increased costs.

"Because most of our consumable products are not produced here in Phuket, we have to rely on diesel for transportation.

"Increased diesel prices will lead to increased transportation costs, which may also be passed

to consumers," he adds.

Funds needed to subsidize diesel prices will come from the National Oil Fund.

Although Mr Jirasak agrees that subsidy is needed to help industries stabilize production costs in the short term, he explained that in reality the Oil Fund is limited since much of it is already being used in other projects, such as for gasohol and other alternative energy development.

"The fund should be able to subsidize diesel at this rate for one or two more months, after which the government will have to find other means to subsidize," Mr Jirasak said.

The National Energy Policy Council hopes that the subsidy will be enough to keep retail prices of diesel below 30 baht per liter until winter ends in Europe and the US, after which it is expected that oil prices will start to ease, *The Nation* reports.



DIESEL HELP: More subsidies have been approved to help keep the price of diesel down. Photo: Nicky Vermeulen

Mastering the art of wealth preservation

Island Investor

By Bill Anderson

WEALTH preservation craves a very different mindset to wealth generation. Different personality types excel at wealth generation and wealth preservation, with many being able to generate the wealth, but not preserve it.

In Phuket, most expat residents have built up substantial assets through work and entrepreneurship, and it's important to focus on preserving that wealth.

A motivated sales executive, for example, could have the drive to make lots of money and become very wealthy, but might not have the discipline to structure and invest the wealth properly – which is the wealth preservation part.

People who are great at earning lots of money often end up

losing it because of inadequate wealth preservation.

Wealth preservation is a very conservative approach. Rather than focusing on how much money can be made, the focus should be on how much money can be lost.

So, if you really want to get wealthy and stay wealthy, a good approach might be to work in a high paying profession, and then learn how to preserve your wealth by structuring and investing it.

Many people either make or inherit a fortune, then proceed to lose it. Some people never make a fortune, but end up with wealth in their old age.

What's best for most people is to focus on generating wealth and then preserve it as they go. A clean separation of duties between wealth preservation and generation is vitally important.

With regard to not implementing wealth preservation, say some



Keeping hold of your wealth.

catastrophic event happens, it will be made much worse because the opportunity cost of the lost capital will result in more years having to work and save.

And even if a catastrophic event never happens, the time spent being distracted and worried by the possibility of a loss are an opportunity cost, because the time spent worrying could

have been used generating wealth.

A good wealth manager will focus on your wealth preservation and help you structure your existing and future wealth. Since you do not have to worry about catastrophic losses or having enough money for your golden years, you can focus more effectively on wealth generating activities.

For most entrepreneurs who have created substantial assets, the best approach is to invest in funds that are not designed to "beat the street" but are managed to preserve what capital you have, and make a reasonable return above inflation. This is wealth preservation.

As many investors realized in 2008, the world of investment can turn very nasty. Although markets have recovered somewhat since then, the potential for further catastrophic market crashes is a real possibility.

If you have the assets, rule

number one should be not to lose them.

Multi-asset funds are investment funds which can be invested in many different asset classes, whenever each class is appropriate. For example, when the global economic situation is uncertain, a multi-asset fund will invest conservatively and reduce exposure to equities, investing more in managed cash and fixed-income opportunities.

This approach will mean that returns will be relatively modest, but the assets are protected if a catastrophic meltdown of the markets occurs.

For the majority of investors who have built up substantial assets through wealth generation, this approach is very sensible.

A particular fund that has a very strong track record of multi-asset investment is the Miton Special Situations Fund.

This fund, which is run out of the UK, has returned an annualized 10.85 per cent since its inception 13 years ago. Last year the fund gained 8.3 per cent.

In addition, this kind of fund reduces the volatility by hedging some of its positions, thus smoothing out the ups and downs of the markets. In 2008, when virtually every market crashed 30 to 40 per cent, this fund gained 4.8 per cent.

For those with substantial excess capital, a multi-asset fund that invests conservatively is a good way of preserving capital.

Bill Anderson is the Phuket Associate Director of MBMG International. E: bill@mbmg-international.com

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Rubber prices hitting a record high

RUBBER prices have been hitting record highs since the start of this year. The price of rubber in Hat Yai province hit 160.12 baht per kilogram on January 14, falling slightly to 156.11 baht per kg on January 17, according to the Phuket Provincial Rubber Replanting Aid Fund Office.

This year has seen the price of rubber reach its highest in Thailand's history, Nonaphon Napoh, a researcher at the Phuket Provincial Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperative Office said.

"One of the main factors pushing up rubber prices is the strong demand for rubber from China," Mr Nonaphon said.

"This year Thailand's supply of rubber has also been badly affected following extensive flooding in many of the country's southern provinces.

"The flood has caused quite a lot of damage to agricultural land and rubber plantations," he said.

Mr Nonaphon said that the floods caused damage to over 100,000 rai of rubber plantations in Phatthalung alone. As a result the country's supply of rubber has fallen significantly.

At the start of last year, Phuket had around 100,000 rai dedicated to rubber cultivation. At the start of this year, only 80,000 rai was left.

"The island's ability to supply rubber has continuously fallen each year. Phuket's tourism and real estate boom has encouraged more land owners to convert rubber plantations into luxury real estate projects and hotels.

"A lot of hillside plantations with a good sea view have been cleared for such purposes," Mr Nonaphon said.

"In the short term, the high price of rubber is going to benefit rubber cultivators in Phuket, yielding them higher profits.

"However in the coming years it is likely that rubber plantations will gradually decline on the island as tourism and real estate continue to grow," he added.

- Anand Singh

Lining up Slovak tourism

By Janpen Upatising

TOURISTS on Patong Beach received a surprise last week when the 12 finalists in the Miss Slovakia beauty pageant arrived to try out parasailing.

The bevy of beauties were in Phuket to film a promotional video which will be screened on TV in their home country during the final round of the Miss Slovakia contest.

Bangornrat Shinaprayoon, director of the southern regional office of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), told the *Phuket Gazette* that, "From the tour operators I have talked to, tourism between Phuket and Slovakia has good potential. Slovakia is one of the new tourism markets for Phuket.

"About 1,000 tourists from Slovakia visit Phuket [a year], while most European tourists [in Phuket] are from Western Europe," Ms Bangornrat said.

"I think it's a good idea to start promoting Phuket through their activities so Phuket can become a popular holiday destination for them in the future," she said.



FROM SLOVAKIA WITH LOVE: The Miss Slovakia contestants' visit to Phuket could increase tourist numbers from the region. Photo: Janpen Upatising

"Our beaches are one of their favorites since Slovakia is surrounded by mountains and has no coast.

"Travel to Phuket is also convenient as Eastern Europe is not far from here.

"It takes no longer than 10

hours by plane," she added.

The video that was recorded in Phuket will be aired on Slovakian TV for two to three months until the final round of the contest.

"People in Slovakia can get to know and see Thailand in many

aspects through the show. Also, Phuket is the number one beach destination for tourists in Thailand," Director Bangornrat said.

Miss Slovakia contestant Lubica Kvasnicova, 23, explained, "We are in the middle of Europe and we do not have any beaches. So swimming in the sea and scuba diving are activities we always look forward to.

"Bangkok, Phuket and Phi Phi are the most popular places for Slovakian people to visit in Thailand. I think our travel agents have done a great job of promoting here," she said.

"The younger generation and a lot of my friends love Thailand. I was told that I had to come here to see it for myself and that I would be amazed," said Daniela Szitkeyova, 22.

"I am amazed by the temples. I have been to three temples in Bangkok and I am really interested in Buddhism. So, it is like a dream come true," she added.

The party of 12 continued their tour of Phuket and Phi Phi Island until January 22, when they departed for their home country's capital, Bratislava.

Vietnam pitches for stronger tourism ties

VIETNAMESE Ambassador to Thailand Ngo Duc Thang led a delegation to Phuket last week with the aim of developing tourism ties between his homeland and Phuket.

Talks with senior provincial officials focused on areas of cooperation under the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) free-trade agreement that will see nearly all trade tariffs among Asean countries reduced to zero by 2015.

Ambassador Ngo Duc Thang suggested reciprocal student-exchange programs be developed to offer Phuket students the opportunity of studying in Vietnam, and vice-versa.

"Right now in Phuket, especially in Patong, there is a small but growing community of Thai-Vietnamese families.

"Phuket could help these people because this community can help create connections in trade, investment and tourism

between Phuket and Vietnam," added Ambassador Ngo.

Vice Governor Weerawat Janpen suggested that, as with any community seeking provincial government assistance, the Thai-Vietnamese community in Phuket could apply directly to the appropriate government departments for any assistance they required.

Phuket Tourism Association's (PTA) Bhuritt Maswongsa suggested developing flight links between Phuket and Vietnam,

especially as the two were popular tourist destinations.

"We can exchange tourists and we should look into tourists in Phuket being able to obtain visas to enter Vietnam," he said.

Phuket Immigration Deputy Superintendent Krisdakorn Klinkesorn said there were currently about 1,000 Vietnamese nationals in Phuket.

Of that number only 12 were staying on visa extensions and six had work permits, he said.

- Pimwara Choksakulpan



Vietnamese Ambassador to Thailand Ngo Duc Thang. Photo: Janpen Upatising

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On the pull in Patong

Fancy a pint? Find home-brewed ales with a difference at Full Moon, Phuket's newest addition to the nightlife scene.



Brew master Sukij Thipatima



Full Moon is pulling in the customers

By Fraser Morton

SUKIJ Thipatima is a man who knows what kind of beer he likes – his own.

The 31-year-old brew master at Full Moon micro-brewery in Jungceylon, Patong has been pouring his own blend of ingenuity into his “liquid gold” since opening shop two months ago.

Since then, Sukij has been pulling for a firm following of expats (mostly yachties) and tourists who are going potty for his pints

There's the Phuket Lager (half pint 90 baht, pint 170 baht): A pale lager with a blend of Australian crystal malt and Thai gaba rice. Some may find it overly sweet, but to our tongue it is titillatingly good and served bitterly cold.

Next up, the Full Moon Dark Ale (same price as the lager): Dark ale drinkers will belch in approval at this one. Three malt varieties fused with black sticky rice from Isarn, with whiffs of caramel and a coffee-chocolate after taste. Weird, but it works.

And then there is the Oriental Wheat Beer (again, same price): Touted as the only wheat beer to be produced in Thailand, this is a fine testament to Sukij's skills. Peer into the glass long enough, and as the golden cloud clears, expect to see your reflection smil-

ing back at you. Yes, this is a satisfying brew. Tangerine peel and coriander is added to this ale for a sweet, but refreshing final kick of zest.

Without any formal training – aside from a month-long crash course in Berlin, Germany a few years back – the well-English-spoken Sukij has taught himself the art of brewing beer.

With career stints at Heineken Thailand and as the brand manager for Smirnoff Thailand, Sukij is accustomed to life surrounded by booze. But he doesn't strike you as one who would overindulge, quite the opposite. Sukij seems like a guy in control of his brewing, and his vision for Full Moon.

“We want to expand into the rest of Thailand, and then maybe neighboring countries in Asia. But first we have to make our Phuket



Photos: Fraser Morton

PULLING POWER: Waitress Panrada 'Annie' Akkarakornmas

operation a success,” he says.

The food here is also top-notch and reasonably priced. Cool music, pleasant atmosphere and most importantly – a well-poured pint.

At Jungceylon Shopping Center (behind the boat). T:076-336753 or E:sukij@fullmoonbrewwork.com

Big names in music coming to Thailand

FANS of live international music are in for a treat in the coming months. Following big-name DJs Roger Sanchez and Bob Sinclar wowing revelers recently in Patong, and with the International Blues and Rock Festival just around the corner (see page 11), there is also plenty of talent coming to the capital.

If the idea of a quick trip to Bangkok to see some great music sounds like fun, then maybe some of these names will pique your musical interest.

Eric Clapton – yes, the legend – will play in the capital on February 16. For Phuket fans, go to W:thaiticketmajor.com or W:totalreservation.com for tickets.

Just remember to make it back in time for the Phuket Blues Rock Fest, which will also be rockin'.

Other big names playing soon in the capital include Santana, Slash, The Deftones and The Eagles. The Eagles – reunited despite their 2004 Farewell Tour – will pay Bangkok another visit as part of their “Another World” tour. And rock outfit Maroon 5, who have also previously seen the inside of Impact Arena, will be back in April.

Let's hope more big-name international musicians will be coming to Thailand, and Phuket, in the months ahead.

Acts, dates & venues

Feb 10 - Scorpions at Impact

Feb 14 - Lea Salonga at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre

Feb 15 - Deftones at the Thunder Dome

Feb 16 - Eric Clapton at Impact

Feb 20 - The Eagles at Impact

Feb 21 - New Found Glory at the Thailand Cultural Centre

March 1 - Santana at Impact

March 10 - Slash at Impact

March 19 - The Whitest Boy Alive (venue not set)

April 23 - Maroon 5 at Impact

– The Nation and Phuket Gazette

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Bring on the Blues Rock Fest

By Phuket Gazette

THE Phuket International Blues Rock Festival, now in its sixth year, will return to the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort and Spa in Karon from February 25-26.

Curtis Salgado, one of the headline acts to play at the Blues Rock Fest next month, has been nominated for the Soul Blues Male Artist of the Year award at the 2011 Blues Music Awards.

The awards, the blues music equivalent of the Grammys, will be held in Memphis, Tennessee, on May 5.

The nomination follows Salgado's award as Soul Blues Male Artist of the Year for his album "Clean Getaway" last year. Apart from his distinguished career as a soul blues musician, Salgado is well known as the man who inspired and mentored John Belushi for his role in the classic film *The Blues Brothers*.

Joining Salgado on stage next month will be Mason Ruffner, an artist who has gained the respect of iconic artists



Photo: Bengt Nyman

HE'S COMING: Phuket Blues Fest headline act Curtis Salgado has been nominated for a major blues music award.

Bob Dylan and Santana.

Ruffner, from New Orleans, is best known for his track *Gypsy Blood*, which featured on the Steel Magnolias soundtrack.

Former Phuket Blues Fest greats Eric Bibb, Mitch Woods and Charlie Musselwhite have also been nominated for music awards this year. Bibb has been

nominated in the Acoustic Artist of the Year and Acoustic Album of the Year categories for his album "Booker's Guitar".

In addition, he has also been

nominated for the Best Instrumentalist-Harmonica award.

The legendary Charlie Musselwhite has been nominated for multiple awards including Traditional Blues Male Artist of the Year and his latest track, *Sad and Beautiful World*, has been nominated for Song of the Year.

The track features on his latest album "The Well", which has been nominated for Album of the Year and Traditional Blues Album of the Year.

Musselwhite is no stranger to awards. In 2007 he won Song of the Year for *Church is Out*, one of the main tracks on his CD "Delta Hardware", which went on to win Album of the Year and Traditional Blues Album of the Year.

Tickling the ivories, Mitch Woods has been nominated for the Pinetop Perkins Piano Player award. The *Phuket Gazette* sponsors this festival.

For more information, contact Andy Andersen at 086-6822639 or phuketmusic@yahoo.com

Comedy club back after festive break

FOLLOWING on from sell-out shows last year, the Punchline Comedy Club returns for its first show of 2011 at the Holiday Inn Resort in Patong next month.

Three of the sharpest comedic minds on the UK comedy circuit will take to the stage on February 23.

Among the comedians lined up is Nick Doody, rated as one of Britain's most popular stand-up artists.

Nick has tickled funny bones all around the world with his politically charged stand-up routine.

He writes comedy for television and radio, with credits including Channel 4's Friday Night Project and the Armando Iannucci's Award-winning Charm Offensive.

Nick can also lay claim to supporting the late great Bill Hicks on his final tour of the UK...at Bill's request.

Also set to perform is Englishman Josh Howie, whose path into comedy is a story in itself.

An ex-public schoolboy, raised as a Buddhist and training to be a Rabbi, Josh was kicked off the program after being caught naked with a non-Jewish girl, so perhaps it was inevitable that he would go on to

become a stand-up comedian.

Josh, who *The Scotsman* describes as a "young Woody Allen", is the current presenter of the movie review show *Movie Geek* on Sky Movies and is a regular columnist with *The Guardian* newspaper.

Completing the trio of performers on the night will be Irishman Michael Legge.

Michael is best known as an improviser and was part of the very successful *Scriptease* show in London's West End.

His writing credits include music for various MTV and Channel 4 shows, while he has been nominated for a BAFTA for his work on

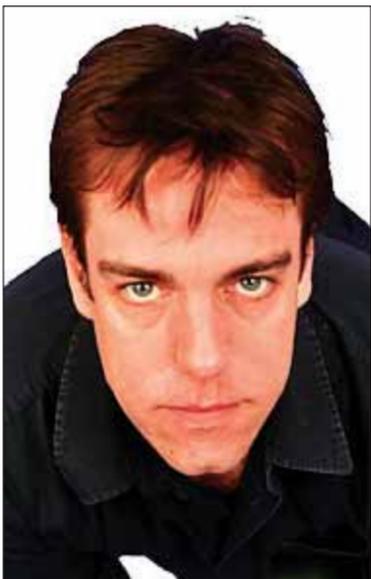
The Osbournes website.

Tickets for the show are on sale at venues across the island at 960 baht each until February 22. Tickets will cost 1,200 baht on the night.

Doors open at 8pm for an 8:30pm show start.

— Andrew Jennings

For more information visit www.phuketcomedy.com



British comedian Nick Doody

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Dining with stars

On the Menu

By Marc Mulloy

THE stars were out in every sense at The Evason Phuket and Bon Island when rising Michelin-star Chef Jens Jacob dropped in last week on his first visit to Thailand, demonstrating why he has a Michelin star and even "stars" in his own TV show back home.

Home for Chef Jens is Saarbrücken, Germany where he opened his Le Noir restaurant in 2008, just a few doors down from his mentor, three-star chef Klaus Erfort, under whom he trained as a pastry chef. Through passion and dedication he earned his own star shortly after.

"This may be the only four Michelin star street in Germany," Chef Jens joked after the sumptuous meal.

Together with his Sous Chef, Peter Wirbel, and Evason's own star Chef Thomas Jakobi, Chef Jens

showcased his sophisticated cooking style, "modern French-infused cuisine with molecular techniques", in a specially created menu that started with a traditional Gazpacho accompanied by scallops.

The first meat of the evening was pigeon, lightly smoked with apple wood and served on lentils and pine kernels. This was followed by a trio of ocean tuna, chosen only from sustainable varieties of the fish in keeping with Evason's "SLOW" food philosophy (Sustainable, Local, Organic, Wholesome).

Also in keeping with Evason's excellent range of accompanying wines which regular *Phuket Gazette* readers will have read about in the past.

Next came one of Jen's signature dishes an unbroken egg yolk cooked to perfection in a ravioli skin, placed on a bed of spinach and flavored with truffle. A true labor of love.

Another signature dish came next with a saddle of venison

poached and lacquered in a broth of exotic spices served with caramelized red cabbage and pineapple textures.

This was followed by an example of molecular contrast when a chestnut puree was served with a coulis of passion fruit. The result was both surprisingly original and delicious.

Dessert came in the shape of a slice of chocolate heaven with a rich 72 per cent *araguaní* (a rare cocoa bean) tart served with a piña colada cream.

So just what is a Michelin star and why is it so important?

When André Michelin published the first edition of the Michelin Guide in 1900 it was to help drivers maintain their cars and find a decent place to sleep and eat while touring France.

The guide began recognizing outstanding restaurants in 1926 by marking their listings with a star; two and three stars were added in the early 1930s.

One star indicates a "very good



STARS: Michelin-star Chef Jens Jacob (right) with the Evason's Thomas Jakobi.

cuisine in its category", a two-star ranking represents "excellent cuisine, worth a detour", and three stars are awarded to restaurants offering "exceptional cuisine, worth a special journey".

"It means you have earned

respect, a rank, yes, it is like being decorated, almost like being knighted. A Michelin star gives you the opportunity to go forward with more expensive ingredients and to attract a more discerning clientele," Chef Jens added.



KEBAB TEAM: Omer Demir (center) with the Kebab House team.

It's kebab time in Rawai

THE Kebab House in Rawai has been open little over a week, but locals already love it. Here are a few reasons why...

Location: Simple. Kebabed between Serenity Terraces and the turnoff for Friendship Beach on Wiset Road.

The Döner Kebabs (chicken 85 baht, beef 120 baht): Many a mouthful of spit-roasted meat pleasure. Hearty portions, fresh yogurt and salad. You'll be back once you try one.

Meat-free fetish: Vegetarians



Babagunush with pita bread

won't be disappointed here and most dishes can be tailored to suit. Try the Eggplant Salad Babagunush (80 baht), or the Carrot Salad with garlic yogurt (90 baht) for a healthy dose of delight.

Happy to host: Turkish-born Omer Demir and his Polish co-owners are likeable lads and great hosts. They know the food they sell and greet patrons with a smile.



The Iskender Kebab is glorious

Menu surprises: Tas Kebabi (120 baht) beef stew with potatoes is worth a mention, as is the Iskender Kebab (140 baht).

Lunch and dinner: Open from 12-9:30pm every day, except Wednesdays.

- Fraser Morton

Call the Kebab House on T: 085-5770490, or 087-9201400

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Megamind a must see

Film

By Nicky Vermeulen

Megamind 3D

Director: Tom McGrath
Starring: Will Ferrell, Brad Pitt, Tina Fey, Jonah Hill
Genre: Family/Comedy
Gazette Rating: 4/5

HERE'S a superhero story with a "mega" twist. Megamind is DreamWorks' latest big-screen animation offering, with a band of big Hollywood names lending their voices to this light-hearted tale of triumph over evil.

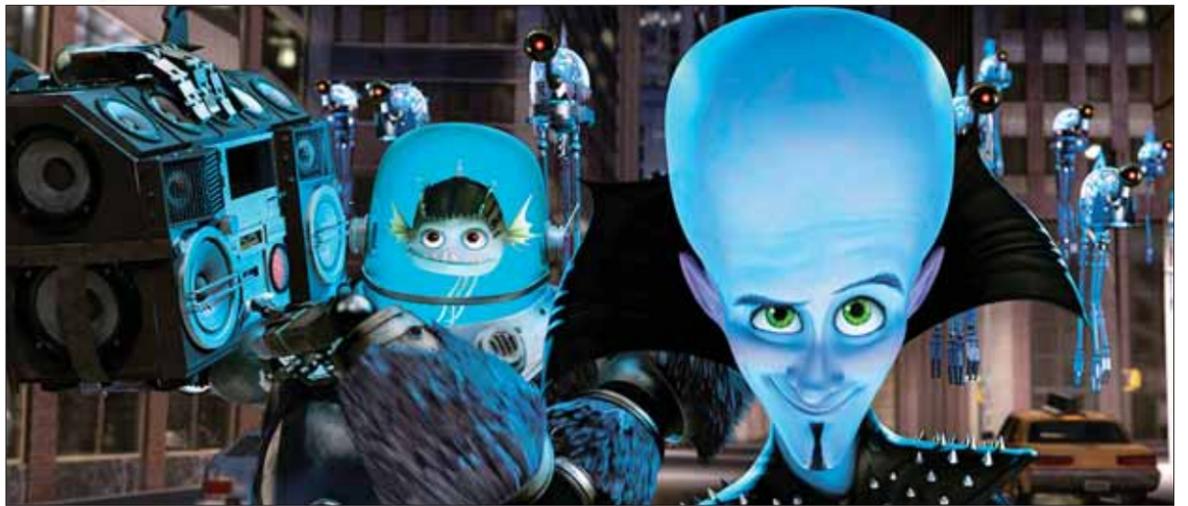
Set in Metro City, cinemagoers – with 3D glasses on – learn of the demise of the city's much-loved superhero Metroman (Pitt), who after a bout of identity crisis fakes

his own death so he can pursue a life in music.

With the city's superhero boots empty, all eyes turn to Megamind (Ferrell), a supervillan who suffers from an amusing speech impediment. But without Metroman to fight with, Megamind develops a severe case of the blues.

Here's where the movie starts to get interesting. Amidst plotting to lay the memory of his greatest rival to rest once and for all and blow up the Metroman Museum, Megamind runs into one of his former hostages and Metroman's girlfriend, TV reporter Roxanne Ritchi (Fey). Not wanting to be recognized, Megamind quickly disguises himself as the closest person to him.

With his evil intentions cloaked under the disguise of the well-meaning museum curator, Bernhard, Megamind soon falls for Roxanne, as the pair bond remi-



MAGNIFICENT: Megamind and his trusty sidekick, Minion, provide entertainment for the entire family.

niscing over tales of Metroman.

Intent on having a superhero to duke it out with in his life, Megamind sets about creating a new superhero who he names Titan, or "Tighten", as the newbie likes to call himself.

While prepping new superhero Tighten, Megamind finds himself cleaning up Metro City to make Roxanne happy.

However, it isn't long before Megamind finds himself in all kinds of trouble. While Roxanne is repulsed when she realizes who she has been dating, Megamind's new arch enemy Tighten doesn't seem to be working out as planned. In-

stead of filling Metroman's shoes, Tighten turns out to be a homicidal maniac who also wants to get up-close-and-personal with Roxanne.

As Tighten gets more out of control causing havoc in Metro City, Roxanne re-unites with Megamind and the pair go in search of Metroman's hideout to find clues as to what the elusive superhero would have done to save the day. Instead, the duo find a disheveled Metroman, alive and well, surrounded by instruments.

After he dismisses their plea for help, Megamind and Roxanne return to the city in turmoil feeling more hopeless than ever.

In a predictable turn for the worse, Roxanne is kidnapped by Tighten, leaving Megamind no choice but to save the day himself and win back Roxanne's heart. Will he get her back? Well, you'll have to see for yourself. This one's well worth a watch. Light-hearted, funny and a great way to kill a few hours.

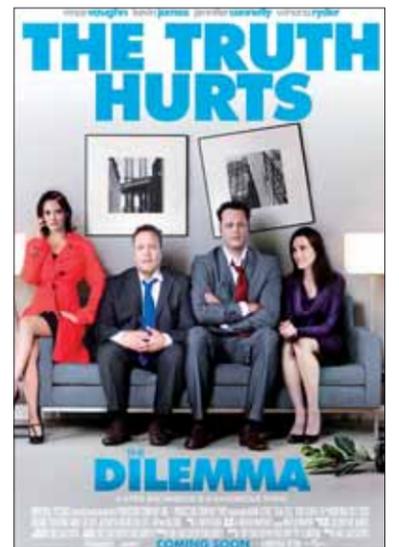
Aside from faultless 3D graphics, the movie has the added bonus of a great soundtrack, which includes tracks like *Highway to Hell* by ACDC, *Welcome to the Jungle* by Guns 'n Roses, *Bad* by Michael Jackson, *Crazy Train* by Ozzy Osbourne and a plethora more to keep parents entertained.

What else is on...

The Dilemma

Director: Ron Howard
Starring: Vince Vaughn, Kevin James, Jennifer Connelly, Winona Ryder, Channing Tatum, Queen Latifah
Genre: Comedy
Gazette Rating: 5/5

THE Dilemma is a story of how far you can test a "bromance" before it snaps. Since college, bachelor Ronny (Vaughn) and happily married Nick (James) have been through thick and thin. But Ronny's world is turned upside down when he sees Geneva (Ryder) out with another man and makes it his mission to get answers. As the amateur investigation dissolves his world into comic mayhem, he learns that Nick has a few secrets of his own. Fun, witty and a great movie for all the family. Go see this flick!

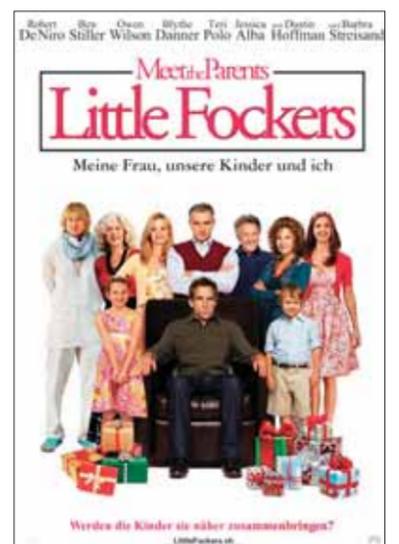


Little Fockers

Director: Paul Weitz
Starring: Robert De Niro, Ben Stiller, Owen Wilson, Blythe Danner, Jessica Alba, Laura Dern, Harvey Keitel, Teri Polo, Barbra Streisand
Genre: Comedy
Gazette Rating: 4/5

THE test of wills between Jack and Greg escalates to new heights of comedy in the third installment of the blockbuster "Fockers" series". In *Little Fockers*, Greg must prove to the skeptical Jack that he's fully capable as the man of the house.

But with all the misunderstandings, spying and covert missions, will Greg pass Jack's final test and become the family's next patriarch, or will the circle of trust be broken for good?



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David Brook

DAVID Brook moved to Phuket in 1997, leaving behind a 20 year career managing operations for some of the UK's largest breweries.

"I first came to Thailand in 1977 when I was Marketing Director for Scottish Breweries, with a group of pub owners who had won a competition for beer sales. We took them to Bangkok and Pattaya to play golf. I was immediately impressed with the country."

Twenty years later, on a visit to Phuket, he met Baan Rim Pa's Tom McNamara who suggested he create a local beer for the island.

He returned home to England, retired as CEO of Federation Brewery in Newcastle, sold his home, packed a few boxes of personal effects and moved to Phuket with his golf clubs. Soon after he bought a plot of land and built his home.

He began to develop Phuket Island Lager and spent his remaining hours on the golf course.

David was born in Yorkshire and educated in Leeds. He graduated from Sheffield University with a Bachelor's in Economics and continued on at Bradford Business School for his MBA. Upon graduation he wanted to work in sales and took a job as a trainee for General Foods, working around North-east England.

He was quickly promoted to National Sales Operations Manager

EXPAT gallery

By Bruce Stanley

and by the time he left the company, after seven years, he was Development Manager responsible for all new business.

David spent the next several years as Group Marketing Manager for British Vita, one of the UK's largest manufacturers of foams and fibres, responsible for the development of the company's sales strategy.

In 1977 he wanted to work with fast moving consumer products and joined Scottish Breweries as Marketing Director. After four years there he was recruited as Managing Director of Strathmore Springs, part of the Lonhro Group.

"My mission was to revamp the business, change the product range, change all brand logos, introduce flavored drinks, diversify the business, develop the wholesale beer business and become more competitive on price and service."

His success at Strathmore Springs cleared the path for him to become CEO at Federation Brewery in 1984, a position he held until moving to Phuket.

"During my 14 years at Federation, we became the 10th largest brewery in the United Kingdom. We grew from sales of 28 million pounds to 68 million pounds. I streamlined the company by getting rid of unprofitable business lines and we diversified into canned beer."

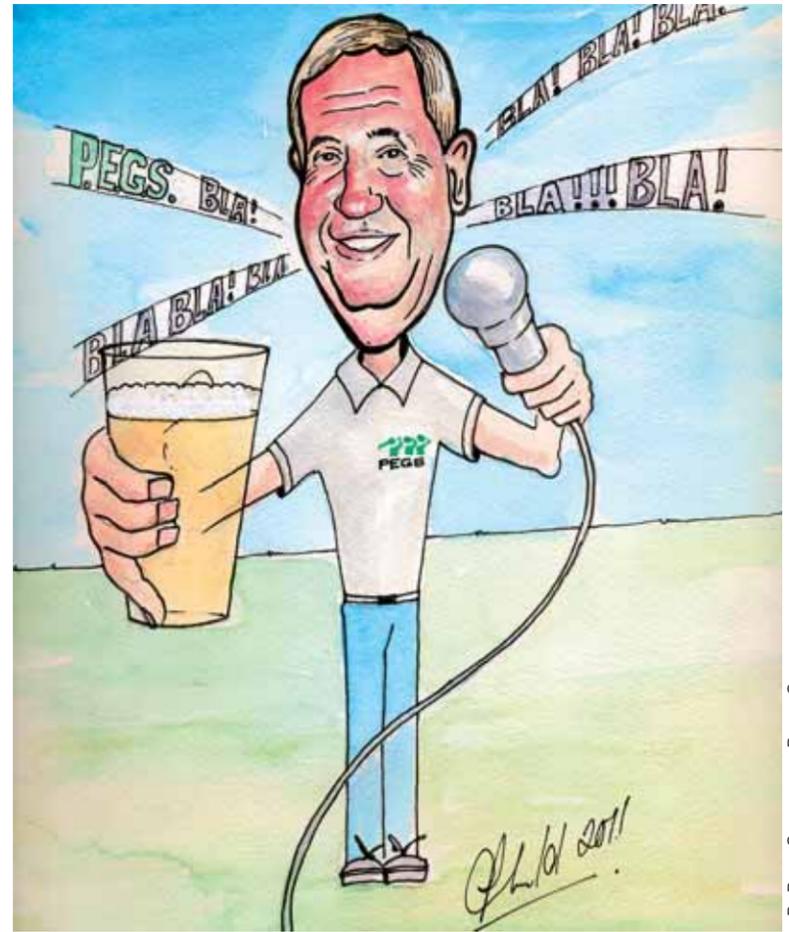
During his career, David became involved in many sponsorship activities which included traveling to America for golf, darts tournaments and other events.

He became a close friend of John Lowe, the three-time world darts champion and a regular visitor to Phuket, and a number of celebrities. These included Sir Alex Ferguson, Sir Norman Wisdom, Mohammed Ali, Frank Carson, Nigel Mansell, Sir Bobby Charlton, Engelbert Humperdinck, Robbie Williams' dad and even Tony Blair.

He was awarded the Freedom of the City of London for his services to the Brewing Industry.

These days David can be found at the Island Lager Bar in Patong's DJ Plaza. His wife Kanchana has been operating a series of Island Lager Bars over the past ten years where David enjoys meeting his many friends.

He's also active with the Phuket Expat Golf Society (PEGS) and the British Business Association of Phuket (BBAP).



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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Finding a gem

By Alexandra Andersson

JUST an hour's drive from Phuket there is a little-known gem called Raman Waterfall. The five-tier waterfall and its emerald pools can be found in Phang Nga, and is perfect for a day trip from Phuket.

Raman National Park is home to the waterfall (*Nam Tok Raman* in Thai) and delivers tranquility, free-of-charge.

The gardens, clean toilet facilities, simple tuck-shop (if you forgot your sandwiches) and peaceful surroundings make it a good place for a picnic. But no booze in national parks remember!

A two-kilometer hike takes you along the waterfall's five tiers and up the 100-meter mountain side.

Raman National Park is located within the 125-rai realm of Khao Ton Din National Forest Reserve,

so the forest is pristine and is not your average walk in the park.

There's a variety of fauna and flora to observe, but be warned, the state of the path definitely adds to the sense of being "off the beaten track".

The waterfall's five levels are visible as you walk, although access is not as easy as it looks.

Wear some sensible shoes and take your time climbing over the slippery rocks – your hard work will be rewarded by a dip in the refreshingly cool emerald pools at the mouth of each tier.

If you climb to the top you will see the area where "Raman people" are said to have settled during the "Nine-army Battle" to flee the Burmese.

The remote location and size of the waterfall means it's never too crowded.

The number of pools – and their relative inaccessibility – means you may well have a pool all to yourself.

To get there by car, cross the Sarasin Bridge and keep going straight on Route 4, veering right when the road forks 20 kilometers after the bridge.

It's smooth sailing for another 25km, which is when you see signs for Raman Waterfall on your left. There's a temple called Wat Suwannakhuha (also worth a look) where you will need to turn left off the main road.

After that, you drive into the village for about 5km, take the next three left turns, and you're there.

Bring mosquito repellent, towels and swimwear. Don't worry about when to go – water cascades down this waterfall all year round.

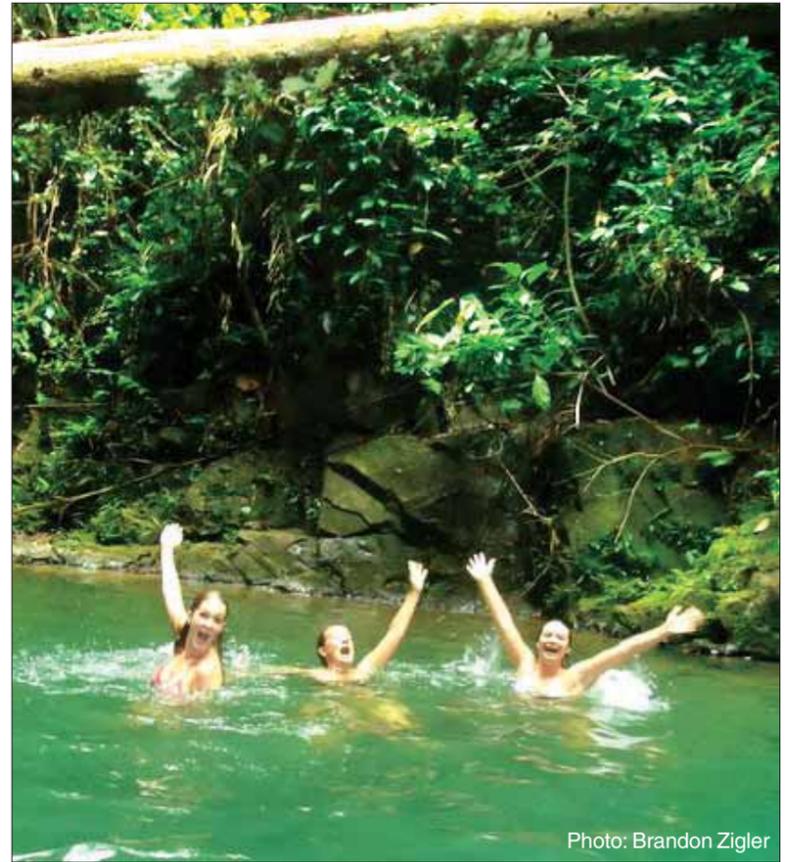


Photo: Brandon Zigler

REFRESHING: One of the emerald pools under the five-tier waterfall.

Airport queue jumpers now welcome

OH NO! A huge check-in queue at 5am at Phuket International Airport (PIA) after too many farewell drinks the night before.

Every traveller's nightmare, especially at top tourist destinations like Phuket, with its large family groups (avoid getting behind that family of six) large bags and grumpy people not wanting to leave our island paradise for the drudgery and miserable weather at home.

Fear not, check-in queuing help is at hand – although PIA customers may have to wait a little longer than other world airports.

Anxious to reduce queuing times – one of the major air travel complaints – airlines are investing heavily in new technology aimed at reducing waiting time to, well, virtually nothing.

Latest figures show investment in IT expenditure at airports rose



New technology will speed up the check-in process. Photo: MarTePics

to 3.4 per cent last year, up from 2.7 per cent the previous year.

Qantas, the Australian national carrier, is leading the way with its Q Card, an intelligent computer chip frequent flyer card, that enables a passenger to check-in themselves and their baggage with simple swipes of the card.

With one touch, passengers – at this stage only domestic Australian passengers – will be able to check-in within seconds.

The card will also be a permanent boarding pass. For baggage, passengers will receive a permanent "Bag Tag", which will be used to weigh and check-in luggage with self-service kiosks at the airport, equipped with bag tagging, fast-pass functionality and they will even print your excess baggage payment collection data receipt.

In addition, attitudes towards flying are changing and soon catching a plane will be much like

taking the bus. A full 65 years after a leading US airline chairman said that passengers do not always want to book, but simply arrive at the airport and catch the next service, is becoming a reality.

The Bar Coded Boarding Passes (BCBP) project of the International Air Transport Association is planning to cover all 2,400 airports worldwide. It may take a while to arrive at PIA however, as it is a small airport undergoing significant infrastructural change and such technology is probably best suited to more business oriented airports. But it will arrive.

Indonesia's national airline Garuda, long derided for its poor safety record but undergoing a renaissance under Chief Executive Emirsyah Satar, is already fully BCBP compliant apart from three airports it flies to. China and India, with 131 and 75 airports respec-

tively, are major targets for BCBP.

The revolution in boarding-pass technology has been compared to changing from VHS to DVD due to the extreme difference in quality.

These days there is virtually no difference between scanning from a mobile phone or a piece of paper onto a bar code, as opposed to "old" technology of the magnetic stripe. Bar codes are also considered more secure and harder to fake than magnetic stripes.

In keeping with today's "iGeneration", Malaysian Airlines has already introduced iPad check in at five kiosk terminals at Kuala Lumpur Sentral, a sophisticated rail transit hub in KL city serving the airport.

The iPads help with booking flights, find departure times and assist with check-in the same way mobile phones do.

– Alastair Carthew

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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

January 22. Saturday chill-out on Bon Island

Join Evason Phuket on Bon Island every Saturday for a chill out session. DJ Ricky will spin the tunes while you indulge in an unforgettable experience with all the food and drink you can handle. The price is 1,900 baht nett per person, inclusive of modern tapas, local beer, house spirits, cocktails, soft drinks and juices. From 7-11pm. Complimentary transport available from Evason Phuket pier. Contact Bernardo De La Garza on T:076-381010, E:fbmaphuket@sixsenses.com or visit W:sixsenses.com to find out more about the event.

January 22. QSI Annual Phuket Fun Run

Registration for the ninth annual QSI fun run is at 8am at Bang Wad Dam in Kathu. There will be events and awards for children aged five to nine and school teams for the one kilometer, 6.5km and 13km runs. The Team Challenge event is open to businesses, NGOs and social teams. There will be free water for runners, great food and drinks, jumping castles, a band, DJ, raffles and silent auctions all for a complete family fun day! The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV are sponsors of this event. Contact Jantira Nobnor or Alan Siporin on T:076-524243, or at E:qsi@phuketinternet.co.th or visit W:phuket.qsischool.org for more information.

January 22-23. Yoga classes with Patricia Romero at PIA

With more than eight years experience, Patricia is a highly skilled and qualified yoga instructor. She

January 24. Mom Tri's Villa Royale concert



Mom Tri Devakul has invited HE Adm ML Usni Pramroj to perform at Villa Royale, continuing the tradition of the Baan Kata Arts Festival, a celebration of art and cultural events. The program includes Joseph Haydn's string quartet in F major, Op 77, No 2 and ML Usni Pramroj's string quartet No 1. HE Admiral ML Usni Pramroj, a privy councillor, is also an accomplished musician and composer. String Quartet No 1 was inspired by the turmoil in Bangkok. A three-course set menu will be available on the evening, in addition to the à la carte menu. Price is 500 baht per person and includes a cocktail reception.

Contact Sylvie Yaffe on T:076-333569, or at E:pr@villa.royale.phuket.com or visit W:villaroyale.phuket.com for more information.

is inspired by the Ashtanga and Iyengar traditions as well as the Feldenkrais method of Awareness Through Movement. Available for mixed and intermediate levels. Free one-off trial class. Class schedule for intermediate levels on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:15-9:45am or mixed level classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:15-9:45am. Prices are 450 baht per person per class, 4,000 baht per person for 10 classes or 7,000 baht per person for 20 classes. Introductory rate from January to April 28, 2011. Special 20 per cent discount for 10 and 20 classes and 10 per cent discount for single classes. Contact Weena on T:076-336030, E:mtc@phuketinternationalacademy.com or visit W:phuketinternationalacademy.com for more information.

January 22-28. Ceramic Sculpture Course at PIA

Express yourself with your hands. Start with the basics and work your way up to creating your own designs. Available for both kids and adults. Adult Classes every Monday and Wednesday from 9-11am. Price is 300 baht per person per session and includes materials. Price is 500 baht per course. Classes for kids aged six and over are every Saturday from 11:45-12:45am. Price is 3,000 baht per person per 10 classes. Places are limited, so be quick! Contact Joanna or Greta on T:076-336000, E:jo@pia.ac.th, E:greta@tamburellarte.com or visit W:phuketinternationalacademy.com for more information.

January 22-28. Stilts walking, poi stick and hula hoop classes at PIA

Learn how to balance yourself by using different tools with us to develop body flexibility, strength and co-ordination. For kids aged eight and over. Walking on stilts, creative dance, pantomime, poi or bolas sticks and hula hoop. A grand performance will be held on March 25 to showcase the children's new talents. Limited places, only 10 students allowed. Price is 3,000 baht per person per course (10 Classes). Contact Joanna or

Greta at PIA on E:jo@pia.ac.th, E:greta@tamburellarte.com, T:076-336000 or visit W:phuketinternationalacademy.com for more information.

January 23. PCF Great Phuket Rubber Duck Charity Race Day

There will be dragon boat, kayak, home-made raft and cardboard box races. Ride in classic cars, jump on a trampoline and kids can enjoy arts and crafts. There will also be a Delightful Duckling costume contest, a terrific magic show by Joe Conrad, and much, much more is on the agenda for the day. Great food and drinks available at very reasonable prices. The highlight will be the second Great Phuket Rubber Duck Race. This year will see 2,000 ducks enter the race! Amazing prizes and a great day for the

whole family. Contact Alasdair Forbes or Janyaporn Morel on T:087-8849964, E:alasdair@phuketcharity.org or visit W:phuketcharity.org/pcf-race-day for more information on this charity event.

January 30. Music in the Yard with Brass Monkeys

SALA Phuket will be hosting North Phuket's first concert of the year with their Music in the Yard, live concert and garden barbeque. The Brass Monkeys will fly in from the UK to team up with DJ Steve Bray of Koh Samui, SALA's own DJ Noom and the North Coast Quartet for a great evening of music on Mai Khao Beach. Tickets are 1,300 baht++ and includes SALA's Chillin' and Grillin' barbeque. For an additional 400 baht++ at the door, you can enjoy free-flowing draft beer, red and white wine. Contact SALA Phuket on T:076-338888, E:Salesphuket@salaphuket.com or visit W:salaphuket.com for more information.

February 1-6. Quest Fun Zone's back

Quest's Fun Zone is back once again for Chinese New Year with much-loved adventure activities for kids aged 5-15. This includes rock climbing, survival, wet 'n' wild and many more outdoor adventures. Activities run from 10am until noon and from 2-4pm. Register for either a half day at 400 baht or the full day for 750 baht, which will include lunch. Show proof of residency for great discounts. Contact Quest Laguna on T:076-314253, E:quest@lagunaphuket.com, visit W:lagunaphuket.com/qffz or their Facebook page by searching "Quest Fun Zone" for the complete schedule or to book your kids in early.

Free Computer Clinics

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

January 23, 30 - Chalong, February 6 - Patong, February 13 - Laguna. Starts at 10am.

For more info contact Woody T:076-290468

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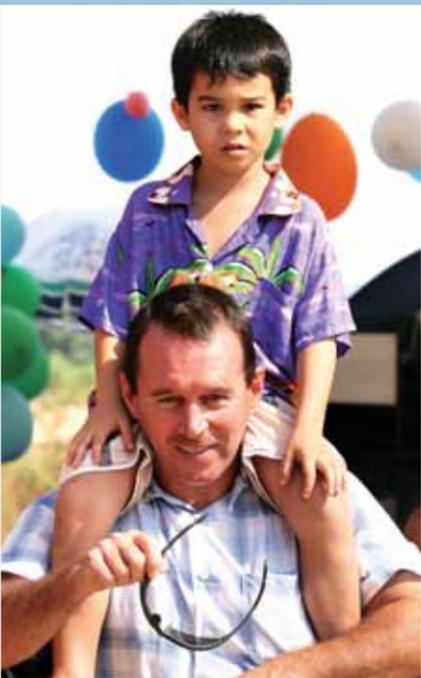
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Airpark day a flying success

THE Phuket Andaman Airshow and Fly-In returned last weekend to Phuket Airpark, with a crowd of 400 spectators and 10 private aircraft from all over Southeast Asia turning out for the event. In its second year, the Fly-In saw pilots show off their machines to the public, allowing aviation enthusiasts – both young and old – to get a closer look at some state-of-the-art aircraft. This year's event had some special bonuses, including a heart-pounding show of aerobatics by the world renowned Les Vorosmarthy in his 350 horsepower German-built Extra 300 L aircraft (main photograph). There was also a bikini contest to find Miss Phuket Airpark 2011.



Sam and Matt Stowe



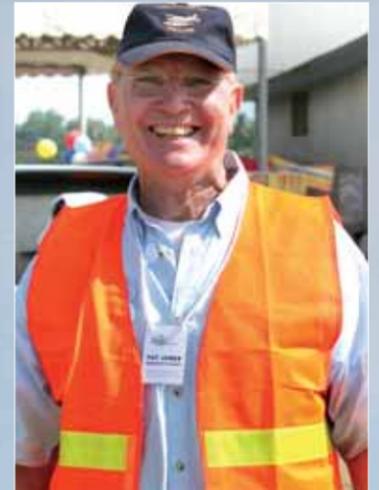
Gladys Cadsky and Roby



Josie and Jason



Airpark Managing Partner Robert Suchard



Pat James, Director of Flight



Spectators admire the Extra 300 L aircraft



Max Stowe



Chris, Steve and little Natharn

Photos: Alexandra Andersson



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Bikers raise funds for Life Home Project

PHUKET'S eight different motorcycle clubs came together at Nai Harn Lake last Saturday to show off their big bikes, drink beer, sell the latest in biker fashion and most importantly, to raise funds for the Life Home Project, Phuket's shelter for women and children with HIV.

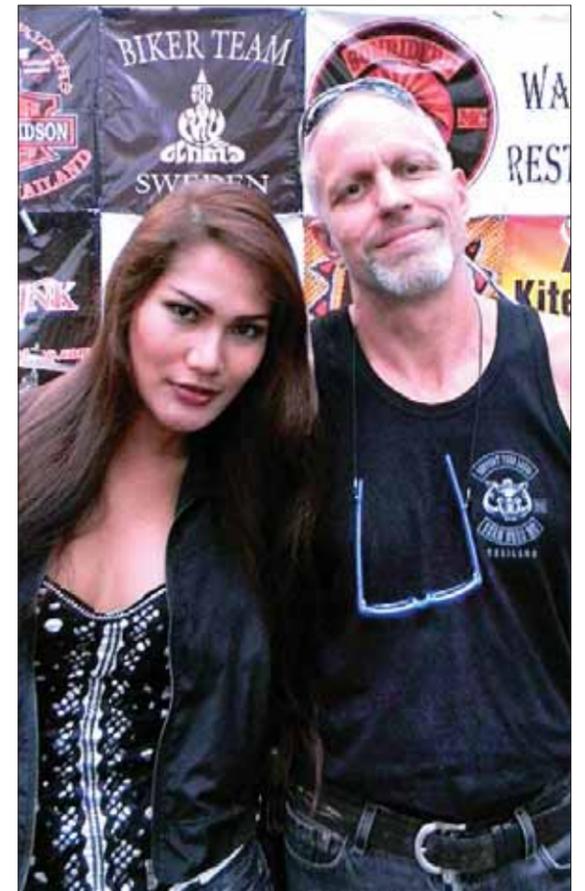
"Super" Mark Johnson, founder of Phuket's Bike Week which draws thousands of biker enthusiasts to the island every April, was the primary co-ordinator for the event. "This was our second annual biker gathering of Phuket's motorcycle clubs. We want to support a worthwhile local charity so we invited the children of Life Home Project as well as students from two local schools for a day of fun and games," he said.

After the children left, it was time for the bikers and their fans to take over the small island which sits in the middle of Nai Harn Lake. From mid-afternoon until late into the night, the rousing sounds of rock music, provided by regional thrash bands, kept the party moving.

The sporadic downpours did not hamper local guitar legend Lam Morrison from taking the stage and playing well past midnight. It did, however, force a cancellation for the night's featured entertainment, a wet T-shirt contest, which had many local lasses, both Thai and Western, ready to show off their assets.

All proceeds from ticket sales and beer profits will go to the ongoing operations fund of Koh Sireh's Life Home Project which continues to provide shelter and maintenance for many of the island's disadvantaged victims of the HIV virus.

- Bruce Stanley



LEADER OF THE PACK: "Super" Mark Johnson with fellow biker Kitar Wawithank.



Monks on a mission

SPREADING THE MESSAGE: Buddhist monks Rev Dulal Barua from Bangladesh (center, left) and Rev Mohananda Sraman from India (center, right) gave a brief talk about morals at Phuket Technical College last Monday.

Using 10,000 leaflets and three banners in Thai, English and Chinese donated by Vice President of MCU, Nakhon Sri Tammarat Campus Extended Classroom, Surat Thani Province, the monks' messages include: "Save The Environment"; "Climate Change is the World's Biggest Problem"; "No More Bloodshed; and "No Smoking".



ANOTHER QUALITY PROJECT FROM LAND & HOUSES Land & Houses Park Phuket



Pansy

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Pruerk-Tipa

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 197 sq.m.



Ladachon

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 172 sq.m.

Model	Area (sq.wa)	*Total price*(baht)	Deposit (baht)	50% Down payment (baht)	Final payment (baht)
Pansy	116.2	6,950,000	100,000	3,375,000	3,475,000
Pruerk-Tipa	168.6	8,800,000	100,000	4,300,000	4,400,000
Ladachon	110.3	7,300,000	100,000	3,550,000	3,650,000

- * 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

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Location Map

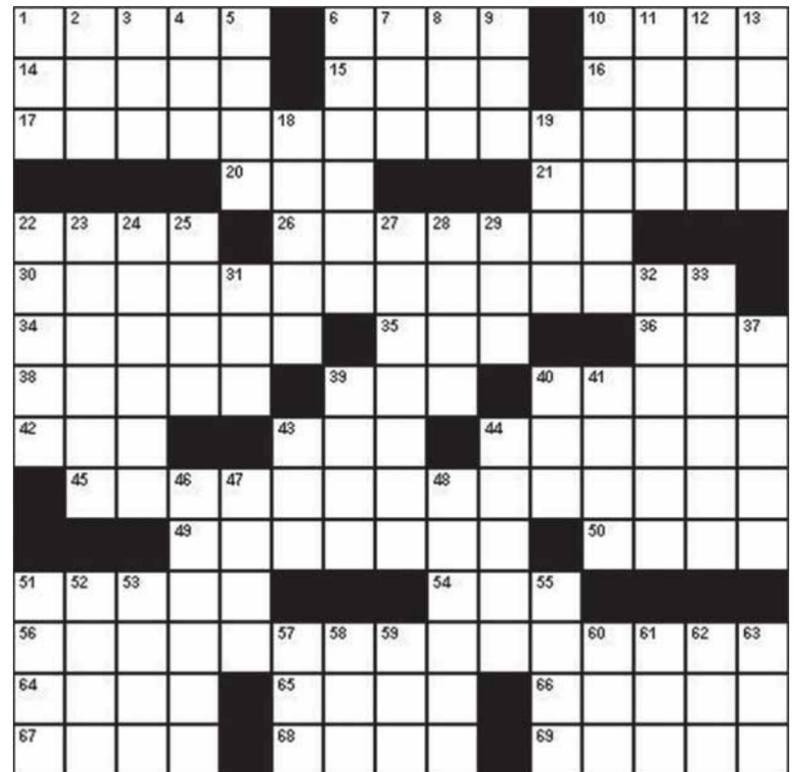
The IMPOSSIBLY POSSIBLE QUIZ

1. Who did *Time* Magazine name "Person of the Year 2010"?
2. Who made his 50th test century against South Africa on December 19 last year?
3. What is the Roman numeral equivalent of 2011?
4. What has the United Nations designated 2011: The "International Year of ..."?
5. Who received the Nobel Peace Prize 2010 for his long and non-violent struggle for human rights in China?
6. In which year was the Suez Canal opened for waterway traffic?
7. Which English town lays claim to being the inspiration for the nursery rhymes *Old King Cole*, *Humpty Dumpty* and *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*?
8. Which book by RM Ballantyne told the favorite tale about a sea adventure with pirates, undersea caves and characters including Peterkin, Jack and Ralph?
9. What is the full name of the author of the Harry Potter series?
10. What is Don Diego de la Vega's alter ego name?
11. Dick Grayson is the real name of which superhero?
12. In which *James Bond* film was the following dialogue exchanged: "You expect me to talk?" "No, Mr Bond, I expect you to die!"
13. Who wrote and directed *Inglorious Basterds*?
14. Which river crosses the equator twice?

Quiz solutions on page 29

- Across**
1. Fungal infection
 6. Go (over) carefully
 10. Sleeveless garment
 14. Clear as —
 15. I smell —
 16. Commedia dell' —
 17. Failure to understand
 20. Convened
 21. In front
 22. — boy!
 26. Mark boundaries
 30. Dilapidated
 34. Riding
 35. Internal Revenue Service
 36. Foul
 38. Pale purple
 39. Half a fly
 40. Brief brawl
 42. Single unit
 43. — don't say!
 44. Achieve
 45. Elucidation
 49. Least difficult
 50. Editor Wintour
 51. Tooth
 54. Casino area
 56. Typical instance
 64. Actor Auberjonois
 65. Terrier type
 66. Resulted in
 67. Children's author Blyton
 68. Studies
 69. Hyperion poet

- Down**
1. Mai —
 2. Son of, in Arabic names
 3. Japanese computer giant
 4. Hold On Tight band
 5. Donations to the poor
 6. Separated
 7. Metal bearing mineral
 8. Encouraging word
 9. Hot time in Paris
 10. Queen of Ahasuerus
 11. Ashtabula's lake
 12. Portico
 13. Look after
 18. Military chaplain
 19. Arrest



22. Author Calvino
23. Falafel sauce
24. Hot
25. Gillette brand
27. Unhurried ease
28. Hungary's Nagy
29. Barker and Bell
31. Computer key
32. Acquire
33. Country
37. Italian lady
39. Pith helmet
40. RR stop
41. Bluesy James
43. Become decades

44. Room at the top
46. Joined
47. Tombstone lawman
48. Spots
51. Nothing more than
52. Farm team
53. Filmmaker Riefenstahl
55. Confer
57. Acid
58. Tina's ex
59. Island of Denmark
60. Driver's aid
61. Agency of the United Nations
62. Giant Mel
63. Figs

Provided by BestCrosswords.com. Used with permission.

Puzzle solutions on page 29

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): The stars predict a healthy diet of food for thought this week for Aquarians. Your determination to start the New Year with a different outlook ensures that tangible progress is made in January. Where business is concerned, negotiations require patience midweek when an earth sign is ready to dig their heels in. Those with a birthday this week can expect romance to be less confusing in the year ahead.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Pisceans should guard against setting the cat amongst the mynah birds at work this week. The stars indicate that your dissatisfaction could result in a heated discussion that leads nowhere. On a more positive note, a financial bonus that you hoped to see at the end of last year should arrive by the end of January. Lucky days for love are Tuesday and Wednesday. Leo is more interested than you suspect.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Those Arians who recently experienced the straw that broke the buffalo's back are advised to take a break from their usual routine this week. The stars forecast a calmer atmosphere at work when February com-

mences. Your luck in love improves when another fire sign shows that they are ready to make a casual relationship more permanent. Lucky days for finances are Wednesday and Thursday. Wear dark blue to encourage serenity.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Taureans could be taken in by sweeping statements this week. Check facts before believing what you hear. There are signs that creative projects will bear fruit during the last week of January – you should be inspired to branch out. Money matters are well-starred, with focus on a mistake being rectified in your favor. The best day to make a romantic approach is Sunday. Wear violet to create your own good luck.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Your luck is in when it comes to establishing new business contacts this week. The stars indicate that a fire sign will be particularly impressed by your presentation of a project. Personal finances could be subject to mixed signals on Monday or Tuesday. Where romance is concerned, your way with words makes a good impression on someone special this weekend. Those already committed will be more inclined to see their partner's point of view.



CANCER (June 22-July 23): Cancerians will need to move out of their comfort zone in order to see real improvement in their working lives. The stars suggest that a challenging opportunity that arises this week can lead to a more impressive income. In the realm of romance, you should guard against taking too much for granted. Those seeking love could enjoy a blind date more than expected this weekend. The number four can be lucky on Thursday.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Avoid stirring up a storm when friends fall out this week. The stars suggest that taking sides in an argument will cause more trouble than it's worth. Important communications are best put on hold until the start of February. Where romance is concerned, your plans for an exciting date could backfire – keep things simple until you know this person better. Wear the color raspberry red to encourage positive energy to flow.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): A dream that didn't come true towards the end of last year could still happen. Virgoans are forecast to receive motivating news this week and the stars predict that a slow start to 2011 will now give way to faster progress. The only slight downside could occur in the realm of romance. Those who are puzzled by a new partner's behavior could decide to take distance. Your lucky number this week is nine.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): There is good reason not to settle for less this week. Librans who are too quick to accept the first offer will have reason for regret. Where romance is concerned, trying to move a fresh relationship onto more secure ground too soon will bring disappointment. Your financial outlook continues to be sunny – a savings scheme started before the end of January should be successful. Contacting old friends will have happy results.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): As January draws to a close, Scorpios should be pleased that the New Year has got off to a good start. Enquiries made at the end of 2010 may now lead to the chance of new employment. Those who are content

in their current working situation will see a way to expand their ideas this week. In the realm of romance, an earth sign's interest becomes hard to ignore.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Sagittarians who resolved to be more outgoing this year could now find it hard to have quality time to themselves. Those with a partner may see that excess socializing is having a negative effect on the relationship. If you are seeking a soulmate, the stars predict strong focus on romance during the final days of January. Where finances are concerned, decisions you make this week can have far-reaching consequences.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Your hidden talents are likely to be revealed this week. An auspicious astral atmosphere can result in many Capricorns being offered a lucrative new job. Wednesday is the best day to schedule interviews for. Where your personal life is concerned, familiar activities bring the most satisfaction this weekend. An invitation from an air sign acquaintance to try something different could result in an awkward situation. The number seven can bring good luck on Tuesday.

PROPERTY Gazette

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

Beachfront life coming to Sireh

By Janpen Upatising

CONSTRUCTION work on the Nchantra@Sirey Beach condominium development began last month and is expected to be completed by the end of 2013.

Located at Sireh Beach on Phuket's southeast coast, the 300-million baht project will cover more than five rai and when completed unit prices will start from 15 million baht.

The development will consist of 38 three-storey pool villas and four two-storey penthouses – all with an absolute beachfront and scenic views of Koh Yao, Koh Khai and Phi Phi Island.

All units will be “eco-friendly and minimalistic”, with the Thai-Bali style pool villas having a sea view from the second floor and roof garden.

The new condominiums will no doubt strike a chord with sailors, as it will boast moorings for boats all year round.

For entertainment and shopping, Phuket Town is only five minutes away from the complex, while Central Festival and a number of international hospitals are only a short drive away.

In terms of facilities and services, there will be a fitness center, common swimming pool, lobby, restaurant, and underground parking with 24-hour security service.

A golf car service will be available to residents for transportation around the complex, while residents can enjoy the use of a speedboat to visit Koh Yao and nearby islands.

All units will be air-conditioned and come with a top-class kitchen with BMP System Furniture.



DOWN BY THE SEA: These luxury apartments will be coming to Koh Sireh in 2013. Image: Nchantra

“Nchantra@Sirey Beach is particularly suitable for families, especially for those who enjoy sailing. Some customers have told us that docking their yachts at one of Phuket's other marinas is often too far from their home, and that the docking fee is quite high.

“So, having their boats docked

in front of their home for free will be more convenient,” said Mr Surachai Thonthawes, managing director of the project.

“The sea view on the east side of Koh Sireh is beautiful, where everyone can enjoy the scenery of Koh Yao, Phi Phi Island and Koh Khai.

The beach isn't hit hard during monsoon season so people can enjoy swimming year round,” he added.

Project contractors TAA & Associates Co Ltd will be responsible for construction of the project.

See www.nchantraproperty.com.

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Calling all property superheroes



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

WORKING a desk job at the *Daily Planet* is an unassuming geek named Clark Kent. However, as most of us know, Clark has a little secret.

When danger is brewing, it's a dash to a phone booth and out pops the legendary "Man of Steel", Superman. With the ability to fly through the air, leap over tall buildings and see through metal with x-ray vision, the caped crusader invariably saves the day.

Sadly, away from the fiction of comic books and the silver screen, the real world has witnessed the decline of the "superhero", who is now more likely to turn up at a Halloween fancy dress party than emerge to try save the Phuket property market.

For those who have worked at the coalface of real estate on the island over the past decade, a look back is essential, when developers banded together for the Graham Doven inspired Phuket and Samui property roadshows.

Collective exhibitions, advertising and public relations in Hong Kong and Singapore started the ball rolling, before it rapidly gained momentum with the rising demand for vacation and residential homes on an island paradise.

If you were going to buy resort property in Asia, Phuket

ruled the roost. There was envious glances from Bali, Malaysia, Vietnam and the Philippines as "Brand Phuket" became the gold standard.

Phuket developers roamed in packs to the UK, Scandinavia and the Middle East, with event organizers such as SMART expanding their reach. Images of Phuket's idyllic lifestyle regularly turned up on the BBC and CNN.

But as we all now know, things have changed. Changed utterly.

Cash-strapped developers suddenly roped in spending. The much-vaunted roadshows became a thing of a past era. Advertising budgets crashed as the mood in property circles became somber. It was so quiet you could hear a pin drop. Everyone waited for what would happen next.

Meanwhile, our neighbors were catching the tailwind of Phuket's inertia. Bali's property market exploded, Vietnam saw spikes in foreign direct investment, and even Malaysia's resort real estate apple grew into a fruit ripe for picking.

And still Phuket remained silent, waiting. But no superhero emerged. No collective effort, it was everyone for themselves in a melee of stress and discounting.

It's interesting to view our parallel universe - Phuket's tourism industry. When things get bad, hoteliers gear up and really get to work. They ramp up promotion abroad, they start communicating



Photo: Ken Reston

A JOB FOR SUPERMAN: Is Phuket's property market in need of a superhero?

and even co-operating with competitors, all for the greater good of market recovery.

In reality, Phuket's real estate market, while perhaps going underground, has steadily edged higher in the development cycle.

It has become more sophisticated, with better quality products, and diversified through re-sales, rentals and a high level of support teams.

Today, the island is home to more completed resort grade villas, condos, apartments and townhouses than anywhere in Asia.

However, the enthusiasm to get out there and promote this remains inexplicably lacking.

Scale is a good thing for ambitious institutions and "Brand Phuket" certainly has it. There are indications that brokers and developers are once again hitting the trade routes abroad, but as of yet the numbers simply aren't doing justice to the size of Phuket's market.

Phuket real estate needs a larger than life superhero and it needs one soon. There is an empty phone booth out there just waiting for someone with a little vision, foresight to be that superhero.

Superman, where are you?

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

In brief...

New Patong hotels

GLOBAL hospitality giant Starwood has signed management agreements to develop Aloft and Four Points by Sheraton in Patong. The properties will be located within the 78 rai Fisherman's Harbour development on Prachanukrao Road.

The 300-room Aloft Phuket Patong is set to open in July 2014 and the Four Points by Sheraton Patong by January 2014.

The Aloft brand is making a name for itself in Asia as the bold, modern urban-styled underling of W Hotels.

Phuket-based developer Withaya Taweewonsap, who owns the Patong OTOP market, amongst other business interests, is leading the project with a master plan by Design 103 International.

Coconut Island to get cottages

EUGENE McCain, the original entrepreneur of the successful Cape Yamu development, has launched a new project: Jindarin Beach Club and Resort.

Badged as an eco-friendly boutique resort, it is located on Coconut Island off Phuket's east coast.

Comprised of 14 plot options, it will include three unit types of one and two bedroom cottages.

A separate "land and build structure" allows buyers to either construct now or later. Lot packages range from 1.5 to five million baht, and cottages from two to four million baht. Another 18 units are now open for sale.

Online resource tips

AUSTRALIAN-based Paul Dean, who is one of Asia Pacific's leading fractional ownership experts, has recently set up two top online resources.

The first is fractionfacts.com.au set up as a consumer information website, in order to provide impartial and objective information to consumers in this part of the world, wanting to know more about fractional interests.

The second, lifestylefractions.com.au he set up with a project marketing specialist Ric King who has sold some top-end projects. They provide excellent information for industry players and developers considering the fractional word.

Do you have any breaking news about Phuket property? Email property@phuketgazette.net

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Kata Rocks capitalizes on honors

By Nicky Vermeulen

SPIRITS are high at Kata Rocks Co Ltd as the developer enters the new year. Following a big win at the International Property Awards in London late last year, scooping the "Best Apartment in the World" award, Kata Rocks is pressing on with work on its development.

Over 60 per cent of the project has already sold, with considerable interest having piqued since the glitzy awards ceremony, which was sponsored by Bloomberg Television and Google.

To win the prestigious title, Kata Rocks had to beat competing entries from 110 different countries.

"It's an honor for us to have received the title for our Kata Rocks Club Penthouse," said proud developer Richard Pope.

"To have been judged by an independent panel of international experts who have deemed our apartment as 'Best in the World', on this, our first development in the Asia Pacific region, is simply astounding," he added.

Currently, there is only one of the 10 award-winning Club Penthouse units up for grabs.

UK TV personality and adven-



WINNER: Kata Rocks Richard Pope accepting the award for Best Apartment in the World.

turer Bear Grylls is one of the investors in the exclusive penthouse units.

The penthouses were designed by Richard Pope and architect Adrian McCarroll. The impressive apartments sprawl 460 square-meters over two levels and all boast private infinity pools.

"It's busier than ever on the



site," says Mr Pope.

"The first units at Kata Rocks are coming out of the ground and the form work for the walls is being constructed for the oceanfront units, which are our one-bedroom Ocean Lofts," he added.

Excavation and rock breaking is currently taking place and fur-

ther structural work for the lofts is scheduled for this week.

There are also reports of Kata Rocks staff having received the interior specifications from interior designer Kelly Hoppen MBE, whose client list includes the likes of David and Victoria Beckham, Sir Elton John and Jude Law. The specifications

are likely to be put on display at the construction site within a week.

In total, the development will include 34 oceanfront Sky Villas, which include the illustrious four-bedroom Club Penthouses, three-bedroom Sky Duplexes, two-bedroom Pool Condos and the one-bedroom Ocean Lofts.



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 Construction commences Q2 2010 nd Completion during Q2 2012

Gardenias in your garden

THE Gardenia is a flower with many associations. It is often seen adorning women, from Hawaiian maidens who call it *Na'un*, to French ladies who wear the bloom as a button-hole or *boutonniere*, to famous jazz singer Billie Holiday who labeled the flower her "trademark". It is also the national flower of Pakistan, and in temperate climates, it is a coveted house-plant. All this makes it a certain Top 20 choice.



Gardening
By Patrick Campbell

very much a warm-weather plant, and needs plenty of light and moisture to do its best.

It originates from South China, where it has been cultivated for more than a thousand years. So Phuket's dry season may be a tad hot for the shrub, especially if it is planted in a sun-trap.

When subjected to too much heat, flower buds may not form. On the other hand, the Gardenia will not tolerate deep shade, and does best in a situation where the sun is filtered, or only blazes down directly for part of the day.

And *Gardenia jasminoides* is fastidious about soil requirements. It is essential to have soil with a low pH of between five and six, that is to say, of an acidic rather than alkaline character. It also needs a well drained situation, for the roots will rot if they get too soggy.

Furthermore, if it is to bloom effectively, it will require feeding every three weeks or so.

Perhaps this in part explains why the Gardenia is so popular as a houseplant in cooler climates: in a

pot, the soil conditions can be more readily controlled and monitored. It is even possible to buy special potting mixes for Gardenias.

It is essentially, as befits a member of the coffee family, a shrub for the outdoors.

The dwarf form which is most commonly used as a houseplant, will rarely exceed half a meter in these conditions, and will probably bloom only fitfully, unless the direct light supply is constant.

On the other hand, *Gardenia jasminoides* can reach several meters in height in the open. One variety, known as the Malaysian tree, can literally grow to tree size. The downside with this species, is that it flowers less regularly than its smaller relative.

There are many Gardenia cultivars. One that is often found in Phuket garden centers, has single, bright-yellow flowers. It is how-



SYMBOLIC:
The Gardenia is significant in many cultures. Photo: Gilberto Santa Rosa

Its popularity is understandable. *Gardenia jasminoides*, named after Dr Alex Garden, has large white or creamy blooms and broad, glossy, evergreen foliage which turns from bright green to a darker shade.

The flowers are typically semi-double, somewhat camellia or shrub rose-like, with five to 12 petals. They exude the most delicious perfume.

Not normally a profuse bloomer, the individual flowers are nonetheless showy and distinctive. As with the *Frangipani*, the scent is synonymous with a tropical evening, which is when the fragrance is most pungent.

Indeed the Gardenia (also known as the Cape Jasmine) is

ever, a less vigorous grower and blooms sparingly. Another variety, names "Summer Snow" has been developed to withstand cooler temperatures, and there is even a form with variegated leaves.

Propagation is straightforward. The seeds can be used, but softwood cuttings are the best option. Marcotting (or air-layering) is another possibility.

And if your Gardenias are get-

ting too leggy, you can pinch out the growing tips to encourage a bushier habit.

There are not many problems, provided you cosset your Gardenias. Mealy bugs and black mold may affect them.

And rain will disfigure the blooms, turning them brown. It is not the most prolific of bloomers. But the Gardenia remains a hit in this column – as it does worldwide.

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

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Tip of the week

Tools for cutting and trimming

ONE of the dilemmas with a garden in the tropics – though a pleasurable one – is rapid growth rates.

This means plants will need to be kept in check, so cutting tools become an important part of your gardening armory.

Good secateurs are essential

for light pruning and dead-heading. Go for a large, robust pair: they are less likely to break, and will make cutting that bit easier.

Pruning shears with long blades are ideal for trimming hedges, and for cutting small areas of grass. However, don't try them on thick, woody branches, as this will cause

the blades to distort.

For these heavy duty tasks, use a machete, or long-handled shears with secateur-like blades. The long handles provide good leverage.

For trees which require even heavier lopping, this is best done with a pruning saw or bow saw.

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HILLSIDE APARTMENT

Near Governor House, Bay View. Land of 400sqm (70% unused). Tel: 081-415 0050 (English & Thai). Email: swear4blue@hotmail.com

NAI HARN LUXURY CONDO



2-3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 111sqm. From 4.5 million baht. Must see. Tel: 084-993 7308. For further details, please see our website at www.amphaiseabreeze.com

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2 bedrooms, a bathroom, a car park and an automatic gate. With ADSL. Price: 3.3 million baht. Tel: 084-851 6121.

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1 rai, behind Phuket Fanta Sea. Price 6.5 million baht. Contact for more details. Tel: 087-270 9093.

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100sqm, 2 bedroom condo. Fully furnished. 2km from town. 7.9 million baht. Tel: 080-052 8082. Email: solitude001@aol.com

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3.25 rai, 5,200sqm. Ideal for residential development. 300m from the beach and 1km from Chalong Circle. Only 25 million baht. Tel: 081-894 8321, 081-893 5314. Email: info@khaolaktropicalvillas.com

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in Nai Ham. 3 buildings with 3 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms in Balinese and Thai style, built from teak and other first-class materials. 800sqm land with Chanote title. Includes a wall fence and an electric gate. The property has a pool with a waterfall and jacuzzi, a maid's house, a covered terrace and carport. Asking price: 16 million baht. Tel: 083-388 8036 (English or German), 089-972 5378 (Thai). www.phuketquality house.com

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Luxury pool villa with 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, a maid's room and a garage for 2 cars. Land 940sqm, 450sqm construction and 250sqm living area. 1 minute walk to Surin, Bang Tao Beach, opposite The Chedi, Amanpuri Resort. Close to high-end restaurants and bars. A quick sale for 25.5 million baht. Please contact us for more info. Tel: 087-277 5451, 081-536 1101. Email: srbolub55@yahoo.co.uk

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HOUSE FOR SALE



on 1 rai land in Chalong. With 4 bedrooms and 4 spare rooms in the backyard. Includes a swimming pool and aircon. A single house in a garden and yard on Chaofa East road, 5 minutes to Chalong Circle, near PTT petrol and Phuket Homepro Village. Tel: 081-403 3870.



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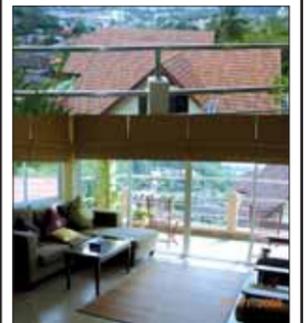
PATONG SEAVIEW LAND

288sqm, 24m x 12m, South Patong. Building permission for up to 9m-high. Ideal for Luxury Villa or small development. Only 6 million baht. Tel: 081-894 8321, 081-893 5314. Email: info@khaolaktropicalvillas.com

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2 ground-floor apartments for sale with a pool. Price: 2.2 million baht each. Tel: 085-788 5214.

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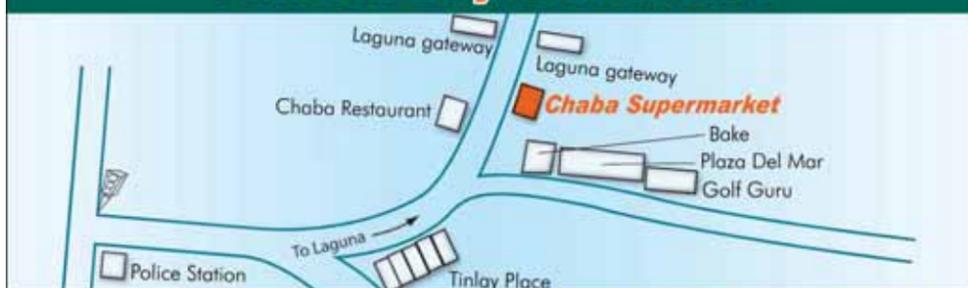
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Exclusive Villa for sale at Fisherman Way. Tel: 076-281366, 088-180 9411 (English). Email: sillyes@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuket-muay-thai.com/fisherman/fishermanway

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APARTMENT & ROOM IN PATONG

Apartment for long term rent. 8,000-20,000 baht per month. Room from 600-1,500 baht per night. Tel: 076-512151, 089-290 9567. Email: info@brommathaihouse.com See our website at www.brommathaihouse.com

KATA BEACH

High- and peak-season last-minute promotional prices for daily rent from 700 baht to 1,200 (in peak season) and 600 baht to 1,000 baht (in high season). Tel: 081-894 8446. Email: sfrkata@hotmail.com Website: southernfriedrice.com

HOUSE FOR SALE OR RENT



2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, big kitchen, 2 aircons, big garden, cable and internet. Fully furnished. Just move in. Sales price: 2.5 million baht. Rental price: 14,000 baht per month. Located on bypass road behind the SoHo Roast Duck restaurant. Call for more details. Tel: 084-848 7474 (English & Thai). Email: kasina888@gmail.com

APARTMENTS FOR RENT/SALE



Stunning luxury apartments created by an innovative new property developer, Phuket Land and House Legal Co Ltd. The Royal Palm residence is made up of new small apartments at Nai Harn Beach with various styles of units to choose from. These include studio, 1-bedroom and 2-bedroom apartments plus a 3-bedroom Penthouse. Sizes range from 33-200sqm. Each unit features a unique modern design with quality custom furnishings, LCD TV, an IP Phone System with high-speed wireless Internet connection, intercom, alarm, automatic Gate, balcony / terrace, and private parking. Starting price from 2.79 million baht. Tel: 076-289122, 084-848 7474. Email: theroyalpalmresidence@yahoo.com For further detail, please visit our website: www.theroyalpalmresidence.com

Accommodation Wanted

POOL VILLA LONG TERM

2 bedrooms with access to pool for retired gentleman. Aircon and internet essential. 12 months + 25,000 baht per month. Email: daoverland@gmail.com

SEEKING APT / STD KATA/KARON

Looking for annual rental apartment/studio / house with modern furnishings and basics like aircon, internet in Kata/karon area. must have parking and maintainer for electrics / plumbing, etc. Tel: 080-268 2767. Email: dusktoadawn.morgan@gmail.com

SEEKING CONDO RENTAL 2011

German couple, retired (ages 66 and 62), looking for vacation rental of a condo or apartment in South Thailand, such as Phuket, Khao Lak or Krabi, for February / March 2011. Maximum monthly rental: 25,000 baht. Email: b.damm@t-online.de

1 ROOM IN VILLA

I would like to rent a room in a nice villa for 1 month. Price flexible. Please email with photo and details: holtum007@gmail.com

AFFORDABLE APT / ROOM

I am moving to Phuket in Jan and looking for a year-long lease on an apartment or room. It needs to be affordable and I need TV and good WiFi. Email: jonnyhips@hotmail.com

2 BED NEEDED FOR FEB 24

Looking for a 2-bedroom, fully furnished house to rent for 3 or 4 weeks from February 24. Ideal location is the central Phuket area. Tel: 081-797 7796. Email: watandleisa@live.com

SEEKING ROOM IN KATA

I am interested in renting a room or apartment at Kata Beach. Looking for a good price for 2-3 months with good references. I visit Phuket twice a year. Email: us@palm Springs.de

Holiday Homes & Villa Rentals

KAMALA VILLA WITH OWN POOL

Available on New Year due to cancellation. 3 bedrooms, all ensuite. Quiet, cozy, views, beautiful. Tel: 089-729 1403. Email: imconnac@aol.com

Household Items

KING-SIZE MATTRESS

King-size mattress for sale, Konzept spring angola. Very good condition, no stains. New: 12,500 baht. Will sell for 4,500 o.n.o. Kata Beach. Tel: 083-392 6795. Email: a7lfrance@yahoo.ca

KITCHEN WANTED (NEW OR USED)

Also, bedroom, living room and dining room furniture, and window bars / mosquito nets for whole house. Tel: 086-741 5611. Email: ukxian@gmail.com

MOVING OUT

6-piece black synthetic ratan furniture. Very nice. Will sell cheap. Email: bigluke45@yahoo.com

NEED WASHING MACHINE

Would like to buy a washing machine with hot water. Tel: 081-978 0819. Or send email to: genybr2010@gmail.com

BRAND-NEW MATTRESS

New king-size mattress, 200 x 180 x 32cm. Swiss technology. 25,000 baht. Will sell for 12,000 baht. Tel: 087-881 9550. Email: fachour@gmail.com

GARGOYLE STATUES

Each weighs over 20 kilos. Custom base with lights. Paid over 60,000 baht; will sell for 25,000 or best offer. Moving back to USA. Tel: 083-690 7737. Email: steveastray@hotmail.com

GARDEN PODS

Green and white, seat 3 people in each, with folding hoods. In excellent condition. Bought 3 months ago for 65,000 baht each. Move forces sale. Will accept 50,000 for both. Tel: 44-740-320 5040. Email: beckyhalls@gmail.com

WALL-MOUNTED FANS

Two Hatari white wall-mounted electric fans. Rotate with 3 speeds. Excellent condition. Quick sale at 1,000 baht each. Fan blade is 200mm. Tel: 083-638 2946. Email: mikewivell@facesofthesea.com

Household Services

QUALITY CARPENTER

We guarantee a fair price and perfectly finished kitchen furniture, flooring and a lot more. Tel: 089-972 5378.

DWF HOME SERVICES

Built-in bars, counters, pools, kitchens, ponds, etc. Contact: K. Noi. Tel: 081-606 5746. Email: DWF_homeservices@hotmail.com

Classified Advertisements

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

_____ (heading)

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

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

Deadline for Property Gazette page: Friday 3 pm.

Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.

Looking for land to buy?

See more classified ads at www.phuketgazette.net

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SELLING YOUR BOAT?
We can meet you on board, take up to 80 photos and full details. We will accompany all viewings and provide non exclusive brokerage on a "no sale, no fee" basis.

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Ref 75143
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www.boatshedphuket.com
Part of the Boatshed.com Yacht Brokerage Group with offices across the world.

7.5M RIB
7.5m AB Rib, on galvanized road trailer. Hull 5 years old, Suzuki 175Hp engine with 25 hours, Raymarine pilot, chart plotter, VHF, GPS and full safety gear. Lying Pattaya. 1.3 million baht. Tel: 081-811 8930. Email: gasson@buzzcats.com

BOAT SHARE
May I share your boating expenses in exchange for some agreed-upon usage? Tel: 089-017 7876. Email: billwoods80@hotmail.com

DINGHY FOR SALE
New Quicksilver, 2.7 meters, soft bottom, inflatable keel, hypalon. Price: 60,000 baht. Tel: 081-817 8377 (English & Thai). Email: bucephalus1950@yahoo.com

FIBERGLASS BOAT
30-foot monohull. Needs work. A bargain at 120,000 baht. For further details, please email: jkgk24@hotmail.com

SWISS CATAMARAN 24 FEET
A perfect fishing boat made of fiberglass. Comes with 2 Honda 4-stroke engines, each 50 HP. It has a hydraulic system, a Simrad navigation system and electric Ankerwinsch equipment. Phuket registration. With 4-wheel aluminium trailer. Price: 600,000 baht. Contact Khun Aree. Tel: 089-474 5168.

SEA DOO 255 RXT JETSKI
A few months old! just 9 hours used, new condition and modify to 280 horsepower! Price new: 625,000, NOW sale for 490,000 baht. Tel: 084-690 6304.

RACING YACHT FOR SALE
Inglis 47ft racing yacht. Lift keel, sweptback spreaders, masthead and fractional asymmetrical. 1.5 bowsprit, twin wheels and aft nav station. In excellent condition and ready to race. Tel: +61-418-939336 (Eng-lish). Email: nomadaust@hotmail.com

38FT CATAMARAN
It has 4 double cabins, 2 toilets / showers. In composite, under construction. Price: 390,000 baht. Tel: 087-461 8089.

18FT SPEEDBOAT
In very good condition, with an overhauled 90Hp Yamaha engine. Price: 370,000 baht or best offer. Tel: 085-253 4429.

INFLATABLE DINGHY
Lodestar 2.6 meters dinghy. Hypalon construction with 5Hp Yamaha outboard. Price: 65,000 baht. Tel: 081-397 7598. Email: kajoda1954@yahoo.co.uk

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

POWER CAT FOR SALE
Brand-new, 35 feet, fiberglass with fly bridge. Email: jkgk24@hotmail.com

PROPELLOR
Stainless Steel Propeller! 13-1/4' X 15'. Fits Suzuki or Evinrude. Hubs available for other engines. Price: 5,000 baht. Tel: 081-397 7598 (English & Thai). Email: kajoda1954@yahoo.co.uk

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

19FT RIB FOR SALE
With a 100Hp, 4-stroke engine, built in a stainless steel tank. Also includes a 7-inch color chart plotter, 2 anchors and a bilge pump. Price: 650,000 baht. Email: alistair@aimdb.net

BIG GAME FISHING BOAT FOR SALE
13 meters, purpose-built big game fishing boat. Price: 4.5 million baht. Serious offers considered. Tel: 082-218 3177. Email: deudale@yahoo.co.uk

40FT CRUISING YACHT
Fast fiberglass boat well equipped for cruising. It's been used for circumnavigation. Sale price: US\$85,000. Tel: 081-866 8716. Email: stormbay2@yahoo.com.sg

REMOTE SEARCHLIGHT
Guest stainless remote operated, motorized, 12v spot / floodlight. In excellent condition. 7,000 baht. Tel: 081-397 7598 (English & Thai). Email: kajoda1954@yahoo.co.uk

ALUMINUM SPEEDBOAT
6.3 meters LOA, Marine grade aluminum construction. 115 Suzuki 4-stroke with 110-liter fuel tank. Asking 1.2 million baht. See at Max Marine showroom. Tel: 076-617269. Email: craig@maxmarine.asia

43FT ROBERTS CRUISING YACHT
Fiberglass boat with equipment warranty. It is undergoing major refitting. Price: US\$43,500. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-866 8716. Email: stormbay2@yahoo.com.sg

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

£29,000 ONO
38ft steel videos sailing yacht. Nice condition. Inspections in January ashore at Langkawi. Call for more details. Tel: +44-013-06640898. Email: brianralphgoodwin@yahoo.com

REMOTE SEARCHLIGHT
Guest stainless remote operated, motorized, 12v spot / floodlight. In excellent condition. 7,000 baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 081-397 7598 (English & Thai). Email: kajoda1954@yahoo.co.uk

MOTORSAILER



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

SALING BOAT FOR SALE



Year: 1989. Length: 32' - 9.75m. Country: Thailand Builder: Beneteau. Hull material: GRP. Engine: Volvo Penta. Price: 1.5 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-090 9170.

WAKE/SKI BOAT FOR SALE



2-year-old, 4.2 meters long Cholmark boat with a 60Hp Yamaha Enduro engine. Includes trailer, GPS sonar, Waketower and more. Price: 475,000 baht. Call for more info. Tel: 086-949 1913. Email: juraj_t@yahoo.com

NEPTUNIAN



33ft Motorsailer. Sailed single handed from UK. New paint and varnish. GPS, autohelm, radar, depth, VHF. Many new parts. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-968 1437. Email: bobedward1@hotmail.com

SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES

Crossword puzzle:



COFFEE break

Impossibly Possible Quiz answers:

1. Facebook co-founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg,
2. Sachin Tendulkar, 3. MMXI, 4. The year of forests,
5. Liu Xiaobo, 6. 1869, 7. Colchester, 8. Coral Island,
9. Joanne Kathleen Rowling, 10. Zorro, 11. Robin, Batman's sidekick, 12. Goldfinger, 13. Quentin Tarantino, 14. The Amazon

Would you like to keep up on what's happening in Phuket - the good, the bad and the bizarre? Let us share it with you - every week!

TO: The Phuket Co Ltd, 79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd
T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang, Phuket 83000

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

To ensure clarity, please airmail. Do not Fax!

I hereby authorize payment against my Visa / Mastercard

Thai Baht 1,560 for Phuket Special Delivery (Phuket Island only!)

Thai Baht 2,800 for a domestic subscription (outside Phuket)

Thai Baht 9,000 for an overseas subscription (any country outside Thailand)

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

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

Issuing Bank: _____ Country: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

E-mail address: _____

Please Deliver To:

Street address _____

City _____ State or Province _____ Zip Code _____

Country: _____

**ADMINISTRATOR
NEEDED**

Thai female between 25 and 32 years old. Experience in and knowledge of diving is a plus. Please contact us for more information. Tel: 076-381765. For further details, please see our website at www.sea-bees.com

**RECEPTIONIST /
FRONT DESK**

Salary from 9,000 baht per month. Front desk experience helpful. Tel: 076-344701, 085-523 1772 (English). Fax: 076-344488. Or send email: info@patongsubinn.com

**PREMIER HOLIDAY
CLUB PHUKET**

- 3 Reception staff, Thai nationality only
- 1 Night Receptionist (Male)
- 1 Reception Supervisor
- 3 Accounting staff
- 1 IT Support person
- 1 Engineering staff
- 3 Housekeepers
- 1 Housekeeping Supervisor
- 3 Administration staff

Immediate start. Tel: 076-326220, 080-527 3995. Please send your resume to benz@premierpropertyleisure.com For further details, please see our website at www.premierpropertyleisure.com

**HOTEL MANAGER
NEEDED**

With strong English-language skills and experience in apartment / hotel management. Thai national only. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English). Email: solitude001@aol.com

**NATIVE ENGLISH
TEACHER**

Female caucasian available to teach a class of 3- to 5-year-old children in Chalongs. Mon-Fri from 8 am - 4 pm. Can start immediately. Tel: 080-624 7060. Email: phuketpreschool@yahoo.com

**CASABLANCA
RESTAURANT**

in Patong. Seeking 1 bartender, 2 pizza delivery boys, 2 waitresses and 2 cooks. Good salary for the right candidates. Call for more information. Tel: 081-892 8208, 085-188 8252.

**RECEPTIONIST
WANTED**

Small, fine jungle lodge in Khao Sok requires young Thai (only). Must have excellent English, computer skills, and hotel experience. Must also love nature. Starting salary: 13,000 baht. Email: theeranuch_limbos@hotmail.com Website: www.khaosokaccommodation.com/index.html

SUSHI BOX

Manager required. We need a Thai national aged between 25 and 40. Must have food and beverage experience. Duties include staff training, ensuring food and beverage cost control, and maintaining our high standards. Tel: 087-080 4258. Please send your CV with a current photo to sushibox.th@gmail.com



Liveboards diving and sailing in Southeast Asia: Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia and the Maldives.

Join our team at the office in Chalongs, we are looking for you:

A financial controller

(full-time) -foreign- Female/male

- You have a Bachelor's or Master's degree;
- You have the drive to analyze figures, make budgets, forecasts and cash flow projections;
- Minimum 3 years experience as financial controller;
- Affinity with scuba diving;
- Live in Phuket or plan to live in Phuket;
- Speak and write English fluently.

Send your resume including motivation and Curriculum Vitae to: diana@worldwidediveandsail.com

More information: www.worldwidediveandsail.com
Tel: 076-383 819

Career Opportunity

VS Asia Co., Ltd. was established in Phuket, and over 35 years experience in professional printing & information technology and post-production for clients in Europe, Asia and worldwide.

Text & Layout Editor**Job Description:**

- Knowledge of German language
- Work with text-editing program
- Art or imagination in design
- Team work and cooperating with related departments

Qualifications:

- Male/Female, Thai National Only
- Fluent German language in reading + writing
- Good knowledge of computer (Windows or Macintosh) and Internet
- High responsibility and punctuality
- Able to work as a shift with team or independently

Salary & Welfare:

- Salary, Social Security Insurance, Tax, Food, etc.
- Incentive bonus: depends on quality, skills and experiences.

Interested applicants apply at:

VS Asia Co., Ltd. (Human Resource Department)
42 Moo3, Palai2, Chaofa Rd., Chalongs, Muang, Phuket 83130
Tel. (00)66-76-380600 Fax. (00)66-76-380605 Email: info@vsdma.com

British International School, Phuket

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

PE Assistant**Qualifications**

- Thai National
- University Degree, Physical Education Major or related fields
- Good English, positive, willing & hard working
- Knowledge of local schools or clubs to arrange fixtures
- Knowledge of local facilities & sports opportunities
- Coaching qualification to coach a team such as Basketball etc.
- Be able to work flexible days 1 pm to 6 pm and all day Saturday

Business Development Coordinator**Qualifications**

- Thai national, Male/Female, 20-25 yrs old
- Bachelor's Degree in a related field
- Good/strong command of written and spoken English
- Computer literate
- Detail oriented and able to perform administrative tasks
- Customer relations skills and a service mind are essential
- Able to work as a team or independently
- Able to work overtime (for some special events)
- With driving licence
- New graduates welcome

School Nurse**Qualifications**

- Thai national
- Bachelor's degree or higher in Nursing with an active license
- >2 years experience in Nursing
- Good spoken and written English skills
- Computer literacy is essential

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



59 Moo 2, Thepkrasattri Road, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200
Tel: 076 238711-20 # 2103, 2206, 1111
Fax: 076 238711-20 # 1130
E-mail: patcharakornrnt@bisphuket.ac.th or sirirats@bisphuket.ac.th



Erawana Co., Ltd. has developed over 100 villas in Phuket since 2003. To support our continuously growing business, we are currently seeking individuals for **3 Sales Executive Positions** who possess the following qualifications:

Sales Executive

- Age 22-30 years old / Male or Female
- Good command of English both speaking and writing
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Minimum 1-2 years of working experience, any direct real estate experience will be considered favourably
- Salary 12,000-16,000 baht not including commission
- Valid car driver's license

Please e-mail your resume to: info@erawana.com or contact us at: 089-729 2989



Royal Phuket Marina is Asia's most sophisticated and high-tech yachting haven, a world-class destination combining luxury waterfront living with a state-of-art marina. It has been awarded the prestigious "Marina Five Gold Anchors Award" by the British Marine Federation is now looking for enthusiastic and motivated candidates in the following position :

Marina Operations Manager

The successful candidate will be primarily responsible for the general administration and day-to-day operation of the marina operation.

The role will include staffing, training, operations & maintenance. The candidate must be able to exhibit the flexibility required to handle all segments relating to the marina business, which includes a Marina Basin with 90 wet berths and a working hard stand with the capacity for 40 yachts.

Responsibilities:

- Primary point of contact for all Marine related issues
- Ensure that the Marine Service staff have the proper training and operating procedures in place to optimize the smooth running of the daily operation
- Coordinate and maintain the safe & continuous operation of all supporting marine equipment.

Qualifications:

- The same or similar experience in Marine related business
- Strong familiarity with boats and marina operations
- Advanced knowledge of boat maintenance procedures
- Computer literate
- Boat operation licenses is highly desired

Interested candidates please sent fully detailed CV, recent photo, current and expected salary with other related documents to:

HR Department**Royal Phuket Marina**

68 Moo.2 Thepkrasattre Rd, Kohkaew, Muang, Phuket
Tel: 076-360833-38 Fax: 076-360840
Email: prasertm@royalphuketmarina.com

CLX ASIA

CLX Group is one of the World's leading premedia companies in Europe. The group maintains a strong international position in color management and image retouching for prepress production of catalogs, magazines, and advertising campaigns. The Phuket operations have been well established and are growing well.

With the recent expansion plan, our client would like to fill the following positions to support their Phuket operation.

GERMAN COORDINATOR (several positions)

Location: 44 Moo 3 Palai Soi 2, Chalongs, Muang Phuket

Responsibilities:

- Support production admin activities (ie. download images, dataentry, e-mail, scan photos, etc).
- Help prepare and organize data for day-to-day operations of the production activities.
- Prepare reports and records for management.
- Coordinate and ensure effective communication between the production departments and external business partners overseas.

Qualifications:

- Any nationality
- Must speak fluent German and Thai
- Male/ Female, energetic.
- Experience in computer admin or related fields are an advantage.
- Solid computer skills with good experience in preparing data and reports.
- Highly self-motivated and willing to work towards tight deadlines.
- Honest, proactive and assertive to work with the team. Ability to develop effective relationships with Phuket team and business partners overseas.

CLX Asia offers excellent benefits including a highly competitive salary. The company will provide full training, but industry knowledge and experience would be an advantage.

If you are enthusiastic about computer graphic professional and desire to work in an environment where your skills can be developed and supported, please state which role you are interested in and email your CV and a covering letter to: resumes@premediajobs.com or call 086 475-3694.

For more info, please visit www.premediajobs.com/jobs_center

Premedia JOBS

**Gazette Online Classifieds –
10,000 readers every day!**

INDIGO PEARL Phuket



Indigo Pearl resort experience is an encounter with Phuket's collective imagination – a gathering of intriguing details, re-envisioned through imaginative design.

Architecture inspired by Phuket's tin mining past. The hotel décor evokes a Thai factory of a century ago. A landscape overflowing with surprises: the postmodern transformation of a mature plantation, spiced with modern sculpture and found industrial art.

Phuket's Indigo Pearl Voted Asia's Leading Design Hotel At World Travel Awards 2010.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food & Beverage Outlet Manager • Hostess • Bartender • Waiter / Waitress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sales Manager (MICE), International Markets • Sales Coordinator • Reservation Supervisor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistant Director of Housekeeping • Public Area Attendant • Room Attendant • Houseman • Laundry Supervisor • Laundry Attendant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chef de Partie • Demi Chef • Commis Cook
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistant Front Manager • Resort Host Supervisor • Resort Host • Concierge • Driver 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative Assistant • Spa Therapist • Spa Beautician • Spa Attendant
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English Teacher (Thai national) • Training Manager

Competitive benefits including service charge
Applicants should also demonstrate the following:

- Experience in related field preferred
- Dynamic and energetic / positive attitude
- Strong communication in English and other languages a plus
- **For management position:** Strong leadership and decision making skills

Interested candidates are invited to write in with full resume, stating present and expected salaries, and enclosing a recent photograph to the address below

Indigo Pearl: Nai Yang Beach & National Park, Phuket 83110, Thailand
Tel: +66 (0)76 327 006, (0)76 327 015 Fax: +66 (0)76 327 338-9
E-mail: recruitment@indigo-pearl.com

www.indigo-pearl.com



IMPIANA RESORT PATONG PHUKET is a luxurious 68 room boutique resort located directly on the beach of Patong. We are urgently looking for highly motivated individuals to join our team as:

Executive Chef Food & Beverage Manager

REQUIREMENTS :

- Minimum three years experience developing & managing international standard operations in resorts or hotels in Asia. Expat preferred.
- Must have considerable knowledge of food preparation and food service management, methods, and techniques. Impiana Resort has three restaurants and banqueting.
- Good track record of cost control including food, equipment, labor.
- Must be able to plan and modify menus to meet various requirements.
- Must be able to prepare working schedules for employees and to instruct subordinates in food service procedures.
- Must have a very proactive and positive attitude to work, and demonstrate flexibility.
- Good command of spoken and written English.
- Strong leadership and interpersonal skills along with computer knowledge and presentation skills.

Interested candidates are invited to e-mail resume stating present and expected salary, start working date to hrmipc@impiana.com

Royal REQUIRED for IMMEDIATE start in BALI

The Karma Royal Group, Asia's premier property & resort developer experienced unparalleled growth in 2010.

Therefore, a new exhibition centre is being opened and we need 5 enthusiastic 'Go Getters'.
The positions are required to be filled NOW!!

If you are NOT in a position to relocate to Bali immediately, please DO NOT apply as this offer is not for you!!!!

Interested candidates send your full CV immediately to:
ekayanti@royalperspective.com



inLOBBY Asia Ltd represents inLOBBY hotel reservation platform, a German company that offers new innovative solutions to hotel reservation system that plays an integral and actual part in the 21st mobilized century.

Our system provides clients with direct contact with hotels. Due to the modern technical opportunities, inLOBBY offers you a hotel reservation platform, which covers the whole world and is aimed at making direct contact between the client and the hotel without any mediator, either via: E-mail, Live Chat or Free phone call.

inLOBBY always welcomes you to inquire about the great opportunities with our growing at an exponential rate in this part of the world.

Sales Executive for South of Thailand

Qualification:

- Female, aged between 23 and 35 years
- Minimum 3 years experience in the hotel, travel/tourism industry
- Have a strong network in the hotel and travel/tourism industry
- Experience in contracting, negotiation and media sales
- Strong communications, organization and relationship skills
- Very good command of spoken and written English would be an advantage
- Positive attitude and good teamwork spirit
- Good personality and high responsibility

Job Description:

- Introducing and proposing online technology booking solution to prospects.
- Visiting potential hotels as clients to prospect new business
- Maintaining and developing relationships with hotels for following up on prices and promotions
- Promoting inLOBBY website towards all companies

The remuneration includes excellent base salary, comprehensive medical insurance and provident fund.

Interested candidates, please send application letter, salary expectation and CV with recent photo, indicating position you are applying for to the address below.

inLOBBY Asia Ltd

63, Unit 1901 Athenee Tower, Wireless Road, Lumpini, Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330
E-mail: info@inLOBBY.asia
www.inlobby.com

SHOP MANAGER WANTED

Excellent salary for an English-speaking person at a bar / massage shop on a busy beach. 3 to 9 months' work. Tel: 081-606 4467.

A JOB OFFER

I'm looking for a Thai national who can speak Russian, French and/or English and who can work with tourists. Tel: 087-705 3662. Email: jens@paradiis Saar.ee

ADMINISTRATOR

Real estate company requires Thai national with fluent written and spoken English and previous admin / customer service experience. Good salary and benefits package. Tel: 076-527565. Please send CV and expected salary to info@phuketocseanvillas.com

2 OPENINGS

1) Director of Tourism and Finance. Function as Director of the company for the Tourism Division and handle AR / AP and Balance Sheet Reconciliation. Monthly salary up to 25,000 baht, depending on experience and capability.

2) Operations Manager. Manage the operations of 2 USA made Sport Fishing Boats. In charge of maintenance logs and schedules. Accompany trips as required and directed by the managing director. Expat highly desirable. Up to 30,000 baht a month. Email: martin@phuketfishboat.com
For further details, please see our website at www.phuketfishboat.com

ACTORS FOR TV AD

Thais needed for cosmetic ad. Amateurs welcome. High salary for 1 day's work. Send photo to: solisungyor@hotmail.com

PR / MARKETING STAFF REQUIRED

Marketing staff required by Real Estate company for our new marketing drive. Must be fluent English speaker and have outgoing personality. Excellent package includes salary plus commission. Start February. Email: mark@phuket-landandhomes.com

WAITERS/ VILLA STAFF /++

– Waiters: Italian Restaurant. Must have experience and excellent English. 14,000 baht per month + transport, etc

– Villa Staff: Live-in. Must have English and Experience

– English Teacher: Part time. Need qualified native speaker

– Cafe Server: Boat Lagoon. Must have some food prep. Sole charge position.

Tel: 076-302040. Email: scot@toon.co.nz

Phuket Gazette

In connection with a major expansion in its **Classified Advertising** business due to the launch of the newspaper's Nationwide Edition, the *Phuket Gazette* seeks to add three **Classified Advertising Administrators** to its existing team of five.

Qualified candidates will be:

- ▶ Thai nationals, aged at least 26
- ▶ Service-minded with an outgoing personality
- ▶ Able to work well with large numbers of advertisers, both foreign and Thai

and should have:

- ▶ A Bachelors Degree from a recognizable university
- ▶ A good sense of organization and respect for details
- ▶ Knowledge of basic office software

Knowledge of InDesign, Pagemaker or Quark Express would be a plus.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Khun Tassanee Suwannarat, Classifieds Manager, at Nee@PhuketGazette.Net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd, Koh Kaew
A. Muang, Phuket 83000
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Articles For Sale

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Sport

New FC Phuket boss sets out his vision

By Andrew Jennings

FC Phuket's new manager Surachai Jirasirichote has wasted little time declaring his primary ambition for the coming season: Promotion to the Thai Premier League.

The former Thai national team defender was appointed new boss of the Southern Sea Kirin last weekend and this week was at Surakul Stadium to finalize his 30-man squad for the big Division 1 kickoff on February 12.

Surachai, 40, has over 50 caps and two goals for his country and this week was making positive noises about FC Phuket's prospects for the coming campaign.

"I hope we can win promotion to the Thai Premier League this year. I will be doing my best to achieve this goal," he told the *Phuket Gazette*.

"I'm not pressured by fans' expectations. I really just want to bring this team to the highest level. I believe that with the experience I have it will bring success to the team," he added.

FC Phuket is Surachai's first management position and he takes over from former boss Arjharn Songngamsap, who stepped down after guiding Phuket to promotion last month.

Arjharn – who will remain at

the club as a consultant for three months before departing for Spain – recommended Surachai to the FC Phuket hierarchy. They agreed he was the ideal candidate to lead the club into the new season.

"Arjharn recommended me to FC Phuket. He coached me during the 10 years I was a player on the Thai national squad. He has faith in me and has given me great support," Surachai said.

Phuket's new man in charge has plenty of experience playing in both the Thai domestic league and Singapore's S-League. His finest moment for the national team came at the 1998 Asian Games when he set up one of the goals as Thailand caused a massive shock beating South Korea in the quarter-finals.

This week FC Phuket also unveiled a further seven new signings to add to the four signed last week.

The most exciting of the new faces is Brazilian import Paulo Reneto Sizino.

The 27-year-old has enjoyed spells with Brazilian giants

Palmeiras and Hungarian outfit Honved. His quick dribbling skills are sure to add something fresh to the Phuket attack.

"Reneto can help the team a lot. He is a very skillful attack-minded player," said Surachai.

Also added to the new line-up is Kone Adama and Coulibaly Abdoul, both from the Ivory Coast, and four new signings from Rajpracha Nonthaburi FC: defender Nirun Phunthong, midfielders Kornprom Jaroonpong and Seksit Srisai, and pacey striker Tameezee Hayeeyusoh.

One of the stars of last year's promotion success, Nene bi Tra Sylvestre, who was reported to have parted company with the club at the end of last season, will return next week to join the FC Phuket squad.

Phuket have penciled in a friendly match against current Thai Premier League champions Muang Thong United at Surakul Stadium on January 26. Ex-FC Phuket star Diarra Ali will line up for the opposition. Kickoff is at 6pm.

'I'm not pressured by fans' expectations. I really just want to bring this team to the highest level.'



FINDING HIS FEET: New FC Phuket boss Surachai Jirasirichote

Funding doubt for volleyball event

A DECISION on whether the Swatch FIVB Beach Volley World Tour will return to Phuket's Karon Beach later this year is expected by the end of next month.

The FIVB's official website has Phuket penciled in to host the final stop on the tour in early November.

However, event organizers Pentangle Promotions have poured cold water on the website information, informing the *Phuket Gazette* a decision on a venue for the 2011 Thailand Volleyball Open has not yet been made.

"Phuket is shown as this year's venue on the FIVB website because that was where the previous event was held. We will meet with Governor Tri Augkaradacha and other interested parties first before deciding on the location for the event," said Geoffrey Rowe, managing director of Pentangle Promotions.

Concerns persist the event could be forced to move to another province to secure the necessary funding to host it.

"Getting financial support is the

biggest issue. The Tourism Authority of Thailand was once our biggest sponsors but they have reduced their budget.

"Previously we've had no direct financial assistance from Phuket. It costs a lot to host the event on the island because we have to transport everything from Bangkok," said Mr Rowe.

"There is interest from other provinces about moving the event there, but whether these locations will be ready to host an

event like this in 2011 remains to be seen. We'll wait until we meet Governor Tri next month before making a decision," he added.

The Phuket Thailand Open has proved a big sporting success story for Phuket in recent years.

It provides a boon for tourism at the tail end of the low season by showcasing the finest female beach volleyball players on the planet competing in a week-long tournament.

– Andrew Jennings

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Fair Play League seeks new players

THE 2011 Fair Play League (FPL) is up-and-running and looking for boys and girls to take part.

Run by Brazilian Soccer Schools, the FPL caters for youngsters at Under-13 and Under-16 level and is being held at various schools around Phuket until March.

The Under-13 league got underway last Sunday at BIS with 56 children from various backgrounds taking part.

The Under-16 league is due to kickoff in less than two weeks and organizers are looking for players to complete the squads.

The cost for the entire nine-week season is only 400 baht.

The FPL is also seeking coaches. Free training will be provided.

Any players or coaches still interested in joining the FPL please contact Martin Hill E:bss@phuketinternational.academy.com

- Andrew Jennings

Lucky to be a Loma

By Andrew Jennings

RUGBY World Cup 2011 takes center stage in September when 20 countries will battle it out to lift the Webb Ellis Cup.

Before that, however, another rugby tournament will take place - one of far greater importance to a group of Phuket youngsters.

Ten lucky players from the Phuket Lomas Under-13 team have been chosen to represent their club, island and country at the prestigious Touraid Cup, taking place in the UK in June.

The annual rugby festival brings together underprivileged children from 10 countries to play in a 10-a-side rugby tournament.

Manchester has been chosen as the host city for 2011.

The Lomas players travelling to the UK all come from underprivileged backgrounds and have never previously been outside Thailand. Although Touraid is paying for the flights and visas, Lomas Rugby Club is looking for

new sponsors to help fund the trip and a new playing kit.

As part of the tour the Lomas youngsters will be asked to help with various community projects alongside children from a host school.

The event is the brainchild of the charity's CEO Andy Berry, who five years ago came up with the idea of bringing communities together and giving opportunities for disadvantaged kids to travel to the UK to play rugby.

Mr Berry believes the week-long Touraid festival is invaluable for the children involved and thinks the event can only help to broaden rugby's appeal around the globe.

Visiting children will experience new friendships and many at the host schools will obtain an insight into the lives and circumstances of others who are less fortunate and culturally different.

Touraid has raised rugby awareness within countries not normally associated with the sport, and enjoys the support of oval ball luminaries Mike Catt, John Inverdale, Dean Richards, Jason Leonard and Chester Williams.

Top English Premiership rugby clubs will provide Phuket Lomas

and the other touring teams with coaching, helping children improve their rugby skills.

The Touraid Cup annually receives plenty of media coverage in the UK, including daily reports on the BBC.

Anybody interested in sponsoring the Lomas UK tour, please contact team manager Pat Cotter at E:phuketrugby@gmail.com. Mr Cotter told the *Phuket Gazette* the kids are very excited about the prospect of touring overseas.

"They can't wait to go. Unfortunately only 10 children can travel so many will miss out, but we hope to have other opportunities for these kids to go overseas in the future to train and gain experience," he added.

For more on the Lomas tour, see W:phuketgazette.net

YOUNG GUN: Lomas U-13 star "Sombat"



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