

Phuket Gazette

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25 Baht

Laguna Beach Resort to be sold by May

THE 252-room Laguna Beach Resort in Phuket has transacted to Laguna Phuket Club Co, a Thai company controlled by Singapore-based private equity fund Recap.

According to documents filed with the Stock Exchange of Thailand, Laguna Resorts & Hotels (LRH) Board of Directors approved the sale of the company's 60 per cent shareholding in the resort for 723.565 million baht.

LRH's joint-venture partner RHI Group Pte Ltd will also sell its shareholding in the company and subsidiaries for an as-yet-un-disclosed amount.

Conditions precedent in effect call for completion of the final transaction on or before May 10.

Located in the leading integrated destination resort Laguna Phuket, the property opened in 1991 as the Pacific Islands Club, as part of DFS (Duty Free Shoppers), the resort chain co-founded by billionaire Chuck Feeney.

The resort later changed names to its present resort moniker.

The buyer, Recap, is no stranger to Phuket. In 2006 it acquired a controlling interest in Phuket Square Co Ltd, the owning company of the Jungceylon shopping, retail and hotel complex in Patong.

— Bill Barnett

Elephant rampage

Swiss woman dead and three other foreign tourists in hospital after bull elephant goes berserk

By Stephen Fein and Pimwara Choksakulpan

A SWISS woman is dead and three other foreign tourists are in hospital in Phuket after an elephant went berserk during a trekking tour in Phang Nga on Tuesday.

Speaking from his wife's bedside at Bangkok Hospital Phuket the following afternoon, Australian tourist Sean Gothe said he and his wife Helen were among eight couples on a one-day tour to Khao Sok National Park that included canoeing and elephant trekking in Phang Nga.

In the afternoon, the Gothes climbed aboard their elephant, a 31-year-old female, and the other couples did likewise.

At about the half-way point in the ride, three or four of the animals met in a clearing and the mahouts (elephant handlers) exchanged cameras to take photos.

At this point, one of the elephants went berserk and attacked the elephant the Gothes were riding on, ramming it and trying to rip off its trunk.

All of the other elephants ran off in different directions, with the berserk beast giving chase to the



Helen and Sean Gothe recovering in hospital.

one with the Gothes on board.

Mr Gothe and his wife feared that they and the elephant would fall off a cliff to their deaths as the mahouts desperately tried to calm the animals, Mr Gothe said.

Both animals were bleeding from being struck by the sharp-

ened metal tools used by the mahouts, he added.

The retaining bar on the Gothes' elephant's saddle eventually dislodged and Mrs Gothe fell off the right side.

Mr Gothe said he feared she had hit her head on a rock as she lay

motionless on the ground while the elephant beneath him continued to run full tilt into the distance.

It was only about 30 minutes later that he realized Helen was okay. She suffered one broken rib, severe lacerations to her upper right shoulder and several bad bruises.

Asked the following day if her elephant-riding days were over, she said, "I think so".

The crazed elephant was carrying a Swiss woman in her 60s, her companion and the mahout.

The elephant threw off the mahout and the Swiss woman, who was trampled to death by the enraged animal.

There were no eyewitnesses to the trampling, but the massive trauma to the center of woman's torso was enough to convince the Australian that the elephant meant to kill the woman, he said.

The man was fortunate to get off the elephant and get away without major injuries.

He described the incident as "the most terrifying 15 minutes of my life".

"Anything coming between them would have been immediately crushed to death," he said.

Continued on page 3

Tossaporn calls for new Phuket hospital

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

PHUKET MP Tossaporn Thepabutr on Tuesday proposed to Governor Tri Augkaradacha that another government hospital be built in Phuket.

However, instead of smaller branches of major government hospitals opening to serve local people's needs, Mr Tossaporn proposed a high-end facility to attract specialists in their field.

Vachira Phuket Hospital, the main government hospital in Phuket, is on a plot too narrow to expand and patients are waiting too long for treatment, he said.

Although Vachira Hospital opened its outpatient clinic in Phuket Town in January, that center is intended to be only a short-term solution, Mr Tossaporn explained to reporters.

"So a new hospital under the control of the Ministry of Public Health is in need," MP Tossaporn said.

He said the location of the new hospital had to have a bigger area than Vachira Phuket Hospital, and that new facility should be upgraded to a medical technology center or College of Nursing.

"If we aim for a high standard for the new hospital, more high-end medical staff

and specialists will want to come work here," he said, alluding to the long-reported fact that qualified doctors prefer to work in private hospitals than the lower-paying government facilities.

As an incentive, Mr Tossaporn said that if a location were chosen soon, he could ask for the budget for fiscal year 2012, which starts October 1.

"In the past, Phuket's development strategy has always focused on tourism. We should care more about medical services."

He said Gov Tri agreed with his idea, but needed to be asked for opinion from related government agencies.



Phuket MP Tossaporn Thepabutr

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This Week

Across the Bay

Phi Phi residents overjoyed to get mainland power boost.

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Phone companies draw the bottom line on public phone booths.

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Award-winning Chusak reveals the magic behind his photos.

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Property



Centara inks deal over Bt2.2bn resort to rise in Patong.

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Classifieds

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

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Sport



Ironman Jurgan Zack in Phuket. Kids learn Fair Play. FC Phuket at home.

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Sunday



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Monday



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Tuesday



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Wednesday



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Thursday



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Woman, 80, dies in well

POLICE are treating as accidental the apparent drowning death of an 80-year-old woman whose body was discovered in the family water well last Saturday.

Lt Patiwat Yawdkhwan of Thalang Police was informed of the death by the family of the victim, Saner Bureerak, a resident of Thepkasattri Village 4.

Responding to the 4:30am call with Kusoldharm Foundation rescue workers, police found that family and friends of Miss Saner had used ropes to pull her body from the concrete well, located behind the family's home.

Rescue workers estimated the depth of the water in the well at more than 20 meters.

Miss Saner's relatives, descendants of her older brother, were deeply upset by the tragedy.

They said Miss Saner was frail and mostly got around with a



Relatives think Miss Saner got up from her wheelchair to look in the well.

wheelchair. She likely pulled herself up to the rim of the well, lost her balance, and fell in, they said.

They accepted her death as an accident and told police they do not intend to file a complaint.

Kusoldharm Foundation workers transported Miss Saner's body to Thalang Hospital for examination and storage while the family arranges funeral services.

— Wichai Witthawat

Mayor Pian ponies up for police houses

PATONG Mayor Pian Keesin on Monday handed over one million baht to build two retaining walls around accommodation being built for Phuket police officers.

The money was garnered from rental fees levied on fair operators for staging a fair at Loma Park, starting on Valentine's Day, said Mayor Pian.

Col Arayapan explained that dirt used to elevate the site sparked complaints from soon-to-be-neighbors of the police.

It runs off the site, opposite Wat Kathu, and into the neighbors' homes every time heavy rain falls, he said.

Engineers said to build retaining walls 50 meters long and 2.6



One of the retaining walls.

meters high along two sides of the site would require 1.6mn baht, said Col Arayapan.

Construction of the 10 row houses is nearly complete, as is one of the two retaining walls, he added.

— Pimwara Choksakulpan

Raids net grenade, drugs

COMPLAINTS to police about "suspicious youngsters" in a housing estate in Wichit sparked three days of raids that led to 13 arrests and netted seven stolen motorbikes, heroin and other drugs – and a defunct M67 grenade.

The raids followed tip-offs from residents at Irawadee Village, in Wichit, who complained about youngsters constantly riding motorbikes without license plates through the estate.

Responding to the complaints, officers arrested a juvenile, named only as "A", riding a motorbike without a license plate through the estate.

The motorbike was previously reported stolen from nearby Soi Nakkarat.

The boy confessed he stole motorbikes with three other youngsters, who police later arrested.

Further investigations led to subsequent raids and the arrests of the nine other men.

During the raids, police seized a hoard of illegal items, including heroin, *ya bah* (methamphetamine), *ya Ice* (crystal meth) and seven stolen motorbikes.

— Atchaa Khamlo

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Elephant goes beserk

From page 1

He said it was hard for him to believe that the woman into whose eyes he was staring as the two beasts rammed each other was dead, while he suffered only a tiny scratch on his lower leg from a branch.

Mr Gothe said the mahout had earlier told the couple earlier that the elephant that went berserk was a male.

Female elephants are typically used on elephant trekking tours because they have better dispositions.

One of the animals that ran off in fear took 90 minutes to calm down sufficiently to allow its terrified riders to dismount, the Australian said.

All of the injured are now being treated at Bangkok Hospital Phuket.

The most seriously injured was Swiss woman Christine Colomb, who suffered 12 broken ribs and a punctured lung, Mr Gothe said.

She was still in the ICU as of Wednesday afternoon.

She suffered these injuries as her elephant, which was not involved in the fighting, tried to flee in fear. Her 71-year-old husband Michel suffered serious lacerations to the head, he added.

Mr Gothe said he was surprised by the reaction of all the elephants to the fighting.

"They aren't like people who tend to come and watch when a

fight is happening. They just panic and want to get as far away as they can as fast as possible," he said.

He had no idea what caused the elephant to suddenly become so enraged.

"He just lost it," he said.

Mr Gothe had kind things to say about the mahouts and junior staff at the Siam Safari tour company that organized the trip, but said he was furious that senior management had not contacted any of the injured.

"All they did was send us a fruit basket," he said.

The *Gazette* called the Chalong-based company on Wednesday, but the operator said the management found it inconvenient to make a comment at that time.

The company has been running eco-tours in Southern Thailand for 21 years.

Lt Col Apidej Chuaygue of the Phnom District Police in Phang Nga said the accident happened at about 3pm at the privately-run Khao Lak Safari site in Klongsok subdistrict.

The mahouts said the fight started when playing among some male elephants suddenly turned to anger. It was the first such case at the Khao Lak Safari operation, the owners of which have already been charged with negligence resulting in death.

Some of the individual mahouts have also been charged, the policeman said.

Consuls keep pressure on high tuk-tuk fares

By Stephen Fein and Atchaa Khamlo

JET-ski scams and overpricing by taxi and tuk-tuk drivers dominated the agenda at the honorary consuls' meeting on Monday

Governor Tri began the two-and-a-half hour meeting outlining progress made since the previous meeting, including the introduction of maximum rate fares agreed to by some 80 per cent of tuk-tuk drivers in Patong, all members of the Patong Taxi Federation (PTF).

The consuls were also shown slides of uniforms and ID badges to be worn by the PTF members.

German Honorary Consul Dirk Naumann lauded Gov Tri for his efforts to address taxi and tuk-tuk issues. "Our new governor has done more in three months than his predecessors did in three years," he said.

A tangible result of this was freeing up of parking spaces along the beach road in Patong, which before were almost completely monopolized by taxi drivers, tuk-tuk drivers and vehicle rental operators, he said.

However, Mr Naumann said the set fares in Patong were too expensive, producing documentary evidence that the rates were sev-



German Honorary Consul Dirk Naumann explaining that the new agreed tuk-tuk fares are more expensive than fares charged in his homeland.

eral times higher than in Bangkok – and more expensive than in Germany, where the cost of living overall is much higher.

Patong Deputy Mayor Chairat Sukhaban argued that Patong's hilly terrain, one-way system and other factors all made operating costs in the seaside town higher than many realized.

Open-air tuk-tuks were more expensive to buy than air-conditioned taxis, he added.

Mr Naumann said that if that was the case, then air-conditioned

taxis should be used instead of the two-stroke tuk-tuks.

Governor Tri said the fares, which impose a maximum fare of 200 baht for journeys within Patong, plus 50 baht per head for each additional passenger above four, would be reassessed after a three-month trial.

Passengers were also free to negotiate cheaper fares for short journeys, he added.

The next Phuket consuls' meeting is scheduled to take place at Phuket Provincial Hall on May 23.

Wanted: survivor of attempted hit

POLICE are seeking a half-Thai, half-French man recovering from a gunshot wound sustained in Phuket Town last Sunday.

They expect to arrest his assailant soon.

Phuket City Police duty officer Anek Mongkol said he suspects the victim, 27-year-old Patong businessman Markudom Boulbet, may be intentionally avoiding police questioning.

Mr Boulbet was shot once in the right shoulder by a man on Sunday afternoon as he and his female companion were driving to pick up their children in Phuket Town.

As Mr Boulbet was passing the old Mazda showroom on Phang Nga Road, the shooter overtook Mr Boulbet's car then dumped the motorbike in the

middle of the lane, forcing Mr Boulbet to stop.

The man then rose to his feet and raised his gun at Mr Boulbet, said Lt Col Anek.

Mr Boulbet tried to run over the man, but was hit in the shoulder by one of four shots the man fired before fleeing the scene on foot.

Mr Boulbet reported the incident to police, who told him to come in for questioning after receiving treatment for the gunshot wound.

Police say they know the identity of the assailant, who left his motorbike at the scene.

Lt Col Anek said the pair are presumed to be well-acquainted, possibly former friends who fell out over a business deal.

– Atchaa Khamlo

Warning over snatch theft

POLICE are urging residents in Wichit to be wary of snatch bandits operating in the area.

A pair of bandits have robbed no fewer than five people in the same part of Phuket in the past 30 days, according to one of the most recent victims.

One woman lost over 30,000

baht to the bandits when they pounced on her in front of Wat Thepnimit.

Another woman reportedly had her gold necklace stolen in an attack early last Friday.

The latest attack took place in front of the Shell service station on Chao Fa East Road.



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Loner man gives the dogs a bone

A MAN who lived alone in a wooden shack on a fruit farm in Phitsanuloke fell to his death and was half-eaten by the 20 dogs he kept to guard his orchards.

When villagers living nearby noticed that Mai Khongthong, 66, wasn't out watering his fruit trees as usual last Friday morning, they called out to him but heard no response.

They went to investigate, and found Mr Mai's mauled body lying face down on the ground next to the raised wooden house he lived in.

Around the body were Mr Mai's dogs – and lumps of half-chewed human flesh.

After making the gruesome discovery the villagers informed the police and Mr Mai's children, who run a well-known gold shop in nearby Wangthong.

Investigating officer Tulawut Wimala of Wangthong Police said Mr Mai had lived on his own at the farm.

He watered his trees each morning and looked after the 20 dogs he kept to guard the orchard.

QUEER news

Col Tulawut said Mr Mai probably fainted and fell from the wooden shack down to the ground below.

After his hungry dogs smelled blood, they started eating him, he added.

When police arrived at the scene, the animals had eaten the flesh off Mr Mai's face and skull and stripped the flesh off his right arm from his fingers to his shoulder.

Chunks had also been taken out of his left thigh, and his skeleton was visible in several places.

Mr Mai's death has caused much chatter in the village of Baan Samtoey.

Many residents now refuse to let their dogs out lest they go near the man-eating dogs of Mr Mai's farm.

– Daily News

Bus station inches forward to opening

By Janpen Upatising

PHUKET Bus Terminal 2 should open by mid-year, after which time an unprecedented traffic control experiment will begin on Thepkasattri Road, officials say.

Kanok Siripanichkorn, chief of Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO), this week assured the *Phuket Gazette* that the new terminal will open no later than June.

Work on Phuket Bus Terminal 2 was completed in December 2009, but neither Rassada Municipality nor the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization, citing financial constraints, agreed to take over its day-to-day operation.

The 128-million-baht facility has thus remained vacant for the past 14 months. That will become 18 months if it opens its doors in June.

The PLTO is now waiting for the Phuket Highways Department to install a set of traffic lights that will allow buses to complete U-



The 'left-hand hook' bus drivers will need to make on Thepkasattri Road.

turns to head north on Thepkasattri Road.

"Actually, we would have liked to open the terminal on April 1, but we still need to wait for the Phuket Provincial Highways Department to finish installing the traffic signals," Mr Kanok told a recent meeting of the provincial committee on land transport issues.

There will be a three-month trial

to see whether road users are "confused" by the new system, he said.

Under the plan, buses will leave the station and travel south along the breakdown lane until they reach the U-turn at Tantalum Junction.

The traffic signals there will intermittently signal traffic in all other lanes to stop so the large buses can make U-turns from the breakdown lane.

Finnish tourist fends off 'Sparta' thugs

A FINNISH tourist suffered a gash to his arm while fighting off two young thugs who attacked him with a knife in the heart of Phuket Town before dawn on Wednesday.

The Finn, 59-year-old Heikki Antero Malkki, arrived at the bus station on Phang Nga Road at about 3:30am.

He had just arrived from Malaysia and planned to meet up with friends arriving at Phuket International Airport later that day.

Using a walking frame, he was walking along Phang Nga Road when two young men stopped and tried to take his bag at knife-point.

The youths brandished a blade known locally as a "Sparta blade" for its presumed resemblance to the weapon used by ancient Greeks.

The Finn used his walking frame to protect himself, but sus-

tained a cut to his left arm in the process.

The thugs fled the scene after bystanders noticed the attack.

Mr Malkki was taken to Vachira

Phuket Hospital, where he received 12 stitches to close the wound.

He was then escorted by Phuket City Police to the airport to meet his friends, who will return to Malaysia with him via Haad Yai.

Phuket City Police duty officer Anek Mongkol said he would email pictures of any suspects police had to Mr Malkki for positive identification.

– Atchaa Khamlo



Heikki Malkki

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Karen visit broadens horizons

By Nicholas Altstadt

NINE-year-old Ywa Hay Tha never went on family trips to the beach; never saw his favorite films on the big screen; never got a chance at a “normal” life.

Nine-year-old Ywa Hay Tha was more concerned with keeping himself alive when he fled the Burmese military through the jungles of eastern Burma to the relative safety of Umpiem Mai refugee camp in Thailand.

Now 18 years old, Ywa and 20 other ethnic Karen students of Thoo Mweh Khee (TMK) Senior College in Thailand's Tak province visited Phuket this week for a cultural exchange after a “What if” conversation between a Satree Phuket School teacher and the director of TMK became reality.

TMK director Dr Shirley Worland said that the idea was inspired during a “silly conversation” with Satree Phuket social studies teacher Joey Ho, on her last day of a short volunteer stint with TMK.

While talking about the students' travel restrictions, Dr Worland asked, “Wouldn't it be funny if we could get the kids down to Phuket?”

In what was a surprisingly smooth process, the group was issued a letter from Tak Provincial Government permitting them to travel outside the province, based on a letter of invitation signed by the director of Satree Phuket, Kiattisak Pillawat.

New experiences

The 21 students and several teachers, along with Dr Worland, arrived in Phuket last Sunday evening after a two-day drive from North Thailand. All in their late teens and early twenties, the students experienced a lot of “firsts” after setting foot onto the island.

On Monday, the group visited Satree Phuket School for a cultural exchange with Thai students – the first time many of them had ever interacted with their Thai peers.

Ms Ho explained that she had previously taught her social stud-



The Karen students re-enacted their experiences at the hand of the Burmese military for students at Satree Phuket School. They attend a privately funded school for ‘migrant children’ in Thailand's Tak Province.

ies class about the situation along the Thai-Burma border, where hundreds of thousands of people have fled the brutal campaigns of the Burmese military.

“That's why when Shirley mentioned bringing her students down here, I thought that would be a great idea for them to actually meet these kids,” Ms Ho said.

Some of the students were so moved by Ms Ho's lesson that they took it upon themselves to the streets with a donation box and raise funds to bring the Karen students to Phuket.

The group was very impressed with the students and facilities at Satree. They sat in on classes, participated in question-and-answer activities and performed a drama based on their own experiences, with scenes detailing the violence they faced in Burma, their subsequent “run through the jungle” and arrival in Thailand.

On Tuesday, Andaman Sea Club Co Ltd provided two catamarans, free of charge, for the students to get their first taste of sailing. The boats took the group to Koh Lone for a day of swimming and hanging out on the beach.

“This is the first time for me to see the ocean,” said 20-year-old Mary Win. “Sailing was great. I felt like I was flying,” she added.

In fact, this was the first time most of the students had been to the sea.

“I like swimming because I've never been to the sea before, and also sailing – it was very good. I felt very comfortable with the wind blowing on me,” Ywa said.

On Tuesday evening the students joined the hordes of international shoppers at Phuket's Central Festival, where they were treated to their first big screen experience. They watched *The Green Hornet* and afterwards visited Burger King for their first fast-food experience.

Karen reviews of Burger King were mixed, as the group are accustomed to a vegetable diet because meat's too expensive. The film, however, got a unanimous thumbs-up.

The Secret Cove Beach Bar & Restaurant on the beach at Ao Yon provided free accommodation and meals for the group.

Owners Rik de Jong and Duangta Namsai hosted several

the whole thing and still pinching myself to see if it is real. This morning [Wednesday] I got up at 6:10am – quite a few of them were out walking at low tide, out to the coral – mostly one-by-one – just so amazed at the shells and small fish. They have collected hundreds of shells,” said Dr Worland.

The Future

Ywa and Mary will be the first two students to graduate from the TMK program and both hope to find a way to study at university so they can help with social development and childhood education in their communities.

TMK is entirely dependent on private donations for day-to-day costs and Dr Worland hopes they will be able to raise enough money for a scholarship fund.

Anyone wishing to help students like Ywa and Mary fulfill their potential can do so by contacting Dr Worland via email at shirleyworland@gmail.com.

Donors may also transfer funds to the school's account, administered by Dr Worland: Siam Commercial Bank 573-239360-6.

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Foul trash may deter Ao Nang's tourists from returning. Photo: Gazette file

Trash troubles continue

DESPITE Ao Nang Tambon Administration Organization (OrBorTor) regulations stipulating that garbage is to be placed out for collection after 8pm, trash continues to be dumped in daylight, creating an unsightly mess – and a foul stench – for tourists.

Not only is this OrBorTor rule seemingly not enforced, some beachfront businesses are dumping their garbage in front of other

properties away from the beach. The continuing problem comes after the shocking report from the Tourist Authority of Thailand (TAT) that 30 per cent of tourists visiting Ao Nang said they would not return due to the garbage and filth.

Unless something is done soon, the next TAT survey may well indicate 75 per cent of tourists not returning.

Phi Phi to get power boost

By Robert Reynolds

RESIDENTS in Moo 7 on Phi Phi Island were overjoyed on Tuesday when they were informed they would have access to state-run electricity supply within six months.

The news came after the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department announced it would allow power poles to be erected in the Hat Noppharat Thara - Mu Ko Phi Phi National Park.

The department on Monday signed a permit to allow the Krabi electricity authority to install power poles across two kilometers through the park to reach residents wanting access to the much cheaper state-run power, said Krabi Governor Prasit Osathanon.

Krabi electricity authority man-



ger Suriya Prayoonwong said, after confirming the department's permission, they would proceed with construction, which should be completed within six months.

The decision follows a visit to Bangkok by Phi Phi residents in December to ask to the prime minister for electricity supply, said Krabi Governor Prasit Osathanon.

The move to appeal to the national government followed a large group of Phi Phi residents traveling to Krabi Provincial Hall to file a formal request with Governor Prasit to have mainland electricity supply serve Moo 7 on Phi Phi

Don Island.

While most residents on island have been enjoying mainland electrical supply, the residents of Moo7 have not been able to connect to the grid. To get to that village, the power lines must pass through a National Park, which is prohibited.

A meeting was held at the end of last year between the local officials on Phi Phi Don, representatives of the Krabi Governor's office and the Ao Nang Tambon Administration Organization (OrBorTor), which is responsible for Moo 7.

The locals residents complained about the malfunctioning wastewater system, the inability to connect Moo 7 to the mainland power supply and other issues.

When they did not receive a satisfactory response, some 300 villagers traveled to Krabi Town to petition the Governor directly.

Krabi Ed gets a push

THE Krabi Provincial Education Council held its first meeting of the year on February 13.

About 300 government officials, school directors, teachers, doctors and business leaders came together to discuss the education issues facing Krabi Province.

The council, under the leadership of former Krabi Town mayor Chuan Phukaoluan, has created a partnership between the government and public sector, and private organizations.

The impressive turnout was a testament to those who recognize the importance of education, and the need to make improvements to keep Krabi competitive in an increasingly globalized world.

The council is also an active participant in the Krabi Q City 2026 program.

This ambitious 15-year program has been established to set long-term goals in Krabi to raise the standards in education, the

environment, sustainable development and social stability.

Program director Dr Sombut Chinawong has established nine pilot programs in different villages in Krabi.

These projects aim to educate the villagers in new advances in farming, product specialization, recycling and energy self-sufficiency.

Future plans include a "Zero Waste Youth Camp" to be held on April 1-3 at Kasetsart University in Nuea Klong.

The camp will focus on the science and technology of energy self-sufficiency, demonstrations on how energy can be produced from common water products, and the benefits of recycling.

This will be the first of many planned camps by the Education Council and Krabi Q City 2026 to not only educate students, but teachers and farmers as well.

– Robert Reynolds



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Elections before June: Deputy PM Suthep

THAILAND's next general election will be held before June, Deputy Prime Minister Suthep Thaugsuban has said, setting the stage for a battle that the ruling Democrat Party hopes will silence critics saying the coalition government lacks legitimacy.

"I can guarantee it will be before June because the prime minister has made that clear," Mr Suthep told reporters last week.

Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva must dissolve Parliament and hold elections by year's end, and recently said the polls would take place in the first half of the year.

In the red-shirt protests last year, the United front for Democracy against Dicta-

torship (UDD) demanded Abhisit immediately dissolve Parliament.

The red shirts claim PM Abhisit's Government lacks a mandate from the people, since the previous administration – a proxy for fugitive former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra – was dissolved by the courts.

Since then, the political situation appears to have moved decidedly in the Democrat Party's favor.

PM Abhisit has long set three conditions for holding elections: a stable economy, peaceful environment and the passing of constitutional changes.

Recent reports show Thailand moved out

of recession in the fourth quarter of last year, while the latest protests by both red and yellow shirts have been peaceful.

Last month the government succeeded in passing constitutional changes that altered the electoral system.

One of the amendments increased the number of party list MPs from 100 to 125 – a change most observers agree favors the Democrat Party, which tends to do better than the opposition in terms of party list votes.

The government's nine-billion-baht *Pracha Wiwat* "national reform" program is also underway. Key to the program is a

welfare scheme aimed at informal workers such as taxi drivers – the opposition Pheu Thai Party's vote base.

Since December the government has been subsidizing diesel fuel prices to cap it at 30 baht per liter. Despite rising oil prices, the government says it will continue the subsidies until at least April, a move which could reportedly cost 13 billion baht.

Critics have slammed the subsidy as nothing more than a populist policy to boost the government's popularity with voters.

Many observers expect the Democrat Party to retain power following fresh polls.

– *The Nation*



Rescue workers recover one of the bodies. Photo: The Nation

School mourns lost teachers

AT LEAST 13 people were killed on Monday when a bus filled with teachers and their family members plunged off a ravine in Nan province in northern Thailand.

The bus was carrying about 30 people from a school in Mae Sai, in Chiang Rai province, on an education trip.

Police suspect the driver was speeding on an unfamiliar road. Around 7:30am the vehicle skidded and plunged off a 100-meter cliff.

Twelve teachers and the bus driver were killed. At least 17 others were injured and rushed to nearby hospitals.

Bandai Thepkanchana-upatham School, where most of the teachers worked, closed on Monday.

"I am sorry for all my dead colleagues and their relatives," said Sirinthorn Na Lampang, an injured school teacher. – *The Nation*

Court grants Reds bail



THE Criminal Court on Tuesday approved the release on 600,000-baht bail of seven red-shirt leaders following a sustained campaign by the United front for Democracy against Dictatorship (UDD).

The move should go some way to addressing red-shirt claims of "double standards". The UDD has complained that while its leaders were arrested and jailed on terrorism charges following the street protests last year, yellow-shirt leaders were allowed to go free.

The seven leaders bailed were Nattawut Saikua, Weng Tojirakarn, Kokaew Pikulthong, Nisit Sinthuprai, Kwanchai Praipana, Vipoothalaeng Pattanaphumthai and Yoswalit Chooklom.

They have been jailed on terrorism charges since May, when the red-shirt protests ended with the burning of several key buildings in Bangkok, including the stock exchange and the Central World shopping mall.

The court decision came after a hearing one day earlier in which witnesses for the red-shirt lead-



Thida Thawornseth, chairwoman of the red-shirt movement and red-shirt leader Weng Tojirakarn, described the court's decision as 'a new dawn of justice'. Photo: The Nation

ers made the case for their release.

Deputy Prime Minister Sanan Kachornprasart, who visited the red-shirt leaders in Prison, said their release would improve the

prospects of national reconciliation and could end the ongoing political conflict.

Last month, the court allowed yellow-shirt leader Chaiwat

Sinsuwong to be released on bail of 600,000 baht. Chaiwat faces terrorism charges related to the seizures of the two Bangkok airports in late 2008. – *The Nation*

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Perilous crossing

I've been here five weeks and have come very close to being run over on crosswalks three times.

Tourists aren't used to cars, vans, tuk-tuks, motor bikes and buses all coming at once.

Paint on most crosswalks is almost gone and I don't use them anyway because no drivers pay attention to them even when you can see the lines.

Are there rules? Do the drivers know? When people rent out motor bikes do they instruct tourists about the rules?

Seeing idiot tourists on motorbikes driving like Hell's Angels is just ridiculous and what's the rush for tour vans and taxis?

Tim Devlin
Phuket

A tale of two cities

Considering the number of easily preventable fatalities, injuries, thefts and such, I believe municipal authorities do not take anywhere near enough action to prevent or reduce the occurrence of these events.

I lived in Phuket for three years and now live in Pattaya, where I have also been for three years. The problems of inaction are similar in both cities.

In Phuket, they did essentially nothing in the way of warning people of the tsunami, which could have saved as many as half the lives lost.

Then they installed expensive lifeguard stands, but no lifeguards – this happened in both cities.

"Traffic police" is a misnomer as I have yet to see one actually directing traffic. There are no foot patrols, no issuing of

More safety needed on elephant treks

THE terrible stomping death of a Swiss tourist by a berserk male elephant last week (see page 1) once again underscores the need to restrict this kind of work to female elephants, as many operators who provide these types of services already do.

The chance to ride through the jungle on the back of an elephant is perhaps the quintessential Thai tourism experience. Few who have experienced the slow, methodical way these creatures navigate through difficult, hilly and often muddy terrain fail to come away impressed with their sure-footedness and agility, especially given their enormous size.

Despite enjoying a popularity bordering on a tourism cliché, elephant trekking continues to provide education and entertainment to many, income for tourism industry operators and livelihoods not only to the mahouts, but to the elephants themselves.

The latter point is particularly important given the Asian elephant's status as an endangered species, due in large part to destruction of its natural habitat by man.

Given the untold thousands of tourists who have enjoyed elephant trekking in Thailand over the years, it is perhaps surprising that tragedies like the one that befell the Swiss woman are not more common.

Almost all cases of elephants attacking humans occur during a periodic hormonal condition in bull elephants known as musth, when a surge in testosterone levels can reach

violations. So admit it: Like it or not, the police departments of Phuket and Pattaya are considered, mostly by Thais themselves, as jokes – Keystone Cops for those old enough.

Recently, the Pattaya Police shut off the 42 newly installed

traffic lights because they "congested traffic too much".

Constructed to help pedestrians cross streets, police now claim "vehicular congestion" is the problem. That is precisely what happens in every city, everywhere, and is what a

Phuket Gazette

60 times normal levels and results in highly aggressive behavior.

Although much remains unknown about the phenomenon, experienced mahouts are acutely aware of the dangers elephants in musth pose to themselves and others while in this state, which is why anyone should steer well clear of any male elephant they see chained to a tree.

We all appreciate the way hormonal changes affect human behavior, but it is difficult to imagine what a bull elephant experiences while in this state, the onset of which is difficult for mahouts to accurately predict.

The *Gazette* would like to thank Australian couple Sean and Helen Gothe for their remarkable first-hand account of what it was like to be atop the elephant while it was being attacked. We would also like to send our condolences to the family of the deceased woman and wish those who are recovering from injuries fast and full recoveries.

Describing himself as an animal lover, Mr Gothe said didn't believe the rogue elephant should be put down, but doesn't think it should ever again be allowed to transport tourists.

Given the tragic results of the last week, the *Gazette* agrees and thinks it is time to reassess whether or not male elephants should be banned from this type of work.

No planning, no competence, no coordination and no hope that "same-same" will ever change.

Don Aleman
Pattaya

Elephant trekking a jumbo time bomb

Re: Gazette online, Elephant trek tragedy: Victims speak from Phuket hospital, February 23

The news of tourists being thrown off and trampled to death by "berserk beasts" (or trekking elephants) in Phang Nga is tragic and my sincerest condolences to the bereaved family.

Yet part of me says this was only a matter of time.

Imagine if you were forced to carry squirrels – with a variety of grating accents – around all day on your back, walking aimlessly round the same trail.

On top of that, imagine constantly having to pose for photos and be probed with a sharp hook and shouted at by another squirrel if you dared stop for a small munch break.

One day, surely, you too would go "berserk".

Does anybody else think this was a wake-up call?

Linnea
Chalong

Unnecessary tragedy

Re: Gazette online, Elephant trek tragedy: Victims speak from Phuket hospital, February 23

A terrible, unnecessary tragedy. And one more argument that animals – wild, tamed or domestic – should not be used as entertainment for humans under any circumstances.

Animal Watch
Gazette forum

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Issues & Answers...

A simple solution for bus terminal woes

Why don't they just create a T-junction with a traffic light in front of the terminal?

This way buses could exit the terminal and turn right to head north off the island.

It cannot be that difficult to pour a little concrete in a cut of the median strip of the road.

Fritz Penguin
Phuket

Kanok Siripanichkorn, chief of the Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO), replies:

We agree with your idea and have even suggested this, but local residents refused that proposal, saying it was unacceptable.

They say installing a T-junction in front of the new terminal will only create even more traffic congestion.

Since the local residents did not agree to us installing a T-junction in front of the new terminal, we ran some trial runs late last year

traffic policeman is for – Duh!

Pattaya last year installed "stadium lighting" on the beach, at great cost, to make it safer.

As usual, no planning was involved and the lights are higher than the trees, so 50 per cent of the illumination is lost – Duh!

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/
IssuesAnswers

to see what else we could do.

The bus drivers proposed that they make a U turn in front of Vanich House.

That is where the second break in the median strip is after the buses have exited the terminal and start heading south.

The drivers suggested this second break instead of the first one, because the first one is too close to the terminal and the drivers would need to cut across traffic in order to be in the right-hand lane so they could make their U-turn.

We started drawing up plans to install traffic lights at this point, but then we received resistance to

this idea and were asked to have buses make their U-turn somewhere else.

Finally, after all this, everyone has agreed that the buses should make their U-turn in front of Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority substation – where the first break in the median strip is.

This is the only solution that has been agreed on by local residents and everybody else involved, including the Government.

Improper trash containers

I take my daily walks in Soi Pasak 8, Cherng Talay, where the trash alongside the road is quite an eyesore.

I have been walking on this road for a year now and it is getting increasingly worse. Improper roadside trash containers mean easy access for roaming soi dogs to spread the litter even further.

No one seems to ever clean it up and it smells and is quite unsightly.

Youth crime: working toward prevention

FIRST PERSON

YOUNG people nowadays are not like my generation. When I was young, I stayed at a temple and served monks in return for having a place to stay and food.

I loved to study and I was proud to pass the entrance exam to the Royal Police Cadet Academy so I could become a police officer.

But it is different for many young people now. They are always in groups and don't study. Many are involved with drugs. It is quite worrying.

We recently arrested a group of 18 young people involved with drugs in Chalong. Not one of them was over 18 and just one girl in the group was still studying.

More than half of them were between 15 and 16 years old. Their parents didn't even know what their children were up to until they were arrested.

The parents just believed what their children told them, such as they were working, playing football or doing homework at a friend's house.

Most of the young people who hang out in groups are from broken families, so they have to stay with single parents who might not have time to look after them closely. That's why they spend most of their time hanging out with friends.

It's easy for the young ones,



Lt Col Narong Luksanawimol, 45, is deputy superintendent of Chalong Police Station. Originally from Surat Thani, Lt Col Narong has served in Phuket for about eight years. Here he gives a different perspective on tackling youth crime – an approach that does not include handcuffs, arrests and, at best, avoids incarcerating Phuket's youth.



Traffic police with boy scouts.

especially between 13 and 16 years old, to become involved with drugs. And many of them don't have money to buy drugs, so they commit robberies and sell drugs.

I was stationed in Kathu for four years before moving to Chalong.

During that time I helped with many projects under the Supanimit Foundation to help young people stay away from drugs.

For example, we gave talks about drugs to students at schools and let them help the community by assisting traffic police and working in real traffic situations. It was quite successful.

I would like to start similar projects here [in Chalong] to reduce crime, especially by young people.

We are currently giving talks about drugs to students at Muang Phuket School in Rawai and will soon launch similar projects in Chalong to raise awareness among parents, who are the ones who are closest to the youths.

We will explain to parents what young people go through these days and how to notice their changes in their children's behavior when it's a turn for the worse.

Then they can stop them from doing bad things before it happens.

We can try our hardest, but it is the parents who can better influence their own children. They can spend time and be close with them, especially when they are becoming young adults.

We understand youth and we want to help them to get through the difficult years of being young teenagers so they can be good people in the future.



TRASHED: Kamala Beach is not quite as clean as it used to be.

Kamala cleanliness coming undone

Island View

By C Begenat and G Nix

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

WE HAVE been coming to Kamala for almost 20 years, but what we have seen in the past few years is not so nice.

The first time we came to Kamala, there were only 15 sun loungers provided by Mamma Aye, no paved road and only one small gaslamp on in the evening – and it was all clean.

But now garbage and plastic is everywhere along the beach. Why is litter not removed by local landlords and the people who rent the deck chairs?

The promenade that has been built is not fully accessible, and the new street lamps installed over the years are either broken or no longer there. The large streetlights no longer work, except for in front of Kamala Dreams.

Two bridges built across the small canal have no railing, which is very dangerous.

At the first bridge, near the Loyalina Hotel, there is so much

rubbish on and under the bridge – it's not a pretty sight.

At the second bridge, the monument can no longer be seen because it is obscured by stands selling goods.

Along the small canal, longtail boats are repaired and their engine oil changed, with some of the oil running into the sea.

All we ask is for Kamala, its canal and its beach to be clean again.

We are coming again in 2012, and we would appreciate it if everything were beautiful again.

The Kamala Festival in January was very nice, as it is every year, and we hope it will be the same next year.

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

Is there an ordinance that needs to be enforced? With whom could I file a complaint?

Phuket Jim
Cherng Talay

Thitima Rojthanapong, director of Public Health and Environment division at Cherng Talay Tambon Administration Organization (OrBorTor), replies:

Soi Pasak 8 is under the responsibility of Cherng Talay OrBorTor. We are delighted that a reader has let us know about this issue and we will take care of it immediately.

Normally, our garbage trucks are sent into community areas to collect trash once every two days.

However, the problem we have is that the only garbage truck we have for collecting trash in that soi has been out of service for weeks.

Our other garbage trucks are too big to enter the small soi, so we are using a makeshift common pick-up truck instead, but it is not quite appropriate for collecting garbage as it is not designed for collecting waste.

I expect that our small garbage truck will be repaired and back in service in a few days.

As for the trash containers placed along Soi Pasak 8, we provided them for the residents for free, but they need to take care of them and keep them clean by themselves, too.

The amount of trash we collect has increased by a huge amount.

The total trash collected in Cherng Talay used to be around 10 tons per day, but now it is almost 40 tons per day due to the increasing number of people living here as well as rising number of tourists here.

We do not even have enough garbage trucks to collect that much trash.

So local residents are asked to take care and keep the areas around their houses clean.

Also, residents living in small sois are asked to dispose of their household waste in trash containers along the main road until our regular garbage truck for small sois is back in use.

Rawai abuzz with mozzies

For the past two months we have had more mosquitoes than I have ever experienced.

They come out of the newly constructed storm drain by the tens of thousands.

A few weeks ago the drains were sprayed, which cleared the problem for a few days.

They are now back in unbelievable numbers.

When I open the restaurant at 7am, the place is filled with mozzies.

I spray every morning and when we close at night we light six coils – all to no avail!

Something needs to be done. It's a serious health hazard for all. We're losing blood fast in Rawai...

Mozzie invasion
Rawai

Somsong Saetang, Chief Rawai Municipality Public Works Division, replies:

The Rawai beach road [part of

Wiset Road] is not under the responsibility of Rawai Municipality. The Phuket Provincial Highways Office is responsible for that stretch of road.

Owners of prawn farms in the area have been legally allowed by the Provincial Highways Office to install iron pipes under and across the road.

When Rawai Municipality installed the drain, which is 60 centimeters deep, along the side of the road, it had to pass those prawn farm pipes.

So when you walk along the roadside and look down into the drain, every now and then you will see those pipes crossing the drain.

Those iron pipes are about four to six inches in diameter and sit on the bottom of the drain, so water in the drain must reach levels deeper than the diameter of those pipes before it can flow away.

Also, some restaurants along the beachfront pour their kitchen graywater into the drains.

Drains are designed to deal with

rainwater that flows off the road surface, not graywater from restaurants.

The restaurant owners have all been told this, but some still sneakily dump their graywater into the drain at the end of the night.

And when the graywater doesn't flow away, it stagnates and becomes the perfect source for mosquitoes to lay their eggs and reproduce.

What we can do now is that on Friday [February 25], the Rawai Municipality's Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Division will flush out the drain and the Sanitation Division will spray pesticide to kill mosquito larvae.

But spraying pesticide will not fix the problem.

If we keep spraying the larvae breeding areas with pesticide, the mosquitoes will simply become resistant to the chemicals and come back again.

So please ask anyone you know along that road to please stop dumping their graywater into the drain.

Bonds no longer a safe bet

MANY people assume bonds are very safe investments, and for the past 30 years this has been true. But there are many financial dangers to consider when talking about investments, and most people are not aware of the enormous risk in the bond markets today.

One of the chief gambles is "interest rate risk" – the risk that as interest rates rise, the value of existing bond holdings fall.

Interest rates in bond markets move in cycles, causing in turn "bear" and "bull" markets – long periods where bonds lose money (bear) or do well (bull).

These cycles can move so slowly that they don't attract much media coverage, and there aren't too many people around today who were active in the investment world back in the early 1950s to remember the last time that interest rates started a long climb upwards.

The US 10-year treasury bond yield is probably the most widely followed benchmark of global interest rates, and the chart included clearly shows a long trend upwards followed by a long trend downwards.

Since interest rates can never be negative in nominal terms, it should be clear there is only one way they can move. Even Bill

Retirement Years

By David Mayes

Gross, who runs the world's largest and most successful bond fund company, has recently come out and publicly stated that he thinks bonds have seen their best days.

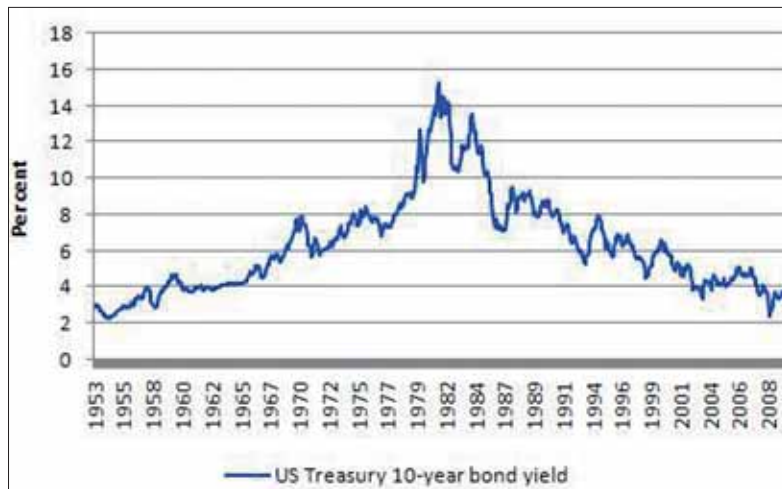
When you consider that he has a vested interest in bringing money into bonds via his funds, this should be a wake-up call to all retirees who are heavily invested in bonds to get out or at least drastically reduce exposure.

It is impossible to pick the actual tops and bottoms in financial markets, so there could be a little time left before interest rates begin to rise.

With all the money that governments around the world have printed to get us through the recent financial crisis, it wouldn't be a stretch to think inflation is coming soon, and this may well be the catalyst to start the next long-term rise.

The upside of staying in a bond fund is quite small when compared to what one might stand to lose if the interest rates rise quickly.

This leaves a tough problem for retirees who need a fixed income and would have traditionally turned to bonds to provide that.



This chart demonstrates a long term "bear/bull cycle" for bonds. Interest rates have been trending down since their spike in the early 1980s.

For individuals with low risk tolerance it is advisable to simply put money on 12-month fixed-term deposits and suffer through a few more years of no return until the rates have risen enough to provide better returns.

The historical performance of some bond funds may be tempting, but if one takes a big capital loss then even a safe "zero per cent" return will seem very good in comparison.

If one is brave enough to take some risk, then one can find a much better expected return for a similar risk as bonds.

Bonds simply have limited up-

side and provide a bad risk or reward in the current environment.

What to do?

Money that is not needed in the next five to 10 years can be put to work in other asset classes, depending on what type of swings one can deal with.

A very important statistic of an asset class not normally talked about is recovery time. Before investing into a particular asset class, find its worst periods of performance and see how long you would have had to wait to get your investment back, even if you had

invested at the absolute worst time.

This should give you an idea of worst case scenario, although the future may indeed set new records, but you will most likely not achieve the absolute worst timing.

A mix of bank deposits and longer-term risk investments is obviously not ideal for a retiree, but today's financial markets are simply not ideal for someone who has just retired.

Those getting ready to pass on now have enjoyed the perfect investing conditions for maintaining a safe income stream throughout retirement.

For at least the foreseeable future retirees will not have this luxury. There is going to be a real inflation risk coming to deal with, and one will need to be very careful which risk assets one uses to try and avoid the purchasing power of their savings being hit hard by this.

In the meantime, I think if one needs to make a mistake it would be better to hold more money in fixed-term deposits than trying to ride the bull market in bonds to the very last minute and risking a big loss if the timing is wrong.

David Mayes MBA is a wealth manager for Faramond. E: david.m@faramond.com

Aussie carrier launches direct Phuket flights

STRATEGIC Airlines has become the latest Australian carrier to operate direct flights from Australia to Phuket.

According to a press release posted on their website, the Brisbane-based international carrier have commenced flights from Brisbane and Melbourne to Phuket.

The new routes will each operate twice weekly.

On Thursdays and Sundays from Brisbane, while Melbourne flights will arrive on Tuesdays and Fridays.

The airline will use the Airbus A330-200 aircraft configured with 274 passenger seats, the first of which landed at Phuket International Airport on February 22 at 3:40pm.

The first flight from Brisbane landed on February 24 at 4:15pm.

Since V Australia dropped its Phuket service last year, airlines such as Jet Star and Pacific Blue have enjoyed extra leg room regarding business competitors.

The addition of Strategic Airlines to the market will certainly intensify competition on Phuket-

Australia flight routes.

"We believe there is a strong traffic base between Victoria and Thailand and we look forward to working with partners in tourism and industry to build our services over time," Mr Damien Vasta, the airline's Head of Commercial said.

"Phuket has been a long time favorite for Queensland holiday-makers wanting to get away to an attractive overseas destination," Mr Vasta explained.

"We are now making this great location easily accessible with di-

rect services for the leisure market," he added.

Strategic Airlines is a two-class (business and economy), full service carrier.

The privately owned company launched in September 2009 and has been operating regular flights to Bali from Brisbane, Perth and Townsville.

In the past, Bali has been among the most popular tourist destinations for Australians.

However, in recent years Phuket has been growing in popularity with Australian tourists who

see the holiday island as an alternative to Bali.

"We are pleased to offer direct services between Melbourne and Phuket and we see this new route as an integral part of our international network expansion," Mr Vasta said.

Travelers on these opening flights could purchase return tickets for AUS\$ 598 or \$299 for a single journey, both prices include tax.

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In brief...

Bangkok Hospital buys in to Bumrungrad

BANGKOK Hospital Group, the country's largest hospital operator with 13 locations, including one in Phuket, has emerged as a major shareholder of Bumrungrad Hospital Plc, its arch rival business group.

Bangkok Dusit Medical Services, the listed holding firm, informed the Stock Exchange of Thailand earlier this week that it had purchased 46.12 million shares, representing 6.32 per cent of Bumrungrad's outstanding shares.

On January 17, Singapore's Temasek Holdings sold 42.67 million shares in Bumrungrad. Another anonymous shareholder also sold 49.13 million shares.

Kata Group plans Phang Nga resort

KATA Group, the owner of several hotels in southern Thailand, is investing 600 million baht to build a new resort and spa in Phang Nga that will target European travelers.

Khao Lak Cassaway Resort & Spa is earmarked for opening in November. Pamuke Achariyachai, chief executive of Kata Group, which owns Phuket Orchid Resort, said the group financed the new project with a 470mn baht loan from Kasikorn Bank.

Bangkok Air boosts domestic routes

BANGKOK Airways predicts that tourist numbers will increase by 58 per cent this year on the back of improved political stability, and is therefore targeting double digit growth.

A new Airbus A319 or A320 will be delivered this year, helping to boost flight frequency by 20 per cent so it can add seats on the new Trat-Samui-Phuket route.

Last year, an extra service was added to three routes from Bangkok, bringing flights per day to Phuket to six.

Public phones to stay

By Anand Singh

THE last decade has seen rapid development in telecommunications technology, which has led to cheaper mobile technology and a lessened need for the public phones.

Consequently many phone booths in Phuket that are run by TOT Public Company have been removed due to falling demand.

However, according to Chanwis Bunjongkarn, TOT's Senior Director for Phuket Customer Services, phone booths provide an irreplaceable service to the public.

Mr Chanwis said that TOT still maintains more than 1,000 phone booths in Phuket.

Although revenue from operating phone booths has fallen by as much as 70 per cent, the company has only removed around 20 per cent of its phone booths.

The cost of their upkeep on the other hand is quite significant, due in part to several cases of vandalism and coin theft each year.

"The TOT, as a public company, does not operate the phone booths for profit-making.

"We keep the phone booths to serve the public need and to provide certain groups of people with easily accessible telecommunica-



REDUNDANT: Many phone booths are being removed but a few will remain in certain areas. Photo: Janpen Upatising

tion services," Mr Chanwis said.

"Although mobile phones have become a lot cheaper, some low income earners still cannot afford mobile devices... Foreign tourists also use them [public phones] frequently," Mr Chanwis added.

Thai law requires some phone booths to be readily available to the majority of the public, whether they are needed by the majority or not.

The legislation, which has been in place for five years, is there to ensure public equality in telecommunication access.

According to Mr Chanwis,

TOT's phone booths are spread across the island, with a higher concentration in populated areas.

They are often needed in public places, such as airports, bus stations, hospitals, tourist hotspots, schools and even along the beach.

"Younger schoolchildren for example are discouraged from bringing mobile phones to school because they can be distracting and undesirable within school grounds.

"In such cases public phone booths are useful for children," Mr Chanwis explained.

In the coming year the TOT

plans to remove more than 200 phone booths from Phuket's streets due to a continuously falling demand.

However according to Mr Chanwis, a significant number of phone booths will remain in public service for the foreseeable future, but only where they are really needed.

"Phone booths, like street lights, help the public feel safe. In an emergency anyone can pick up the phone... In the coming years TOT aims to maintain its phone booths as a public utility and not for profit," Mr Chanwis said.

Middle East riots will not affect tourism: Tossaporn

TOSSAPORN Thepabutr, chairman of the House Committee for Tourism and Sports, this week said the political unrest in the Middle East would have little effect Thailand's tourism industry.

Speaking to reporters in Phuket on Tuesday, Mr Tossaporn called for tourism operators nationwide to work together to attract 18 million tourists to Thailand this year.

This was a realistic figure, he said, considering that 14 million tourists visited in 2009 and that Thailand has enjoyed a steady year-on-year growth of about 11% since then, setting a projected figure of 17.5 million tourists for this year.

"Thailand should aim for 18 million though because the political situation both in Thailand and

worldwide is more stable now, and the riots in the Middle East should not affect any other key markets," he said.

In order to achieve this potential figure, the Ministry of Tourism and Sports nationwide needs to put a lot of effort into diversifying strategies he said.

"Especially at ITB in Berlin next month, we should present Phuket

and Thailand in various different ways to catch tourists' attention.

"We should also try to bring more tourists from Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines, whose economies are showing positive growth.

"Tourists from these countries will make up for any fall in arrivals from the Middle East" he said.

— Pimwara Choksakulpan

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Burning passion

Peter Webber puts the icing on the cake at new Watermark Patisserie

EXPANDING their culinary reach, a new Watermark bakery is now open for those wishing to indulge appetites that desire mouth-watering cakes and breads.

Between Toyota Pearl and Premium Outlet on the bypass road lies the new Watermark Patisserie, where a variety of delectable fare is available for breakfast and lunch.

On entering the new venue, patrons of the Bakery in Boat Lagoon Marina or Les Angeles in the Royal Phuket Marina will immediately recognize the display of assorted baked goods as those of Peter Webber, Chef Patissier and Operations Director of Watermark Restaurants Ltd.

Morning diners have a full range of inexpensive menu choices, from croissants, toast, fruit to muesli to a full English plate of smoked bacon, sausage, tomato and eggs.

Beyond breakfast, later visitors are faced with the enviable task of deciding on a dish from the

sandwich, salad, pasta or pizza menus. An array of freshly baked breads, such as chewy Italian ciabatta, crusty French baguettes or the lesser known bacon and oyster bread, give the customer a base from which to create their own sandwich.

Bread options are equaled by the variety of quality cheeses, meats and vegetables as with the sandwich rustico which comes with mascarpone cheese, bacon, lettuce and tomato filling or the sandwich caprese with mozzarella, lettuce, tomato and anchovies fillets.

Salad dishes include the flavor-some chili chicken breast and mango and the ever-popular Caesar's salad, while a simple selection of freshly prepared pizzas makes it easier for the indecisive.

The patisserie offers a concise pasta menu of favorites with beef lasagna and spaghetti bolognese as the classics and cannelloni spinach and vegetarian lasagna



Peter Webber, Chef Patissier and Operations Director of Watermark Restaurants Ltd, has his eye on Bangkok.

the only other variations.

To sate those with a sweet tooth is an extensive choice in cakes. A word of warning to the taste-testers: Sampling the full list will take time.

On the shelves are Black Forest, Sacher, Truffle, Baked Cheese Cake, American Cheese Cake, Butter Cake, Coffee, Fresh Fruit Cake, Strawberry Short Cake, Pistachio, Dundee, Traditional English Fruit Cake.

The "exotic" range includes Tiramisu, Raspberry and Chocolate, Raspberry Delice, Summer Pudding, Rice Imperial, Espresso, Irish coffee, Chocodot.

Cakes are available by the slice or custom made by Peter for special occasions.

"It will take a little bit of time for people to get used to this new location. A lot of people still don't know it's open," says Peter.

"We plan to open a baking school and demonstration room

here for vocational training of Thai professionals.

"A third bakery will soon open in Laguna and that is expected to do well," he adds.

The Watermark may even make its mark in the Big Mango.

"We are currently discussing the possibility of opening a patisserie in Bangkok. There are a lot of pastry shops in Bangkok now, but plenty of room for what we produce," Peter adds.

— *Phuket Gazette*

Far-flung pizza

From Piemonte to Patagonia to Patong

ITALIAN chef Angelo Martin Fracchia is gaining a reputation for baking some of the freshest, genuine Italian pastas and pizzas in Patong.

"Fresh is best" for Angelo, who prepares meals at the Factory Kitchen, at the Factory Bar on Bangla, from 4pm until 10pm.

"Making healthy food is very important to me. We make the pasta and sauces by hand, using only fresh ingredients," he says.

Chef Angelo marinates meats overnight and spends four hours a day making the sauces.

His passion for genuine Italian cuisine goes back to his ancestral roots.

Angelo's grandparents moved to Argentina from their countryside home in Piemonte in northwest Italy, to escape oppression during World War II.

His Italian parents met and married in Argentina. They bought land



FRESH IS BEST: Chef Angelo.

in Patagonia and raised Angelo on the farm.

His grandfather was also the first food producer in Italy to invent a way to refrigerate fresh produce and preserve virtually all its freshness throughout the year, making the Fracchia family well-known as forward-thinkers in the food industry.



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Soul survivor

CURTIS Salgado is a rock 'n' soul icon. A survivor. A bona fide man of the blues, who rightly sits alongside the greats in the pantheon of the genre. He's soulful, down-to-earth, and immediately likable. With a corking voice that has won him awards, Salgado also remains one of the greatest harmonica players America has produced. Here he reflects with the *Gazette's* Andrew Jennings about the excesses of hanging out with comedy legend John Belushi, surviving a liver transplant and a life filled with the dirty ol' blues.

Andrew Jennings: Curtis, you are said to be the man who inspired and mentored the late, great John Belushi for his role in cult comedy *The Blues Brothers*. How did that come about?

Curtis Salgado: I was playing in a band in my home town of Eugene, Oregon. I was singing one night when some guy pulled on my trouser leg and said, "Hey, John Belushi wants to meet you."

I told him to get lost. I'd barely watched *Saturday Night Live* so I didn't know who Belushi was. After the show all I wanted to do was go over to some girls nearby, but I turned around and Belushi was there looking to shake my hand.

He said to me, "Hey, I like your music. You remind me someone I know, Dan Aykroyd," (who would go to co-star with Belushi in the hit film).

So you guys didn't hit it off right away?

Not exactly, but we soon became friends. I turned him on to all the great blues records I knew. I started giving him material.

Five of the songs on the first *Blues Brothers* record were ones I gave to him, while one of the



BLUES BROTHERS Salgado on stage with the late John Belushi.

characters in the movie is based on me. I remember I gave John a song called *Hey Bartender* by a little known blues man named Floyd Dixon.

John used the song on the album, which went on to sell over a million copies.

Some time later I met Floyd, who had lived in poverty all his life, and he said to me: "You know if it wasn't for you, I wouldn't have got the biggest royalty cheque I've ever got, man. It was for over US\$78,000, so thank you."

I asked him what did he do with the money. He looked into the distance and said, "Curtis, I spent it

on the horses." Now that's a blues man!

Belushi had a reputation as a wild man during the late '70s and early '80s. What was it like to be friends with him?

He was professional. Was he always funny? Yes and no. He could be very intense.

Looking back to that era, everybody went a little crazy, including myself and John.

I was just a young blues musician and suddenly there I was hanging out with the rich and famous in Hollywood.

Everybody partied really hard. Some of us were lucky to come through it, while circumstances didn't play out so well for John. I'm 22 years sober now and couldn't be happier.

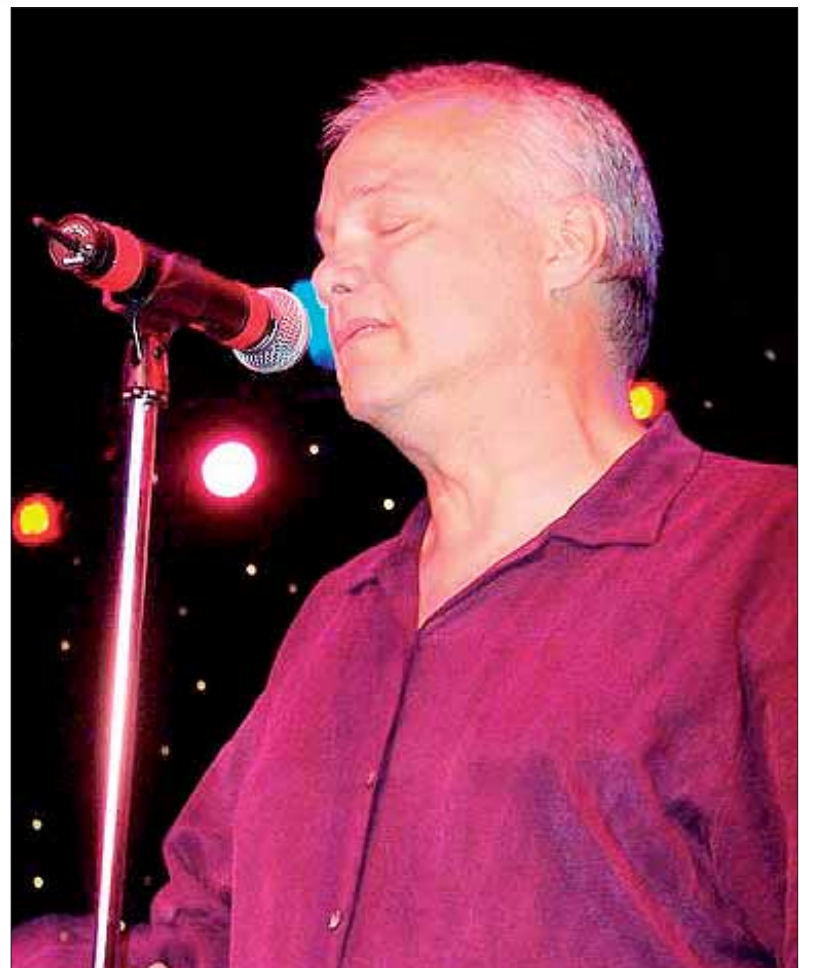
Getting back to the music, do you think there's a misconception that blues music is confined to aging musicians in smoky run down bars? And there might be a generation gap to popular music today, which could possibly see the blues die out?

No, there are young people out there playing it, usually somebody catches on to it.

Guitar people pick up on it. The music is out there.

Blues is always tucked away, it's not pop music. Popular music is what sells, but the blues are everywhere in today's music.

Can you describe the magic of blues music and what defines it?



COLORFUL CHARACTER: Curtis Salgado is still one of the most popular performers on the blues circuit.

It's an American form, that came from African immigrants who arrived in America. All this music was thrown into a big American melting pot with classical, Irish and British influences.

With all this cross breeding of people, and cross pollination of music, out popped the blues.

Did your family pass on the music to you?

Yeah, my father was into jazz from the '30s, while my mother played piano.

In 2006 you required a liver transplant to save your life. What happened?

I was told I had eight months to live unless I got a liver transplant. I was thinking how am I going to pay for this?

I was poor, with no health insurance. I needed half a million dollars for the operation.

Thankfully, I've got some great friends – blues people like Steve Miller, Robert Cray, Bonnie Raitt and Taj Mahal – they all rallied around to raise the money to save my life.

What can Phuket music fans expect from your show at the 2011 Phuket International Blues Rock Festival?

Just some good old fashioned butt-rocking rhythm and blues.

Curtis Salgado will play the the Hilton Hotel in Karon on Saturday at 11pm as part of the 2011 Phuket International Blues Rock Festival.

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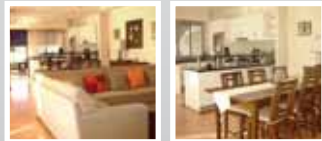
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Rock legend chooses Life

Books

By James Eckardt

Life

By James Fox

AFTER reading and reviewing a biography of Lawrence of Arabia, the warrior and diplomat who was a non-drinking, non-smoking, celibate vegetarian, I was looking for something different. And who could be more different than Keith Richards of the Rolling Stones.

His autobiography is called *Life* (Weidenfield & Nicholson, London, 2010, 465pp) and it's hugely informative and entertaining. The book is told through his own voice as filtered through James Fox, a writer who has known him for 40 years.

Fox is no hack. He is the author of four books of non-fiction, including the acclaimed *White Mischief*, a colonial murder story set in Happy Valley, the white highlands of Kenya.

The first chapter of *Life* is a kind of *Fear and Loathing in Arkansas* as Richards, Ron Wood and a pair of roadies stop in a small town in Arkansas for lunch and are arrested "for being weird."

Their car, hats, pockets and bags are chock full of drugs – a regular mobile police drug lab. This is high comedy, with a happy ending.

Richards then moves to his childhood in a small town in Kent and the book lags a bit – a typical, grotty, boring, isolated English childhood. He's small, so he's bullied mercilessly at school. He's a poor student and a worse athlete. His salvation comes with his first guitar and the discovery of the blues. He meets a childhood friend at a railway station who is carrying a precious parcel of American blues records. The friend is named Mick Jagger.

Now the story picks up. The Rolling Stones form and share a squalid London flat. And a rock legend is born. Richards waxes lyrical on the first practice sessions of the new band:

"You're sitting with some guys, and you're playing and you go, 'Ooh, yeah!' That feeling is worth more than anything. There's a certain moment when you realize that you've actually just left the planet for a bit and that nobody

can touch you. You're elevated because you're with a bunch of guys that want to do the same thing as you.

"And when it works, baby, you've got wings. You know you've been somewhere most people will never get; you've been to a special place. And then you want to keep going back and keep landing again, and when you land you get busted. But you always want to go back there. It's flying without a license."

He waxes equally lyrical about the joys of performing before a huge audience, his songwriting partnership with Mick Jagger and, among many wild guitar licks, his discovery of five-strong open tuning.

Most of all, despite his reputation as a moral monster, he comes across as a nice guy, happy in the company of his many friends and grateful for the women in his life.

He maintains that he was never able to hit on women but simply let his romances sort themselves out.

From an historical point of view, the most gripping chapter is the one where the Rolling Stones come to America on their first tour in the summer of 1965.

The sheltered British boys are exposed to the full gamut of American radio stations, record stores, recording studios and nightspots.

While the white section of a small town might be asleep, Richards and the boys discover black nightspots where – despite or because of their long hair, weird clothes and funny accents – they are accepted and end up in the beds of many a black girl and given a hearty breakfast the next morning.

For four years they work almost non-stop touring and recording and suddenly they are rock 'n' roll royalty, moving into country mansions, driving Bentleys and Jaguars, speedboating on the Riviera, hobbing with nobs – and getting deeply into drugs.

This is the downside, and Richards is frank about it all, including his agonizing bouts of heroin addiction. By the time Richards quits heroin in 1978, the band's best days are behind it.

The Rolling Stones claim to be the world's greatest rock 'n' roll band. This hasn't been true for decades, but they're still out there, still making music. And still alive.



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Capturing the essence of life

By Alexandra Andersson

CHUSAK Uthaipanumas is one of Thailand's most celebrated photographers, having won over 500 awards and photographed the Thai Royal Family and former United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice – all out of his humble studio in Chalong.

But for Chusak, photography is not about fame or money.

"I got out of Bangkok and moved to Phuket 24 years ago when I was just 26. I wanted to get out of the hectic Bangkok lifestyle.

"I didn't want my life to be all about profit and loss margins or like some competitive sports game," Chusak says.

"My photos are not for sale. I do not take them to make money through advertising or sales. They are my thoughts and concepts expressed in an image," he adds.

Chusak lays out a magnificent array of photos and awards on the table, including a UN World Environment Day Photography Contest award and two highly coveted Ballantine's Photography Awards from London.

These competitions received 30,000 and 12,000 entries, respectively, from countries all over the world.

Chusak also likes to be locally involved, and particularly enjoys taking photos of the Rawai sea gypsies, a passime that landed him an award from HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.

He also recently won the Wichit Municipality's "Travel Thai Way in Wichit" photo contest for his outstanding photo *Cheewit Haeng Sai Nam Mudong* (Life of Mudong Canal).

His pictorial and almost poetic photographs make it easy to understand why his skills are so widely recognized.

Themes such as the environment, children, water and local lifestyles are evident throughout his work.



THE WORKS: (Clockwise) Chusak in his studio; *Self-sufficient Alive*; *Insight is the Guiding Light for Success*; *This Generous Country*; *Water to a New Life*.

"I especially like photographing children as they are always full of movement and expression, and they don't have an agenda. They are innocent and pure subjects," he says.

Chusak, now 50, was educated in industrial design and for a time thought about becoming an interior designer, but he prefers a modest lifestyle, making a living from photographing family events while pursuing his hobby of pictorial photography in and around Phuket and Thailand.

"Photography is natural. The desire to document the world around you is something that is

innate in us, like spirituality and other aspects of daily life. For me, when I photograph, it is meditative and therapeutic," he says.

Part of Chusak's mission is to promote photography in Thailand. He serves as a board member at both the Royal Photographic Society of Thailand and the Bangkok Photographic Society. He also teaches photography at Phuket Rajabhat University free of charge.

He discovered his talents in photography through trial and error as a member of photography clubs.

When he was 10 years old, most of his friends from the "pho-



tography community" were about 70 or 80 years old. They passed on their knowledge to him, helping him learn techniques and develop his style.

This is root behind Chusak's desire to pass on his knowledge and technique forward, and keep the art of photography alive.

It also explains why he has an older and more contemplative style of photography, preferring film to digital cameras – and not being a fan of Photoshop.

"It's more natural that way, when you really capture a moment, from the right angle, best light and

timing," he says.

He believes that preparation, concept and subject are the keys to a good photo – not taking many snaps of the same object and hoping for the best, or by digitally manipulating the image, as many tend to do nowadays thanks to developments in digital technology.

Chusak's incredible skill and technique have got him far, but his attitude to photography and life in general are also valuable teachings for future generations, be they photographers or not: observe, appreciate, consider – and then capture.

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Bobby Duchowny

BOBBY Duchowny is the proprietor of Lemongrass House in Cherg Talay. The business offers aromatic oils and other spa products to shops and customers in 28 countries, including 13 franchise operations throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

"We are a completely Phuket-based business with over 40 local staff who make our products one kilo at a time to ensure the highest standards. Spa operators come to me with their dreams and we make original products only for them."

Bobby came to Thailand in 1996 while working as a location scout for Pacific Motion Pictures, an affiliate of 20th Century Fox. He comes from a family involved with the production of Hollywood movies.

"My dad was a television director for such popular shows as Love Boat and the Partridge Family, so after studying photography at the University of California I started work on film sets for Fox, and then got involved in the early days of MTV."

Bobby spent over a decade in the entertainment business. He worked as an assistant director on music videos for Duran Duran and REM. When he joined Tall Pony Productions to make large scale concert videos for HBO, he was sent to Australia for a David Bowie concert.

EXPAT gallery

By Bruce Stanley

By the early 1990s, his work took him to the home of country and western music, Nashville, Tennessee, where he worked on projects for Johnny Cash and Merle Haggard, and an NBC special featuring Wynona and Naomi Judd.

He then moved to Vancouver where he worked on screenplays for the X Files and on movies including Stephen King's *It* and Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood*.

"Moving to work in Thailand changed my life. First, I met my future wife and then I started looking at film projects."

His work with Pacific Motion Pictures ended when the company moved productions to the Philippines as the costs were lower and permission to film easier to obtain.

Bobby soon became intrigued by a group of Thai organic farmers in Petchaboon province who were producing a range of herbs used in Thai cooking.

He had a particular interest in lemongrass and studied, through the Siam Wellness Society, how to make a spa product from it. He then

opened a shop at Bangkok's famous Weekend Market and sold his first products, which he made at home. They caught the attention of a number of major buyers.

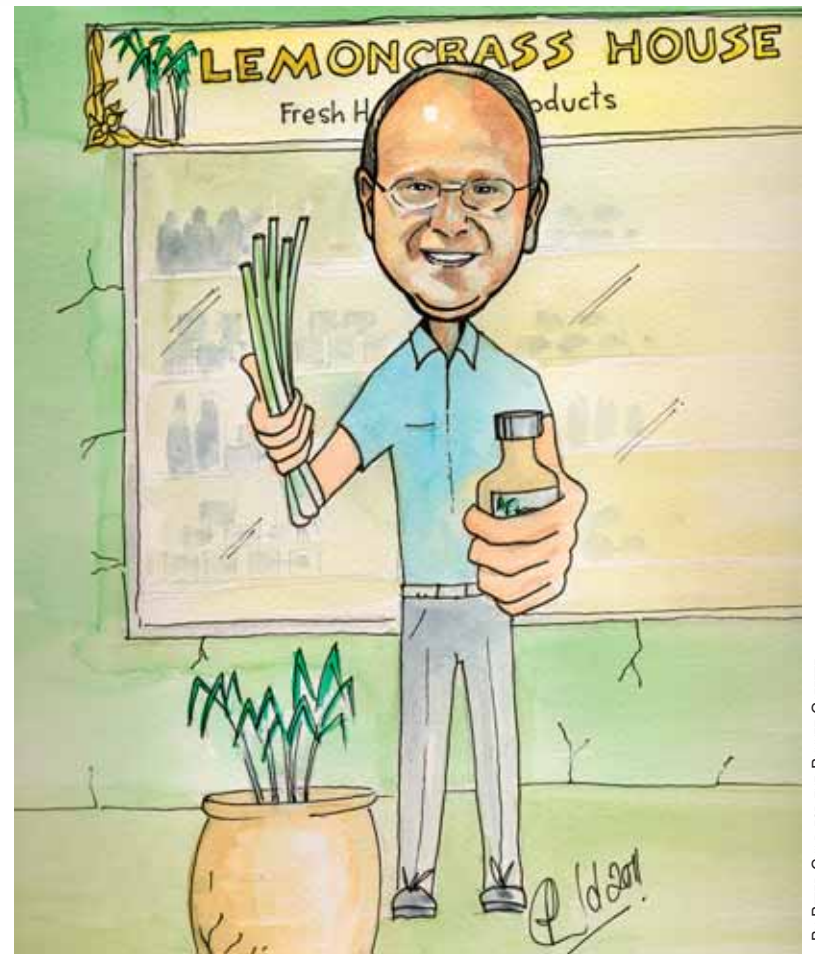
"Word of my organic insect repellent got to UNICEF and they bought it for refugee camps. Then I was asked to open a counter at The Emporium. That's when I started to diversify my products. Then the Amanpuri in Phuket asked me to make spa products, opening another opportunity for expansion."

In 2001, Bobby moved to Phuket where he opened his first shop at Surin Beach. Over the past decade, his business has prospered. Lemongrass House now offers more than 300 oil-based products which are carefully made by his trained staff using Vitamin-E-enriched sweet almond and jojoba base oils.

He built his striking current retail outlet in Cherg Talay out of shipping containers he brought in from Songkla province. He likes the fact they are friendly to the environment.

Lemongrass House has been featured in *Time Magazine's* Best of Asia and *Conde Nast's* Hot List.

"I am committed to providing fresh, healthy spa products, produced right here on Phuket, which offer an uplifting, healing and calming opportunity for everyone."



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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Bangers and cash

By Andrew Jennings

MEMBERS of the Old Bangkok Bangers Rugby Club arrived in Phuket last Friday afternoon following a mammoth cycle challenge in aid of a Phuket children's charity.

The eight fearless men set out from Bangkok on Valentines Day, and for five energy-sapping days their labor of love was to reach Phuket in one piece, while helping to raise 500,000 baht for the Asia Center Foundation (ACF).

The ACF is a local charity organization working with disadvantaged children in Phuket since 2002.

Presently, the ACF must use rented facilities for all its projects, but is hoping to raise enough money to construct a permanent youth center in Kathu.

Old Bangkok Bangers were only too happy to help out, with all funds raised through the cycle going directly to the ACF building fund.

After winding down in Patong on Friday evening following their epic 957-kilometer ride, the Banger boys (in full colorful cycle attire) paid a visit to the rented

childcare center in Kathu to meet the children.

This was the second Bangkok-Phuket charity cycle for three of the men. Bob Pearson, Peter Burgess and Jeff Klentzi raised 350,000 baht for ACF last year on another bike ride. Bill is a teacher at Bangkok International Prep School and his students helped him raise 40,000 baht before he set off last Monday.

"To be honest, the cycle was tough going, but also a lot of fun. It's a great charity and all the guys are happy to help," said Bill.

"The routine over the five days was wake up at half five, breakfast around six and then hit the road. We were usually on the road for up to nine hours, stopping for food here and there. It worked out roughly 180km each day. Everywhere we stopped people were very friendly. Some of the scenery on the ride down was amazing," he added.

As Jeff explained, there were also some tasty perks along the way.

"The last day was the longest ride. We did 192km, but it was broken up with a wonderful bacon and egg sandwich thanks to



SATURDAY SMILES: Players from Old Bangkok Bangers with kids from the Asia Center Foundation.

Steve in Khao Lak. The day started off with a gentle climb but turned into sprint to Khao Lak... It's amazing what a bacon buttie will do to people.

"We rode over Sarasin Bridge at 2pm and the serious stuff started. The three hills around Surin Beach to Patong were hard work.

Kamala Hill is the toughest I've ever experienced, but we all conquered it with plenty of gasping," said Jeff.

When an aching Peter was asked whether he would be interested in making the return trip to Bangkok by bike, he jokingly replied, "Honestly, I'd be prepared to pay double whatever the airfare costs."

Kuzhali Cogan, financial manager at ACF, was delighted to show the Bangkok Bangers around their facility and thanked them for helping make a real difference to the lives of Phuket's disadvantaged kids.

"Every last drop of financial support is needed and is very welcome. We rely solely on donations so we can pay for simple things like stationary and uniforms for the kids.

The impact the ACF has on the lives of children is massive. It's a safe place for them to come and learn," said Kuzhali.

"The donations we get from the Old Bangkok Bangers are fantastic and much appreciated by everyone at ACF," she added.



LONG AND LONELY ROAD: Bob Pearson finds Kamala Hill a steep ask.

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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

February 25-26. Phuket International Blues Rock Festival

The sixth annual Phuket International Blues Rock Festival will rock the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort and Spa again for two nights over the last weekend in February. This year's bands hail from seven different counties and are among the best in the blues world, honored with numerous awards and nominations. Contact Andy Andersen at T:086-6822639 E:phuketmusic@yahoo.com or visit W:phuketbluesfestival.com for more information.

February 27. Social Tennis Tournament at BIS

Ladies doubles and mixed doubles to play at The British International School. 700 baht per pair, per section. Light refreshments will be served at the trophy presentation after the tournament. Entries accepted before 5pm on February 20. Contact Dianne at T:089-4698100 or E:didee51@yahoo.com.au or or contact Lorenzo T:081-0802453 E:lorenzotennis@libero.it or visit W:bisphuket.ac.th for more information.

February 27. Gourmet Sunday by Möevenpick

Enjoy a gourmet feast by the poolside this Sunday. The event will be held at Pacifica Restaurant 12pm-3pm. An array of dishes will tantalize the taste buds. Sushi and

March 7-11. Mango House Festival



Lovers of funky house music are in for a real treat During Koh Lanta's annual cultural festival – Lanta Lanta Festival – in Lanta Old Town, from Monday, March 7 to March 11. Mango House Festival is pleased to announce that two house music veterans – DJ Nick Power and DJ Colin Edwards – will help spread the love of house music at Mango House in Lanta Old Town on March 10 and March 11 between 9pm-1am. On the other nights, the festival will also feature DJ Taz and DJ NuTrip on March 7 and 8, DJ Tommy T on March 9 and DJs Nick and Colin on and March 10. Contact Duane Lennie at T:086-9486836 E:duane@mangonation.com W:mangohousesessions.com for more information.

sashimi, fresh seafood, oysters, pan-fried goose liver and imported meat cooked on the BBQ to your liking. Imported cheeses, Möevenpick ice cream and Swiss specialties will round off the delightful afternoon. Bring the family. The Play Zone is equipped with activities and friendly staff so the kids can have fun. Every Sunday. Price: 1,800 baht nett per person (inclusive of selected wines and cocktails) 1,500 baht nett for food only. 50 per cent off for kids (4-11 years old). Contact Carlos Vizán at T:076-396139 E:carlos.vizan@moevenpick.com or visit W:moevenpickphuket.com for more information.

March 4. Curry Friday

We present Curry Friday's on alternate Fridays 7pm-11.30pm at Navrang Mahal, Karon Sea Sands Resort & Spa. Here is your chance to enjoy an authentic and lavish Indian curry buffet. Selections include all-time favourite chicken tikka masala, very hot mutton vindaloo, juicy kebabs, goan fish curry, chickpea curry and much more... served with nan bread and basmati rice. All you can eat for only 449 baht nett. Draught beer by the glass just 50 baht nett. Special discount on beverages. For reservations, please call T:076-286464 ext 4. Contact Seemant Raju at T:081-6295063 E:sm@karonseasand.com or visit W:karonseasand.com for more information.

to communicate in Thai. We offer probably the fastest and most effortless language learning system in the world. Colette Bailey: "It was like taking down the shutters and being able to see out for the first time." Stephen Reynolds: "This course is fantastic! I was on the way home reading signs everywhere." From 8.30am to 6pm. Contact Gary Orman at T:085-9099174 E:workshops@genggwaa.com or visit W:learnthaionline.com for more information.

March 8-10 Transforming Felicity and Adversity

Transforming Felicity and Adversity into the Spiritual Path with Dr. B. Alan Wallace. In this classic text "Transforming

Felicity and Adversity into the Spiritual Path", the 19th century Dzogchen master Dodrupchen Tenpey Nyima provides practical instructions for transmuting all of life's ups and downs into nourishment on the path to enlightenment. During this retreat at Phuket International Academy's Mind Center, Dr. B. Alan Wallace will explain his teachings, together with guided meditations for putting them into practice. The session will be at 7am on April 8, and 12pm on April 10. Accommodation is available at Thanyachitra Retreat. Please contact Thanyapura Mind Centre at T:076-336030 and contact Weena at T:076-336030 E:mtc@phuketinternationalacademy.com or visit W:phuketinternationalacademy.com for more information.

March 13. Phuket Yacht Club Kid's sailing

Courses held on Sundays at Phuket Yacht Club, Ao Yon on selected dates in February and March for children aged 7-12 years. These will be introduction to sailing courses. Contact Donna Stephens at T:086-1200752 E:phuketyachtclub@gmail.com or visit W:phuketyachtclub.info.

March 17. Phuket International Women's Club AGM and lunch

The AGM will be 10am to 2pm at Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort. All are welcome but only members may vote. This is followed by lunch from 11:30am, and again all are welcome to either or both events. The lunch will be 500 baht for members and 650baht for guest per person. Contact Carole Dux at T:076-200730 E:info@phuketiwc.com or visit W:phuket iwc.com for more information.

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*.

**February 27 – Chalong
Starts at 10am.**

For more info contact Woody T:076-290468

March 5-6. Learn to Read Thai in a Weekend

Get it over and done with in one weekend at Phuket International Academy! Using quirky—and obscene stories and visual associations you will recognize all the Thai letters (without memorization!) and sound out words and the tones correctly for pronunciation. Come to this remarkable Accelerated Learning course and jump start your ability

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Celebrating Irish style for a worthy cause

By Bruce Stanley

ST PATRICK'S Day is celebrated around the world to commemorate the Irish saint who saved Ireland from pagan religion and introduced the Catholic Church to the Emerald Isle.

On Phuket, St Patrick's Day marks the major charity fund-raising event for the Life Home Project, a local community that provides shelter for women and children affected by HIV as well as childcare, vocational training, health education and hospice assistance.

"We provide support services for around 200 families affected by HIV, but we are expanding our education services to the local schools," says Helene Fallon Wood, a founder of Life Home Project and chair of this year's St Patrick's Day Ball fund-raiser.

"Sadly, the majority of new HIV infections are occurring in the 15 to 25-year-old age range as there is not sufficient education about how to prevent infection.

"Even the local government supports our efforts to educate the youth on Phuket about this devastating disease," she said.

Helene has become a major fundraiser in Phuket and works with Julie Street and Kathy Manthei to present a charity gala ball to allow residents blessed with a good life on the island to help those in need.



LEADING LADIES: St Patrick's Day Ball organizers (from left) Kathy Manthei, Daoroong Radsomnam, project manager for Life Home Project, Julie Street and Helene Fallon-Wood.

The 2011 St Patrick's Day Ball will be held at the Möevenpick Resort & Spa in Karon on March 26. The event promises to provide plenty of "craic" – a Gaelic word for "a very good time".

Entertainment will be provided by the Roaring Bhoys, brought to Phuket by the Irish Times Pub.

Tickets are available from any BAKE

outlets on the island or by calling Helene at 081-797 2079.

"I want to thank Hansruedi Frutiger, the Möevenpick General Manager, for providing such a beautiful setting and extravagant selection of foods.

"Also the Wine Connection continues with their generous support with wines," says Helene.

"This year we can offer high quality champagne as well as the opportunity to win hotel stays at a wide variety of Möevenpick Hotels and Resorts from Dubai to Sentosa Island.

"Etihad Airlines have donated a return trip from Bangkok to Dublin including a week's stay at a luxury golf resort at Kinsale in County Cork.

"We also have diamonds from Ireland's largest diamond merchant and magnums of champagne covered in Swarovski crystals," she adds.

Life Home Project's St Patrick's Day Ball is the charity's only fund-raising event and all proceeds will be spent on supporting the families under care. Funds will also be geared towards expanding HIV prevention and education across the island.



FULL OF HOPE: The Life Home Project children at a charity event last year. The project provides shelter for women and children affected by HIV.

**YOUR
Phuket**

On board the Dream Cruise

A relaxed and happy group of friends enjoyed a day sunset cruise last Sunday aboard Dream Cruise A boat Sky High. Photos: Caroline Pauchard



A buffet, beverages and DJs were enjoyed by all.



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Bay Regatta revelry

The scenic Bay Regatta was held last week, and with it came four nights of ceremonies and after parties...



Mick Kealy (left), commodore of the Ao Chalong Yacht Club, with Paul Kendall of Sunsail Lychee and crew. Photos: Leslie Hand and Jay Walker

Bangkok Air go west



Bangkok Airways President Puttipong Prasarttong-Osoth (center) and Vice President of Corporate Communications ML Nandhika Varavarn (center right), and Vice President of Sales Ariya Prasarttong-Osoth (center left) announce the launch of the airline's Mumbai and Dhaka routes.



Martin Foster and Q Aylward.



Steven Gear-Evans (right) from Venture with a crew member.



STRUTTING THEIR STUFF: Katalina Collection designer Katarina Bonér (center) with staff and model Vicky Kroon at Sports World, Jungceylon to celebrate the launch of Sunseeker Australia brand.



ROBBIE FOWLER COMES TO PLAY: Former Liverpool and England footballer Robbie Fowler (left) poses with Mark Ashman, General Manager The Village Group, Bryan Lunt, Chairman of Absolute World Group, and Chris Gordon, Owner and Developer of The Village Coconut Island, during his recent stay.



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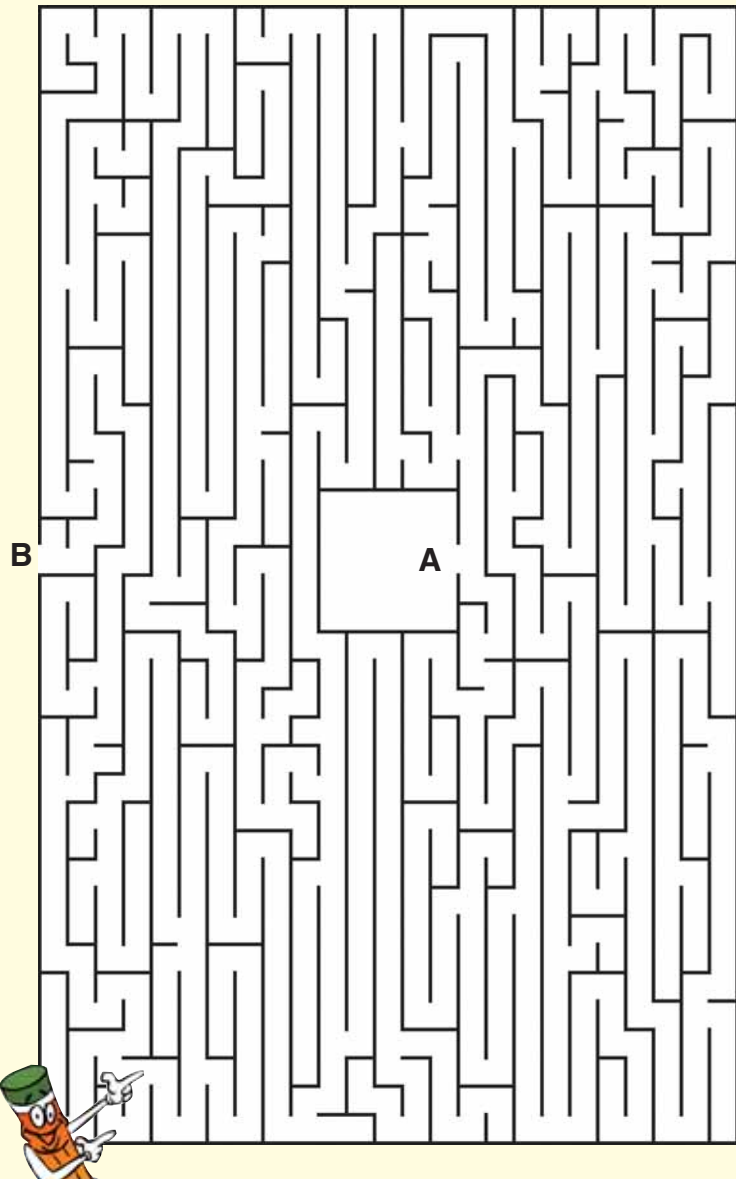
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A *Gazette* staff member completed this maze in three minutes. Can you beat their time? Make your way out of the maze.

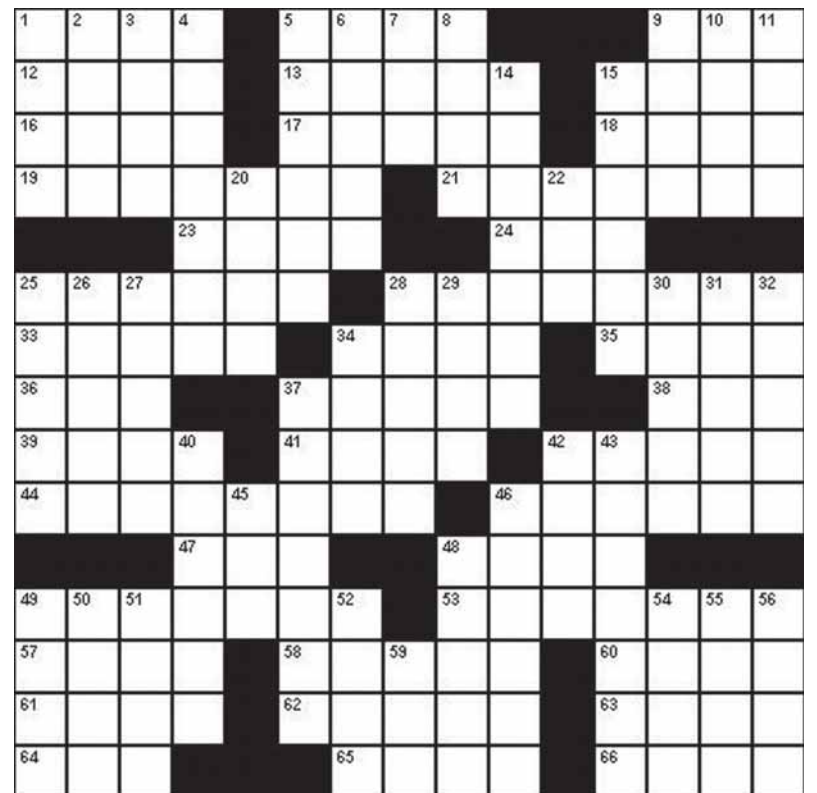


Across

1. *Dancing Queen* group
5. Aboriginal rite site
9. Battery size
12. Crazy as a —
13. Nicholas Gage book
15. Chooses
16. Protracted
17. Geneva lake
18. Civil disturbance
19. Loss of memory
21. Large sea wave
23. Horse color
24. Aussie pickup truck
25. Happened to
28. Glass-enclosed room
33. Dodge.
34. Basic currency of Papua New Guinea
35. Symbol of slavery
36. Cover
37. Large drinking bowl
38. Writer Hentoff
39. Expensive seating area
41. Some are pale
42. Idaho capital
44. Abnormally narrowed
46. Weights
47. Circle segment
48. Memo heading
49. Harbor helper
53. Bartender
57. Airline since 1948
58. Put a new price on
60. Carry
61. Actress Heche
62. Slender part of the leg
63. Half of *zwei*
64. Fall behind
65. Entrance
66. Land map

Down

1. — breve
2. Derrick
3. Beethoven's birthplace
4. Made irate
5. Satan
6. New York city;
7. *Everybody Hurts* band
8. Med school subject
9. Capital city of Western Samoa
10. Energy source
11. Italian wine city
14. Isolated
15. Cantankerous
20. Boot bottom
22. *Respect for Acting* author Hagen
25. Ringing instruments
26. Ness of *The Untouchables*
27. Soft candy
28. Measured
29. Addition column



30. Grecian architectural style
31. Edict of the czar
32. Doles (out)
34. Cabbage-like plant
37. Eyelash cosmetic
40. Make possible
42. Dinner faux-pas
43. Ragtime dance
45. Guadalajara gold
46. Endangered equine
48. Author Calvino
49. Blue hue
50. Forearm bone
51. Group
52. Look after
54. Labor
55. Gas burner or Sicilian volcano
56. Breather
59. Ref's decision

Provided by BestCrosswords.com.
Used with permission.

Puzzle solutions on page 33

PISCES (February 20-March 20):



Pisceans threw caution to the wind lately should be breathing a sigh of relief this week. The stars suggest that a gamble you took earlier this month is set to pay off. Where romance is concerned, an earth sign has the potential to attract this weekend. Your luck in love increases during March. Those celebrating a birthday in the week ahead should find more job satisfaction in the coming year.

ARIES (March 21-April 20):



Patience pays off as February draws to an end. If this relates to your efforts to make changes in a working situation, there are signs that the reward could be greater than hoped for. Your romantic life also improves when feelings are shared this weekend. Those who are single are spellbound by an air sign. Wear a piece of red stone to help eliminate tiredness.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):



Taureans will be inclined to dig their heels in the sand over a particular issue this week. Your stubborn streak could frustrate others and a water sign is predicted to show their dissatisfaction on Monday or Tuesday. The stars shine

brightly on creativity as March commences and you should find a way to earn more from your skills. The number nine is forecast to bring good luck this weekend.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



Confusion is forecast to cause some misunderstandings this week. Be sure that whoever you are communicating with has grasped the right end of the straw. As March begins, travel plans could be put to one side as work commitments grow. A scheme involving another air sign gets the green light sooner than you anticipated. Geminis with a partner should put relaxation first this weekend.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):



Your charisma sparkles this week and you could have more social opportunities than they can keep up with. Combining work with pleasure becomes easier when you follow the example of a fire sign. Lucky days for finances are Wednesday and Thursday. Your chances of a romance with an earth sign are high – flattery should get you where you want to be this weekend. The number eight can bring good fortune on Monday.



LEO (July 24-August 22):



In the world of business, what's on your agenda may not be as important to colleagues. Leos are advised to set a slower pace for themselves to avoid burn-out. In romance, a water sign is elusive this weekend. You will find out why later on. Love with another fire sign is well-starred. Wear a piece of tiger's eye to encourage more good luck to come your way.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23):



As February ends, too much focus on logic and details could cloud your view. The stars suggest you try to adopt a more philosophical attitude to life in general and March will be less stressful. Where work is concerned, trying to change another earth sign's mind will be uphill work early next week, but the results should compensate. Wear pistachio green to encourage a calmer state of mind.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23):



Librans who have been letting the grass grow under their feet are advised to start taking action during the coming days. A work project turns out to be less tedious than you thought, but making up for lost time means putting in extra hours. The stars shine on your ambitions during March and an earth sign is forecast to help you get ahead this week. The number four is lucky this weekend.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22):



Those born under the sign of Scorpio are reminded that two heads can be better than one – another water sign can help you find answers this weekend. March is an auspicious time to make health and lifestyle changes. Where romance is concerned, living in the moment is recommended until you are more certain of your feelings.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21):



After a month of hard work, the stars suggest that you let your hair down this weekend. In the world of work, Sagittarians should know better when to take control as March progresses. Your perspective wid-

ens and there are signs that new friends will come into your life; a water sign in particular will be someone who shares your interests. The number seven brings good luck on Monday.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20):



Those Capricorns who know they need to break a bad habit will receive astral support during March. A conflict that was brewing at work spills over this week and a water sign is forecast to show their true colors. Recharging your batteries at home this weekend is set to inspire plans for redecorating. Incorporate shades of blue and green to promote the feeling that this is your oasis.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19):



Those Aquarians who took some time out during February should be back in the swing of things this week. The stars suggest that making useful connections in the world of work will come easily during March. Your social skills are predicted to put progress onto the fast track. A late positive reaction to a Valentine's Day gesture could be disturbing for those who now have romantic interests elsewhere.

PROPERTY Gazette

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Green goes off the grid

MAKING a serious move into the eco-home market is the Jindarin Resort & Spa under construction on Coconut Island (*Koh Maphrao*).

The development is set on eight rai of beach, forest and coconut tree plantation, with a further six rai under contract for development.

Although set on an island off Phuket, the development is minutes by ferry, or private boat taxi, from Laem Hin pier on the east coast of Phuket, an area popular for its floating seafood restaurants.

Architect Wat Prateep Na Talang has designed four styles of homes to be built on plot sizes ranging from 300 to 395 square meters.

The Islander design offers 125sqm with two bedrooms. A

separate guest room is next to the main two-storey cottage.

The Vacationer unit is a one-bedroom, two-storey unit of 100sqm.

Each Islander and Vacationer unit includes two bathrooms and a four-by-two-meter splash pool.

The Weekender offers 50sqm of usable area with one bedroom and one bathroom on a single level.

A fourth design called the Bungalow is another single-floor build option and offers 48sqm with one bedroom and bathroom.

Plans show 32 lots separated into three areas titled Jindarin Beach (Phase I) and Jindarin Summit (Phase II).

Jindarin Hill (Phase III) is under contract and construction will soon begin.



The Jindarin Resort & Spa is taking serious steps to ensure it keeps its genuine eco-friendly status.

More than 60 per cent of the entire development has been sold, with work starting on each unit after the sale goes to contract.

The lots are priced from 1 to 5 million baht, while the beach cottage construction prices range from 1.2mn baht up to 4.5mn baht.

The Royal Coast Co Ltd manages the resort and assists unit owners with additional packages for furniture, pools and landscaping.

Facilities and services match the quiet and natural concept of Director Gene McCain.

At the heart of Jindarin is its Ancient Thai Spa & Wellness Cen-

ter providing healing and wellness therapies to resort clients.

Golf carts are transportation of choice to visit the beach or gather basics from the minimart and a boat taxi is available 24 hours to and from Phuket.

But the key premise underlying the development is the application of alternative energy resources.

Combined output from solar panels and wind turbines generate all the power needed for the Spa and Grandma's Kitchen near the resort pier, enabling the spa and pier areas to operate independently of municipal power.

The Beach Cottages use solar panels to supplement power supply while natural stone and the surrounding lush vegetation provide cooling and insulation, at the same time reducing air-conditioning needs and total power consumption.

Water is drawn from wells and purified to drinking standards, while rainwater will also be collected and recycled to aid landscaping.

"We are taking our own modest steps towards protecting the environment," said Mr McCain.

— *Phuket Gazette*

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Myanmar on the morrow?



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

MOST people know the popular sing-along song *The Name Game* – with the memorable lyrics “Bonana fanna for or fee fy fo”. My tongue gets twisted just singing along in my head.

Reaching for an aspirin, I can’t help but recall my last visit to the bottle after becoming angst ridden over what those wacky guys up north are naming their country these days: be it Burma, Union of Myanmar or the newly christened Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I think someone in the government is getting paid by the word to come up with these new names.

The confusion continues with its people most commonly being referred to as Burmese, but the country no longer being called Burma? Is Myanmar a word? What will the neighbors think? It sounds like a strange Parisian miniature pet breed or something available only by prescription.

Let’s not even talk about that eternal question: Is/was the capital Rangoon or Yangon? The new capital of the country is Naypyidaw. Try spelling that one again after reading this article.

Businessmen, developers and hoteliers often glance at Myanmar with a touch of envy and despair, expressing dismay about what could be and using the “if” word.

Asia’s economic miracle of isolated countries are opening their doors to democracy, western capitalism and our course the inevitable drift to McDonaldization: the mighty success stories of China, or even that upstart Vietnam. But when it comes to the tail



SUFFOCATING: A deep sea port is one of many infrastructure developments planned for Myanmar. While Hong Kong’s Victoria Harbor is busy and profitable, it suffers high pollution levels. Photo: John Mitchell

wagging the tiger, mentioning Myanmar prompts raised eyebrows and a perplexed looks.

Politics aside, the announcement of the Dawei deep sea port project, industrial estate and ultra-wide highway from Kanchanaburi have drawn collective oohs and ahhs from the financial sector.

Anan Amarapala, vice-president of Italian-Thai Development, one of Thailand’s biggest construction companies, signed a US\$8.6 billion contract with the Myanmar government to build the port and adjoining 250-square-kilometer industrial estate at Dawei.

Start digging deeper and one starts to wonder whether Myanmar is the next Thailand, or about to become one of Southeast Asia’s next economic superstars – or its garbage tip.

Thailand’s woes from the industrial nightmare of Map Ta Phut in Rayong has put pressure on big business to find the next big thing.

The Dawei plan, with its petrochemical plants and oil refineries, steel mills and fertilizer manufacturing, makes everything start to sound a bit hazy. A case in point is Hong Kong and the industrialization of the Pearl River Delta.

Gazing over Victoria Harbour, even on a clear day you can just barely see your feet as they pound out a rapid pace, your lungs wheezing from air the same consistency as day-old *khao tom*.

Sorry, but idyllic beach holidays in Shenzhen don’t rank high on the general public’s bucket list.

Of course wider highways into Myanmar will enable the free-flow of the eradication of tropical rain forests, and there is the promise of a cheap subservient labor force as an added bonus, never mind the cancer risks for workers in the factories to be built reaching into double digits.

For many sitting down in the

relative comfort of Phuket, ignorance is bliss. Take a moment and draw a line north along the Andaman coast past Phang Nga and you eventually land at Dawei. The two share similar characteristics: they both face west and they share the same ocean.

While the debate over Phuket’s development rages among developers, tourism players, naturalists and longtime residents, at least we have been spared the specter of industrialization – until now.

For Myanmar, its future is presently as unknown as what its next name is going to be. Its potential as the last great Asian success story remains unknown, but the signs of the times are unsettling at best.

For Thailand, lessons learned from Map Ta Phut should be put into practice and not simply swept under a corner rug. Now if I can just find that aspirin bottle...

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

In brief...

Bangkok heads into Phuket en masse

FOREIGN demand continues to flatline in broad terms for Phuket property, but domestic demand remains the real storyline for real estate on the island.

Setting to cash in on the trend once pioneered by Land & Houses and later by Supalai are now groups such as Pruska.

The group recently launched a 248-unit project in Thalang. The project is now nearly sold out. While pricing points remain low in the 1.5 to 4 million baht segment, volume is driving the success.

With focus on the mass or low-income market, margins and efficiency continue to focus on cost reductions and economies of scale to be able to retain profit levels.

Expect more of this type of project to enter the supply stream in the coming years.

Phuket’s shoots for MICE

THE recent agreement between Phuket’s provincial government and the Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB) aims to prioritize the all-important meeting and incentive sector.

As the island’s hotel supply continues to surge, the need for market segmentation and diversity is drawing much attention of tourism-related businesses in order to provide a sustainable growth model.

Aside from the planned development of the Phuket International Convention and Exhibition Center in Mai Khao, the initiative calls for promotion of the island and joint sharing of information and strategies in order to accelerate competitiveness of Phuket as a destination.

TCEB is the national government’s dedicated strategic organization for MICE business in the country.

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Centara ink Bt2.2bn deal for resort

CENTARA Hotels & Resort recently signed a deal with Phuket-based Yanggrangsi Co Ltd to develop a 2.2-billion-baht at the south end of Patong.

The deal will see the resort open by the end of 2012 as the Centara Grand Moringa Resort & Spa Phuket.

News of the Yanggrasi project broke late last year with an estimated initial investment of 1.5 bn baht.

Located on 100 rai covered by tropical forest behind the Amari Coral Beach Resort, the project will comprise 70 pool villas of one and two bedroom designs, four restaurants, a 1,300-square meter pool and a 280-room hotel.

The Moringa, at 350 rooms, will be Centara's fifth property on Phuket. The 1.9bn-baht Centara Grand Beach Resort Phuket in Karon opened late last year with 262 rooms.

SQ Architects of Bangkok are



The resort will cater primarily to honeymooners and small families.

also incorporating a 16-room spa in the Moringa resort plans. A distinctive feature of the spa will be a fully furnished main suite that will resemble a "cave".

Bangkok-based hospitality consultancy Mai-BS (Thailand) negotiated the agreement with Centara.

Managing Director Klaus Rauter describes the tropical concept as one which offers "discerning guests the ultimate in peace and



SECLUDED: The Moringa Resort & Spa Phuket plans include 70 private pool villas. Photos: Moringa Resort

tranquility surrounded by a tropical environment close to Phuket's main tourism attractions".

This latest Phuket development by Centara will focus on attracting tourists from Europe, Russia, India and the Middle East.

Particular attention will be paid to providing an ideal private setting for Asian couples, especially those on honeymoon.

The hotel will also cater to small families desiring an exclusive resort atmosphere. Rooms will have a minimum floor space of 55 square meters.

Concerns regarding the effects construction may have on mature trees in the vicinity of the chosen site have also been addressed.

The trees, to be left untouched, will form an integral feature of the

resort's tropical forest setting.

Mr Rauter is aware that the success of this luxury establishment will depend on its personnel.

The resort plans to implement the highest employee training and development standards, which will have the added benefit of allowing the workforce career and industry advancement opportunities.

— *Phuket Gazette*



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We do love to be beside the seaside



WITH the Top 20 Phuket Plants done and dusted, I decided to take Phuket horticulture enthusiast Jim Lauderdale up on an offer to visit his home and garden at Fisherman Way, just south of Chalong Circle.

Fisherman Way is a tastefully landscaped estate of low-rise villas, encompassed by lawns, lakes, gardens and trees, and also has deer, swan and peacock roaming the grounds.

The estate provides a refreshing change from Phuket's current development obsession with cramming as much bricks and mortar into every available space.

"*Baan Doc Mai*" is the name of Jim and his wife Diane's home, which translates to Flower House – an apt name if ever there were one.

The residence enjoys a remarkable location on Phuket's east coast. Step outside the picture-windowed lounge and you're greeted by an expansive red-tiled patio, flanked by potted plants.

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TAKING IT EASY: Chair of PIWC gardening Juree and garden owner Diane.

The terrace is framed at eye level by hanging rows of orchids in full flower and containers of shrubs at ground level. Beyond the terrace a golden sweep of sand rolls down to the bay dotted with islands to give a truly panoramic vista.

The garden itself is akin to a portable picture. The bounty of plants – more than 200 in total – sit in pots of various shapes and sizes.

Astonishingly, Jim and Diane have created this wonderful garden in only a matter of months.

The walkways to the beach, front door, and the access to the patio, are lined with shrubs, mostly in containers. The estate has the appearance of a mature garden.

Another advantage of pots is they can be easily changed and relocated. "You can constantly review, add to, and renew your scheme," says Jim.

He has a point. If a plant is under the weather, position it somewhere else. This is especially necessary near the sea, as salt-laden winds can inflict plenty of damage.

The extraordinary thing about the garden is that most of the plants are thriving. Granted, a couple right on the sand's edge have succumbed to recent inclement weather, but they are very much

the exception.

Jim's secret? Plenty of tender loving care, lots of compost, and regular doses of VSOP (very special old poop).

Interestingly, many of the shrubs on show are not usually grown in containers. On the west side of the property is a row of potted Lady Palms (*Rhapis Excelsa*) enjoying a degree of shade and shelter.

Beyond these palms is a column of thriving *Thunbergia* displaying their beautiful blueish-purple trumpet-shaped flowers.

Then there is a row of potted Bougainvilleas and a bed of Heliconias fronting the estate road. The Bougainvilleas are Jim's pride and joy. Indeed, it was why he got in touch, avowing that anyone who grows or writes about them must do so "as a labor of love".

Other shrubs in pots include *Dracaena*, sporting plenty of crimson foliage, a *Brugmansia* with pendulous, cream-colored trumpets, a white *Thunbergia* and *Wrightias*.

Ginger is another favorite, with at least 20 of them in pots. The pink cultivars have plenty of leaf growth but only one in flower... their time will come.

Some of the mature trees pre-



PLUSH AND GREEN: '*Baan Doc Mai*', or Flower House, is an apt name for this house and its beautiful garden. Photos: Patrick Campbell

date the Lauderdale's arrival, including a flame tree (*Delonix Regia*) at the side of the villa, sporting long dark pods and with a massive staghorn fern adorning its trunk.

At the lawn's edge are *Thevetia* with apricot blooms, apparently unfazed by their salty environment. Close to the house is a magnificent Indian Rubber Tree (*Ficus Elastica*) with those large glossy leaves so beloved by pot plant owners in Europe. This one was huge, the largest this columnist has ever seen.

Jim and Diane originally come from San Francisco, but lived in

Hawaii for many years, so they know about gardening in the tropics – particularly about gardening on an island.

They told me they find gardening in Phuket easier than in the Pacific, given plants grow so rapidly here – a reflection of the humid conditions that prevail in Phuket.

Jim and Diane's wonderful garden is a testimony to their abiding love of flowers and the care they are prepared to bestow on them.

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

Tip of the week

Living together

GARDENERS know from observing butterflies or bees on their patch that plenty of insects rely on nectar to survive.

At the same time, the continued existence of some species of plants relies on specially adapted insects to pollinate them.

Generally, animals are far more reliant on plants than the other way round. Directly or indirectly, they are the food source for all animals.

It can be annoying when cat-

terpillars start mulching their way through your periwinkles or milkweeds, but remember that the adult butterfly will pollinate these flowers. So the relationship is often symbiotic.

Animals also help to distribute seeds. While early plants such as mosses and ferns remain fertilized or pollinated by wind, the rise of flowers with edible fruits means that distribution can take place over a much wider area.

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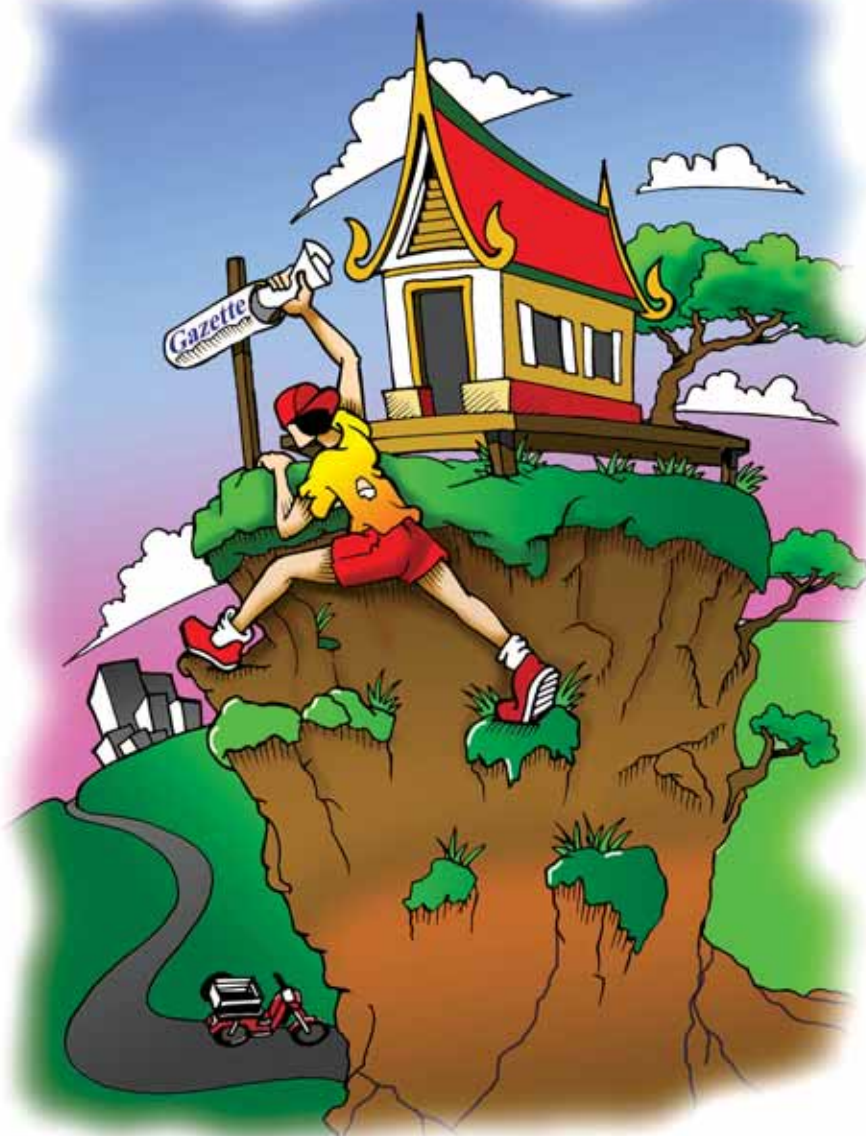
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Urgent sale. Waterfall and sea view, 1 ngan, Nor Sor 3 Kor. Nice surroundings with jungle and sea view. Safe and has easy access to golfing, yachting, shopping and airport facilities. Land only 3.5 million baht. 12 million baht with a classic Thai house. Contact Kim as above for more information. Tel: 084-307 3422 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-373422. Email: thureewan@gmail.com

FINEST SEA VIEW YAMU

Incredible ocean views to many islands and beyond. A luxury 4-bedroom villa with a garden on nearly 1 rai. Very private on exclusive cape heights. Price: 25 million baht, with up to 50 percent finance. Tel: 086-279 6283.

LOW-PRICED LAND

Attractive 1.75 rai plot near Bang Pae waterfall in Pa Khlok with great views. Reduced price: 3.8 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-895 3347 (English), 088-334 4488 (Thai).

RETIREMENT THAI STYLE HOME

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. On top of private hill, overlooking Loch Palm Golf Course. New, will be ready in 5 months. Price: 15.9 million baht. Tel: 087-269 8492.

BAAN SAIYUAN VILLA

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

URGENT SALE!

Nice plot at a good location near Two Villas project (Manik area) with Chanote title. Price: 1.5 rai at 6.9 million baht. The land has electricity access and ready to build on. Tel: 080-520 2989. Email: pakaporns@yahoo.com

KATA APARTMENT BUILDING

8 suite western apartments with huge terraces, most with sea view. 130-160sqm. Options: 5x2 bed, 2 bathrooms, 1x3 bed, 2 bathrooms, 2x1 bed, 1 bathroom or penthouse. Over 1,400sqm developed at 35 million baht. Also owner's large sea view pool villa available next door at 10 million baht. Email: daladdawan@yahoo.com

BEAUTIFUL NAI YANG LAND

9.5 rai, beachfront. 5 minutes to Phuket airport. Asking price: 120 million baht. Chanote. Must see. No agents. Email: allservices29@gmail.com

BEACHFRONT FOR SALE

7.5 rai Chanote near Phuket town. Stunning view of Phang Nga Bay. 17m/rai. Tel: 087-472 7870 (English & Thai). Email: sudaves2002@yahoo.com

FREEHOLD PATONG CONDO

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

TWO-STOREY TOWNHOUSE

Chalong Inter Villa corner unit. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, big living room, kitchen and laundry space. Carport. Brand-new. Price: 2.9 million baht. Tel: 081-893 4904.

CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

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

CHARMING POOL VILLA

Shady hillside. Big pool and garden. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms with the office, secure. New condition. High-quality, very nice. Freehold. Tel: 076-388236, 089-727 5407 (English). Email: cosmocampbell@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.villa-sale-phuket.com

GOLF VILLAS FOR SALE

3 bedrooms, 10-meter pool, and stunning views. Tel: 081-537 9684. For further details, please see our website at www.vistaphuket.com

GOLF VIEW LAND FOR SALE

1,020sqm, fully serviced, 5 million baht. Tel: 089-724 7211 (English). Email: julien@phuketimmo.com

TOWNHOUSE IN PATONG

On Nanai Road. 2 stories, 112.5sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, bathtub, built-in cabinets, kitchen, aircon and car park. 1km to Patong beach, near Bangla Road and Jungceylon. Price 5.5 million baht or nearest offer. No agents! Tel: 087-270 9093.

SUPERB CONDO

56sqm, fully furnished, 1 bedroom with sea view. Chanote title included. Close to the beach, viewing is a must. Tel: 087-822 3357. Email: Marberry45@hotmail.com

SALE STUDIO APARTMENT

In Patong. New condo. 465sqm. Furnished with security. Price: 2.8 million baht. Freehold. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

PHUKET VILLA CONDO PATONG

New condo. 1km to beach, near Bangla Rd and Jungceylon, 1bed, 1 bath, fully furnished. 3.9 million baht for 42sqm and 3.8 million baht for 44.5sqm Tel: 081-541 2025. Email: c.junlarat@gmail.com

OCEANFRONT PLOTS FOR SALE

12 oceanfront plots with 15 meter water frontage. Each 600sqm and ready to build. They're in a peaceful, natural area opposite Yacht Haven Marina. Direct sale from owner. 3.9 million baht per plot. Tel: 081-343 0777. Email: montha_phuket@yahoo.com

PATONG CONDO FOR SALE / RENT

Two condos fully furnished going cheap. For rent also. Tel: 084-442 6144 (English). Email: tj_biggie@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at http://cheaproomspatong.web.fc2.com/phuket.html

VILLA URGENT SALE

Two-bedroom pool villa, fully furnished. Price reduced from 14.5 million baht to 11 million baht. Tel: 076-384664, 087-898 8647. Fax: 076-384665. Email: mundo@ayudhya.net

VILLA, 4 BED

High-quality build and finish. Large rooms, fully equipped and airconditioned. Located in a quiet secure estate. Great price! Call owner. Tel: 087-893 8747.

2-BEDROOM PATONG CONDO

High floor, 100sqm, fully furnished. The project has a gym, 2 pools, 2 km to town. Going quickly – call today! Tel: 080-052 8082 (English). Email: solitude001@aol.com

SALE DOWN PAYMENT

Phanason City (the Phanason) single house with 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, plus extra land. Price: 1.1 million baht. Tel: 081-737 0885.

SURIN BEACH

Land on Soi Haad Surin 2 for sale. 2.2 rai, 5 mins walk to Surin Beach. Email: costello@hotmail.net.au

RUBBER PLANTATION 48 RAI

For sale. Located on the main road to Laguna Phuket. Suitable for a housing project. 4 million baht per rai (Nor Sor 3 Gor). Please contact owner's representative. No agents please. Tel: 080-520 2989. Email: pakaporns@yahoo.com

THE SUNRISE OCEAN VILLAS

Overlooking the ocean in the exclusive Ao Por area on the East Coast of Phuket, the luxurious Sunrise Ocean Villas, located only 60m from the beach, offer breathtaking panoramic views of Phang Nga Bay. You will find the most beautiful untouched island, with white sand beaches only a few minutes away.



Just 15 minutes from Phuket International Airport, 25 minutes from the major shopping centers and 3 minutes from the Grand Marina, Ao Por attracts a growing number of investors seeking an exclusive and affordable alternative to the West Coast with a more authentic environment.



Built to the highest western standards, Sunrise Ocean Villas offers a stylish and contemporary design to suit our clientele. Large window panels and an infinity swimming pool are built to offer the enjoyment of a great open space with a truly amazing view. Buy your dream villa now with a 25% discount for **only 14.9 million baht!** Tel: 081-343 0777 (Eng) 086-274 6062 (French) Email: montha_phuket@yahoo.com or thesunrisevillas@yahoo.com

SEAVIEW LAND PLOTS BANG TAO

Amazing views, private community, underground utilities, 3 phase electricity. Build by yourself or with our expertise. Show houses open now. Tel: 086-267 0157, 089-590 3665. Fax: 076-325294. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

VILLA FOR SALE

3 bedrooms, 3 bathroom, with a private swimming pool on 1 rai of land in Nai Harn, Contact Shanna. Tel: 088-451 2551.

Looking for land to buy?

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at www.phuketgazette.net

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

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

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Boats & Marine

55-FOOT CATAMARAN

6 double cabins, 105sqm. Sails, in composite. Ready to sail! Price: 1.5 million baht. Tel: 087-461 8089.

NEW SEADOO RXP@ KILLER DEAL

2009 New RXP 215HP still in crate. 70+mph. Last unit, price reduced from 510,000 to 420,000 baht. Tel: 081-754 7599. Email: csutivas@gmail.com

BARGAIN YAMAHA JET-SKI

Yamaha jet-ski on trailer in perfect running condition. Engine has just been totally revised. Mooring place available. Price: 115,000 baht or O.N.O. Contact Roy. Tel: 082-425 0230.

POWER CAT FOR SALE

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

LUXURY CHARTER SUNNAV F.B. 72



One-day tour: 190,000 baht. Price includes captain, crew, cook, and snorkelling and fishing equipment. Tel: 089-476 7443, 085-352 1942. Contact for more details. Email: sales@sunnnav.com or Website: www.sunnnav.com

ROYAL PHUKET MARINA BERTH

20m front line Royal Phuket Marina berth to let by private owner. On flexible terms and greatly discounted rates. Email: james@shayler.com

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Brokerage Office
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Contact: Andrew de Bruin / Marcus Overman
Mobile: 081 894 1530 / 081 968 1437
Tel/Fax: 076 239 729
Email: andrew@leemarine.com

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

Pattaya Office
Ocean Marina Jomtien Beach
Contact: Mark Heath
Mobile: 081 787 9408
Tel: 038 235 061 Fax: 038 235 062
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LOOKING FOR PEGASUS 8.2

Looking for a Pegasus 8.2 fiberglass in good condition. Tel: 081-891 3095 (English). Email: norbusteahouse@gmail.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 hydraulik system, a Simrad navigation GPS chart plotter and electric Ankerwisch plus toilet. Phuket registration. With 4-wheel aluminium trailer. Price: 600,000 baht. Contact Khun Aree. Tel: 089-474 5168.

JET SKI YAMAHA

Must sell. VX Deluxe 140 HR. Price: 240,000 baht. Tel: 089-470 8926. Email: jyfievat@gmail.com

38FT CATAMARAN

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

BIG CATAMARAN FOR SALE



65' Catamaran for sale, for details visit the website. Tel: 081-306 1150 (English & Thai). Email: rm2@food.comthailand.com Website at http://u5.com/cat

NEW BAYLINER 175 FOR SALE@COST

New Bayliner 175 with full options + trailer. For sale by dealer at cost. Price dropped from 950,000 to 850,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-754 7599. Email: csutivas@gmail.com Website at www.mfjetski.com

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All for wood and more!

- Full hull repairs
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Tel: 076-238947, 081-968 3118 (English), 081-271 3228 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-238947. Email: info@procarpentering.com

23M, 75" YACHT - SUPERSALE

Very nice boat in great condition, good for snorkeling and fishing trips. Can carry 35 people + 4 crew. Urgent sale. Please email for more info. Tel: 086-010 6988 (English). Email: michaelcraona@email.com

50% BOATSHARE
Riviera 48 and 34 ft speed boat, both fully equipped for fishing and diving. Approx Investment: US\$ 275,000. FULL MANAGEMENT AND FULLY CREWED.

Tel: 081-895 1724 or
Email: smuldersos@hotmail.com

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

SEA DOO 255 RXT JETSKI

A few months old! Used just 9 hours, new condition and modified to 280 horsepower! Price new: 625,000, now sale for 490,000 baht. Tel: 084-690 6304.

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

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. Tel: 081-090 9170.

8M SAILING CATAMARAN

Thai registered cat from 2008. 15Hp Yamaha. New paint, varnish and antifouling. Good condition, fully equipped and ready to sail. Price: 390,000 baht. Tel: +49-332-22930210, 087-461 8089. Email: StefanStier@gmx.de

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

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

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 (English). Email: nomadaust@hotmail.com

SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES

Crossword puzzle:



COFFEE
break

Joe Conrad the Magic Theatre is opening in Patong at the Jungceylon Center. The 700-seat theatre will be Phuket's first and only show offering Las Vegas style illusions and magic entertainment on a nightly basis. If you have an interest in the entertainment industry or you have experience in it already, we need talented, experienced and motivated people to join the team!

We are now looking for the following positions:

Office Team

- Sales Manager & Sales Representatives
- HR Manager & HR Support
- Call Center Supervisor/Agents
- Financial Analysts

Theatre Team

- Box Office Manager
- Ticket Booth Agents
- Usher & Ticket Takers
- Cashiers - Food/Drink/Gifts
- Magic Demonstrators
- Electrician
- Maintenance Engineer
- IT Engineer



Email: hr@joeconrad.com,
www.joeconradmagictheatre.com

ONLINE JOB APPLICATION
HOTEL - ACTING - SALES - IT - WEB DESIGN - F&B
www.KARON-PHUKET-HOTELS.com/JOB.htm



Real Estate, Phuket

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

► Sales Support Executive

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

► Personal Assistant

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

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

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THE PRIVILEGE RESIDENCES • PATONG

The Privilege At BayCliff Co Ltd is an exclusive real estate company located at Prabaram Road. We are urgently looking for professional and qualified candidates to join our team in Phuket. Must have the following qualifications:

Sales Manager

- Preferably 30-40 years old
- Minimum 2-3 years experience in sales or marketing
- Good negotiation and English Communication skills
- Self-motivated and dynamic, service-minded and result-oriented
- Pro-active and well organized
- Pleasant personality
- Computer literate
- Car driving license with own car will be an advantage

Please e-mail your resume to: niramon@thebaycliff.com
or contact us at 076 342 696, Attn: Khun Niramon

MASSAGE THERAPIST JOBS

Massage therapists to work in fitness clubs in Russia. Good pay, free round-trip airfare and a free apartment. Tel: +1-602-904 5716. Email: Wall.lawoffices@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.fitness.ru/content/ru/club-2009-02-18-15-46-06.html

MANAGER REQUIRED

For 35-room boutique hotel in Patong. Please send resume and expected salary to claudstrey@gmail.com

STAFF WANTED

Nightshift receptionist for Patong guesthouse. Must speak some English. Tel: 083-388 4300.

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Full or part time for sportswear brand. Tel: 087-380 0525. Email: boxergirl@boxergirl.net

SALE EXECUTIVE NEEDED

Sale Executive needed urgently in Phuket Town. Qualifications: Aged between 25-45 years, male or female. Good command of English in writing and speaking skills. Minimum 2 years of experience as sales officer, any construction experience will be considered favorably. Salary: 8,500-12,000 baht not including commission. Tel: 0878153777 or phuketimperial@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuket-stainless-service.com

YACHT SALES EXECUTIVE

Requirements: Experience in sales & brokerage of luxury yachts, knowledge of boats, and technical issues, fluent in English and excellent computer and internet skills. Tel: 081-979 9911. Email: vrit@boatlagoon-yachting.co.th For further details, please see our website at www.boatlagoon-yachting.co.th

STAFF/ REPRESENTATIVE

'Tropical Properties' is looking for a pleasant person with good communication skills, good appearance and good English for our permanent booth at Jungceylon in Patong. Good salary with commissions on top. Thai nationals only. Tel: 076-345700, 087-882 2856 (English). Email: luc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com

PROPERTY SALES EXECUTIVE

Phuket real estate agency requires sales executive. Applicants must be fluent in English, have full driving license and own a car. Good salary package plus generous commission and benefits. Tel: 076-527565. Send CV with photo to cv@phuketoceanvillas.com

WEB DEVELOPER HELP NEEDED

Looking for a person who can do PHP, MySQL, CSS3, SEO, Googlemap API v3, HTML5, Web optimization (size, on both Images and code, caching for fast loading speeds). Tel: 076-239820. Email: noinah@latitude1maritime.com

ADMINISTRATOR WANTED

Real estate company requires Thai national with fluent written and spoken English and previous admin / customer services experience. Good salary and benefits package. Tel: 076-527565. Send CV and expected salary to cv@phuketoceanvillas.com

YACHT ENGINEER/ MANAGER

Requirements: Experience working with luxury yachts as an engineer and service manager including management and maintenance, able to take initiatives and propose solutions or new ideas and a basic understanding of local boating industry, contractor and suppliers. Tel: 081-979 9911. Email: vrit@boatlagoon-yachting.co.th

SALES & MARKETING MANAGER

Requirements: Over 4 years experience as a sales & marketing manager of a business selling high-end luxury products. Fluent in English and Thai, excellent marketing skills and knowledge, and excellent computer and internet skills. Tel: 081-979 9911. Email: vrit@boatlagoon-yachting.co.th

RIDER CAFE

Rider Cafe opening soon on the bypass road. Requires the services of two energetic, outgoing, customer friendly, female staff. Applicants must have some English. Preference given to those with previous cafe experience. Please contact Nid for a private interview. Tel: 089-470 9470 (English & Thai). Email: teddy.fagerstrom@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/PA

Requirements: Must have over 3 years experience as an executive assistant/PA, excellent English, fluent Thai, must be skilled in computers and internet, must take initiatives and be able to make well-researched decisions, propose solutions to problems and new ideas, own and drive personal car and experience dealing with high-end luxury products and clients would be an advantage. Tel: 081-979 9911. Email: vrit@boatlagoon-yachting.co.th For further details, please see our website at www.boatlagoon-yachting.co.th

ITALIAN RESTAURANT

We are looking for full-time wait staff. English speaking is essential. Some experience would be good although training will be provided. Apply in person at Rosso Vivo Rawai, Fisherman Way Garden Center. Tel: 076-384686, 080-148 9989. Email: billidavid@hotmail.com

URGENT

Autocad draftsman and sketch-up designer. Contact P.A.S. Co Ltd. Please send your CV to: a.pueng@gmail.com

TEACHERS NEEDED

For English Program & International Program. Satree Phuket School Phuket, Thailand. We are urgently seeking 12 full-time teachers, both native English-speakers and Thais, to begin work in May 2011 in the following positions:

- 2 mathematics teachers: both native English-speaking and Thai teachers.
 - 1 science teacher: both native English-speaking and Thai teachers.
 - 1 social studies teacher.
 - 1 Thai history teacher: both native English-speaking and Thai teacher.
 - 1 Health and Physical Education teacher
 - 1 Arts teacher
 - 1 Computer teacher with technician and website qualification
 - 3 English teachers
 - 1 ASEAN Studies teacher: native English-speaking in social studies with ASEAN country qualification or related field and project work.
- Thai applicants must have completed M.A. degree abroad.
- General Job Descriptions:
- Teach full-time (18-20 hours per week) to secondary students (ages 13-18)
 - Holidays: 10 personal holidays: 7 days of sick leave.
 - Salary:

- + General B.A. degree: 30,000 baht per month, plus 3,000 baht for housing.
 - + Specialized B.A. major degree: 35,000 baht per month, plus 3,000 baht for housing.
 - + General M.A. degree: 35,000 baht per month, plus 3,000 baht for housing.
 - + Specialized M.A. major degree
 - Benefits
 - + Work permit (valid non-immigrant B visa required)
 - + Health insurance after three months probation.
- If you are interested, please send contact details and positions you are applying for with your CV and TEFL or CELTA certificate from now until 10th March 2010. Tel: 076-211034 ext. 144. Email: spk2011.staffrecruitment@gmail.com

Looking for a job?
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Outrigger Laguna Phuket Resort and Villas

Job Title – Executive Chef

Company Name – Outrigger Laguna Phuket Resort & Villas

Experience – 8-10 years in a five star or international chain hotel

Company Profile:

Outrigger is one of the largest and fastest growing privately-held leisure lodging and hospitality companies in the Asia Pacific and Oceania regions and continues to expand its presence throughout the area. We operate and develop hotel properties and hospitality-related retail and real estate opportunities for partners in Hawaii, Pacific, the mainland USA and Asia.

Outrigger Laguna Phuket Resort and Villas is a new luxury collection of villas and suites located in Laguna's destination resort on Bang Tao Bay on the northwestern coast of Phuket, Thailand. The resort currently operates with a poolside café and in villa dining. The next stage will open mid 2011 with a new restaurant and bar.

Objective of job and duties & responsibilities – To directly manage front and back of house food and beverage operations. This role incorporates planning and managing day to day operations from the kitchen and utilizing your front of house skills. This is a senior executive position designed to lead a team, bring on line new food and beverage outlets as well as re-positioning.

Report to – General Manager

If you feel you have the necessary skills and experience to fulfill these positions, please send your latest resumé with recent photo, references and salary expectations by email to: paew.chanantho@outrigger.co.th



AHMS HOTELS

is an innovative hospitality management company catering to like minded owners and developers of hotels and resorts around Asia. Our defining mantra is 'rewarding lifestyles'. We go beyond simply creating and managing resorts to fostering unique environments that exceed expectations in terms of design, intuitive service and luxurious ambience.

Aleenta Resort & Spa, Hua-Hin – Pranburi | Aleenta Resort & Spa, Phuket-Phangnga | The Akrya Chura Samui

AHMS resorts are always on the look-out for young and vibrant professionals who have a penchant for excellence in delivering luxurious, unobtrusive, and personalized service.

The Akrya Chura Samui (opening in May 2011)

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| • Guest Relations Manager | • Restaurant Manager | • Spa Receptionist |
| • Guest Services Agent | • F&B Supervisors | • Spa Therapist |
| • Telephone Operators | • Waiter / Waitress | • HR Supervisor |
| • Bellman | • Bartender | • Training Supervisor |
| • Chief Accountant | • Housekeeping Supervisors | • Security Supervisor |
| • Cost Control Supervisor | • Housekeeping Attendants | |
| • Purchasing Supervisor | • Chief Gardener | |
| • Accounts Payable | • Assistant Chief Engineer | |
| • Accounts Receivable | • Engineering Supervisor | |
| • Receiving Clerk | • Electricians & Technicians | |

Aleenta Resort & Spa, Phuket-Phangnga

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| • Villa Supervisor | • Waiters / Waitress | • Housekeeping Coordinator |
| • Villa Chef | • Gift Shop Attendant | • Housekeeping Attendants |
| • Villa Attendant | • Chief Engineering | • Asst. Housekeeping Mgr |
| • Public Area Attendant | • Electricians & Technicians | • Laundry Supervisor |
| • Guest Ambassador | | |

Aleenta Resort & Spa, Hua Hin – Pranburi

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| • Sr. Sales Manager | • Sales Coordinator |
| • Sales Manager | • Purchasing Supervisor |

CONTACT INFORMATION

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www.theakrya.com

Aleenta Resort & Spa and Akrya Corporate Office
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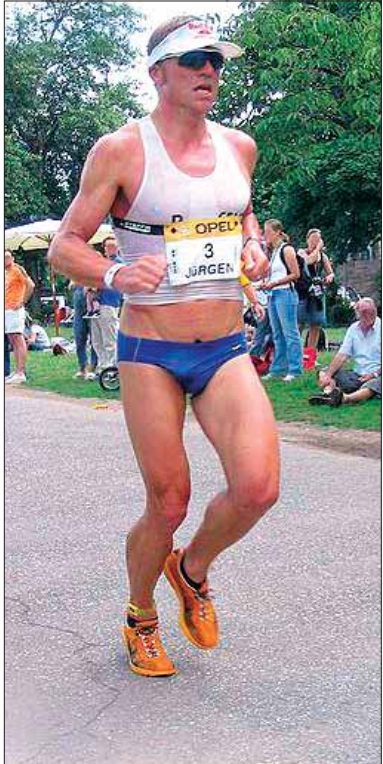
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LEGEND: Jürgen Zäck

By Andrew Jennings

RECORD breaking triathlete Jürgen Zäck is coming to Phuket take up a new post at Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club (TSLC), where he hopes to boost the standards of triathlon training on the island.

Zäck is considered one of the greatest ever athletes to compete at Ironman thanks to his eight worldwide titles.

He has also claimed the European Ironman Championship five times, been crowned Austria's champion Ironman twice, and took home the title of Australia's Ironman champion in 1996.

He has finished runner-up 11 times at the Ironman Hawaii competition and holds the Ironman bike course record time of 4:14:12.

Taking up his new role, the world champion will reside in Phuket for two months for on-hand

training and assist from overseas for the remainder of the year.

He will run at least one training session per day, including biking, running and swimming classes.

TSLC members and guests will have an opportunity to train with Zäck, and he will also be conducting three-and-five day training camps at Thanyapura's Thanyamundra Organic Resort in the foothills of Khao Sok National Park.

"I was thrilled to be asked to come on board and conduct these training sessions by the TSLC and I'm very much looking forward to working and training with everyone who joins us," Zäck said.

In addition, Zäck will be holding camps for children as part of the TSLC IronKids partnership, in the lead-up to the Sport & Leisure Club's first IronKids event on April 23.



IN CONTROL: Young goalkeeper in action at the Fair Play League.

Fair Play a hit

PHUKET'S Fair Play League continued last Sunday with matches played at the Youth Football Home Foundation grounds in Thalang.

The foundation opened in 2007 and provides shelter and education to underprivileged children in Phuket.

Brazilian Soccer Schools (BSS) again organized Sunday's games and supplied referees and assistants.

The day was warm but a little cloud cover kept the sun's glare at bay, meaning near perfect conditions for football.

The Under-16s were the first to play, where the well-maintained pitch allowed games to flow and there was plenty of attacking play on show.

Many players showed excellent individual skill and close control, while all showed an understanding of playing as a team. Each player came off the pitch at the final whistle knowing they did all that they could, regardless of the result.

The Under-13 games were equally exciting. The skills on show impressed everybody standing on the sideline. Every game started at a high tempo with plenty of end-to-end action.

The scores were close for the first 15 minutes but the games wore on, the players tired and more opportunities appeared.

The fundamentals of the Fair Play League is recognizing the sterling efforts of the young players on the pitch and the shaking of opponent hands after the final whistle whether their team win, lose or draw.

February 20 FPL Results:

Under-16:
Thailand (Away) 11 – England 0
Thailand (Home) 6 – Spain 9

Under-13:
Thailand (Away) 11 – England 1
Spain 10 – Thailand (Home) 3
Germany 4 – Argentina 10
– Phuket Gazette

FC Phuket seek home comfort

FC PHUKET play host to Rajpracha FC in their first Thai League Division 1 home game of the season on Saturday evening. Kickoff at Surakul Stadium is at 6pm.

Phuket opened their 2011 campaign in solid fashion two weeks ago when they bagged a deserved share of the spoils away from home against Suphan Buri FC.

Phuket missed several chances to return home with all three points, but had to be content with just the one.

Saturday's game against Rajpracha will mark new manager Surachai Jirasirichote's first competitive home game in the Phuket hotseat.

Phuket's home form last season was exceptional and they will want to carry that form into Saturday's encounter at Surakul.

Recently signed attacking trio Choi Wan Geon, Paulo Reneto and Kone Adama have looked impres-



HOPING TO IMPRESS: New boys Kone Adama and Choi Wan Geon.

sive during Phuket's pre-season games and in their opening league game.

The Phuket fans – otherwise known as the "Hulk" – will be

looking for big performances from them to make sure their team can clinch all three points on this occasion.

– Andrew Jennings

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