

Phuket Gazette

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25 Baht

Swede deal turns sour

‘I regret his death... I am very sorry for his family’

By Atchaa Khamlo

THE men who stand charged for the murder of Maksim Schantz only intended to intimidate the victim to retrieve 2 million baht owed, one of the men told the *Gazette*.

Mr Schantz, a 25-year-old Russian-born Swedish national, died after being stabbed in the throat outside his upscale home in The Lantern residential estate in Koh Kaew at about 8pm on Monday night.

Bleeding profusely from the neck, Mr Schantz fled towards the security booth at the front of the estate, before he collapsed and died, police said.

The assailants escaped through the development's perimeter wall and stole a motorcycle by kicking the driver off his motorbike while he was driving down the street.

Police launched a manhunt that



Tommy Viktor Soderlund.

ended 24 hours later with both wanted suspects in custody: Tommy Viktor Soderlund, 26, and Johan Sebastian Ljung, 25, both from Sweden.

Mr Soderlund and Mr Ljung were caught hiding out at the Surin Sweet Hotel on Tuesday afternoon, and were later presented in a press conference presided over by Phuket Police Commander Pekad Tantipong.

Mr Schantz was from Gothenburg and had been living in Thailand for three years, two in Pattaya and one in Phuket, the Swedish embassy told the *Gazette*.

Police suspect business and relationship feuds had formed between the victim and Mr Soderlund during their time in Pattaya.

“[Mr Soderlund's] half-Thai girlfriend left him for Mr Schantz. This love triangle and/or business competition may have had something to do with the murder,” said Lt Col Nanon Pitakkultorn of Phuket City Police.

At the press conference it was revealed that Mr Schantz had provided information that led to the February “call center gang”, which operated scams out of an internet cafe in Pattaya.

He had previously been involved with the group, said Maj



Johan Ljung, 25, stands charged for the murder. Photos: Dean Noble

Nackaphan Photha, an investigations officer with the Tourist Police.

“Tommy was in the group we arrested [in February], but we didn't catch Johan. We charged them for working without permits, but nothing else because there are

no laws against cheating people through phone calls like they did,” Maj Nackaphan explained.

Police said that the duo had confessed to the murder and explained that they had located Mr Schantz through Facebook and

Continued on page 2

Daycare teacher charged over beatings

DAYCARE teacher Pranee “Kru Kiew” Jantalert has been charged with child abuse, with the possibility of more charges to come, after being allegedly caught beating her students on video.

Meanwhile, Wichit Municipality has taken over the Wat Thepnimit daycare center, where parents and other teachers say the beatings took place regularly.

The scandal unfolded on July 24 when teachers from the daycare center showed parents a video clip of their colleague, 47-year-old Pranee, beating their children.

The video was also posted on YouTube.

Angry parents gathered at the temple Friday last week to demand explanations

as to why this abuse took place, and why all of the other teachers had been sacked in response to the incident.

After a meeting last Sunday between the temple abbot, temple committee members, teachers and parents, it was agreed that responsibility for the school would be handed to Wichit Municipality and the four teachers who had been fired would be rehired.

Pranee, however, has not been asked to come back to the school.

“Right now we are questioning parents whose children were beaten by Kru Kiew. Right now there are three families, but we expect more to come forward,” Phuket City Police Officer Wirat Tenthong said.

“We've already charged her with child abuse and we are looking into the Child Protection Act to see whether any other charges may be applicable,” he said.

“Once we've decided on additional charges, we will ask her to come in for questioning. If she doesn't come, we will issue an arrest warrant,” he added.

Sompis Pettongnang, mother of one of the children hit in the video, said that the case is with the police and now the concern is what to do with their children.

“Most parents with children at this daycare live nearby, so we would like to see it continue operating,” she said.

— Atchaa Khamlo

New bridge opens



The Thao Srisoonthorn Bridge opened on Monday to traffic heading northbound off Phuket, while construction work continues on the rotunda on the original Sarasin Bridge that remains alongside.

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This Week

Relic theft fears laid to rest

Archaeologist explains that ancient beads and other artifacts have been kept for research. **Pages 5**

Business



MBK to add a Kathu mall to its growing Phuket presence. **Page 10**

Livewire



Woody Leonhard tells why Phuket 3G is a success. **Page 12**

Aviation



An in-depth look into Thai's Phuket-Denmark flight. **Page 15**

Film



Captain America shows us why he is the first avenger. **Page 17**

Sport



Paul Larsen aims to be set world sailing speed record. **Page 43**

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Safety project to leave road to Rawai divided

By Chutharat Plerin

THE Land Transport Office has announced that construction of a median strip along Wiset Road from Chalong Circle all the way to Rawai will begin this month.

The road will have at least five U-turn breaks.

The project is part of a government strategy to decrease fatal road accidents that was announced by the Phuket Provincial Land Transport Office Chief, Teerayut Prasertpol, on Monday.

"Our target is to reduce traffic fatalities [on this road] to zero," Teerayut Prasertpol said.

"When the project is finished, there might be some accidents but they won't be fatal," he added.

Mr Teerayut went on to explain that the initial plan – designed by Surathani Highway Department – incorporated four U-turns.

"However, locals were not comfortable with that plan, and after consideration, we added an extra U-turn," he said.

"In addition to the median and U-turns, local police will create special zones alongside the road for hawkers to sell their products to motorists," he said.

Mr Teerayut explained that by doing so, the road is hoped to be-



Traffic trundles along Wiset Road, which is to have a median strip from Chalong Circle to Rawai Beach. Inset: Teerayut Prasertpol

come orderly and look organized.

The news follows an announcement in May that Wiset Rd was Phuket's choice for the nationwide White Road Project, an initiative in which every province chose one road on which to in-

crease road safety awareness with active participation from local residents.

"We chose Wiset Rd because it is a straight yet sloped road where a lot of serious accidents occur due to fast driving," he explained.

Swede scam debt ends in remorse killing

From page 1

travelled to Phuket three weeks ago, eventually renting the house across from him.

A knife, a gun and a plastic band for tying their victim's wrists had been prepared for the attack.

After their escape, the men went to the Anda Place hotel in Thalang, where they had already rented a room.

Leaving the motorcycle behind, they moved to the Surin Sweet Hotel.

Ljung's blood-soaked shirt and a knife had been collected from

their room but a gun was not found, Maj Gen Pekad said.

Mr Soderland and Mr Ljung were taken back to The Lantern on Wednesday to go over details of the crime.

Mr Soderland told the *Gazette* that they bought the .32-caliber handgun in Bangkok and that they had no intention of killing Mr Schantz.

They wanted to use the weapons only to intimidate him into returning 2 million baht.

"I regret his death...I am very sorry for his family," Mr Soderland said.

Dutch tourists in Bangla brawl

POLICE have yet to complete their investigation into two Dutch tourists being beaten in Patong in the early hours of Monday morning.

"We have checked the CCTV footage, but we have not come to any conclusions yet," said Patong Police Deputy Superintendent Lt Col Kittipong Khlaikaew.

"One problem that we have so far is that the tourists could not identify any of the assailants or any license plate numbers of the vehicles involved," he added.

The incident involves a report of two men, named as Unubovd Alcawbimel, 19, and Bootaman Frans Jelle, 20, allegedly being attacked by minibus drivers.

The fight broke out after the tourists refused to pay 1,000 baht



Tuk-tuks parked across Soi Bangla.

in damages after one of them walked into a parked minibus shortly after they left Soi Bangla at about 2:45am.

A police officer nearby tried to intervene, but was allegedly re-

strained by the assailants. To end the fracas, the policeman fired a warning shot into the air.

The Dutchmen were later admitted to Patong Hospital for treatment to injuries sustained in the fight.

One report said members of the local driver consortium set up a blockade in front of Soi Bangla. The drivers dispersed only after Patong Police Superintendent Col Arayaphan Pukbuakao spent more than an hour negotiating with them.

"The two tourists are fine now," Lt Col Kittipong said on Wednesday.

"They are still traveling in Thailand. They went to Phi Phi Island yesterday," he said.



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HOLIDAY INN RESORT PHUKET MAI KHAO BEACH

Drownings continue at Karon Beach

ROUGH surf at Karon Beach claimed another life last Sunday when a Russian tourist entered the water despite warnings from lifeguards.

Uten Singsom, who heads the Kata-Karon Phuket Lifeguard Club contingent, told the *Gazette* that Sergey Pronichev, 38, entered the water in front of the M Venpick hotel at around 4pm.

"It was right around low tide, the waves at that time were close outs, which are also known as 'break neck' waves, and he did not listen to warnings from our lifeguards and swam where red flags had been posted," Mr Uten said.

Mr Pronichev ran into trouble when he became stuck in a rip tide and was then hit from behind by two or three consecutive waves of about two to three meters in height, after which he floated motionless in the water, Mr Uten explained.

"Lifeguards used a jet-ski to bring him back to shore. They administered CPR and managed to revive him, but his pulse was weak. He was taken to Patong Hospital, where I believe he passed away," Mr Uten said.

Lifeguards pull up to eight people from rip tides in Karon every day. The drowning adds to two others in Karon last month.

Power problem forces Hope to pass Phuket by

THE MV *Logos Hope*, the 132-meter ship that is home to the world's largest floating library, has canceled its scheduled stop in Phuket.

The ship was to drop anchor at Phuket Deep Sea Port from August 17 to 28.

However, it will now depart its current port of Visakhapatnam, India, on August 13 and set sail directly for Penang in Malaysia, bypassing Phuket altogether.

Thai volunteer Yuttakorn "Jimmy" Kriengparinyakij told the *Phuket Gazette* that

the ship's engine is experiencing "a technical problem" and that the captain decided to head directly to Malaysia to have the engine repaired while maintaining the ship's scheduled visits there.

"All the ship's crew are very sorry to cancel the trip to Phuket. We hope to come back soon, maybe next year," he said.

The *Logos Hope* will visit Penang and Port Klang before heading to Kuching and Kota Kinabalu on Borneo.

Project Manager Heverton Muniz denied

that the decision to bypass Thailand was in any way related to the dispute over the Crown Prince and the aircraft impounded in Germany, the country where GBA Ships, the foundation that operates the *Logos Hope*, is based.

"No, it has nothing related to that. It is just one of our generators, we have been having some technical difficulties so we cannot come to Phuket now. We have to go to a place where we can fix this problem," Mr Muniz said.

— Pimwara Choksakulpun

Pian lays bare 'pipe dreams'

By Janpen Upatising

PATONG municipality this week announced plans to spend 10 million baht to address the worsening wastewater pollution problems smearing Phuket's most popular tourist town.

"We will use the budget to install more PE (polyethylene) pipes and construct a new cesspool within the year," Patong Mayor Pian Keesin told a meeting on Monday.

"The budget will come from an Environmental Fund loan which I expect will be approved within three to six months," he added.

The council meeting was held to address concerns that Patong's wastewater treatment system has long reached capacity.

Council member Sahat Charoongklin told the meeting, "Many boat crews told me there's



The polyethylene pipes to be installed aim to reduce the volume of untreated wastewater flowing into Patong Bay.

a lot of sewage and waste in the sea at Patong and sometimes the seawater turns a yellowish color.

"Even if some hotels use their own wastewater treatment pools

before releasing it into canals and the sea, they are not up to standard.

"I would like government officers to go check at the beach

front when there's heavy rain to see that sewage is coming from the wastewater treatment plants that are not working properly," he said.

Mayor Pian agreed and went on to explain some of the reasons for the inefficiencies in the current wastewater management system.

"The PE pipes and cesspool we have now are insufficient due to the increasing number of hotels," he said.

"Patong Municipality's wastewater treatment plant can intake 23,000 cubic meters of wastewater and there are already 20,000 cubic meters of wastewater entering the system.

"However, 25 per cent of the wastewater, or about 5,000 cubic meters, is not going through the system.

"The new piping and cesspool will help to curb this," he added.

Hurling boulders still threaten resort

HEAVY rains in Phuket last week caused more boulders to hurtle downhill into the L'Orchidee Residences in Patong.

Although the boulders were smaller than the original two-tonne "devil's marbles" that crashed into the resort at the beginning of July, they have still caused damage and much concern, said Wassana Yukhunthong, the resort's public relations manager.

"Right now we are still obtaining quotations to fix the original damage, which is likely to cost more than 200,000 baht, so we can hand that to our insurance company.

"These latest boulders, although smaller than the two-tonne rocks that crashed into the resort earlier this month, may well cost an extra 50,000 baht," Ms Wassana said.

She explained that the smaller boulders were likely pinned against trees halfway down the hill from the construction site above. They may have become dislodged after heavy rains during the week, and started tumbling into the resort.

"We keep asking Prasert 'Opal' Auksornprommarat, the construction foreman, to clear the rocks on the hill for us, but he always postpones it. The last time we spoke he said he would do it on Friday morning," Ms Wassana said.



L'Orchidee Residences managing director Jean Jacques Gramond keeping an eye out for boulders.

However, Thanachart "Aod" Pibuncharoenpol, who was hired by Opal to operate the backhoes at the construction site, told the *Gazette*, "My contract finished on July 26. Right now, if any rocks roll down the hill, it is not my re-

sponsibility. None of my backhoes are at the site anymore. The ones there are not mine."

However, Mr Aod did accept responsibility for the boulders unleashed up until July 26.

In the meantime, the resort is footing the bill for providing temporary accommodation for residents who have had to move out of their damaged bungalows, said Ms Wassana.

— Atchaa Khamlo

Charges dropped against Puravarna boss Granville

ACCUSED British fraudster Steven James Granville was released from prison on July 25 after being in custody for 16 months, the Phuket Prison Chief confirmed to the *Phuket Gazette*.

Chief Rapin Nichanon said that all charges against Mr Granville, former CEO of Puravarna Hotels & Resorts, were dropped.

Mr Granville was arrested on

fraud charges in 2010. He allegedly scammed customers around the world by taking payment for residential properties that were never completed.

Mr Granville served time in Klong Prem Prison in Bangkok and was then sent to Phuket Provincial Prison on October 23, 2010, while Phuket Provincial Court investigated the case.

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Van oversteer



THREE people were lightly injured early last Sunday when a passenger van slammed into two buffalo, killing both.

The driver, identified as 43-year-old Suchart Kaow-ian, was taking two foreign tourists from Phuket Airport to Patong when his Toyota minibus struck the two beasts in front of the Shell service station on Thepkasattri Road southbound in Thalang.

One of the animals was pinned under the vehicle, while the other was catapulted onto the median strip.

Mr Suchart faces possible charges of reckless driving causing injury, while the owner of the two buffalo may also be charged – if he can be found.

A rescue worker at the scene said the two buffalo paid the ultimate price for being “so reckless” in wandering out onto Phuket’s deadliest stretch of asphalt. Photo: Wichai Witthawat

‘Lanky Gecko’ and his house of lizards

AN ANIMAL-crazy man in Chiang Mai has shackled up in an apartment with 23 large geckos and chameleons, living with the lizards as if they were pet cats and dogs.

When a reporter from *Khao Sod* visited Suti Saelim’s apartment in Fa Ham subdistrict, there were lizards everywhere: under the bed, on the mattress, on the windows, on the bathroom walls and even inside the wardrobe.

Mr Suti, who makes a living washing cars and has the nickname “Yong Tukkae” (Lanky Gecko), likes to lie on his bed with the normally shy creatures sitting on top of him.

He said geckos and chameleons weren’t afraid of each other and were able to live together without trouble.

Mr Suti brings the lizards to his home in plastic boxes and baskets. He watches them for seven days to see which of them eats food that he offers – these are the ones

QUEER news

he can tame. Any geckos that he has to feed by hand or that won’t open their mouths will die in the end.

He gives names to those he chooses to keep and tries to learn their personalities. Then he trains them to sit on his shoulder.

The hardest part is teaching them to stay on his shoulder while he rides his motorcycle. Mr Suti said geckos usually jumped off in fear at first, but after four or five times they learned to keep hold.

Mr Suti has five fully domesticated geckos that sleep with him in his bed: Mr Pao, Mr Small, Mr Non, Mr Big and John.

Mr Non enjoys listening to music with Mr Suti, though the

others are afraid of it and run away from the sound.

Mr Suti also has two chameleons, Mr Bird and Mr Joe, which took about a month to train. Chameleons are easier to train than geckos, he said.

“I love geckos,” said Mr Suti. “If any house has a gecko and the children are afraid of it, I’m happy to come and grab it. If it’s a big one, I’ll even pay money for it.”

Mr Suti said that geckos were worth a lot of money because some foreigners like to dry them and make medicine out of them. “Geckos only bring benefits, there’s no downside,” he said.

Mr Suti said he was looking to buy and tame a monitor lizard too. “I think it’s probably like training geckos. It’s probably not hard.”

“These days I work washing cars and I use the money to get by and keep animals that I like,” he said.

– *Khao Sod*

Town still ‘tops’ for drug busts

PHUKET Town has maintained its place as the top district in upper southern Thailand for drug crime, an accolade the popular tourist town has held for the past three years, a Bangkok health official was told last Saturday.

The news was revealed at a meeting of the Phuket Provincial Anti-Drug Committee at Provincial Hall.

Regular chiefs on the committee include Police Commander Peadar Tantipong, Phuket Public Health Office (PPHO) chief Dr Sak Tanchaikul, and Phuket Provincial Administration department chief Nantasak Boonanak.

The meeting was held specifically to update visiting official Dr Boonruang Trairuangworawat, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Medical Services (DMS) in Bangkok, which plays a central role in the government’s nationwide crackdown on drugs.

From October 2010 to June 2011 there were 397 cases of drugs being seized in Phuket Town, said Phuket policy and planning analyst Suriyan Dechraksa.

He explained that the statistics were compiled by the regional office of the Narcotics Control Board (NCB), which covers Nakhon Sri Thammarat, Surat Thani, Phuket, Krabi, Phang Nga, Ranong and Chumphon.

Surat Thani City ranked second with 310 cases and Nakhon Sri Thammarat third with 297.

Koh Samui floated into third place with 229 cases, but fourth



More arrests mean more inmates in Phuket’s overcrowded prison.

and fifth places landed back on Phuket with 147 cases in Kathu district and 146 in Thalang, he said.

Meanwhile, 109 cases of drugs being seized were recorded in Krabi Town, but only 103 were recorded on Koh Pha-ngan, the island off Koh Samui made notorious for its full moon parties.


However, the statistics showed a huge drop in the number of drug cases during the same period the previous year.

From October 2009 to September 2010, Phuket Town recorded 2,322 cases of drugs being seized.

Despite the fall in the number of cases, Mr Suriyan said, “Phuket has been in First Place for drug seizures for the past three years and the problem seems to be growing.”






Maj Gen Peadar added, “Although the NCB statistics show a big decrease in the number of drug cases so far this year, if we compare month by month to last year’s statistic, the number of cases varies greatly. Some months we have many more than the year before.”

– *Chutharat Plerin*





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Ancient beads in safe hands

Locals became alarmed when the 2,000-year-old beads were removed from public viewing at Thalang National Museum

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

AN INQUIRY into the whereabouts of ancient beads, ceramic vases and glass shards excavated by a Phuket archaeological team in 2005 has revealed that the artifacts are safe on the island.

The relics are all estimated to be more than 2,000 years old.

A letter of complaint was filed with the Crime Suppression Division by Sutha Pratheep Na Thalang on March 14.

The letter, submitted on the behalf of the "people of Phuket", claimed that the beads were not put on display at Thalang National Museum, as required by Thai law.

Reports made by Thai TV Channel 3 called the archaeologists who found the beads into question, but Capt Boonyarit Chaisuwan of the 15th Regional Office of Fine Arts – and a member of the excavation team who found the beads – announced last month that the beads were still in Phuket.

Capt Boonyarit explained to Mr Sutha and members of the Phuket media that the beads were collected on two separate occasions.

They were put on display in March this year, but then removed so further research and study could be conducted on them.

"Every step of the way, my



Beads and glass were discovered by archaeologists at a site in Ranong (above) before being sent to Thalang National Museum in Phuket (below).



exploration has had many witnesses including my staff, villagers and media. They were all allowed to monitor the excavations," Capt Boonyarit said.

The first dig was in Ranong in 2005 and a second was in a

different Ranong district in 2010.

More than 1,000 samples were collected, including etched beads, rouletted ware, crystal stones and stone instruments used to make the beads.

Capt Boonyarit explained that the beads were not kept on permanent display at the museum for safety reasons as well as research.

"Thalang National Museum is not the safest place to display these precious national artifacts and I need to conduct a more in-depth study on them," he explained.

Mr Sutha said he was satisfied with the explanation and that it was good to know the beads were still safe in Phuket.



A young boy digging at the archaeological site in Ranong.

Anchalee endorsed as MP for Phuket

THE Election Commission of Thailand confirmed Democrat candidate Anchalee Vanich Thepabutr as Phuket's second Member of Parliament last week, ending speculation over her endorsement.




Mrs Anchalee

Mrs Anchalee was confirmed as MP for Phuket 1 constituency last Wednesday, while Democrat MP Raywat Areerob – Phuket's other MP – told the *Phuket Gazette* that his position was endorsed on July 21.

The endorsements were delayed pending investigations into complaints of election law breaches.







Mrs Anchalee was Secretary-General to outgoing Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva before being re-elected to represent Phuket in Parliament.

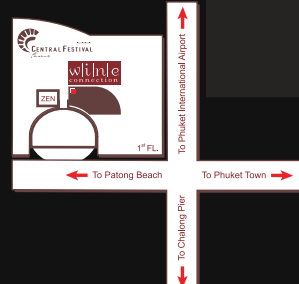
Her husband, Tossaporn Thepabutr, the former representative of Phuket 1 constituency, did not contest the seat this time around.



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Heat on in rescue drill

By Chutharat Plerin

EMERGENCY service agencies staged their annual coordinated sea rescue drill off Phuket's east coast late last week, simulating a tourist boat catching fire after colliding with a cargo ship.

The exercise aimed to improve coordination among a battery of rescue personnel from different agencies, including police, health officials and hospital staff, the Royal Thai Navy, local administration organizations and related departments from Phang Nga and Krabi.

Heading the simulation was the Phuket office of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM).

"The simulation was a tourist boat loaded with passengers departing from Ao Por Pier to Phang Nga Bay. The boat crashed into a cargo ship because of strong winds," explained Mongkol Temrat, DDPM-Phuket's policy and planning analyst.

During the simulation, the crew tried to extinguish the burning boats, but failed as planned.

The crew then called 19 1 and witnesses on shore called Pa Khlok Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*).

Simulating a scenario too big for Thalung police and the *OrBorTor* to handle, the Mayor in turn called in the Royal Thai Navy and emergency response departments for help.

EMS teams arrived and rescue teams on speedboats and dinghies came to the rescue.

"The 'injured' were taken for triage at a mobile hospital set up on the pier, staffed with medical teams from Vachira, Mission, Bangkok and Phuket International hospitals," said Mr Mongkol.

"The 'casualties' for the day



Emergency medical response staff tend to one of the rescued 'survivors' at the scene. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

were 25 people injured and three people reported missing," he added.

No helicopters were used in the exercise this year.

"We wanted to focus on the response by emergency medical service teams specifically in case no helicopters were available to render assistance," explained DDPM-Phuket chief Udomporn Karn.

Staff from the Karon Municipality Sea Rescue Center, which has had to cope with two major sea search and rescue operations in the past three weeks, were included in the exercise.

"Our rescue team was in the exercise today. We learned much more about working as a team in conducting rescues," said Supachai Junphet, chief of the center.

He said saving tourists from



The exercise simulated two boats colliding and catching fire.

drowning at Karon Beach had become a top priority.

"We will hold a meeting soon to discuss how to prevent tourists from drowning or at least what we can do to make swimming at Karon Beach safer," he said.

DDPM-Phuket chief Udomporn praised the Karon cen-

ter for its impact so far at what is fast gaining a reputation as Phuket's most dangerous beach.

"They can handle rescue situations by themselves. They have their own rescue center and Navy officers in charge who have a lot of rescue experience. We had to learn from them," he said.

Test center to boost drug convictions

A HEALTH Ministry center in Phuket is now conducting drug tests on urine and blood samples provided by police in a move that is expected to boost the number of drug convictions in Phuket.

The tests are being conducted at the Regional Medical Sciences Center in Phuket, on Thepkrasattri Road in Thalung.

Kamon Foihirun, the center's director, explained to the *Gazette* that police in Phuket previously had to send urine and blood samples to centers in Surat Thani or Trang.

The delay in sending samples outside the province often meant the samples were too old by the time they were tested for verification, and the results did not match those of the original test, ruled Provincial Police Deputy Commander Komol Wattarakorn.

Without positive confirmation, the provincial prosecutor cannot proceed with a case. In many instances, people who admitted to having used drugs were allowed to avoid prosecution in this way, Col Komol said.

"We should have test results ready within three days, but the appropriate paperwork will require five to seven days to complete the process," said the center's director Mr Kamon.



Faster turnaround times for urine tests means more convictions.

Phuket marks start of Ramadan fasting

MUSLIM families across Phuket on Monday marked the first day of Ramadan with evening prayers and their first day of fasting.

The holy month began in Thailand after Sheikhul Islam Aziz Phitakkhumphol announced the witnessing of Sunday's moonrise.

The announcement was posted on the official Sheikhul Islam Office website: www.skthai.org

Bamroong Samphaorat, President of the Phuket Islamic Committee, explained that the last day of Ramadan will be announced later.

"It should be on August 29 or 30," he said.

In addition to daily prayers, there will be a special thanksgiving prayer held on the evening of August 11 to honor Mother's Day in Thailand and the birthday of HM Queen Sirikit on August 12, said Mr Bamroong.



A family gathers at Yameay Mosque for their evening meal after the first day of fasting for Ramadan.

"Phuket Muslims welcome all to join us at the office of the Phuket Islamic Committee in Koh Kaew [at Muslim Wittaya Phuket School] to celebrate Mother's Day. The mass prayer begins at 7pm," he said.

— Pimwara Choksakulpan



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New Gov't faces tough times

HRH Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn on Monday opened Thailand's new Parliament, which is expected to vote in Yingluck Shinawatra as the country's first female prime minister.

Mrs Yingluck has a daunting task ahead of her, with an ambitious policy program to implement while bringing about national reconciliation.

On Tuesday, Parliament elected the Pheu Thai Party's Somsak Kiatsuranont as House Speaker after Apiwan Wiriyachai made an abrupt decision to withdraw from the race over the previous weekend.

According to the Constitution, Parliament has 30 days to elect a new prime minister, though the vote was expected to have taken place by the time of publication.

Mrs Yingluck leads a 300 MP six-party coalition government after her Pheu Thai Party won 265

AROUND THE nation

of 500 seats in the July 3 general election.

The party has a highly ambitious policy program to implement. Among campaign pledges are a national daily minimum wage of 300 baht, a policy that is already attracting fierce opposition from vested business interests.

The party has also promised to provide every school child with a tablet PC and some very ambitious infrastructure projects, such as a 300,000-rai land reclamation project in the Bay of Bangkok to protect the city from flooding. The party has promised to build a new city on the reclaimed land.



MP Somsak was confirmed as the new House speaker. Photo: AFP

Mrs Yingluck faces the formidable task of keeping Thailand's deeply polarized political factions happy.

Key among those factions are the red shirts, the political move-

ment that held huge street protests in 2009 and 2010 aimed at forcing former prime minister Abhisit Vejjajiva to hold elections.

The red shirts are demanding justice for some 90 people who were

killed during the army crackdown on their protest, though Mrs Yingluck will need to accomplish this without antagonizing the military.

Analysts are already questioning how long her government will last. Two previous governments aligned with her brother Thaksin Shinawatra were removed through judicial decisions since the September 2006 coup that ended Mr Thaksin's own government.

Pavin Chachavalpongpun, a political scientist at the Institute for Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore, recently told the *Financial Times* he believed a full campaign against Mrs Yingluck was likely to take some time to emerge.

"She received overwhelming popular support, so it might be too much to do something at this time," he said. "I think it is bound to happen but I don't think it will be too soon."

Thailand to pay jet bond



GROUNDING: The airplane has been detained at Munich Airport in Germany since July 12. Photo: AFP

THE Thai Foreign Minister announced on Tuesday that the Government will pay for the release of a Boeing 737 that was impounded by insolvency officials last month at Munich Airport as part of a long-running financial dispute.

The move appears to have been prompted by an offer made by HRH Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn to pay the bond with his own funds, *The Nation* reported.

"The government will pay the 20-million-euro bond itself, to make clear that the Crown Prince has no involvement in the case which is between the government and a private company," Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya said.

On July 20, a German court ruled that the aircraft, which has been used by the Crown Prince in recent years as his private jet, could be released if the Thai government paid the guarantee.

The government initially refused to pay the deposit, arguing that the plane was the property of the Crown Prince.

According to a statement issued by his secretariat on Monday, the Crown Prince wanted to end the dispute quickly and did not wish his name to be involved in it any longer as it tarnished his reputation.

German insolvency officials seized the plane on July 12.

Call for Lese Majeste charges to be dropped

THE Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) has called for Thailand to drop Lese Majeste charges filed against a jailed magazine editor.

Somyot Prueksakasemsuk, former editor of the *Voice of Thaksin* magazine, now faces up to 30 years in prison.

Mr Somyot was arrested on April 30 in connection with two articles in the now-defunct publication that appeared to be critical of the monarchy.

"The growing official use of Lese Majeste charges to stifle free expression has greatly undermined Thailand's democratic credentials and done more harm than good to the institution the laws are designed to protect," Shawn Crispin, the senior Southeast Asia representative of the CPJ, told the German Press Agency.

Mr Somyot was charged with two counts of Lese Majeste last Monday.

Article 112 of Thailand's criminal code forbids criticism of Thailand's King, Queen and Crown Prince.

"Whoever defames, insults or threatens the King, Queen, the Heir-apparent or the Regent, shall be punished with imprisonment of three to fifteen years," the article says.

Statistics obtained by *The Associated Press* from Thailand's Office of the Attorney General show that 36 Lese Majeste cases were sent for prosecution last year, compared to 18 in 2005 and just one in 2000.

In recent months, hundreds of writers, filmmakers, lawyers and journalists signed petitions calling for Article 112 to be reformed.

The hidden cost of personal insecurity

IT HAS been a dire week for tourists, one that sends a clear message to the authorities that they really do need to start addressing critical issues in Phuket.

Last Sunday, days after lifeguards boosted patrols at Karon Beach, a Russian tourist drowned at that very beach.

Later that night, two Dutchmen walking down a street in Patong were beaten by minivan drivers while a policeman standing by was rendered helpless by associates of the thugs. Even a warning shot fired into the air had little effect. The beating stopped only when the perpetrators decided to stop.

Then a foreign expat had his throat slashed on a private estate where he lived.

If the authorities want to learn how fickle a tourism industry can be, they are certainly on the right track. Drownings, beatings and murders are a fine recipe for killing a tourism industry.

Violent crime alone killed tourism to Jamaica, which decades ago ruled as the bastion of tourism in the Caribbean. For more than 20 years now, that tropical isle has been struggling to regain its status as a major tourism destination.

What is crucial to understand is that tourists do not think in statistical terms of what actually might kill them on holiday. They think in plain, self-interest terms like, "Could this happen to me or my family?" That's why tourists don't wear helmets and still drink and drive. That's what those particular tourists came here for. But fears that they might be attacked while simply walking down a street, or drown in surf they want to swim in, will deter even the most adventurous from coming.

And for the record, just so it is clearly spelled out: repeated reports of the same type of incident mean that it is no longer isolated. It is commonplace.

Some people willingly place themselves in jeopardy, but the vast majority do not. Arguments that the people who drowned ignored warnings are not enough. Telling people that they must beware of "bad people" is not enough. The mindset that people must take ultimate care of themselves while they are here must go. Tourists do not expect to be lured into the lion's den.

Dismissing incidents of crime by claiming that the foreigners themselves were of "low caliber", or that they were troublemakers – even if true – would mean that we would have to ask ourselves why such people would be attracted to Phuket.

Public image and reputation are more than road shows. Blaming the media for reporting violence betrays an ugly assumption that tourists are somehow naïve or massively ignorant.

So far, the main tourism-attraction strategy would appear to have been: "Let's hold our road shows in countries that don't know all this yet." Let's just see how long that lasts.

– The Editor



Lessons in hitting kids

Re: Gazette online, Phuket daycare teacher charged over child beatings, August 1

I am really happy that someone took action. Teachers who need to resort to beating are not good teachers at all.

I have a daughter at a prominent private school in Phuket who is telling me similar stories. Last month I witnessed a beating myself. I was too late with my phone camera, so there is not much I can do.

The director at the school did not respond to my email about it but I'm not leaving it at that.

Tinkerbell
Gazette forum

Letters to the Editor

Thalang traffic lights toward Cherng Talay.

I have always seen most buffalo cross very cautiously and wait for the cars to stop. Crashes only occur when high speeds are involved.

I have no doubt that very high speed was the cause of this accident.

Robin
Gazette forum

to school. The pilot had no choice but to turn back and safety was first and that's excellent, but Thai Airways clearly wastes money running planes like this for one hour flights.

A Williams
Gazette forum

The rolling stones will never stop

Re: Gazette online, Hurtling Phuket hill boulders continue to threaten resort, July 30

Another case of "surprise" when uncontrolled development is allowed to take place. Drive between Kamala and Patong and see the ridiculous excavation allowed to be taking place with torrents of mud washing across the road.

Get ready for the future "shock, horror" when more and more problems like this occur here.

frustrated
Gazette forum

It's a vicious cycle

Re: Gazette online, Phuket police claim 'breakthrough' with drug mule bust, July 26

There is always someone in line waiting to fill the gap. The war on drugs has been a failure worldwide and Thailand is certainly no exception. The boasting of the police and other agencies involved is just that.

Phuket prison is bursting with inmates charged with drugs offenses. One hears that much of the drugs confiscated find their way back onto the streets.

It is a game that never ends. There are no heroes here.

Capealava
Gazette forum

Smartphones to the rescue

Re: Gazette online, Missing Aussie tourist found alive and well in Phuket, August 1

I guess this is one good reason to allow Google and Apple to track us? If he had only carried a cellphone, we would know where he had been.

Tracking apps work great on the wife and kids until they wise up and either turn off the phone or use mock locations.

Kfc
Gazette forum

Gas guzzler

Re: Gazette online, Phuket flight forced back to Bangkok now on the ground in Phuket, July 26

This aircraft is expensive to run and entirely wrong for the Phuket-Bangkok run.

If anyone wonders why Thai is not making money this is a reason why.

This plane should not have been doing the run. It's like using an HGV truck to take kids

In good hands

Re: Gazette online, New GM appointed for Phuket's renowned Boathouse, July 28

Under the steady hand of hotel management icon Anthony Lark, Marie Laure Fleury and staff took Trisara to six-star heights.

I am sure that she will give the new Boathouse a renewed sense of energy and class long associated with its wonderful location.

Congratulations to Marie... further, might I add, congratulations to Kata.

Sean Power
Gazette forum

Wrongfully accused

Re: Gazette online, Van crash kills two Phuket buffalo, tourists safe, July 31

My friends and I have all had close calls with the buffalo herd that lives on the Baan Don - Cherng Talay Road, between the

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Drug addictions spur lifetime of problems

FIRST PERSON

WE CURRENTLY have a lot of patients with mental problems, the majority of whom are drug addicts – most of them addicted to *ya bah* (methamphetamine).

Drugs are a serious issue nationwide and have caused many problems that we haven't fully realized.

Society is not aware of the true effect of drug use.

About 20 per cent of my patients experience mental illness while they are still using drugs, but the rest have problems a year or more after quitting drugs.

I work with more than 1,000 people who are dealing with this problem.

One patient came to see me three years after quitting *ya bah* because they saw ghosts every night.

Another man, who used *ya bah* when he was a truck driver, came to see me five years after he stopped using the drug.

He couldn't control his mood: He would be extremely jealous over his wife – extremely – for about two days, and then he'd be fine.

Then, he'd be jealous again – even more than the time before.

His wife and relatives confirmed it, that he wasn't using drugs, but was having drastic mood swings.

They had no clue why this was happening.



Dr Tappna Sumpatanarax is deputy director of Medical Personnel Training & Psychiatric Department at Vachira Phuket Hospital. He has been studying the effects of drug use on the brain for more than 10 years. Here he talks about mental problems associated with drug use and how they often appear years later.

One of my patients used to be a normal, healthy teenager, about 18 years old. His parents hired a construction company to repair their house.

One day, the boy drank some water out of the construction crew's container. He didn't know that *ya bah* had been mixed into it.

He suffered severe brain damage, had to quit school and can no longer walk normally.

It doesn't matter how much or how long you use drugs. Quitting using them doesn't mean you are 100-per-cent safe.

I check on former and current drug addicts who have attempted suicide or had suicidal tendencies.

About 50 per cent of drug users have thought about committing suicide – there is a connection between the two.

Detecting mental illness is not easy. It can be very ambiguous. I'm not going to wait for my patients to go completely insane before treating them.

Some doctors do not show this level of foresight.

In a lot of cases I don't agree that psychotherapy is the best treatment.

Drugs cause brain damage, so why don't we give patients medicine treat their brains instead of just talking to them?

The government should launch a campaign to teach people about the effects drugs can have on the brain.

Your brain can be effected in many ways: if your body is weak, stressed, diseased, injured.

The chemicals already in your body can affect your brain and illicit drugs don't help.

Detecting mental illness is not easy. It can be very ambiguous. I'm not going to wait for my patients to go completely insane before treating them.

Making changes for the better

Island View

By Howard O'Connor

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

I HAVE been pleased to see the steps being taken by Thai authorities to both curb illegal land acquisitions and also tighten zoning laws here in Phuket. It is a sign that their current outlook is not as myopic as some may believe.

One only has to spend a short time here to understand that without planning, the island is destined to become a picture of congestion and overdevelopment that will lose its appeal even to the most accepting of travellers. It is at this point that environmental and business solutions show rare convergence.

There is a long road ahead. Planning a city where there is room to expand is hard enough, doing it on an island such as Phuket is an entirely different matter, particularly when adhering to regulations.

It seems the powers that be have begun to show proper foresight but to have the most effect this understanding needs to proliferate through business owners and into the workforce. Like many other issues, when looking at the long-term survival of Phuket, qualms about corruption can be pushed aside. The island's ongoing prosperity is in the interest of every resident.

Cracking down on illegal activity is a significant step in the right direction, but it cannot be left at that. In a land where unlawful activity is rampant, clear and honest reasons need to be shown for strong opposition to crime, lest the people believe that "law enforcement" is for the benefit of those in power.

Illustrating what would occur if Phuket were not to change is essential. They don't even have to go far for examples, graphically showing the deterioration of underwater ecosystems in places such as Coral Island or Phi Phi or the rise in pollution in Nai Harn, Kata and Patong should spark interest. The severe effects that inaction will have should promote enough change if the populous is given ways they can help.

The extent of how proactive these actions and laws are also cause for optimism. It may be true that many of Phuket's best land suffers from a range of issues, but with so much more room for expansion on the east coast and the inland north, these changes and any more that will follow at least have the time to leave a lasting effect.

Phuket can end up with a level of sustainability and protected beauty that many people hope for, but the government cannot merely push with laws and investigations. Scare tactics will not win this battle alone.

The way to have lasting influence is to bring understanding to the people – even if it is on the simplest level. Though it is hard to get the ball rolling, this will make the task easier and very manageable.

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

Why price gouging at the public pool?

Having held a membership card for the public pool in Cherng Talay in the past I was very surprised to learn that foreigners no longer qualify for membership.

In the past, rates were 100 baht per visit for foreigners, while 300 baht, a photo, a medical certificate and Thai driver's license was required for a one-year membership and you only had to pay 20 baht every time you used the facilities.

Now, having been refused membership, I have to pay 60 baht every time I go.

I have owned a business here for 10 years employing 35 locals, pay tax, qualify for social security and have a Thai driver's license.

What justification does the Cherng Talay Municipality have for these new policies?

Cherng Talay Mayor Suniran Rachatapreuk replies:

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

Submit your issue at

www.P PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

We had to determine what was a reasonable fee for the Cherng Talay public pool service.

The facilities were opened to improve Cherng Talay as a community and we would like to thank everyone who has come to use them.

The money we collect is used for pool maintenance.

I do not think 100 baht is much for foreigners, it is only three to four US dollars and you get to use to use the pool all day.

This public pool was not opened as a business, but as a public service.

Even schools are allowed to use the facilities for free.

A Cherng Talay administration officer replies:

We have considered stopping foreign membership for about a year now because the pool was built to benefit the Cherng Talay community.

Foreigners are still welcome to membership at our fitness center. Fees are the same for foreigners and Thais:

1,000 baht for three-month membership;

1,630 baht for six-month membership;

2,510 baht for one-year membership.

Without a membership, foreigners must pay 100 baht and Thais 20 baht each time they use the fitness center.

Why do flight staff need to see my visa?

I recently flew from Hong Kong to Thailand with AirAsia.

At the check-in counter they asked me to produce a Thai visa

entry or evidence of a booked departure flight from Thailand.

Is this legal?

This is the only airport in which this has happened to me.

I am a Spanish citizen and I have a Thai child.

Boost Kata

Arun Lilapantisitti, AirAsia Phuket Station Manager, replies:

These procedures are in place to ensure our passengers will have no trouble entering their destination country and enjoy a safe and happy trip.

If foreign passengers do not have the required visa or their passports are almost expired, immigration officers may not grant them entry into the country and send them back to their place of origin.

This has the potential to disrupt all your travel plans.

If you would like more information, you can ask one of our operators through our live chat service on our website www.airasia.com.

When is the next US consular outreach?

I am a United States citizen and need to apply for a new passport.

Could you tell me when representatives of the US Embassy come to Phuket in 2011 to help with US citizens and there passport issues?

Sam F Phuket

Walter Braunohler, Spokesperson for the United States Embassy in Bangkok replies:

We would love for readers to know that a representative from the US Embassy will be in Phuket on September 16 to help US citizens with passport services, notaries, and answering questions about Social Security, veteran's affairs, and other federal benefits.

More information about our outreach is available at this web link:

http://bangkok.usembassy.gov/consular_outreach_fy2011.html

MBK mega mall to open in Kathu

MBK RESORT is planning to add a 500-600 million baht project to its impressive stable of properties in Phuket.

The company, a subsidiary of public company MBK, which runs the well-known MBK shopping center in central Bangkok, is already one of the biggest investors in Phuket leisure and hospitality, having poured 5-6 billion baht into the creation of the island's Loch Palm and Red Mountain golf courses.

Its Phuket portfolio will now be bolstered by this planned investment in a new community mall. The development will serve the growing community around the two golf courses, which lie adjacent to each other in Kathu subdistrict in central Phuket.

Somboon Wongrassamee, MBK Resort's managing director for golf, said the company's two courses had so far received a great

reaction from golfers.

Loch Palm, which opened in 1998, encircles a large lake and sits on 400 rai of land dotted with palm trees. Golfers can rent one of 160 buggies to make their way around the course.

The clubhouse features a restaurant, male and female locker rooms and a golf shop. It is currently undergoing a 50-million-baht renovation that is expected to be completed in November.

Red Mountain Golf Club opened in May 2007. Set on 1,400 rai, the 18-hole, 72-par course lies close to Loch Palm in a former tin mining area. The red rock of the denuded hills has been left untouched, giving the course its name.

Red Mountain features all the facilities of Loch Palm. Plans are also afoot for a 60-room boutique hotel and 10 villas to serve golfers who wish to stay near the course.

A housing project called Sabai Village is also in the pipeline.

Mr Somboon said both local Thais and foreign tourists are among Loch Palm's regular golfers. Almost all Red Mountain customers are tourists because course fees are high.

In low season, Red Mountain operates at about 30-50% capacity. In the busier high season, which runs from November to March, an average of more than 100 golfers play the course every day. Most are European, Japanese and Korean, Mr Somboon explained.

Development of the courses is expected to result in further growth in the surrounding community.

Expansion around Loch Palm has been fed by the opening of the Tinidee Hotel, which will soon be joined by the housing estate and boutique hotel that will serve Red Mountain.



ON COURSE: MBK Resort's managing director for golf Somboon Wongrassamee (second from left) at Red Mountain Golf Club.

Once the developments are complete, Mr Somboon said the company planned to build a 500-600 million-baht community mall to serve customers using the courses and the local community.

Somboon said the company also plans to launch a bachelor's

degree course in golf course management in association with Ramkhamhaeng University.

If there are no problems, the company expects to start accepting applicants by the end of this year.

— *Phuket Gazette*

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GM states her Boathouse goals

FOLLOWING in the footsteps of the legendary hotelier Louis Bronner will be Marie Laure Fleury, who has been announced as General Manager of Boathouse, the renowned 37-room boutique resort on Kata Beach, Phuket.

The news was announced last week by Narong Pattamasae, chairman of Montara Hospitality Holdings Co Ltd, who owns the Boathouse as well as the Trisara, Phuket, where Ms Fleury was Resort Manager prior to her latest appointment.

Effective immediately, Ms Fleury will oversee the reopening of the resort scheduled for October 2011, following extensive renovations.

"My primary goal is to ensure that the standing of the hotel is maintained...and to elevate it to another level. This will provide challenges, but I am confident it can be achieved. The investment in upgrading the hotel will certainly be a major help but it will mainly be the work of the team that ensures our success," Ms Fleury said.

"It is important to know that we have a tremendous opportunity to create something truly

wonderful without denigrating what was achieved beforehand by so many wonderful people.

"I am confident that through the refurbishment of the Hotel, Boathouse Wine and Grill, and the introduction of Re Ka Ta Beach Club and Spa, that the result will be a wonderful guest experience.

"My challenge at the moment is to ensure that my team is focused. We are certainly excited by the prospects ahead and we look forward to welcoming everyone upon our re-opening," she added.

A graduate of Lausanne Hotel School, Marie Laure

Fleury is a 20-year-old veteran of the hospitality business. Before her two-year tenure at Trisara, Marie was the Executive Assistant Manager of Food and Beverage at Sukhothai Hotel, Bangkok, a position she held after working at luxury hotel brands including Shangri-La and The Peninsula.

"Marie Laure Fleury will bring new concepts and quality standards to the southern end of Phuket. Her background in fine dining is an excellent match for Boathouse Wine & Grill," Mr Narong said.



Marie Laure Fleury, the new GM of Boathouse Wine & Grill.

Tourism chiefs fear wage hike

TOURISM industry bodies have slammed the upcoming Pheu Thai-led government's plans to introduce a nationwide daily minimum wage of 300 baht, claiming it will damage their businesses and drive inflation up.

The new minimum wage is likely to be piloted in Phuket, which already has Thailand's highest daily minimum wage at 221 baht per day.

The Phuket Tourist Association's (PTA) President Somboon Jirayus said he believed the scheme would have an impact on operators, particularly hotels that require a lot of labor.

Mr Somboon said the move could eventually affect the whole of the island's tourism industry, since operators would be unable to instantly raise room rates or package tour prices.

It would be better to increase wages gradually, rather than in one large jump, he said.

Thai Hotels Association adviser Methee Tanmanatragu said business operators well understand the problem posed by high living costs, admitting that raising minimum wages would help workers to get by.

President Somboon said the move could eventually affect the whole of the island's tourism industry, since operators would be unable to instantly raise room rates or package tour prices.

However, he said the new government should be circumspect in carrying out its plans because they could lead to an inflationary crisis. In the end, employers see many more problems than benefits from the plans, he said.

Meanwhile, Thanan Tanphaiboon, president of the Phuket real-estate developers association, said that he was most interested in seeing who will be in Cabinet when the new government is formed.

Negotiations are underway for ministerial portfolios in Yingluck Shinawatra's forthcoming six-party coalition government, though the names of those who will win seats have yet to be announced.

Some analysts believe that Cabinet portfolios could become a focal point for future political unrest, with key issues being who takes the powerful Defense portfolio and whether newly elected red-shirt leaders are rewarded with ministerial positions.

Mr Thanan said the security of the country was highly important, since it built investor and tourist confidence.

Phuket's real estate market depends on

the tourism industry, and when the tourism industry expands, so does the real estate market, he said.

Last month, Panthip Pornchaded, president of the Association for the Promotion of Thai Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), told the *Phuket Gazette* that the policy would hit small businesses particularly hard.

This will put a strain on the budget of businesses and SMEs in the province, which will ultimately affect their ability to turn over a profit," Ms Panthip explained.

Criticism of the policy has been reflected nationally, with the Federation of Thai Industries being among the bodies warning the policy would damage business.

Nevertheless, the business community's reaction to the policy has not been entirely negative.

Charoen Pokphand (CP) Group, the country's largest agro-business conglomerate, recently told *The Nation* that it was ready to increase minimum wages to 300 baht and new graduates' salaries to 15,000 baht per month in order to drive Thailand's growth and domestic consumption.

Suparut Kawatkul, CP Group's Finance and Investment Committee vice chairman, said Thailand should no longer rely on low wages, as such a policy had dampened the country's growth for too long.

He said figures show that Thai laborers'



Phuket Tourist Association President Somboon Jirayus Photo: Seesan

incomes are too low when compared with other workers and the overall economy.

This has created social problems and a widening of the gap between those in the lower and upper classes, Suparut said.

— Kom Chad Leuk

APEC recovering

FOREIGN direct investment (FDI) levels in the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) region rebounded significantly last year with shares of global FDI inflows more than doubling in the last five years, according to an analysis by the APEC Policy Support Unit (PSU).

Weighing in on the economic outlook, Dr Denis Hew, APEC PSU Director, explained that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Investment's (UNCTAD) forecasts that world output growth will fall to 3.2 per cent in 2011 from 3.9 per cent in 2010 and that Japan's output growth will drop to 0.7 per cent in 2011 from 3.9 per cent in 2010. He went on to say that the World Bank estimates that the damage caused by the earthquake and tsunami in Japan could be as much as US \$ 235 billion.

From 2009 to 2010, FDI levels in APEC rebounded significantly. Inflows to the APEC region grew 32 per cent, reaching US\$ 627bn, while outflows from the region grew 14 per cent, reaching US\$ 742bn.

"Although the APEC region is still falling a bit short of 2008 pre-crisis levels, it is outperforming other regions," Hew said. APEC's share of global FDI inflows rose from 32 per cent in 2005 to 50 per cent in 2010, and its share of global FDI outflows increased from 17 per cent to 56 per cent over this same period.

— APEC Policy Unit

Toyota Pearl expands for Sure

PHUKET-based car retailer, Toyota Pearl, will add an official Toyota Sure secondhand car dealership as part of the expansion of their facilities. It will be located on the corner of the Bypass Road and Thepkrasattri Road.

The dealer has registered a new company under the name Toyota Pearl Used Car Co Ltd and has begun development of an 18-rai-plot next to their existing building.

While four-rai will house the Toyota Sure dealership, the land will also include storage space for stock (six rai), a body and paint service center (three rai), and additional parking space (four rai).

"If the construction plan which began in July is not changed, most of the site will be finished in November. The body and paint service facility is a more complicated project and will take more time than the others. We plan to complete it by



TOYOTA EXPANSION: Plans are to add a Toyota Sure car dealership, a body and paint service center, and parking.

the middle of 2012," Toyota Pearl Phuket management told the *Phuket Gazette*.

Budget for the expansion, without calculation of the land cost, will be approximately 200 million baht, according to Toyota.

The project has been given to Tree Touch Engineering Co Ltd and will follow the ISO 14001 Environmental Management System.

"The regulations require us to identify the environmental impact of all our services, and then we need to locate the areas where we

can make the largest environmental improvements," added Toyota Pearl Phuket Management.

Of the items identified, the two most significant sources of hazardous waste are from purge solvents and fuel tank primers.

— Samaporn Janyanon



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AIS rollout of 3 G a success

The AIS rollout of its new wireless internet system has come and gone, and I'm duly impressed. We're seeing good – sometimes great – international download speeds, reliable signals, extensive coverage and reasonably good support, all over Phuket. Amazing.

Don't take my word for it. If you're thinking about signing-up for AIS 3G, drop by phuketinternet speed.com and see what speeds people are reporting.

At this moment, most people with AIS 3G are reporting 1.2 to 2.6 Mbps international downloads – faster than most of the landlines I discussed in Live Wire last week, and more than enough for streaming TV-quality video.

One enterprising tester reported he was getting more than 3.8 Mbps while sitting under an umbrella on Patong Beach.

AIS offers many packages, but the ones you're most likely to want are these:

Voice + 3G (for your iPhone or Android) runs 899 baht/month and includes 500 minutes of voice calls, 300 SMSs, unlimited WiFi at AIS and 3BB hotspots (there aren't many in Phuket yet), and up to 2 gigabytes (GB) of data at fast speeds.

If you don't want WiFi, get the 839 baht/month package.

3G, no Voice (for your iPad2 or Android tablet) costs 799 baht/month, including WiFi. AIS advertises this as "unlimited data" but it isn't, really.

You can get up to 3 GB per month of data at fast 3G speeds. As soon as you go over 3 GB, you're throttled back to 0.4 Mbps or less.

You can also get a prepaid SIM card, which runs 150 baht for 30 hours of voice or data, with no WiFi.

AIS also has "Pocket WiFi" (what many of us would call MyFi), a box about the size of a deck of cards, that taps into the AIS 3G network, and lets you access the network with a regular WiFi connection.

Heed the graphic on this page: if you have an iPhone 3 or one of the original iPads, it won't pick up the AIS 3G signal.

(See why I hate the term "3G"? It's all marketing – anybody can call anything "3G.") If you don't know whether your phone or tablet will work with one of Phuket's 3G networks, check the details at gsmarena.com.



Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

Will it work?

iPhone 3G or 3GS

iPhone 4

iPad 1 WiFi+3G

iPad 2 WiFi+3G

Manufacturer's USB Dongle

True "3G"
HSPA 850 MHz

AIS "3G"
HSPA 900 MHz

CAT "3G"
CDMA 1xEV-DO



BEAR IN MIND: Just because your phone says it runs 3G doesn't mean that it will run on one of the "3G" networks now available in Phuket. *Caveat emptor – let the buyer beware.*

The iPhone 3 and iPad 1 will work with True's 3G network, but at this point True's network is running about one-quarter as fast as AIS, and the coverage is still only on the extreme west coast of the island, plus Samkong in Phuket Town.

I bet True will strike back in short order, though. Let's see what happens.

To keep up on the latest Phuket internet news,

drop by one of the Sunday morning Computer Clinics. You can also follow Woody on Google+ (send an email to Woody@KhunWoody.com if you need an invitation), or on Twitter: @PhuketPC.

To see what Woody's up to in the international press, and to keep on top of the latest patches and problems with Windows and Office, drop by AskWoody.com.

Asia Pacific property market in fluctuation

The low-down on the region's economy and real estate industry – from Singapore to Hong Kong and to Japan.

LEADING asset management firm MitonOptimal recently spent a couple of weeks in Asia and drew some interesting conclusions.

There is no doubt that economic activity and business confidence in

Asia is literally "worlds apart" compared to the West. While many Asian analysts and strategists are concerned about core inflation picking up, the business newspapers make numerous observations about one clear beneficiary – and that is commercial property.

Volatility and mixed trading have continued in Asian real estate securities in the past month.

For example, in Japan, share prices of the Real Estate Operating Company (REOC) recovered from previous months' lows after better-than-expected full year earnings.

Share prices of the Japanese Real Estate Investment Trust (J-REIT)



Island Investor

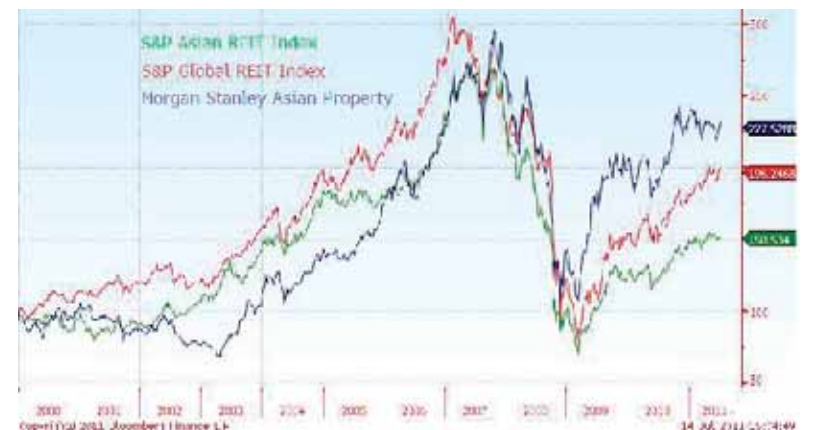
By Graham Macdonald

were weaker due to concerns that it might be difficult for the sector to raise additional equity.

In China, property stocks gained on stronger pre-sale volumes despite purchase restrictions governing major cities.

However, in Hong Kong property shares continued to underperform on negative sentiment and policy-tightening concerns for the residential sector.

The direct real estate markets in Asia saw further improvements in



The Asian REIT Index has been up and down during the last decade.

operating fundamentals during May.

In Japan, the office market was relatively unchanged two months after the earthquake. Nonetheless, premium value office space saw further improvement in vacancy rates even though "asking rents" continued to decrease.

Returning to Hong Kong, strong office demand pushed grade 'A' monthly rents up to nearly HK\$ 200 per-square-foot in prime buildings in Central, and vacancies fell below 3 per cent.

Other office submarkets, particularly Causeway Bay and Kowloon East, benefitted from tenants relocating to lower-cost alternatives. In Singapore, the office market saw steady tenant demand at monthly rents of SG\$ 13-15 per-square-foot.

Office demand also picked up for older buildings.

In the retail sector, Hong Kong retail landlords continued to enjoy strong turnover rents from robust domestic and mainland Chinese spending.

In the residential sector, transaction volumes continued to moderate in China and Hong Kong due to cautious sentiment, policy restrictions and rising interest rates. Average selling prices remained

firm to slightly improving in Hong Kong and most Chinese cities, even when developers shaved prices in selective projects to clear outstanding inventory.

In Hong Kong, secondary transactions slowed due to higher transaction taxes and tighter bank financing.

In Tokyo, condominium sale volumes declined, but held up better than expected.

The contract ratio of new launches remained healthy at above 70 per cent. In Singapore, residential transaction

ns unexpectedly improved throughout May once buyers had digested the latest policy-tightening measures.

Investment demand remained well-supported by a relatively low funding cost and a strong economic outlook in Asia.

While the chart clearly shows the 'Apha' added by Miton Optimal core property fund manager in the region over the past decade, it also shows that despite very positive fundamentals, the Asian REIT index has underperformed its Global counterpart and is not overvalued nor in bubble territory – not something that can be said for property in the Western world.

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THAI taps Scandinavia

With direct Denmark to Phuket flights launching, THAI are set to dominate the Scandinavian market



STEADY FLOW: Phuket airport receives 600,000 Scandinavian arrivals yearly.

THAI Airways International's (THAI) November launch of direct flights between Copenhagen and Phuket is a clever move, since it will fill a gap left by its Star Alliance partner, Scandinavian Airlines (SAS), which is now concentrating on routes to Bangkok.

Additionally, Norwegian Air Shuttle (NAS), Scandinavia's second-largest airline, has postponed their intended flights to Bangkok until 2013 and Feel Air, a Norwegian long-haul, low-cost airline have unconfirmed plans to operate intercontinental flights to Bangkok.

Now, with SAS ignoring a trend toward direct flights to Phuket, THAI is well-placed to cash in on Phuket's lucrative inbound Scandinavian tourist market.

SAS, which chronically loses money, is targeting Bangkok in keeping with their strategy of concentrating on lucrative Far East Asia routes.

Flights between Bangkok and Phuket are very competitive and well-served, so SAS passengers will have ease finding carriers. THAI, among

other airlines, service this route.

With THAI'S new direct route, which will start November 11, and their daily flights running the Bangkok-Copenhagen route, they are set to dominate this sector of the industry.

For the new route, a Boeing 747-400 aircraft will fly from Copenhagen to Phuket three times a week, departing on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

The Scandinavian market has long been a stronghold for Phuket. Last year Sweden, Denmark and Norway had a combined total of 600,000 visitors.

Although the number of Swedish travelers decreased by almost 10 per cent, Norwegian numbers were up by 2.45 per cent and Danish numbers increased by nearly 4 per cent.



Aviation

By Alastair Carthew

Most importantly, a majority of Swedish tourists are free independent travelers (FITs) which means they tend to spread their money around. For example, 15 FITs will eat, sleep, snack, go to theaters, art shows, opera festivals, football games, and rural villages in 15 different locations, dispensing their money through hundreds of different channels.

This compares with the charter tour group traffic, like Russians, of whom only 56 per cent are FITs, while the rest tend to spend most of their money in their hotel or at designated outlets.

In addition, Swedish arrivals had the highest average length of stay on Phuket, at 18.60 days, and averaged a daily expenditure of US\$ 102.58 (3,000 baht) per person.

These figures were lower than the Russians, another key market, who paid out US\$ 122.14 (3,600 baht) per day, but their average length of stay was only 12.48 days.

Scandinavian investment in property also remains strong in Thailand, according to *Colliers International*. Rather than investing in traditional resort properties in places like Spain and France, Scandinavians are investing here, with Phuket and Khao Lak as prime locations.

The Eastern seaboard of Thailand, including Rayong, Pattaya and across the gulf in Hua Hin is, however, where Thai-Scandinavian joint ventures are strongest.

On top of this, Norwegian Air Shuttle and Feel Air's talk of flights to Bangkok will push up these numbers to Phuket considerably once, and if, each of the airlines starts their services.

Feel Air is based in Oslo and



BEELINE: THAI'S new route will bypass the Bangkok layover many European tourists have to take. Photo: caccamo

Stockholm. It's a small carrier and follows a similar cost structure to Ireland's successful Ryan-air, and Malaysia's AirAsia. Feel Air plans to fly an Airbus A330-200 to Suvarnabhumi Airport. However, the jury is still out on whether they

can achieve this target.

Norwegian Air transported 13 million people last year with a total fleet of 60 aircraft. It will use the new Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner on long-haul routes, including routes to Bangkok. Delivery of the

aircraft has been delayed which has postponed the intended route launch until 2013.

All things considered, the direct route launch is a smart and potentially lucrative move by THAI.

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Green: the new black

Being fashionable and eco friendly

By Abby McMillin

IT seems like you can't go a day without hearing something about the state of the world's environment anymore. If you're like most people walking the globe you probably feel a little helpless and are left wondering what you can *really* change to decrease your carbon footprint. One solution starts with a glance at your own closet.

Here are five simple ways to make your wardrobe more green



BYOB: Bring your own bag

Many stores already partake in this trend, offering reusable bags for sale or not supplying bags at the check out to begin with. Take this a step further and make it a priority to say, no thanks when a store clerk starts to pack your items.

Bring a few reusable bags with you when doing your weekly shopping or put small purchases in your purse or backpack instead of accepting plastic bags.

If you continue to accumulate carrier bags, re-use them to bring your snacks to the beach or as bin liners before discarding.



FREE-FOR-ALL: Having a clothes swap party is an eco friendly way to rejuvenate your wardrobe.

Host a clothing swap party

Many people have clothes in their closets that they wore once and haven't seen since. These items shouldn't be sentenced to a life imprisoned at the back of your wardrobe. Give clothes a second chance on someone else's back. Host an event where friends bring unwanted garments and accessories to a party at your house.

Throw in some drinks and snacks and let the trading begin. This is a great alternative if you don't want to have a yard sale or don't care about making money off your items. The best part is that you're not just giving your things away; you're gaining a whole new set of outfits for yourself!



Recycle your old outfits

Many people think that being up to date with the latest fashion trends means constantly buying new clothes.

The challenge of being fashion-forward in a world of budget and time constraints is best addressed by working with what you already have. By purchasing quality, classic items your outfit will be able to take on a new look with the quick switch of a belt or necklace.

Following fleeting trends in small doses with accessories will not only save you money, but shrink the pile of unwanted clothes to get rid of next season.

Get your retail therapy some other way



Instead of buying a new outfit for each upcoming weekend, treat yourself to something else or save that money normally spent on trends and set non-fashion oriented goals for your extra cash. Take care of your body and hit the gym or get a massage.

Go for coffee with a friend or schedule a Skype date to catch up with relatives you've lost touch with. By feeling fulfilled in other areas of your life, you're less likely to make impulsive purchases in an attempt to fill a void. Instead of buying just to have something new, find a piece that you love and that will last.

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Buy second hand

Scouring the racks at a used clothing store, picking through the second hand sections of night markets and avoiding the temptation to buy new garments will do more good than you think.

By opting away from new fashion purchases you'll not only save money, but also help with recycling and support resistance to the ethical realities that go along with mass-produced clothing.

There are often hidden treasures to be found in thrift stores and resale sections of markets that you can't find on department store racks.



There are numerable benefits to going green when it comes to fashion. Not only will you feel better about helping Mother Nature, you'll get more out of your wardrobe, define a more individual sense of style, and save money in the process.

Captain America gets a thumbs up



ALL-AMERICAN HERO: The World War II backdrop provides a perfect context for the rise of this superhero.

Film

By Scott Phillips

Captain America

Director: Joe Johnston

Starring: Chris Evans, Hayley Atwell, Hugo Weaving, Tommy Lee Jones

Genre: Action/Adventure

Gazette Rating: 4/5

THERE is possibly no greater platform for a well-intended hero to rise off than the time of Hitler and his Third Reich. Steve Rogers is a congenial, sincere American boy who becomes Captain America – the superhero introduced to the world in 1941.

This was a time when comic books cost US 12 cents, and the task of distinguishing the good guys from the bad was far simpler than it is today.

Steve Rogers fits the bill for a superhero of modern cinema; an underdog with the desire to become a soldier, but whose body-type does not meet army standards.

He's so short and scrawny that he could easily pass for a starved hobbit. Rogers is knocked back repeatedly in his attempts to join the US Army due to a long list of physical handicaps, but luckily he lives in a time where fantasy readily merges with reality.

Locked away in a secret military facility is a body chamber connected to syringes filled with blue fluid, and the answer to Rogers' prayers to be a uniformed warrior.

He agrees to be the Army's guinea pig and is placed in the chamber where he is pumped full of the blue liquid and zapped with lots of electricity for good measure. Once the chamber is opened, out steps a guy who has just experienced the greatest "get ripped quick" product in history.

Captain America is the final member of the Avengers superhero team to receive an introductory film as a prelude to the massive blockbuster of the same name due out next summer.

Not only does Captain America contend with 2008's *Iron Man* for

the best of these intro films (the others are 2008's *The Hulk* and this year's *Thor*); it's one of the best comic book movies to be released in the past decade. That's no small feat since it seems a new comic book flick comes out every second week these days.

In addition to its romanticized World War II backdrop, the film works because of its good-hearted nature. Steve Rogers (Chris Evans) shows similar characteristics to Peter Parker (Spider-Man) – a bullied but genuine outsider, with an unwavering dedication to do the right thing.

Those aspects connect with a wide audience of comic-book-loving fanboys – both grown and young, who make up the anchor audience for these films. Combine that with a good story that just about everyone else can appreciate, and you've got a hit movie.

A key to the film's success is giving Captain America plenty of on-screen time as the skinny character who can't catch a break. Dubbed "skinny Steve" by the filmmakers, the director Joe Johnston insisted on using the real Chris Evans as skinny Steve, employing camera tricks and after-effects to make him look just under 45 kilos.

The technique does more than make Evans look small – it makes you stare at him compulsively. Audiences will notice the way he moves, walks and talks, perhaps giving him a stronger identity than any of his fellow Avengers.

When the skinny Rogers sits next to the girl that we know will become the love interest when he's beefed up, you can't help but be excited for him.

Joe Johnston was an appropriate choice for director, having directed the almost forgotten World War II fantasy adventure *The Rocketeer*.

Visually, the film is brilliant. There is a certain hue that has become popular with World War II era films; a subtle sepia tone that echoes classics such as *Gone with the Wind* and *Casablanca*. Without ever feeling like he's trying too hard, Johnston manages to capture the era perfectly.

There isn't much reference to

the Holocaust in the film – probably a smart move, considering it's a summer popcorn flick – but it does evoke the notion of duty and sacrifice that has come to define the Allied forces during World War II. Somewhere in between having watched "skinny Steve" take a beating for defending soldiers, and later falling on a dummy gre-



AVENGER: Captain America is the last team member to be introduced.

nade to protect his fellow recruits, he embodies the character that history has assigned to the youth of that era.

For anyone who is worried that all of this character setup is at the expense of the big action, fear not. *Captain America* is one of many modern blockbusters to bill its own "explosives engineer" in the

credits. Buildings, planes and an industrial plant the size of a small island all get blown to pieces during the film. Once the Captain decides he's got what it takes to fight, nothing is spared.

Stick around for the end of the film's credits to see the first official trailer for next year's *The Avengers*.

Image courtesy of Singapore Tourism Board.



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Keeping a hot dog cool

ONE of the main questions dog owners ask in Phuket is should I shave my dog's fur coat? It seems logical: we look at our panting dogs and think that we couldn't cope with a fur coat all day, so clearly they can't. But we're applying human logic to a canine problem. I'll spare you the science of Newton's Law of Cooling and its relation to dog fur, but the truth is, dogs need their coats. In a number of situations it is important to consider that dogs are not humans. You're right to be concerned about your pet, particularly on those scorching hot days here in Phuket, but there are lots of things we can do to keep them cool and comfortable. However, as a general rule, shaving their fur doesn't make the list. In fact, shaving can do more harm than good in many cases.



Dog Whisperer
By Russell D Russell



Grooming helps. Photo: Mark Handy

NATURAL SUNBLOCK

When human beings get hot, we sweat. It's our cooling mechanism. Dogs don't sweat to cool themselves, but they do have sweat glands in their paws which play a tiny role in their overall thermoregulation.

Panting is their main source of keeping cool, so having exposed skin doesn't bring any practical benefit. However, it can bring harmful side effects.

A dog's coat acts as insulation from the sun's harmful UV rays,



FAUX PAS: Shaving your dog doesn't do it any favors. Photo: Luke Larsson

preventing penetration to the skin. We use factor 50, they use fur.

It also prevents the skin from overheating, sunburn, heatstroke or worst of all, skin cancer.

If properly maintained, a dog's coat will allow for good circulation of air. Regular grooming will keep the hair mat-free, and removes dead hair that can build up in the coat. This will create a breathable barrier that allows the dog to regulate body temperature naturally.

An exceptionally thick, packed or matted coat will prevent healthy air-circulation needed for cooling, and will make it difficult for your

pet to stay comfortable in the heat.

If the coat is in good condition and you want to remove weight, it can be shortened using a guard comb that will leave the hair longer while retaining that protective barrier from the sun.

DOUBLE UP

Certain breeds, such as German shepherds, labradors, golden retrievers, huskies and numerous others, have double coats (a top coat and an undercoat) which should never be shaved.

These coats also grow to a certain length, stop and then shed out – hence the constant Hoovering! Despite being more pronounced at certain times in the year, it happens all year round. This is an important function of a healthy coat and skin, and does not stop just because you shave the coat short.

When the coat is shaved short, the hair may lack the weight to fall out naturally. And the task of a regular brush and bath to encourage dead hair removal becomes even more important.

If this is not done, hair follicles may become clogged and problems such as poor or no hair regrowth, color change, blocked follicles and skin problems can result. Weekly brushing with a shedding blade or



QUENCHED: Ensure Fido always has access to water. Photo: Thomas Ricker



JUST CHILLIN': Providing a shallow pool for your pooch helps them cool off on hot Phuket days. Photo: Sheeshoo

hound glove and monthly bathing can help prevent this.

You should also be aware that even with good post-shave care, some dog's coats do not grow back in the same way they did prior to shaving. Other dogs can develop bald patches and their coat condition can decline from constant clipping, not to mention that dogs may also continue to scratch as if they still have a coat, which can irritate and damage freshly-clipped skin, creating hot spots.

So rather than reaching for the clippers, reach for a brush.

KEEP COOL

Of course keeping our dogs cool on those hot sticky days is vitally

important, but rather than adding fuel to the fire by shaving their fur, there are some other things to try. Always ensure your dog has access to plenty of fresh, clean water and lots of shade.

Provide a shallow paddling pool for them to lie in, but make sure to refresh the water frequently and don't leave it under direct sunlight. Purchasing trampoline-style raised beds which allow air to flow underneath them is also an idea. And of course, make sure they are brushed and groomed often to keep their coats in tip-top shape.

For more information on brushing, shaving, obedience and training visit W: tk9a.comz

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Bite-sized tip

Playtime

THE freedom and enthusiasm which dogs bring to playtime is great to watch and even better to be a part of.

Although some dogs naturally have more drive to play than others, it's how we engage and invite our dogs to play that's the trick.

Simply buying a new toy,

thrashing it about in their face and then lobbing it across the kitchen floor isn't enough.

What you should do is show your dog the toy, play with it yourself and pretend it's yours to enjoy and not for sharing and you'll soon find them chasing you around the house to play!

Simon James

SIMON James is very well known around Southeast Asia as the Race Director for many of the region's most important regattas. He is a race officer with the International Sailing Federation and has set courses for yachting events in India, Turkey, Korea and Japan, in addition to his work closer to home in Phuket.

He came to Phuket in 1995 to work with the Sunsail operation at the Boat Lagoon. He estimates he spent 250 days as a skipper out on the water for his first five years. Then, following a promotion, he served as sales and marketing manager from 2000 to 2009. Since then, his stature and skills at setting courses for international regattas have allowed him to work on his own.

Simon began sailing as a boy in Wales. He was born in Llandough, near Penarth, and started sailing and racing on 14 foot Enterprise dinghies on the local Severn River.

He had planned for a career in the computer industry. He completed his O levels in math, physics and computers and enrolled in the Polytechnic of Wales to study computing.

Then he wanted to work with the BBC and studied theater and photography, but cutbacks in BBC's budget meant he had to support himself selling computers and gaming devices.

"I was very busy working in the computer industry but would take holidays in the Mediterranean for sail-

EXPAT gallery

By Bruce Stanley

ing. In 1979, a bunch of mates and I went on a flotilla holiday around the Ionian Sea. Sailing became such a big part of my life that the Yacht Cruising Association (YCA) offered me a job commissioning boats in their fleet in exchange for free sailing holidays. It wasn't long until I had moved away from my work with computers."

Simon worked for Apple Computers from 1982 until 1992, traveling around Great Britain to work on special projects as part of an effort to get their computers into the marketplace. By 1992, he was ready for a break and took additional courses to top up his sailing qualifications so he could take yachts across the Atlantic.

His first assignment as Captain was to deliver a 50 foot Beneteau from the Canary Islands to St Lucia. He spent the next three years skippering boats in the Caribbean and the Med.

"A highlight of that era for me was joining a 2,000 mile race around Britain where five countries entered two boats each. I was the skipper of a 36ft Sunsail boat."

He performed so well that Sunsail offered him the job on Phuket to set

up the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) Sailing School. He eventually took on the company's sales and marketing responsibilities, where he used his photography talents to capture landscape and seascape locations for all Sunsail promotions. He also contributed to a variety of travel books.

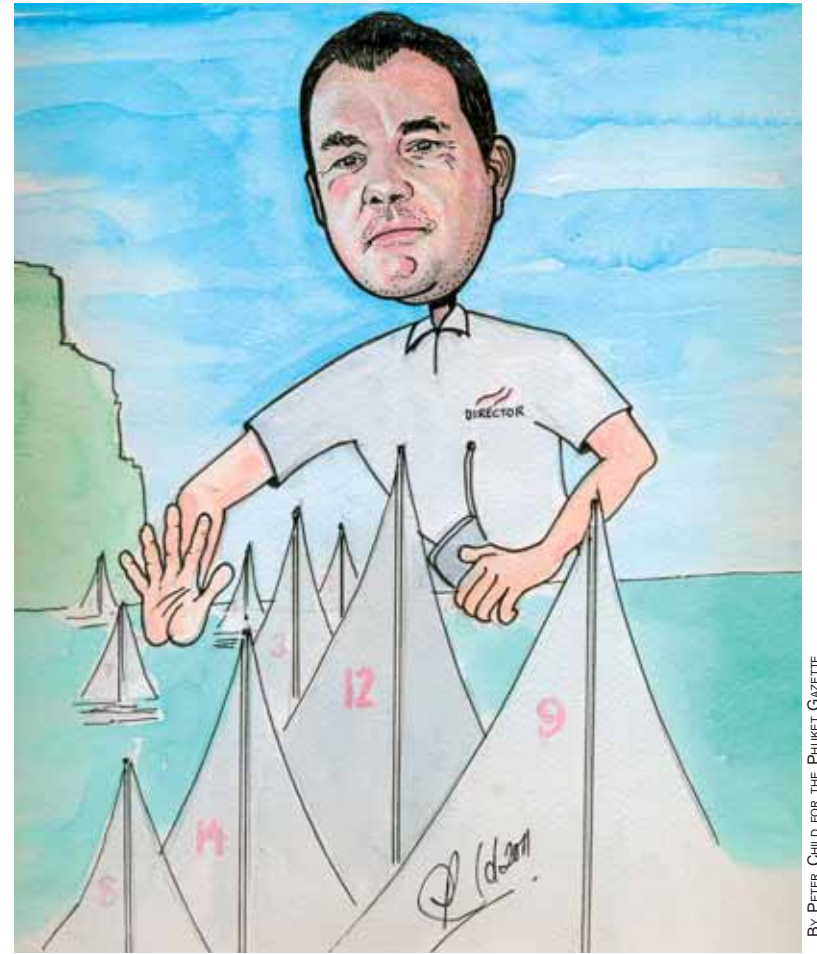
Simon says his schedule as Race Director for the local regattas gets busier each year. He is committed up to three years in advance to set race courses. He started setting the course for the King's Cup Regatta in 2000 and has worked on the Bay Regatta, the Six Senses Phuket Race Week, the SEA Property Phuket Multihull Championship, the Koh Samui Regatta and the Langkawi International Regatta.

His services are in great demand. He often sets several races a month, ensuring that each is unique and provides a memorable experience for the participants.

"My duties include designing the course for the type of race, setting the handicaps for the yachts, training the volunteers, running the race and producing the results."

Simon likes mountain biking and maintains a home on the Gulf of Thailand where he enjoys the quiet beauty away from the excitement of Phuket.

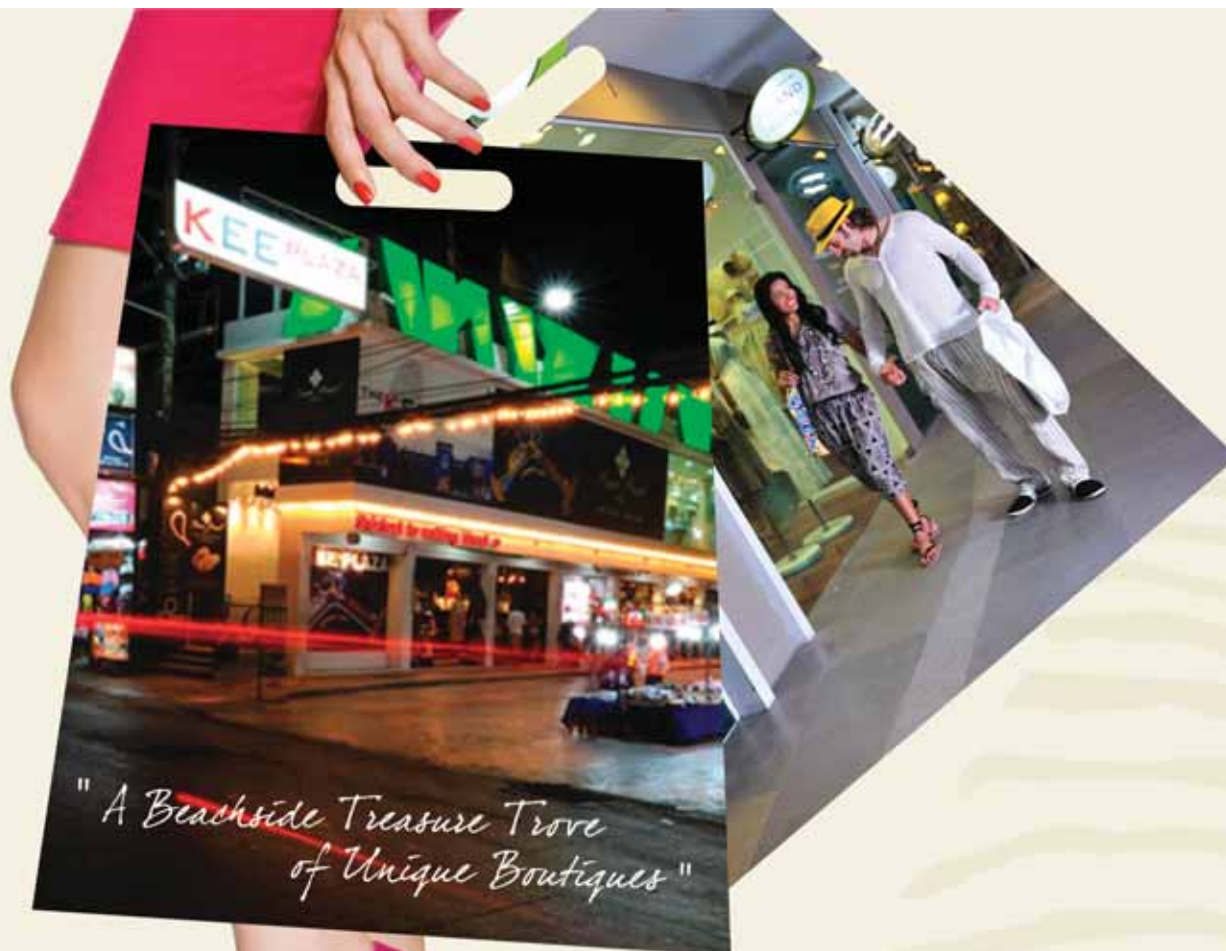
"It's incredibly beautiful here in Phuket too, especially in Phang Nga Bay. I expect there will continue to be a big future for sailing in the region."



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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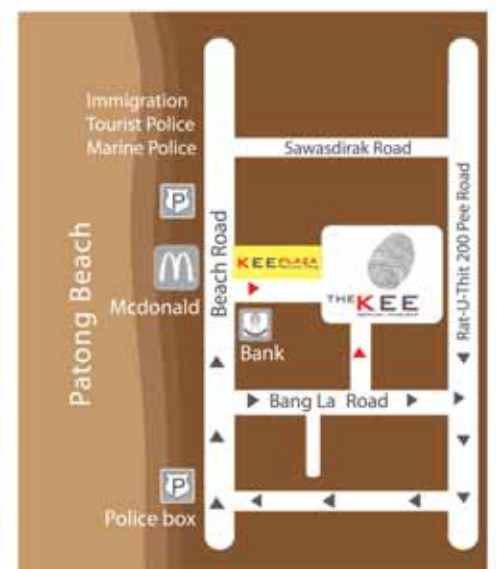


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- ◆ This contest is open to all Thai students aged 14-18 years
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- ◆ The submission must be 800-1,200 words long
- ◆ Submissions will be accepted from June 1, 2011 until **August 31, 2011**
- ◆ The names of the winners will be announced at the Awards Presentation Ceremony on September 15 in Phuket and the authors will be asked to read their submission

*Write your name/surname in Thai and English, age, school name, class, e-mail address and contact number at the top of your entry

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- 1 The Winning Author in each region will earn 10,000 baht and there are two Merit Awards per region of 5,000 baht each.
- 2 The Overall National Winner will receive 50,000 baht in cash.

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THE NATION

WHAT'S ON in Phuket

July 11 to August 19. Learn to Swim at TSLC

From 9 am to 6pm. This comprehensive program helps develop a wide range of skills to ensure that children are competent in all strokes, water safety and survival. Qualified instructors will teach classes in all six levels of our program. We recommend group lessons for most children learning to swim. However, for those requiring individual attention, private classes can be arranged. Dates and pricing: 45 minutes sessions between 9 am and 12pm, or 4pm and 6pm are 200 baht per class per person. Contact Kevin Lai at T:076-336000 E:aquatics@thanyapura.co.th or visit W:thanyapura.com.

August 1 to 31. Mothers' month Sunday Lunch

From 12pm to 3pm, enjoy an expansive Seafood buffet including Sushi, live cooking stations, BBQ, Western and Thai hot dishes, and all you can eat homemade desserts. From noon until 3pm. Price: 590 baht nett per person. Half price for children from 4 to 12 years old, and free for children under 4 years old. The V Spa-Mother's day package for August features a 50 per cent discount Jasmine Package: Buy 1 get 1 free open daily from 10am to 8pm. Discount can not be applied to promotion. Contact The Savoury Restaurant at T:076-363600 E:info@vijittresort.com or visit W:vijittresort.com.

August 5 and 19. Curry Fridays

From 7pm to 11.30pm, Navrang Mahal Indian Restaurant at Karon Sea Sands Resort & Spa present Curry Fridays twice per month. Here

August 8 to 12. August Brazilian Soccer Schools Summer Camps



The Brazilian Soccer Schools Summer Camps consist of daily training incorporating turns, passing, juggling and other core skills. It also includes the unique FDS moves to beat players. Each day has a 3 on 3 World Cup with awards for the winners and most valuable players, and special prizes for other competitions. The weekly courses will be conducted as follows: August 8 to 12, and 15 to 19, from 9 am to 1 pm. Cost: 4,000 baht per week per person. Students can also attend on a daily basis at 900 baht per day per person. Brazilian Soccer Schools monitored buses will be available from Chalong, the Boat Lagoon and the Laguna area on request. Professional coaches will ensure a highly supervised, educational and fun environment throughout the camps. Contact Martin Hill at T: 07 6 -3 3 6 000 E:bss@thanyapura.co.th or visit W:thanyapura.com.

is your chance to enjoy an authentic and lavish Indian Curry Buffet. Selections include all-time favorite Chicken Tikka Masala, very hot Mutton Vindaloo, juicy Kebabs, Goan Fish Curry, Chickpea curry and 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. Reservation at T:076-286464 ext 4 E:sm@karonseasand.com or visit W:karonseasand.com.

August 7. Sunday night sundowner at Friendship Beach

From 6.30pm to 11pm, a mix of great music, great food, and great company. Come along to one of the finest locations on Phuket with stunning views across Chalong

Bay and end the weekend on a high with the upbeat rock, pop, and country fusion of 'tropical rhythms'. Draught beer (300 ml): 60 baht. gin: 99 baht. vodka with tonic, coke, or soda: 99 baht. rum: 99 baht. house wine (red or white): 99 baht. We also have a free prize draw for all attendees so you might leave with more than you came with! Contact Charlie Maurer at T:089-7285304 E:chef@friendshipbeach.com or visit W:friendshipbeach.com.

August 8 to 13. Still smokin'

From 11am to 11.30pm, Jim Newport's film production design will be on display at Brush restaurant, Kalim. Newport will sign his new novel *The Siamese Connection* and host a Jimmy Fame CD launch party for *Wanted Man* on Saturday, August 13 at 9 pm. Jim Newport is an Emmy-nominated production designer of both film and television productions, including Bangkok Dangerous and Lost. His alter-ego, Jimmy Fame, is a blues singer that regularly performs at the Phuket International Blues Festival. Contact Jim at T:086-5189 59 7 or E:jnewport@aol.com.

August 11. Crayfish Buffet at Two Chefs Kata

The Crayfish party will include a big buffet with crayfish, smoked prawns, roast beef, chicken

skewers and of course our famous home smoked salmon. There is going to be live music and a lot of Swedish schnapps. So welcome to Two Chefs at Kata Beach from 6pm to 2am. Make a reservation at T: 076-284155 or E:katacenter@twochefs.com or W:twochefs.com.

August 12. HM The Queen's Birthday - Public Holiday

HM The Queen's Birthday is also Mother's Day in Thailand.

August 6. Free Phuket Photoshop Clinic at Laguna

From 10am to 12pm at Sandwich Shoppe Laguna. If you have a nodding acquaintance with Photoshop - you can open, save, close images, and know where the toolbar is located - this clinic will take you farther. Bring your laptop (Windows or Mac) with any version of PS installed. Clinic includes a CD full of

practice images, a booklet with all sorts of tips, everything you need to get into Photoshop. This is a free event, but space is limited, so email to reserve a spot. Sponsored by Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes and the *Phuket Gazette*. Contact Chris Swift at T:076-324313 E:cyanblue@swift-mail.com or visit W:KhunWoody.com.

August 13. FREE Phuket iClinic - Mac, iPhone, iPad

From 10am to 12pm, at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. Can't get your iPhone to phone home? Confused about iPad 3G? Have a problem with your MacBook, and can't find answers? Join Sitthichai "Mr X" Laoveerakul, director of Phuket School.com, and unabashed iPad fanboy Woody Leonhard for a free iClinic, covering all things Apple. Bring your Mac, your phone, your pad. Bring your problems. Bring your questions. Here, you can figure out some answers. Sponsored by Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes, PhuketSchool.com, and the *Phuket Gazette*. Contact Woody Leonhard at T:076-282403 E:Woody@KhunWoody.com or visit W:KhunWoody.com.

August 17 to 28. The world's largest floating Book Fair

After six years since their last visit aboard the MV Doulos, the crew now aboard the MV Logos Hope will be returning to Phuket, bringing more than 5,000 books as part of their "global mission to serve humanity". The Logos Hope is twice as large as any previous vessel operated by German-based charity GBA Ships. The 132-meter Logos Hope will drop anchor at Phuket Deep Sea Port in Ao Makham on August 17. The ship will be there for two weeks. Open to visitors from Tuesday to Saturday between 10am and 9 pm. On Sunday and Monday, from 2pm to 9 pm. Photos are available on the *Phuket Gazette's* Facebook page or visit W:omships.org.

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*.

August 7 - Patong
August 14 - Laguna
August 21 and 28 - Chalong
Starts 10am.

For more info contact Woody at T:07 6 -29 04 6 8

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SOUS SWEET: Chef Peter Wilbel with Viktoria Hess. Photo: Dean Noble

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Chef Jens and Angelika Schreiner.



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Dusit dinner extraordinaire

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Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket recently hosted a dining experience with distinct Thai notes. Held in their classic style Ruen Thai restaurant, the exquisite four-course dinner was complemented throughout by wines from Thailand.



Bhatara Amornrattanakij Marketing Communications and PR Manager.



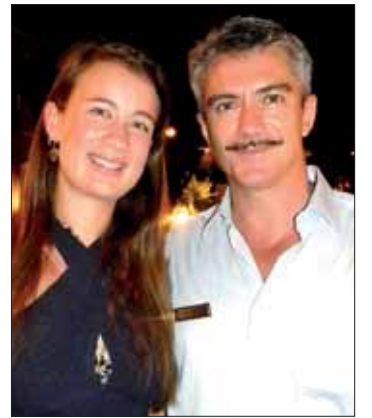
GRAPES OF WARMTH: Guests Leah and Tony Boyes at Dusit Thani.



Prabaddh Riddhagni and Viravat Cholvanchi enjoyed the fruits of their labor.



Executive Chef Silvano Amolini and Sous Chef Pachon Pakham.



GOOD VARIETY: Sarah Wales and Stefan Mintchev F&B Director.



ROCK ON ROXY: The Bangkok Travellers band performed for a crew of regulars at Roxy Bar in Phuket Town last weekend.



THREE HOUSE LIVING: Minya Bunyaketu and Sarut Pongpairaj of Trio Living with Jitrin Jintaprecha.



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Perfect timing for Swiss party

By Bruce Stanley

PHUKET has an estimated 500 permanent Swiss residents, 70 of which are members of the Swiss Society of Phuket. Urs Aebi, General Manager (GM) of Serenity Terraces at Rawai, serves as President.

"Our members keep a rather low profile but I was pleased that over 150 Swiss residents and their families turned out to celebrate the Independence Day of Switzerland last Saturday at the M venpick Resort and Spa," he said.

Hansruedi Frutiger, GM of the Karon beach M venpick, hosted the Swiss Consul General, Bernhard

Benz, who came from Bangkok to meet and enjoy the company of his fellow countrymen.

The M venpick presented an extravagant buffet of traditional Swiss cuisine including grilled veal sausage, beef tartare on toast and roesti potatoes.

August 1 is the traditional day of celebration for Switzerland when three regions made their declaration of confederation in 1291.

The country is best-known for maintaining strict neutrality for 500 years while European wars have raged around their small country.

"We should celebrate that the International Red Cross and Red Crescent was established by Henri



From left are Guido Wenk, owner of M venpick Bang Tao, Hansruedi Frutiger, GM M venpick Karon, Bridgett Rohling, Resident Manager of M venpick Karon and Bernhard Benz the Swiss Consul General.

Dunant in Switzerland, and besides cuckoo clocks and chocolate, we are proud to be the European home

of the United Nations and birthplace of tennis sensation, Roger Federer," said Urs.



Urs Aebi, President of the Swiss Society Phuket with his family.

Ducati lights up Phuket Town

HKT Motor on Dibuk Rd, celebrated their 2nd anniversary with a showing of magnificent Ducati's motorbikes.



DUCATISTI: Left is Suriya Thamrangsri, Director of HKT Motor Phuket.



MOTORBIKE MODELS: From left are Atchara Issarachai, Pattraptha Tharatham and Nattanun Srithong. Photos: Dean Noble



PRECISION DESIGN: The impressive Italian bikes are popular in Phuket.

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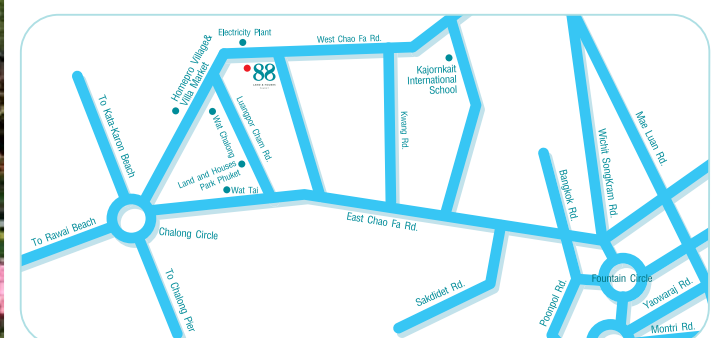
Photo of actual house with simulated environment

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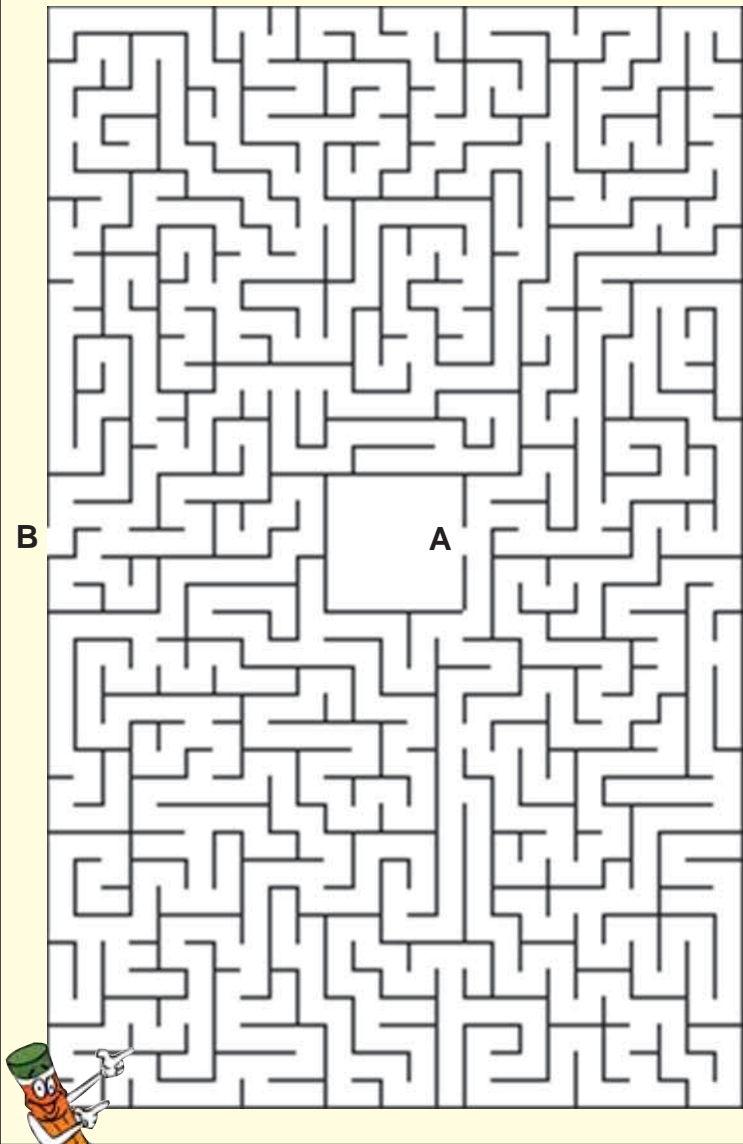
TROPICAL SERENITY



Project Owner : L.H.Muang Mai Co.,Ltd. Managing Director : Khun Pitaya Tantipiriyakij Registered Capital : 900 Million Baht (Fully Paid) 88 Land and Houses Phuket, Location : West Chao fa Rd. Chalong sub-district, Ampher Muang, Phuket, Title Deed No : 3901 Project Area 14 Rai, Financial Institution : Siam Commercial Bank Public Co., Ltd. Construction Start : January 2010 Expected Completion : 2013. Operation License No.19/2010 dated 2 December 2010. After full payment is completed transference is made within 7 days.



A *Gazette* staff member completed this maze in 30 seconds. Can you beat their time? Make your way out of the maze.

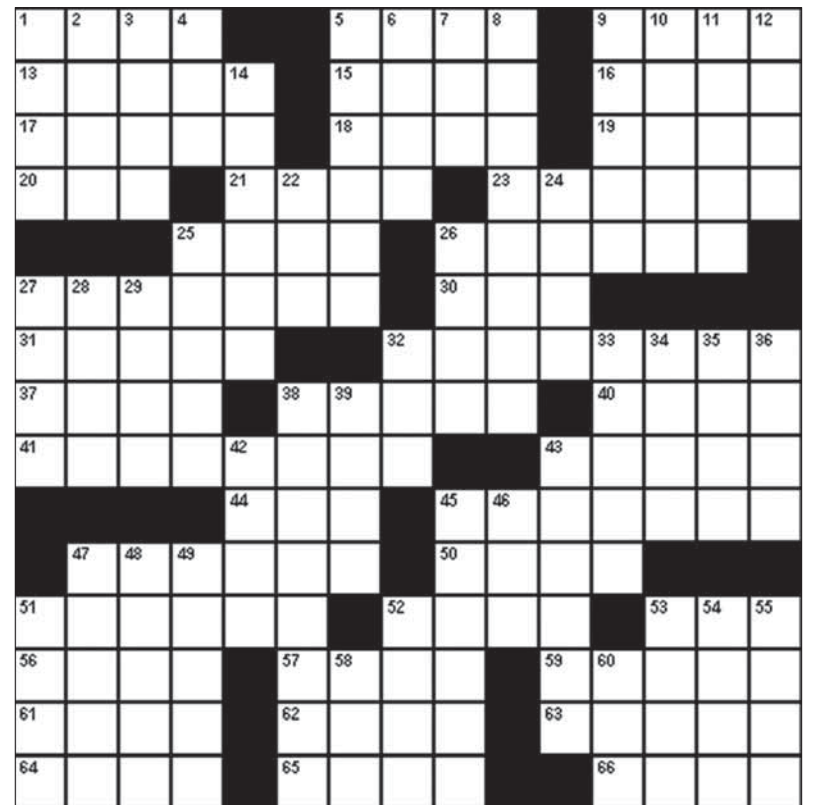


Across

1. Inter _ _ _
5. Mine finds
9. Swedish auto
13. Iraqi port
15. Lady of Spain
16. Yorkshire river
17. Ain't right?
18. Earth Day subject
19. Centerpiece of the human face
20. Half a fly
21. Williams of country music
23. Fanatic
25. Discounted by
26. Acquire
27. Protection
30. Play on words
31. Sign of spring
32. Palace of a sultan
37. Auctioneer's cry
38. Moved back and forth
40. _ _ avis
41. Breed of dairy cattle
43. Aromatic wood
44. Early hrs.
45. Folds
47. Honeybunch
50. Fast time
51. Treelike grass
52. Juniors, perhaps
53. Turkish title
56. Et _ _ _
57. Knocks lightly
59. 19 61 Heston role
61. Fashion mag
62. Netman Nastase
63. Rob, old-style
64. Deli breads
65. Suffragist Carrie
66. Very, in Versailles;

Down

1. Blind as _ _ _
2. Metallica drummer Ulrich
3. Aha!
4. Prince Valiant's son
5. Hans Christian Andersen's birthplace
6. Music genre
7. Brian of Roxy Music



8. Birthplace of Mozart
9. Capital city of Yemen
10. Garlic sauce
11. Fire related offense
12. Sugar source
14. Capital of Greece
22. Beast of burden
24. Gas burner or Sicilian volcano
25. City in West Yorkshire
26. Amenable
27. Morse element
28. Switch ending
29. Satiating
32. Sky light
33. Big

34. Scottish boys
35. Dies _ _ _
36. Crew needs
38. Symptomatic
39. Learned
42. Edible corm
43. It spreads aromatic smoke
45. Broom room
46. Cartoon Chihuahua
47. Loiter
48. Author Zola
49. _ _ _ Irish Rose
51. Boxer Max
52. Roasting rod
53. Rent- _ _ _
54. Bestow
55. Citrus coolers
58. According to
60. Court call

Provided by BestCrosswords.com
Used with permission

Puzzle solutions on page 39

LEO (July 24 -August 22)



Those born under the sign of Leo should guard against spending carelessly this week. The stars suggest that an air sign friend may encourage you to splash out on an item that will turn out to be a waste of money. Those with a birthday in the week ahead will see some important wishes come true in the coming year.

VIRGO (August 23 -September 23)



Managing your finances becomes less stressful as August progresses. There are signs that many Virgoans will realize they can be more content with simple pleasures. Your luck in romance will also benefit from this new attitude – a potential fire sign partner is forecast to be impressed by your simple approach to a first date. Those in a committed relationship can reach a mutual decision about a money-saving relocation.

LIBRA (September 24 -October 23)



Distinguishing between truth and fiction could be difficult for some Librans this week. The stars predict that a water sign is ready to spin a believable story on Wednesday or Thursday. Take time out to do your own research

before responding, especially if money is involved. Romance is low-key until the middle of August, but devoting quality attention to your own needs is highlighted to bring rewards.

SCORPIO (October 24 -November 22)



A former business colleague is predicted to return to the scene and this could lead to Scorpions being faced with some interesting choices. Delay important discussions until after the middle of the month as the astral atmosphere will be calmer then. The stars suggest that your expectations in a romantic relationship could become different from those of a partner. Sunday is the most auspicious to reach compromises.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23 -December 21)



Those Sagittarians who have been looking for inspiration could find it by back-tracking this week. There are signs that reflection on a past experience will help you to see what needs to be done now. The coast is clear for approaching another fire sign about a promise that has been forgotten. Your personal life is well-starred until the middle of August, with emphasis on a surprise get-together with old friends this weekend.



CAPRICORN (December 22 -January 20)



Your career falls under the spotlight until the middle of August. Capricorns who are ready to move out of their comfort zones could see an opportunity where others don't. Your confidence is strong this week and this will affect your luck in the realm of romance. Expect another earth sign to demonstrate their interest this weekend. Those in an established relationship reach a better understanding with their partner.

AQUARIUS (January 21 -February 19)



It might seem as though not much is going on in your life, but the stars suggest that activity is brewing under the surface. During the second half of August, business is forecast to be booming. In the meantime, tying up loose ends to be ready for this busy period is recommended. Flirtation with a water sign that you presumed was a flash in the pan turns out to have meant more to that person.

PISCES (February 20-March 20)



Your luck continues to increase steadily as August progresses. The stars forecast that you will be spoiled for choice this week where work is concerned. Those who have been considering moonlighting receive useful tips from an earth sign. Applying for a new job is best done on Tuesday or Wednesday. News from overseas regarding an ongoing financial issue is more positive than you had anticipated, but a final conclusion will be delayed.

ARIES (March 21 -April 20)



Many Arians will have their heads in the clouds this week. This will be partly due to a run of good luck in the world of work, which should result in a financial windfall later in August. Your love life is also well-starred, with emphasis on a flirtatious encounter with an earth sign. Wear a piece of onyx to encourage you to keep your feet on the ground when this is necessary.

TAURUS (April 21 -May 21)



Where family life is concerned, the stars suggest that troubled relationships can be permanently healed this week. Your readiness to forgive and forget should encourage others to follow suit. Those

Taureans who feel as though Cupid has forgotten about them are predicted to discover otherwise. Expect romantic overtures from an air sign to brighten your weekend.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)



Your tolerance could be stretched by the behavior of another air sign this week. There are hints that you will receive confirmation that someone in your world of work has been less than honest lately. Monday is the most auspicious day to raise this matter with those closely concerned. Finances are subject to unsettled astral conditions until the middle of August and the stars suggest tightening the purse strings.

CANCER (June 22-July 23)



A stumbling block is forecast to cause some Cancerians to take several steps backwards this week. The stars advise that you should see this as a reason to think twice about the path you are on. Spending time around other water signs could result in your spirits being dampened, but fire signs will provide positive company. In the realm of romance, a stroke of luck should mean that you bump into someone you've been attracted to this weekend.

PROPERTY Gazette

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

Rassada sees varied progress in projects

By Pimwara Choksakulpan
and Nusara Chuasaman

CONSTRUCTION of the Mali Kaew recreation site and embankment project being carried out along the Koh Sireh coastline has been stalled due to a contractor fallout.

Rassada Mayor Surathin Lienudom announced the delay at a public hearing on July 26 held to relay status updates for several landscaping projects in Rassada.

"The Mali Kaew construction contract was scheduled to run from December 18, 2010 to June 15, 2011, and there has yet to be any progress," the Mayor said.

He went on to explain that the contractor is being fined 20,000 baht for each day they're late, and that the municipality will cancel the contract when the fine reaches 10 per cent of the budget.

"We will cancel the contract when it reaches about two million baht, though we won't lose anything since we have not yet transferred the first payment," Mayor Surathin said.

"The 20 million baht budget required to pay for the project will come from the *OrBorTor*'s [Sub-



Rassada Mayor Surathin Lienudom district Administration Organization] funds," he said.

"We believe the contract is being transferred to a new contractor as we speak," he added.

After two years on the drawing boards, the municipality had announced in September last year approval of the budget to renovate the seaside promenade.

Construction plans include a 168-meter embankment along Thepprathan Road, starting from the front of the Westin Siray Bay Resort & Spa and stretching out to Laem Klang cape.

The budget also includes plans for a guardhouse, parking lot, traffic circle, three goods stalls and two public restrooms.

Meanwhile, refurbishments to the nearby monkey viewpoint tourist attraction have been completed, Mayor Surathin relayed.

"The budget of about 14 million baht to landscape the popular tourist attraction came from the *Thai Khem Keng* 2555 government stimulus fund," he said.

"The beautifully-landscaped area stretches about eight to nine hundred meters along Srisuthat Road," he explained.

The Mayor told the *Gazette* that Rassada is also planning to take on another eco-tourism development project – a walking path through the mangrove forest.

"That project's funding will probably come from next year's budget and is currently expected to cost about seven to eight million baht.

"However, we still have to finalize the plans and see if the budget will be enough.

"We also need to get clearance from the Forestry Department department since the land falls under their authority," he added.



PATHWAY ON PAUSE: The Mali Kaew embankment development is stalled.

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PROPERTY

Traveling budget class



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

AS ANY traveler knows, the growth of low-cost airlines is changing the dynamics of the region's tourism industry entirely.

As I sit on an AirAsia flight bound for Bali, everywhere I cast my eye is that tagline, "Now everyone can fly." And by the looks of the motley crew of passengers aboard this big red bird, nothing could ring more true.

It's hard not to get on my high horse for a moment and muse that maybe *not* everyone should fly. But that's for another time and place.

So as the masses of humanity are now hitting their local airport as often as their favorite pub, the natural spin-off is of course budget hotels.

Hoteliers seem possessed with compartmentalizing segments of the lodging market and playing creationist Gods in naming things, and so we now have hotels described as economy, budget, limited service, pods and enough hybrids to induce a mind-boggling dizziness.

Google of course gets down to the basics as it searches for keywords – cheap, discount, low cost, no cost, or the all-encompassing "to hell with it, we're giving it away".

A few years ago, Tony Fernandez and a group of investors initiated the brand Tune hotels. Through hiring a team of marketing executives instead of hotel executives, the concept was to re-examine every aspect of the project with a fresh



BRAND POWER: Tune and AirAsia flying high in the hotel industry.

set of eyes. The result was spartan, 10-to-12-square-meter rooms, with no TVs and a pay-as-you-go approach.

The first properties were set up in Malaysia, and since then the expansion has become somewhat of a global invasion. In Thailand, Tune hotels are underway in Bangkok, Pattaya, Hat Yai and Patong in Phuket.

Room size eventually moved up to 13-to-14-sqm rooms. Now the company is updating its concept for Tune V2.0, according to CEO Mark Lankester.

Fundamentals such as "pay for

use" air conditioning, WiFi, towels and electricity remain, but new innovations include redesign of rooms and pay-to-play television.

Looking at the rest of the playing field, the two most dominant players have been Accor's ibis and InterContinental's Holiday Inn Express brands. Most of the other global chains stopped at economy and mid-scale offerings.

The French chain Accor is now aggressively bringing the limited service brand Formule 1 to the region. The brand already has properties in Australia, and recently rolled out a new "Cocoon" prototype with wood flooring, flat-screen televisions and energy-saving sanitary fixtures and lighting.

In Indonesia, Formule 1 struck a deal for five airport locations, including Denpasar, Bali.

The country, which has Southeast Asia's largest economy, is a hotbed for new startup budget hotel brands.

These include Marc Steinmeyer's Pop! hotels, by Tauzia; the Favhotels' Aston chain; and Whiz and Amaris by the Santika group.

A similar gold rush to the low end of the market is underway in the Philippines, where Go Hotels is a domestic pioneer. There are also a substantial number of establishments expected by other groups in the coming 12 months.

Thailand-based Red Planet Hotels, which has a deal with Tune for six countries, has been efficient in raising money in the private investment market and has a head start here.

However, Asia's economic growth continues to stir concerns of an oversupply bubble. While investors are tapping into the niche segment in growing numbers, they are concerned about the raw numbers involved and about sustainability.

Another concern is that a countrywide building boom for hospitality assets has created a surplus at higher tiers.

Ultimately, if travel markets slow down, accommodation pricing may experience a domino effect. For consumers who have large disposable incomes, a pricing parity may drive them back to higher-class hotels.

For now though, there is little doubt that the rise of the Asian middle class is creating an exciting new set of products for travelers – and yes, almost everyone can travel these days.

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

In brief...

Starwood to manage Six Senses Sanctuary

GLOBAL hospitality giant Starwood has signed the 67-villa resort, Six Senses Sanctuary on Naka Yai Island.

The property will fall under the chain's luxury collection, which previously operated the Sheraton Laguna Grande Phuket.

Owned by Thailand's Erawan Group, the wellness concept of the island failed to command market share among other upscale resorts.

The hotel has now been closed for upgrading and will reopen November 1.

The change in operators is expected to result in broadening appeal to the more mainstream market.

Industry sources say Starwood is also close to a new deal in Koh Samui with an announcement expected shortly.

Alila Luang Prabang rebranded

THE former Alila in Luang Prabang has been rebranded as Hotel de La Paix Luang Prabang.

Its owners, Thai firm KS Resorts, made the decision to align the property with another of its assets, the Hotel de La Paix in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

Former Aleenta group head of hotel operations Nigel Tovey has been appointed as General Manager and industry veteran Greg Seddon as Director of Sales and Marketing.

KS also recently rebranded their Maldives resort to a Park Hyatt.

In Phuket they have an ownership stake in The Yamu by Como. Their Cha Am property, previously under Alila management, is reportedly being chased by a number of international management operators.

GHM no longer managing Datai Langkawai

UPSCALE resort The Datai in Langkawi has undergone a management change with the new chain, Archipelago Hotels and Resorts replacing Legacy operator General Hotel Management (GHM). Archipelago is owned by Malaysian firm Landmarks Berhad, who are also significant shareholders in the chain. They also operate Carcosa Seri Negara and The Club at Saujana.

Landmarks Bhd is currently developing a mixed use project at Bintan Treasure Bay in Indonesia, which is just off Singapore. They also are behind the exclusive Eastern Oriental train service.

GHM previously managed The Chedi in Phuket which is now independent and has been rebranded The Surin.

– Bill Barnett



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ROOMS WITH A THEME: 'Love is color blind' by Kongpat Sakdapitak.



NAMESAKE: Managing Director Pimnarah Nimittaganon.

Pimnara Boutique hotel Bt25 0mn

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

The Pimnara Boutique hotel is a boutique style hotel located in the heart of Patong.

Set in the Jungceylon shopping complex, just opposite of Black

Canyon coffee shop, the hotel was built and designed using a budget of 250 million baht.

The hotel covers 3,000 square meters over three floors with its lobby area on the first floor, rooms on the second, and its fa-

cilities, including a fitness center, spa, dining room and nail salon on the third floor.

Following its opening on May 5, the hotel currently offers service for 45 rooms including 16 standard, 15 superior, 13 deluxe and one loft-style suite.

It plans to open services for 22 more rooms by October, bringing its portfolio to 67 rooms. In all, there will be 25 standard, 24 superior, 15 deluxe and 3 style loft suites.

The rooms are designed and decorated by 11 famous Thai artists, all featuring unique styles. The Loft Suite is designed using a 'blue and white China' theme by ML Rojanatorn Na Songkhla. The de-

luxe rooms implement a 'love is color blind' theme, decorated with artificial flowers by Kongpat Sakdapitak.

Per night rates start from 2,250 baht during low season and 4,500 baht in high season, beginning in November.

Managing Director, Pimnarah Nimittaganon said "Our marketing plan this year focuses primarily on tourists from the Asian region – China, Japan, Malaysia and Australia – especially honeymoon couples, lovers and those traveling with families."

She expects the hotel to earn an income of 80 million baht in the first operating year.

To lure customers during low



The Pimnara Boutique hotel's illuminated entrance.

season, the hotel is offering promotional deals through third parties including dealdidi.com and Bangkok Airways.

Pimnarah said she also plans to have hotel branches in Samui and Krabi in the near future.

The plot thickens

In the property section of the July 16 - 22 issue of the *Phuket Gazette* (issue 29, volume 18, page 27), we published a construction update about the Laguna Village Deluxe Residences.

In that article, we mistakenly reported that each of the

development's villas will be built on an 846-square-meter plot of land. It came to our attention that in fact, the total built up area of each villa will be 846 sqm, not the plot sizes themselves. This error is regretted.

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LIGHT REQUIREMENTS: Note the location of the plant in the nursery so you can replicate the light conditions in your own garden. (passiflora above) Photo: leicaroo

Let the sun shine on me

AN AVID gardener recently asked an interesting question about the light requirements for different plants. Tony from Kamala inquired: "I seem to remember the color of a plant's leaves is a guide to whether it likes shade: light green likes sun, and dark green likes shade; and multicolored green/white leaves likes shade. Is this true?"

Well, yes and no. Let's take the issue of variegation first.



Gardening
By Patrick Campbell

Variegated leaves are leaves that have different colored zones. Most often the edges are one color and the inner part another. Usually one part is white, cream or yellow and the remainder of the leaf is green. Often these varieties have been deliberately cultivated

by horticulturists in an attempt to make the plant look more decorative, especially when the flowers aren't dramatic. In general, variegated plants require direct sun or at least filtered shade.

To explain, the green part of the leaf produces chlorophyll, and this starchy chemical is responsible for promoting *photosynthesis*, the process of converting the sun's energy into food. Without adequate chlorophyll, the variegated plant will not thrive.

There is another side effect of insufficient sun and reduced production of chlorophyll. Because of variegated plants' characteristic leaf patterns and their relative lack of chlorophyll, they tend to be less sturdy and more prone to disease. For example, some of the delightful Jacob's Coat plants in my garden (*acalypa*) are prone to white fly and fungal mold. Why? Because the leaves are colored – red, bronze, white and yellow – rather than just green. So deep shade is not a great idea for your *acalypae*, crotons (*codiaeum variegatum*), caricature plants (*graptophyllum*), variegated pi-

geon berry (*duranta repens*) or stripe-leaved canna lilies.

On the other hand, in England, where sunlight is at a premium, certain variegated shrubs such as dogwood, may actually revert to plain green leaves presumably to increase absorption of chlorophyll.

As for light green plants liking more sun and dark green plants liking more shade, there is no rule of thumb. Temperate shrubs and trees are predominantly deciduous, whereas their tropical counterparts are mainly evergreen. Most evergreen foliage is mid to dark green, and are often leathery, hairy or glossy, so they can withstand the hot sun without losing too much moisture. Think ixora, *oleander*, *allamanda*, *peruviana*, *passiflora* and a host of others.

Conversely, sun-loving shrubs such as yellow bells (*tecoma stans*), crown of thorns (*euphorbia*), desert rose (*abelia*), wax rose (*pereskia*) all possess light to mid-green foliage.

So the correct answer to the question is that you need to observe the growing requirements for individual plants rather than

Tip of the week

Growing spectacular water plants

THOUGH there are many others, the lotus and the water lily are the two best-loved, and most spectacular flowering water plants in South East Asia. Both are greedy feeders, so they should be mired in the special, glutinous mud provided in plastic packs by garden centers. In addition, they will need to be fed regularly to maximize the floral display.

Many Thais keep their *nymphaeas* and *nelumbas* in large watertight pots, along with small varieties of fish, such as guppies and sword-tails. This decorative and symbiotic arrangement works well provided you remember to feed the lilies as well as the fish.

Slow-release fertilizer pellets or tablets should be pushed into the mud once a month. These won't normally harm your fish (check the instructions), but adding conventional granular fertilizer will alter the chemical composition of the water and may cause your fish to die.

trust a rule of thumb about color. Before you buy a plant, always note where it is located in the nursery: under netted cover in dappled shade, or out in the open sun.

Another reader's question was raised about the composition of bagged soil sold in nurseries. It is basically a compost, usually with substantial amounts of coconut fiber. It is, perhaps surprisingly, also Ph neutral. Not particularly nutritious, it nonetheless provides a good medium for the roots of new plants to expand. It also retains water well and, mixed with Phuket's strong soil in your flower bed, adds a degree of friability. Sand can be added to potting mix to assist drainage and help prevent compaction. A dash of topsoil or granular fertilizer adds nutrients.

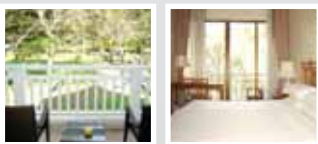
If you have a garden that you would like to be featured on this page, please email: pcampbell45@gmail.com

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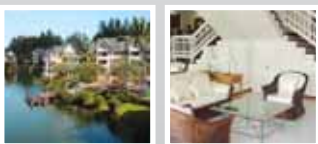
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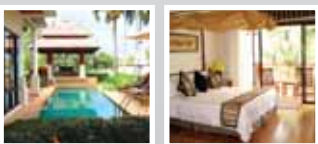
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Kanok Siripanichkorn, chief of the Phuket Land Transport
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PHUKET: Almost fifty per cent of the ladyboys rounded up in a
sweep of Phuket's Soi Bangla area last night tested positive
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Mar 8 - 11 21:00 - 01:00 Mango House Festival
Mar 12 07:00 - 16:00 Transforming Felicity and Adversity at Mind Centre
Mar 13 20:30 - 12:30 Salsa Night @ Les Angeles
Mar 16 09:00 - 12:00 FREE Yacht Club Kid's sailing
Mar 17 10:00 - 12:00 Celebrating The Burgundy Grand Crus by Drouhin
Mar 18 19:00 - 23:30 Phuket International Women's Club AGM and lunch
Mar 19 10:00 - 14:00 Second Belly Dance Party
Mar 20 19:00 - 23:30 FREE Computer Clinic - Chalong
Mar 25 20:30 - 10:30 SIX of the Best in Phuket
Mar 26 - 27 10:00 - 12:00 Phuket Youth Sailing Squadron Island Regatta
Mar 28 - 31 18:30 - 23:30 Bacon and Stone Visual Arts Exhibition
11:30 - 23:30
00:00 SL Patrick's Ball 2011 at Movenpick Karon Beach
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This is a modern, Western-style pool villa. Future expansion is possible to include fitness facilities, sauna, sala, BBQ, maids' quarters and more. Located in the Rawai area, it has easy access to many great Thai and Western restaurants. It's only 5 minutes from Chalong pier – the place where you can easily get to any of the small islands surrounding Phuket. It's also close to a shopping center, a grocery store and an international school. It's 5 to 10 minutes from downtown Rawai, stunning Naiham Beach and Phromthep Cape. The price is reduced from 11.5 million baht to the new, hot price below!

New Price: 9.8 million baht



This Thai-Balinese boutique villa offers full privacy and intimacy. The private pool and waterfall is the natural focus of this courtyard-style villa. Each of the three individual pavilions have large sliding doors that open directly onto the swimming pool and sundeck, creating an indoor/outdoor tropical atmosphere. Two of the pavilions feature 2 bedrooms with private en-suite bathrooms, private outdoor rain showers and gardens. The original asking price was 12.5 million baht.

New Price: 10.5 million baht



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For sale. 400sqm. Flat land, with road, electricity and access. Freehold. Tel: 086-478 0201. Email: laongfa@hotmail.com

PATONG APT

2-bedroom apartment for rent or sale. 87sqm unit on the 5th floor with sea view. Fully furnished. Tel: 081-891 6502. Email: andrea.capucci@gmail.com

The Phuket Gazette is the island's LARGEST Classifieds marketplace!

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....because they're real.

Properties For Rent

AMAZING SEAVIEWS



Luxury 3 bedroom, 3 bathroom villa, set in gardens with pool. With large kitchen and maid quarters. Very private. Only 1 minute to beach and 15 minutes to PIA/BIS schools. Furnished. Rent: 60,000 baht per month. Call Richard Desmond. Tel: 086-279 6283. Email: capeheights@yahoo.co.uk

ORCHID KATHU HEIGHTS

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

BANG TAO VILLA FOR RENT

1,2,3,4 bedrooms. Fully furnished, including large pool. Tel: 085-674 6786. Email: phuketmat@yahoo.com

PATONG 1 & 2 BEDROOM APTS

Short or long term. Free cable TV, maid, WiFi, pool and gym. 5 mins to town. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English & Thai). Email: solitude001@aol.com

B.L. APARTMENT

New in Kathu. Big rooms, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, garden, and car park. Rent: 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-692 3163.

BAR POOL HOTEL/ RAWAI BEACH



5-year lease: 3 million baht (\$100,000) or 800,000 baht yearly rent. No key money. Bar, pool, hotel, 9 bedrooms, 9 bathrooms, WiFi, cable TV. 60 meters from the beach. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com

NICE HOUSE FOR RENT

Just 5 minutes walk to Nai Harn beach. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, big sala, swimming pool. Rent: 35,000 baht per month. For long-term rent. Tel: 081-397 1835. Website: www.phuket-house.yolasite.com

HOUSE WITH 4 RAI GARDEN

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, with guest bungalow in Thalang for long-term rent. Price: 29,000 per month. Tel: 081-343 0777.

RENT OR SALE

New house, Supalai Hill. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished. Long-term rent: 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 083-649 1218.

PHUKET VILLA DOWROONG



House for rent, 55sq wah, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, no phone line, unfurnished. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-270 9093.

STYLISH PHUKET TOWNHOUSE

Teak-furnished, modern-style townhouse with 2 floors and 2 bedrooms, a large kitchen, flat-screen TV, 1.5 bathrooms and a garden in a quiet neighborhood in the heart of Samkong, the food capital of Phuket. Rent: 14,000 baht per month. Contact Nicholas. Tel: 081-892 5335 (English & Thai), 084-494 5725 (English). Email: arutsu@gmail.com

KATHU GOLF VIEW PENTHOUSE

For rent. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathroom, big pool, 4km to BIS over looking lake, Loch Palm golf course, quiet, on top of private hill, secure, maid, furnished, WiFi. Long-term 65,000 baht per month. Contact Khun Noi. Tel: 087-269 8492.

POOL VILLA IN RAWAI

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, with Internet, cable TV and security. Tel: 083-641 9327. Email: rawaipoolvillas@hotmail.com

COZY HOUSE NEAR NAI HARN



High-grade house, furnished and conveniently located. Minutes from Rawai and Nai Harn Beaches. 2 spacious bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms. 1 guest toilet. Aircons. Large living-dining room. Telephone line with ADSL. Free water supply and garbage removal service. Rent: 20,000 baht per month. Contact K. Nui. Tel: 087-383 0936. Email: hunt17@hotmail.com

LOVELY APARTMENTS



Phuket Town and also available close to central, cable TV, internet, security, swimming pool, gym. 15,000 baht to 20,000 baht PCM. Can also supply motorcycle and truck. Tel: 081-539 9612, 087-633 1472. Email: chrispalmer56@gmail.com

PATONG LUXURY APARTMENTS

Short or long-term lease. Free cable TV, WiFi, maid, pool and gym. 5 minutes to town. Tel: 080-052 8082. Email: solitude001@aol.com

LARGE POOL VILLA RAWAI

3 double bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, aircon throughout. Secure garden, fully-furnished, good road access, electric gate. Price: 55,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-533 7669 (English), 087-470 9257 (Thai). Email: gregors@tttmaxnet.com

PATONG LUXURY APARTMENTS

Short or long-term lease. Free cable TV, WiFi, maid, pool and gym. 5 minutes to town. Tel: 080-052 8082. Email: solitude001@aol.com

PATONG TOWER CONDO

Luxury sea view condo. Low price. Tel: 081-088 8099. See our website at: www.selectphuket.com

HOUSE FOR RENT PATONG

1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, living room with full kitchenette. New building. Furnished, with aircon, Internet, UBC. Quiet location. Rent: 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-185 8536.

CHALONG BEACHFRONT HOUSE

Furnished. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, quiet, with Internet, cable TV, pool. Rent: 13,500 baht per month. Tel: 089-470 6104.

PHUKET VILLA 5 FOR RENT



Detached house, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen and carpark. In the center of the village. 4 aircons, telephone line. Only 5 mins to Central Festival. For long-term rent: 16,000 baht per month. Call for visit. Tel: 087-270 9093.



OFFICE AND ROOMS AT SOI SUNRISE

100 meters to Chalong Pier. Shared or private office equipped with services including internet, a phone and fax line. Live on site options. Storage and parking included. Tel: 076-383796, 081-370 3181. Fax: 076-280286. Email: info@1800-REALTY.com

SEAVIEW APARTMENT

For long or short term rent. Includes large swimming pool. Email: suaithai61@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuket-webstarcondo.com

HOUSE FOR RENT IN TOWN

Townhome in Phuket Town. "Chanakam village" near Central Festival. Total area: 96sqm. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, with sofa and TV set, kitchen sink set, bedding, dressing table, wardrobe. 2 aircons. Rent: 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-677 7773. Email: nobeta18@hotmail.com Website at www.ddproperty.com/property/show/146303

LUXURY POOL VILLA



For rent or sale in Loch Palm. Only 5 minutes from British International School. Fully fitted European kitchen, including Siemens appliances. Large pool 12m x 4m. 3 double bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms. Views overlooking Loch Palm Golf Course 14th & 15th fairways. Fully airconditioned, fully furnished. Available from August 1. Rent: 65,000 baht per calendar month. Rental includes management fees, pool maintenance & garden service. This villa is also priced to sell at 14 million baht. Baan Suan Loch Palm 29/33, Moo 5, Kathu District, Phuket 83120. Tel: 076-323699, 087-124 5706 (English & Thai).

RAWAI/ POOL GUESTHOUSE



5-year lease. 1.4 million baht or 480,000 baht yearly rent. 6 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, furnished, with WiFi, cable TV, 5 motos. 300 meters from beach. No key money. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com

Villa & Condo for Rent / Sale

www.PropertySeekByKMD.com
OPTION: If don't know what to buy? Interested in Building your Villa at-cost? Tel: 081 895-7310

DETACHED VILLA FOR RENT



Quiet location off Baan Saiyuan. With lounge, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms (1 with jacuzzi), study and laundry. Airconditioned. 17m pool and large outside area with verandah for living/dining. Includes TV and wireless internet. Tel: 085-795 4665.

CONDOS IN PATONG

1-bedroom apartments for long-term rent in Patong Tower and Phuket Palace. Tel: 081-892 1621.

THAI VILLA AND POOL NAI HARN

Soi Naya, Nai Harn. Long term rent: 40,000 baht per month. Contact for more information. Tel: 081-270 5126. Email: mervyn.crocker@yahoo.com

POOL VILLA IN RAWAI

Fully furnished, with 3 bedrooms near Lotus Rawai, in quiet and secure area. Tel: 089-4729 870. Email: d_chaibut@yahoo.com

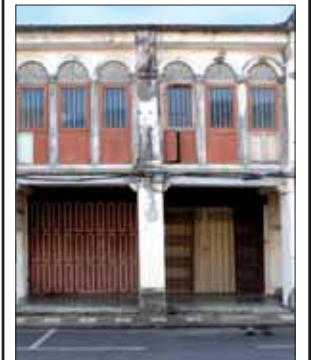
LONG-TERM RENT

1 bedroom, fully furnished. House near Chalong Bay. Rent: 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 4311.

NEAR MONUMENT, BAAN MANIK

Fully-furnished 2 bedroom suites with a hot tub, garden, wireless and security. 120sqm and 10 minutes from beaches. Tel: 089-472 3377, 080-328 9517. Email: ningkantatit@gmail.com

THALANG ROAD SHOPHOUSE



Perfect for boutique hotel, high-end restaurant, gallery, or mixed-use development. The property comprises a 600sqm double-wide shophouse extra deep lot with two interior courtyards, and large rear garden in prime Old Town location. Tel: 081-893 5014 (English).

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Your key to fast-track placement and easy payment for ads at Thailand's LARGEST classifieds marketplace. Hundreds of new ads every week! Like to have one?

Mail: AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net

Professional Property Management Solutions



Phuket's premier property management company is looking for suitable, qualified candidates for the following positions:

Villa Operation Manager

- 3 years experience in property management and operations

Rental Operation Manager

- 3 years experience in reservations and holiday home rental operations

All positions require

- Good command of English language both speaking and writing
- Ability to demonstrate initiative and a high level of independence
- Good general computer skills

Positions available for Thai Nationals only

Please send your application with a recent photo to Human Resource Dept.
Tel: 076 270 750, Fax: 076 270 751, Email: personnel@pipsphuket.com

MOUNTAIN BIKE TOUR LEADER

Amazing Bike Tours are seeking more guides. Need to be passionate about biking and speak good English. Thai nationals only. Tel: 087-263 2031 (English). Email: info@amazingbiketours-thailand.asia

SALES EXECUTIVE/ SALES MGR

Experienced in real estate, property or hospitality. Tel: 076-318400, 081-989 5466 (English & Thai). Or send email: cilcon@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.bangtao-tropicalresidence.com

RESERVATIONS ASSISTANT

Part-time position with flexible hours. Requirements: must be Western, fluent in written and spoken English, a good communicator, with excellent computer skills, be home-based and have a reliable internet connection. Email: admin@esxoasia.com

EXPERIENCED VILLA MANAGER

Must speak excellent English, have good computer skills, both live in and live out position available. Email: admin@esxoasia.com

FINANCIAL ADVISOR BKK OR KL

Are you a qualified Financial Advisor, Sales Pro or have working experience in financial services, sales or a related industry? Do you have a proven track record in financial services or sales industry? Native English speakers only or fluent in the English language. Please send your CV via email: careers@faramond.com For further details, please see our website at www.faramond.com

Project Manager (Phuket)**Responsibilities:**

- Manage and coordinate ongoing projects, estimate construction costs and prepare budget, quality control management

Required Qualifications:

- Male, not over 45 years old. Southerner is preferred
- 7 years experience in construction management, or project management
- Strong planning and leadership skills, systematic thinking, and interpersonal skills

Property Consultant (Phuket)**Responsibilities:**

- Responsible for property, project, property resale, leasing and other work assigned from the supervisor.

Required Qualifications:

- At least 1 year experienced in sales, customer service, or hospitality.
- Age 22 – 30 years old.

All position required:

- Thai Nationality
- Fluent in English
- Own car and driving license will be an advantage.
- Able to work 6 days a week.

**Plus Property Company Limited.**

Please send resume to nattha@sansiri.com, chuthamas@sansiri.com

For more information please contact 0 2201 3173, 0 2201 3072

**Two Chefs Restaurant**

Looking to fill the following positions:

▶ **Executive chefs**

▶ **Assistant chef**

Requirements

- Thai male or female aged 25-45 years
- Knowledge and experience with controlling the cost of production
- Computer experience
- Can speak, read, write and understand english
- Conscientious work ethic.
- Must have at least 5 years experience in food & nutrition

Only Thai national
(Contact) bae@twochefs.com
Tel: 089-6475392

www.AbsoluteWorld.net



The Absolute World Group is an established global force in Luxury Leisure and Boutique Resort development. We are currently looking for:

Admin Officer

- M/F, Thai nationality, aged over 25 years old
- Min 1 year work experience in Administration field
- Accounting skills preferable
- Willing to work extended hours when required
- Ability to work under pressure
- Well organized with good time management skills

Account Officer

- M/F, Thai nationality, aged 22-25 years old
- Bachelor's degree in accounting
- Min 1-2 years accounting experience
- Ability to operate Quick Books program is an advantage
- Strong interpersonal skills and computer literate
- Ability to work under pressure

Contract Officer

- M/F, Thai nationality, aged over 25 years old
- Good command of English, written and spoken
- Strong interpersonal skills and computer literate
- Ability to work on own initiative
- Willing to work extended hours when required
- Service-minded and enthusiastic

Office Admin Assistant

- An exciting opportunity for a hardworking and organized individual to join a large, multi-national, in-house design department based in Patong, Phuket.
- Your responsibilities will be to assist the Design Studio Manager with day-to-day administrative tasks.
- The successful applicant must have a good understanding of both written and spoken English as well as good organization skills, hard working, willing to learn new things and have a good knowledge of Microsoft Office.
- The successful applicant must also have their own car and a clean driving license as the job will include running errands across the island.

Please send salary expectations along with a CV to: hr@clubabsolute.com

Absolute Sales Corporation Co.,Ltd.

HR Department, 42/11 Taveewong Road, Patong Beach, Kathu, Phuket, 83150
Tel: +66 76 341 427 Fax: +66 76 341 425

**ARE YOU WORLD CLASS?**

Do you enjoy working in a positive, progressive, and professional work environment?

Do you enjoy working with people in a team?

Do you enjoy being recognized for your work?

We are seeking the following positions:

- Sales Executives and Marketing Representatives (with experience is preferred and multi-language skills are a big plus)
- Hostess
- Receptionists
- Contract Processors
- Admins / PAs

Call 076-344-161 or send your resume/CV (with recent photo) via fax to 076-344-162. You can also send an email to info@patongbayvacationclub.com.

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

British International School, Phuket

We are looking for candidates to fill positions in the following areas:

- **System Maintenance**
- **Housekeeping**
- **Security**
- **Teacher's Assistant**
 - Thai National
 - Bachelor's Degree in a related field
 - Teaching qualifications
 - Experience with childcare/teaching preferable
 - Good command of spoken and written English
 - Strong interpersonal and organizational skills
 - Love to take care of children

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



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



Farang Food Paradise Co., Ltd., Food & Beverage supplier based in Phuket, is currently seeking for the following position:

Sales Representative

- Thai National
- Age 25 - 35
- Bachelor's degree in any related fields
- Strong English communication skills
- Good interpersonal skill, service-minded and well organized
- Experience in sales and marketing & in wine business is a plus
- Self motivated and able to work independently
- Possess a car driver's licence

Interested applicants are invited to apply in person or send resume to:

FARANG FOOD PARADISE CO., LTD.
51/109 Moo 6, Phrabaramree Rd., T. Kathu, A. Kathu, Phuket 83120
simon@phuketfood.com or Tel. 076 321 941 - 076 203 192
http://www.phuketfood.com

Career Opportunity



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

Text & Layout Editor

Job Description:

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

Qualifications:

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

Salary & Welfare:

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

Interested applicants apply at:

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

NURSERY SCHOOL TEACHER

Native English teacher required to teach children aged 3-6 years old, must possess a degree and TEFL certification. For more info. Tel: 076-383150, 084-520 4978. Fax: 076-383150. Email: info@cravensnurseryphuket.com For further details, please see our website at www.cravensnurseryphuket.com

HEADSTART INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

We are seeking qualified, dedicated and caring primary teachers to fill 2 positions by August 1, 2011. UK qualified and experienced with PGCE preferred. For additional details, please contact at tel: 076-612876. Fax: 076-612876. Please send your CV to school@headstartphuket.com



Looking for dynamic and qualified beauty therapists.
Experienced in retail and customer service.
Excellent level of English required.
Attractive salary + work permit provided.

Please send resume to staff@sunspa-esthederm.com

Graphic Designer Wanted

New Luxury Yacht Charter Company in Phuket is looking for an experienced in house Graphic Designer to handle all website, logo, advertising and media work. The applicant must have a good command of English both spoken and written. Office located in Pa Khlok. Please send CV to perryseehoe@hotmail.com or Tel: 08 0562 6731 for interview.

Passionately Swiss.™



Mövenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket
509 Patak Road, Karon Beach, Phuket 83100, Thailand
Phone +66 76 396139, Fax +66 76 396122
resort.phuket@moevenpick.com

www.moevenpick-hotels.com

Mövenpick Hotels & Resorts, an international hotel chain of Swiss origin, is growing fast with properties in Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia. With the constant growth of this international hotel chain, we require professional, creative and pro-active employees and looking for you to grow with our dedicated and progressive team.

Financial Controller/ Director of Finance, Phuket

We are looking for progressive individual to management finance operation to two of our properties in Phuket (Mövenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket and Mövenpick Resort Bangtao Beach Phuket).

Qualifications:

- Thai or foreign nationality, aged between 35-50
- Bachelor Degree in Accounting/Finance or more
- Similar experience in a 5 star hotel for the past 3 years
- Displays a high degree of self motivation, passion and energy
- Highly motivated and excellent team leader with entrepreneurship skill
- Excellent English communication and presentation skills.

Please email your resume to our VP of Finance and Controlling Asia at thiti.thongbenjamas@moevenpick.com and kasama.nindaeng@moevenpick.com

BluNagaracha Co.,Ltd is leading the travel company in the Andaman Sea. We provide luxury travel program from Phuket to variety of places around Andaman Sea by exclusive catamaran boats. Our office is located at 73-75 Phuket Road, Tambon Talad Yai, Muang, Phuket.

We are looking for team members to join us as:

Tour Operation

- Tour Operation Manager
- Tour Guide
- Photographer & Videographer

Sales & Marketing

- Director Sales & Marketing
- Marketing Manager
- Sales Manager
- Assistant Sales Manager
- Assistant Marketing Manager

HR & Training

- Training Manager

Boat Operation

- Boat Director
- Chief Engineer (Boat)
- Mechanic Technician (Boat)
- Catamaran Boat Captain

Accounting and Finance

- Purchasing Manager
- Accountant
- Store & Receiving

Bakery

- Sous Chef
- Pastry Chef
- Executive Chef (FB Chef)

Please submit your CV to:

hr@bluanda.com, Tel: 076 216-746

Salary, benefits and remuneration package are fully provided for qualified candidates.

Gazette Online Classifieds
– 1 0,000 readers every day!

COOK

Cook wanted to learn how to cook foreign meals. Some English is a big advantage, interest in the work is a must. Tel: 087-2736427 (Thai), 086-268 8061 (English). Email: schendl@loxinfo.co.th Website at www.weissbie randwine.com

2 SALESMEN/ WOMEN WANTED

For 46 projects at advertising firm. Farang, any nationality, to maintain relations with 130 customers and acquire new clients on Phuket island. Contact Jerome. Tel: 083-592 6288.

DOG LOVERS

Good accommodation with living quarters above garage. Husband to work as driver and handyman. Wife to work as housekeeper in large villa with important duty of caring for 5 dogs. Tel: 088-168 9455.

GRAPHIC DESIGNER REQUIRED

Fast-growing Internet-based company is looking to hire a full time graphic designer to do the following tasks: website mock ups, logo design, book cover design and banner advertising design. We require that you speak basic English. Contact for more info. Tel: 087-387 4771 (English & Thai). Email: dada@phuket-tours.org

COOK NEEDED

Italian restaurant needs a female cook. Salary 10,000 baht plus service charge. Tel: 076-343019. Email: info@casajip.com

SALESPERSON

Looking for salesperson with good written and spoken Indonesian. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-620193, 081-968 2017. Email: info@mobilepooldoctor.com

NATIVE ENGLISH TEACHER

Caucasian female to teach class with 10-12 students, 3-7 year olds. In Chalong Mon-Fri 8am-4pm. To start immediately. Tel: 080-624 7060. Email: phuketpreschool@yahoo.com

TV CAMERAMAN WANTED

Professional experienced in using HD video cameras and editing with Final Cut Pro essential. Thai national preferred. Email resume and work samples to Duncan. Tel: 081-893 4006 (English). Email: duncan@worthington.asia

ACCOUNTANT

English-speaking accountant experienced in Express program needed. Tel: 076-620193, 081-968 2017. Fax: 076-620194. Email: info@mobilepooldoctor.com

THAI WAITRESS NEEDED

Full or part time to work in busy cafe. Good personality and spoken English essential as customers are mostly foreign. Excellent salary given. Tel: 089-648 8324, 086-509 7510. Email: simon@colonial-connection.com

THAI FEMALE SALES STAFF

Needed to run busy jewelry shop in Phuket Town 6 days/week. Good organization skills and English language necessary. Excellent salary and commissions paid. Start in August. Email: simon@colonial-connection.com

Professional Property Management Solutions

Phuket's premier property management company is looking for suitable, qualified candidates for the following positions:

Guest Services Agent

- 1 year experience in Hotel management
- Good command of English language both speaking and writing
- Good general computer skills

Villa Housekeepers**Chef or Cooks**

- Experience in Thai / European Food

Handyman/drivers**Gardeners****All positions require**

- Good command of English
- 1 year experience in Private Villa

Positions available for Thai Nationals only

Please send your application with a recent photo to Human Resource Dept. Tel: 076 270 750, Fax: 076 270 751, Email: personnel@pipsphuket.com

**DIVE SUPPLY CO., LTD.**

is a leading importer / exporter & distributor of Water sport and Scuba Diving Equipment in Asia.

We are recruiting for positions based at our head office in **PHUKET**:

Secretary / Assistant to Director of Sales and Marketing**Requirements:**

- Previous sales and/or export procedure experience is a must
- Good English; spoken and written / fluent in Thai Language spoken and written
- Good working knowledge of MS Excel, Outlook, Word
- 28 years +, Thai nationality

Sales Representative (Travelling sales person – male or female)**Requirements:**

- Foreigner (Western Nationality)
- Proven sales track record is a must
- Excellent English, spoken and written; other languages would be advantageous
- Excellent working knowledge of MS Outlook, Word, Excel
- PADI Divemaster or higher
- Foreigner with "Own Work permit", Car Driving License + Own car

For details please check: www.divesupply.com/jobs.php

WINE & TASTE

The Finest Wines for Your Money

invites candidates for the following position:

Junior Sales Executive**Qualifications:**

- Bachelor's degree
- Good command of spoken and written English
- Good knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel
- Must have driver's licence
- Experience in marketing or in hospitality industry is an advantage
- Thai, female aged 25 to 28 with a good personality

Please send a CV with recent photo to: info@wineandtaste.com

International Wine Importers Co. Ltd.
68 Lagoon Road, Cherngtalay, Talang Phuket
Tel: 076-270852 Fax: 076-270851

General Classifieds**Articles For Sale****SWEDISH CANDY SALE LAST DAY**

Stock clearance. Gott & Blandat, Bilar, Djungelvrål, Snoren, etc. Tel: 076-246427, 087-274 6602 (English), 085-885 6798. Fax: 076-246180. Email: info@scansnax.nu For further details, please see our website at www.scansnax.nu

MOVING SALE

CAT CDMA Internet Device – 1,500 baht, Oven (H: 32cm / W: 53cm / D: 32cm) - 1,000 baht, Office Chair - 800 baht, Shelves - 600 baht each or 1,000 baht for both. Tel: 084-629 3471 (English). Email: daoulasc@gmail.com

IPAD1 WIFI 32GB

Good condition. Only 10,000 baht. Tel: 087-026 1362. Email: chumapkt@gmail.com

11 STAINLESS STEEL SLINGS

Grade 316. Length: 10m. Diameter: 8mm. Price: 2,500 baht per sling. Tel: 089-833 8647.

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE 2

30 glass shelves, brackets, scrub, bed, cashier table, nail table, 2 massage chairs, auto machine, electric paraffin machine, many other items for massage and beauty parlor. Tel: 086-281 8883.

MOVING SALE

Last few items! 5-piece Root furniture set, canoes, bed frame, TV stand, washing machine, speakers, flower pots, Penn reel w/ rod. Tel: 087-282 5008. Email: katafrog@hotmail.com

CAKE MIXER

Tomex TM-951 cake mixer with dough hooks. Converts to hand-held for mixing sauces or drinks. Two high-quality cake pans (heart shaped). 1,950 baht. Tel: 089-896 5600. Email: enquiry@aenyim.com

MOVING! ITEMS FOR SALE

- Electrolux coffee machine, auto-drip coffee (includes filters): 500 baht
 - Hanabashi electric stovetop cooker: 500 baht
 - Royal Phuket Marina Health Club one month membership: 6,000 baht value, open to any offers!
- Tel: 082-804 5506. Email: brettsouth@gmail.com

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Stainless-steel water filter, 35 liters. Nano 750-liter water tank. Samsung security system with 4 cameras. 22-inch monitor, 24-inch Sanyo TV, 3.1 clinch fridge and many other items. Tel: 086-281 8883.

MATTRESS SEMI-DOUBLE

Almost new, 4500 baht. Tel: 084-293 1713 (English). Email: tomo2011th@hotmail.com

DUPONT LIGHTERS

1 Dupont Lady, China Laquer 5,500 B1 Dupont Man, Gold 4,500. Tel: 081-891 6412. Email: flamingoklaus@aol.de

HOUSE CLEARANCE SALE

Relocating, everything must go! LG led TV, 3 months old; Samsung aircon; quality Index furniture, including dining set, bedroom set, office set; rugs and much more. Lots of children's stuff too – cot, pushchair, toys, etc. Chalong area. Tel: 089-291 7078 (English). Email: edgolfer73@yahoo.com

TODDLER TOYS

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1	A	L	I	A	6	O	R	E	S	9	S	A	A	B	12
13	B	A	S	R	A	14	D	O	N	A	16	A	I	R	E
17	A	R	E	N	T	18	E	C	O	L	19	N	O	S	E
20	T	S	E	H	A	N	K	21	Z	E	A	L	O	T	
25	L	E	S	S	26	O	B	T	A	I	N				
27	D	E	F	E	N	S	E	28	P	U	N				
31	A	R	I	E	S	32	S	E	R	A	G	L	I	O	
37	S	O	L	D	S	38	W	U	N	G	39	R	A	R	A
41	H	O	L	S	T	E	I	N	42	C	E	D	A	R	
44	A	M	S	45	C	R	E	A	S	E	S				
47	D	E	A	R	I	E	48	L	E	N	T				
51	B	A	M	B	O	O	52	S	O	N	S	53	A	G	A
56	A	L	I	I	57	T	A	P	S	58	E	L	C	I	D
61	E	L	L	E	62	I	L	I	E	63	R	E	A	V	E
64	R	Y	E	S	65	C	A	T	T	66	T	R	E	S	

COFFEE break

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Registration: HS-AXL. Year: 1995. Equipment: IFR, Dual Nav/Com, ADF. Engine: Rotax 912 F3 (700 hrs SMOH). Propeller: Hoffman V352F (10 hrs SMOH). TTAf: 4,660 hrs. Thai C of A, valid until 2012. Price: 2.25 million baht (half share also available). Aircraft currently based at Nok Airfield in Chiang Mai. Contact Jon Malnick. Tel: 084-222 3945. Email: jonm66@me.com



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



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FC Phuket in disappointing away draw

Division One restarts for Phuket against Rajapracha Thailand FC.

Team	P	Pts
Buriram	18	45
BBCU	18	43
Songkhla	18	34
BUFC	18	34
Chainat	18	33
PTT Rayong	18	31
Rajapracha	18	28
Saraburi	18	26
Phuket	18	25
AFUTD	18	21



MEN AT ARMS: Abdoul Coulibaly goes for elbow room. Photos: Siam Sports

By Steven Layne

FC PHUKET launched the second half of their Thai Premier League (TPL) Division One campaign on Sunday against Rajapracha Thailand FC at the Mahidol University Salaya campus stadium in Nakhon Pathom.

Phuket notched up two away victories during seven weeks of cup action, against Thanyaburi United FC and Premier league side Sri Racha FC. Last Sunday, they hoped to exploit this experience and record a first league win away from home in eight TPL Division One matches.

Five new signings were officially presented by FC Phuket last week and three were in the starting line up for this league match including: goalkeeper, Jonathan

Matijas from France, midfielder Boubacar Issoufou from Niger, and forward Jongrak Pakdee.

Combined with Kone Adama, Sarach Yooyen and Nene Bi Tre Sylvestre, Phuket's strike potential showed promise facing a team that has scored just 20 goals compared with Phuket's tally of 29.

Rajapracha FC also fielded a new addition to their squad; 21 year-old Santitorn Lattirorn, a midfielder transfer from Chonburi FC. His youthful presence bolstered a Crown attack with Rawat Merien and Krissana Wongbuddee.

However, Santitorn's debut provided no assists or goals for his new club, but the referee did note his name for an 89 th minute yellow card. The second yellow card of the game was given to Phuket's Nithirot Sokuma in the

9 2nd minute.

The scoreboard remained unchanged at 0-0 for the entire game and both teams left with a share of the points.

Rajapracha picked up their fourth draw in 18 matches which includes eight wins and six losses. With 28 points, they remain in 7th place.

Still in 9 th place, Phuket earned their seventh draw and their fifth in eight away games. Including their six wins, Phuket have 25 points, just one point behind Saraburi FC.

Phuket are scheduled to play their 19th match of the season on Sunday against Big Bang Chulalongkorn United (BBCU). This will be the third time Phuket and BBCU have met this season.

On March 13, Phuket hosted



KNEES UP: No celebrations for FC Phuket – still winless away from home.

Other TPL Division One results last weekend:

Chainat FC 2 – 0 JW Rangsit FC

Suphan Buri 0 – 0 BBCU

Airforce Utd 0 – 1 RBAC FC

Saraburi 1 – 1 PTT Rayong

Buriram FC 2 – 0 Bangkok Utd

Samut Prakarn Customs Utd 2 – 1 Chiang Mai FC

Chantaburi 2 – 2 Songkhla FC

Bangkok FC 1 – 2 Thai Honda

BBCU at Surakul Stadium in a league match which ended in a scoreless draw.

On June 29 , Phuket again hosted BBCU for a second round draw in the Toyota League Cup. A 2 – 1 score after extra-time saw Phuket through to play Sri Racha in the last 16 stage.

BBCU will look to avenge their cup defeat and a lively crowd is expected to turn out at their Army Stadium in Din Daeng, Bangkok which has a capacity of 20,000. Kickoff will be at 6pm.

BBCU sit 2nd in the league rankings with 43 points from 18 games, just two points behind league leaders, Buriram FC.

Buriram will have a chore this Sunday as they travel to the south to take on Songkhla FC who are 3rd place with 34 points. That 6pm match will be at Dinsulanon Stadium in Songkhla which has consistently had the highest turnout in Division One. Combined with Buriram's loyal fans, that match is expected to draw a record-breaking crowd.

Phuket shatter Glass Rabbits in friendly

FC PHUKET proved once again that it can conquer a Premier League team in a deserved victory over Bangkok Glass Football Club (BGFC) on August 1 in Pathum Thani.

Phuket first dispatched Thai Premier League (TPL) side Sri Racha in the Toyota Cup earlier this month in a two-leg encounter, 4-3 on aggregate.

Last week's outing at Ho Saeng Chai Stadium was a friendly "warm-up" match and the Southern Sea Kirin were eager to lift their spirits after being

knocked out of the Thai FA Cup by a single goal against TOT SC on July 20.

Fourth place in the TPL, BGFC, known as the "Glass Rabbits", were not to be taken lightly by Phuket, who sit in ninth place in the 18-team division one league standings.

New midfielder Jongrak Pakdee kicked off his Phuket career with promise when he opened the scoring on 24 minutes.

Sustained pressure from BGFC wasn't enough to level the score

going into halftime.

Forward Poramut Krongborisut doubled Phuket's lead in the 66th minute to the dismay of BGFC fans.

The Glass Rabbits fought back hard and their efforts paid off when 27-year-old Brazilian striker Rafael Souza Silva Novais found the back of the net.

However, there was to be no comeback and in the end it was FC Phuket who prevailed at the final whistle with a match score of 2-1.

– Steven Layne

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Thailand Open gets McIlroy

NORTHERN Ireland's Darren Clarke and Rory McIlroy the current British Open champion and US Open champion respectively have confirmed they will join Lee Westwood for the inaugural US\$ 1million Thailand Golf Championship in December.

The trio will top a field of big names at the season-ending Asian Tour event at the Amata Spring Country Club in Chon Buri from December 15 to 18.

A Bt200million budget is bolstering the tournament, following last year's World Golf Salutes King Bhumibol Skins Gamewhich featured Tiger Woods and Paul Casey.

McIlroy, 22, and number five in the world, crushed the field with a massive eight-shot victory at the US Open at Congressional Country Club in June.

"I have heard so many wonderful things about Amata Spring Country Club and its championship golf course. I'm looking forward to competing in the inaugural Thailand Golf Championship in December with the hope of ending my season on a winning note," said the Hollywood born McIlroy.

Clarke, 42, sealed an emotional victory in the British Open at Royal St George's last month for his first Major title.

"I have competed regularly in Asia since the 1990s and I have always enjoyed my time over there playing on top golf courses and against top players from the Asian Tour. It will be wonderful for me to end the year strongly," said the big Dungannon man.

Westwood will be targeting his third victory of the year in Asia following his back-to-back tri-

umphs in April at the inaugural Indonesian Masters and Ballantine's Championship in South Korea.

"I always love to go to Asia especially, Thailand. The people are very friendly and welcoming. The golf courses there are very good," said Westwood.

"I played Amata Spring before and had a great time. The course is fantastic. It would be a special achievement if I can add The Thailand Golf Championship," he added.

The Thailand Championship will be broadcast live over four days on the Asian Tour's television platform, which reaches 200 countries and more than 800 million homes. The winner of the tournament will receive a cheque for US\$ 158,500 and also a berth in the World Golf Championship Bridgestone Invitational 2012.

— The Nation



Rory McIlroy, number 5 in the world.

Sailing club pursues royal trophies



FLYING SQUADRON: Phuket youths train for the next Optimist Championship, Hua Hin Regatta 2011.

PHUKET Youth Sailing Squadron is preparing to enter the Hua Hin Regatta 2011, so they're inviting all youths aged seven and up, specifically underprivileged children, to sign up now for this exciting new club that promotes youth sailing in Phuket.

Five new youngsters have recently joined the sailing program, so we now have over 20 members. Seventeen of these children live at the Phuket Sunshine Village Foundation, www.phuketsunshinevillage.org.

Since it started in 2010, the Phuket Youth Sailing Squadron has competed successfully in several regattas in Thailand. The youngsters are now in training for the next Optimist Champi-

onship, Hua Hin Regatta 2011. We are hoping to raise enough funds to give eight sailors the opportunity to compete in this prestigious event.

Hua Hin Regatta 2011 is an annual sailing event that has been organized since the year 2000 in honor of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej who excels in sailing sportsmanship in Thailand. This year's regatta will celebrate his majesty the King's 84th birthday anniversary. Sailors will compete for several Royal Trophies, namely:

- Royal Vega Rudder trophy for various classes from His Majesty the King of Thailand
- Super Mod National Championship trophy from His Majesty

the King of Thailand

- OK dinghy National Championship trophy from Her Majesty the Queen

- Princess Cup for Optimist Championship from HRH Princess Galyani Vadhana.

Support youth sailing on Phuket and sponsor a sailor or an event today. For further information on sponsorship packages, please visit: www.phuketyouthsailing.org or contact Katy at 085 2159 185.

Phuket Youth Sailing club is a member of the Yacht Racing Association of Thailand and is officially recognized by The Sports Authority of Thailand and the Phuket Sports Association.

— Phuket Gazette

Bend it like Therdsak

By Chutharat Plerin

FORMER Captain of the Thailand national team and current star midfielder for Chonburi FC Therdsak Chaiman was in Phuket last weekend for a youth coaching session at Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Center (TSLC).

The free coaching clinic was organized with the help of Thanachart Bank and ran between 8am and 11am on July 30. Over 30 children took part and thoroughly benefited from the experience.

Therdsak was full of praise for the facility and for the organization of the day's event.

"The stadium is great, I think it is suitable for national or national league camps too. Thank you to the TSLC, all the sponsors and the children. I came to Phuket a long time ago with the national team, but this is my first time in this facility," he said.

He also took note of the enthusiasm of those who participated despite the session only running for one day.

"Chonburi FC will certainly be the [Thai Premiere League] champions this year, I think we can beat Buriram FC," he said.



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World record is on the cards for DaVinci's Larsen

By Neil Quail

AUSTRALIAN Paul Larsen and his *DaVinci* crew raced in to second place after an exciting four days of Multihull class sailing at this year's Six Senses Phuket International Raceweek.

Racing conditions in the waters off the Evason and Bon Island resort for the regatta were good, but certainly less threatening than what Paul has been used to over the past 14 years aboard some of the fastest sailing vessels to ever grace the oceans.

Paul's taste for speed records developed when he crewed for Bruno Peyron on *Explorer*. In 1998 they established a best trans-Pacific time, crossing between Yokohama, Japan and San Francisco in 14 days, 17 hours and 22 minutes.

There was no doubt that when Peyron organized the first "no holds barred" round-the-world yacht race in 2000, Paul would be involved. Securing himself a place on Pete Goss' *Team Phillips*, a 120-foot catamaran, the goal was to win and do so in the fastest time.

Unfortunately, during final sea trials three weeks before "The Race" was due to begin the whole crew – including Paul – had to abandon the boat, valued at the time at over 4 million, in mid-Atlantic waters.

Although disappointed, the stubborn antipodean was not going to sit out the most challenging sailing experience of his life. The Race started on December 31 with Paul joining the crew of Tony Bullimore's *Team Legato* that very morning. Nearly 105 arduous days later they arrived back to Barcelona, Spain from where they set out.

Bullimore was originally made famous by his rescue, which came after five days spent in an upturned hull after capsizing during the 1996 Vendée Globe single-handed around the world race.

Paul's skipper on *Team Phillips*, Goss, also made a name for himself during that same race when he turned his boat around and sailed for two days into hurricane winds to rescue fellow



ROCKET MAN: VSR 1 hit speeds close to 50 knots. Photos: Vestas Sailrocket

competitor Rapha 1Dinelli.

In 2002, as watch-leader and helmsman on Tracy Edwards' *Maiden 2*, Paul helped secure the outright 24-hour record when they traveled 1,118 kilometers in a single day averaging 28.95 knots or 53.3kms per hour.

In that same year, the Vestas Sailrocket (VSR) concept took shape and a path to speed sailing's outright record was laid out.

As pilot and project leader, Paul has been instrumental to the boat's development and on March 8 the VSR 2 was launched to continue attempts at the record.

"The record has been raised by nine knots in nine years and our focus now is to achieve the outright record," said Paul.

"For a brief moment the VSR1 was the fastest boat in the world, but we never nailed the outright record. We've

learned a lot over the past years and most of that knowledge has come from our failures, not the successes," he added.

The record must be ratified by the World Sailing Speed Record Council (WSSRC) and in fact Paul does hold the B class record over 500 meters at 47.36 knots, set in Walvis Bay, Namibia in 2008.

Paul enjoys discussing all aspects of the record attempts from design to piloting. He also ex-

plains, in simple terms, how the boat manages such incredible speeds.

"We chose Walvis Bay in Namibia for the wind conditions in the area that spill out from the headland and coastal dunes – ideal for our requirements," he said.

"A massive amount of power is generated by using the speed of the boat itself to make more wind. I start off at 90 degrees to my course with a good wind and as the boat accelerates, the wind created by the boat speed is added to



DOWNTIME: Paul Larsen at this year's Raceweek. Photo: Dean Noble

natural wind," he added.

"It's like being able to convert a strong breeze of 32kph into a gale force of 80kph," he added.

At these speeds, particularly in a boat that weighs 275 kg unmanned, lifting or tipping plays a large part in design.

"Someone trying to tip you over by pushing at the soles of your feet could push you sideways, but not over. Opposing forces of water and wind are aligned and this same theory allows us to handle a lot more power without tipping

over like most other sailing craft," Paul said.

"Of course I've had a few scares. I'd like to tell the story of how I broke the record, but getting out of the cockpit with just a few bumps, bruises and a cracked helmet after a high-speed crash is also a good one to tell," he said with grin.

Paul will be in Namibia this September to continue his attempt at the record and hopes to return for Raceweek next year with a few more stories



FLYER: Paul crashes VSR 1 in 2008.

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