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Foreigners losing homes to con men

Police warn of gang targeting wives of foreigners in bids to swindle them out of their homes

By Atchaa Khamlo

POLICE are warning Phuket homeowners they are a prime target for fraud gangs, with wives of foreigners often falling prey.

Under condition of anonymity, one victim told the *Gazette* she was approached by a man in June asking to rent a luxury home for his boss, a wealthy Chinese man.

She was surprised when the man showed interest in her offer to rent out her home out at a rate of 150,000 baht a month, she said.

She was taken to a hotel in Kata, where she met the wealthy Chinese, his "manager" and a man introduced as "a gambling expert".

After the Chinese man agreed to rent the house, she was told to wait until he came back with his wife. As she waited, the others told her the Chinese man had a gambling problem and had lost millions at gambling dens.

The men then showed her some card tricks to show how easily the

'I can only blame myself for destroying everything my family had...'

One woman told the *Gazette*, on condition of anonymity

man could be duped. When he returned, an argument broke out between the Chinese man and the others, who said they wanted him to stop gambling.

Speaking harshly, the Chinese man said it was "none of their business" what he did with his money. It was a fair game of chance and he would be just as happy to play with them than in a den, if they could raise the 10 million baht stake, he said.

After he showed her a bag of cash and left the room, the others convinced her that it was better

to con the man and split the winnings than have him lose it at a gambling den. The winnings could be donated to a temple, they said.

Although she had no money, she agreed.

When the card game took place, the group lost all of their money because of a mistake she had made, they convinced her.

Riddled with guilt, the woman agreed to take out a loan from a credit company using her home as collateral. It only took one hour for the men to cajole her into completing the transaction.

For months after, the others continued to contact her with promises to pay back the money. It was only when she was contacted by police in July she realized the truth: she had been swindled.

The other three men had in turn been duped by the "wealthy man", who disappeared with all the winnings. They told police to pass on the message to her.

Continued on page 2



Spirit mediums, called 'mah song', join a ceremony marking the start of this year's Phuket Vegetarian Festival. Photo: Christian Mouchet

Vegetarian Festival enters 185th year

DEVOTEES at Chinese shrines across Phuket raised their *go teng* poles at sunset on Monday and began reciting incantations to invite the Jade Emperor and Nine Emperor Gods to descend from the heavens.

At midnight, lanterns were hung from the poles to mark the beginning of this year's Phuket Vegetarian Festival.

At Kathu Shrine, honored as the "original home" of the 185-year-old tradition, Kathu Mayor Chai-anan Sutthikul was joined by Culture Ministry Deputy Permanent Secretary Prarop Laovanich and Pheu Thai Party spokesman Phrompong Nopparit in declaring the 2011 festival officially open.

A full program of purification, including bathing in hot oil, walking through fire, being pierced by sharp objects and – of course – adhering to a strict vegetarian diet, will be observed by the devotees for the full nine days of the festival, which will close with a bonfire at Saphan Hin at midnight on October 5.

Raging bull leaves honeymooners in tears

A UKRAINIAN couple's Phuket honeymoon turned to tragedy when a male elephant went on a rampage, attacking the elephant they were riding and sending the young bride to hospital with two broken legs and a battered body.

Artem Perepelitsyn, 24, and his wife Tetiana Meia, 26, married in their hometown of Odessa on September 2 before setting out on their "dream trip" to Thailand.

On September 12, two days after arriving in Phuket, the pair booked an elephant trekking trip with Camp Chang Kalim.

"It was the only thing we really wanted to do," a tearful Mrs Meia told the *Gazette*.

"No one warned us that it could be so dangerous," she said.

About five minutes into the 45-minute trek in the hills above Kalim, Mrs Meia was enjoying her seat next to her husband atop a large female elephant named "Pancake" when she noticed something unsettling.

"I looked behind and I could see Captain running uphill toward us," Mrs Meia said.

Captain was carrying two American tourists and a mahout at the time, she added.

"Captain charged with his tusks into the right side of our elephant, and then again, and again," Mr Perepelitsyn said.

On the third blow, Pancake fell onto her left side, pinning Mrs Meia to the ground. The mahout was able to jump off the elephant, but the Ukrainians were trapped in the seat fastened to Pancake's back.

"The guy from the camp had tied a strap across our laps and when we fell, it came up and tightened, so we couldn't get off the elephant. I somehow managed to pull myself out, but my wife was stuck," Mr Perepelitsyn said.

"After we went down, Captain continued attacking, pushing our elephant and my wife along the ground," he said.

"We were screaming and I thought I was going to die because I couldn't feel anything and [the elephant] and I were sliding and sliding," Mrs Meia said, struggling for words as she choked back tears.

"I said to Artem, 'Good-bye, I love you'," she said.

For our full report, see pages 4-5



Russian newlyweds Artem Perepelitsyn and Tetiana Meia in hospital after the attack.

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This Week

Fake DSI cop on the run



Police searching high and low for womanizing imposter. **Page 7**

Business



PATA tells Phuket to prepare for new breed of tourists. **Page 10**

Livewire



Woody helps you pick a wireless internet service. **Page 12**

Explore



Try deep water solo mountain climbing on Tonsai Beach. **Page 14**

Thai Gallery



Learn about the rich experiences of Wanida Hongyok. **Page 19**

Sport



Indonesia cleans up at the QuikSilver surf competition. **Page 41**

Saturday



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Sunday



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Monday



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Tuesday



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Wednesday



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Thursday



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Winai dodges a bullet

THE controversial chief (*kamnan*) of Karon subdistrict narrowly escaped with his life early last Saturday morning when his would-be assassin failed to hit him after firing at close range.

Winai Chidchiew told the *Phuket Gazette* he was returning by motorcycle from a funeral on Patak Road Soi 9 when the attack occurred at about 1am.

"Along the way, I saw my friend Narong Saemin at the entrance of Soi Patak 9. We chatted there for a moment, then a pickup truck arrived and stopped for a few seconds," he said.

"I thought the pickup belonged to friends of my friend. I heard someone say 'hey', so I turned around. Then a man in the pickup lowered the window and pointed a gun at me. He pulled the trigger just once," he explained.

His assailant was only about three meters away when he fired the gun.

"Luckily, I dodged the shot by shifting my head away. I fell down on the ground. I thought that the gunman would fire again, so I hid next to the shop," he added.

Then the pickup drove off. Kamnan Winai got a good look at his assailants, he said.

The gunman was sitting in the passenger seat of the truck, a green Mitsubishi with Trang license plates with the numerical sequence



Forensic police inspect the van hit by the shotgun blast. Inset: Kamnan Winai points to the damage.

3813 and another man was driving, he said. Neither he nor Mr Narong suffered any injuries.

He reported the incident to Chalong police the next morning.

From the initial investigation, eight shotgun pellets had peppered the back of a passenger van parked at the scene, said Chalong Police Deputy Superintendent Narong Laksanawimon.

"I guess it must have been an illegally made shotgun or a *thai pradit* (homemade) firearm. We are still not sure whether the target of the gunman was Kamnan Winai, Narong Saemin, or both. Both men are involved in activities involving the *phon prayot*

(benefits) of others," he said.

Mr Narong is suspected of involvement with gambling, while Kamnan Winai himself has conflicts with many people in Karon, including business and hotel operators, he added.

"We are still collecting evidence. We will make a sketch of the gunman, since Kamnan Winai said that he could remember him, to try to determine his identity, Lt Col Narong said.

"As far as I can remember, the gunman has the dark skin tone typical of a southern Thai male and was about 30 years old," Kamnan Winai said.

— *Phuket Gazette*

Con men targeting foreign homes

From page 1

"I can only blame myself for destroying everything my family had," said the woman, who believes the water she was given to drink at the hotel was drugged.

"I have to find 12mn baht plus 360,000 baht in monthly interest to get my house back, but I don't have any money. All I can do is hope they are arrested and some of it is returned," she said with tears in her eyes.

The woman is still negotiating for time with the loan company to find a new place for her family to live before the house is seized.

There have been many other similar cases in Phuket in recent years. In most, victims believe they were drugged, police told her.

The woman wanted to warn people there are other gangs working the same scam in Phuket, initially making contact under the ruse of wanting to rent homes.

"Some people say victims like me are stupid, but they haven't lived my experience," she said.

There may be some hope for her, as arrest warrants have been issued for three people in her case: "The driver", Prasert Rattana-ruegmorn, 41, from Trang; "The manager", Thira Thavorn, 50, from Phuket; and "The gambler", Preeda "Ti Surat" Lorsuchart, 49, from Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

Still at large is "the wealthy man", known only as "Koh Kia". Police know he is from Songkhla, but no arrest warrant has been issued. His real name is unknown.

TWO young boys – Pinitchnan Na Roied, 5, and Wannawut Thanakarn, 7 – drowned late last Saturday afternoon while playing in Klong Mudong, an estuary near a popular tourist area on Phuket's east coast.

"Witnesses said they saw three boys playing in the water at about 1pm. A fisherman passing by told them to get out of the water because it was moving dangerously fast following the heavy rains.

"But after warning the boys he just went about his business," a Kusoldham Foundation rescue worker told the *Gazette*.

A local resident later pulled the body of Pinitchnan out of the water and onto a nearby bridge.

"After realizing who it was he rushed to the homes of the other two boys to check if they were



Klong Mudong in Wichit sub-district, where the boys drowned.

safe. The one boy who was home said he left the creek immediately after being warned by the fisherman. The other two boys stayed to play," said the rescue worker.

Concerned about Wannawut, who was still missing, local residents checked his friends' homes

before heading back to the bridge to search for him.

"Then the villagers saw something that looked like hair floating below the surface of the water. It was Wannawut. They couldn't get his body out of the water, so they called us," the rescue worker said.

"It took our divers about 30 minutes to recover the body. The bodies of both boys are now at Vachira Phuket Hospital," he added after their recovery.

Klong Mudong has recently gained popularity among local residents and tourists as a haven away from the busy beach areas such as Patong, Kata and Karon on Phuket's west coast.

The natural scenery has inspired many artists and been the focus of local photography competitions.

— *Chutharat Plerin*

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Phuket Health Office chief Sak (center) inspects food being prepared at Bang Neaw Shrine.

Officials investigate Veg Fest street 'meat'

OFFICIALS are inspecting Vegetarian Festival food stalls daily following reports that some vendors have been lacing "artificial meat" dishes with real meat to make them more attractive to potential diners.

Meat products are strictly forbidden for those taking part in the annual purification ritual.

Vendors have over the years used tofu and other high-protein vegetable products to create dishes that mimic the texture and taste of authentic meat dishes, albeit with less protein.

Artificial prawns, hot dogs and even pork rinds are among the many manifestations of tofu used during cultural event.

With hundreds of vendors competing, it may come as no surprise that a few rotten apples have stooped to using real meat to get a leg up on the competition.

During an inspection of vendors at Bang Neaw Shrine on Tuesday, Phuket Health Office chief Sak Tanchaikul warned that violators would be immediately closed and prosecuted.

Thus far no arrests have been reported.

Tsunami drill at airport declared a 'success'

ABOUT 300 people from 34 organizations and agencies took part in a tsunami-evacuation drill at Phuket Airport last Saturday.

Codenamed PEMEX 2011, short for Phuket Emergency Exercises, the drill was based on the approach of a tsunami generated by a 9.0 magnitude earthquake centered 460 kilometers west of Sumatra – the same location of the earthquake that triggered the December 26, 2004 tsunami.

The theoretical tsunami generated at 2:30pm would within 40 minutes reach the shoreline near the airport, the westernmost part of which is located just 100 meters from the high-tide mark.

Just three minutes after the seismic event, at 2:33pm, news of the quake was relayed to the Phuket Airport Director and participating

government officers.

The ensuing drill saw officers announce an emergency evacuation from the terminal building via the posted tsunami evacuation route to the designated safety zone at the offices of Phuket Air Catering Co Ltd (PACCO), about 1.4 kilometers east along the service road that runs parallel to the runway. On arriving at PACCO, the mock injured received emergency first aid from DMAT teams waiting for them.

The Southern Meteorological Center (West Coast) declared the "all clear" at 3:10pm.

"This shows we are prepared to handle the situation if a tsunami is approaching. We know what to do and which route will take us to the safety zone," said Airports of Thailand acting president Nirandra Theeranartsin.

– Pimwara Choksakulpan



A DMAT medical emergency responder tends to one of the mock injured.

'Monk' hash mule nabbed

By Warisa Temram

A NEPALESE "monk" was caught at Phuket International Airport (PIA) last Saturday with eight kilos of hashish in his luggage. The haul was said to be worth an estimated 800,000 baht.

The suspect, Hise Chiring Tamang, was presented at a press conference by PIA Customs Director Montira Cherchoo.

"I was informed by a detective that there would be a drug smuggler coming through PIA on September 24, so I ordered all officers here to step up random luggage checks on that day," said PIA Deputy Director Thani Chuangcho.

Dressed in monk's robes, Mr Hise arrived on a Qatar Airways flight from India. After transiting through Malaysia he arrived at PIA, where he was stopped by customs officers who asked to search his luggage.

"He looked suspicious as he



A customs officer displays the hash haul as Mr Hise sits in the background. Photo: Warisa Temram

made his way out of the arrivals hall," Mr Thani said.

"One of our officers asked to search his luggage and found a hidden pocket in a custom-made suitcase. When he opened it, he

found bricks of hashish," he said.

"The 'monk' claimed that he didn't know who he was supposed to deliver the luggage to.

"We later found out that he had entered Thailand four times be-

fore, through Suvarnabhumi Airport.

"He also confessed that he received 70,000 baht each time he smuggled cannabis into Thailand," Mr Thani said.

The hash bust at the airport follows police seizing 40,000 liters of smuggled fuel aboard the modified fishing trawler *Premika* at the Phuket Deep Sea Port last Friday night.

Officers arrested the vessel operator, identified as local resident Anusit Kebsup in connection with the haul.

That arrest came just days after Phuket police seized 400 kilos of marijuana worth an estimated 20 million baht.

Police arrested Sompong "Pet" Tham-u-tok, 23, at his home in Rawai, where they allegedly found the stash under a staircase in the house.

The raid, on September 21, followed a tip-off from an informant, police said.

Pilot survives paraglide plunge

GERMAN national Ralph Gunper Luepke luckily escaped serious injury last Friday after plunging into the jungle behind the Royal Phuket Yacht Club while paragliding over Nai Harn Beach.

Mr Luepke, 50, better known in paragliding circles by his nickname "Nino", was reported missing at 2pm after setting off from a cliff above Nai Harn.

"He was missing for a while before he was found injured in the jungle behind the Yacht Club," said Phuket Paragliding Club President Prasert Theplaong.

Mr Luepke was rushed to

Phuket International Hospital, where his only serious injury was a broken left arm.

He was discharged from the hospital last Saturday afternoon.

Mr Luepke told the Phuket Gazette that he had more than 17 years experience in paragliding.

"Most of that is in Phuket," he said.

Although he declined to explain exactly what caused the plunge, Mr Luepke added, "Once you're up in the air anything can happen. You have to cope with any problems that come up the best you can."

– Chutharat Plerin

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Daycare teacher denies torture charge

THE daycare teacher caught on video hitting her students has confessed to assault, but denies the more serious charge of torture under the Child Protection Act.

Phuket City Police Officer Wirat Tenthong said Pranee "Kru Kiew" Jantalert confessed to harming the children, but denied the abuse constituted a violation of Article 26 of the 2003 Child Protection Act.

Violators of Article 26, which forbids a person to commit acts which result in torturing a child's body or mind, are liable to a term of imprisonment not exceeding three months or a fine not exceeding

30,000 baht, or both. Both charges against Kru Kiew will be forwarded to the Phuket Public Prosecutor as soon as the case file is signed by Phuket City Superintendent Chote Chidchai, Capt Wirat told the *Gazette*.

Kru Kiew, who responded to a police summons in the case and came in for questioning, has not been arrested.

However if she fails to report for her next appointment for additional questioning police will apply for an arrest warrant at Phuket Provincial Court, he said.

– Atchaa Khamlo

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BKK man found living with mother's corpse

IN A case that bears a striking resemblance to a scene in the film *Psycho*, a 55-year-old Bangkok man was last month found to have been sharing his home with the corpse of his mother, who died three years ago.

Neighbors called Bang Sue Police officers to the house on Soi Inthamara in Bangkok's Phayathai District after noticing an offensive smell in the vicinity.

They arrived to find an old wooden-concrete house in a somewhat dilapidated state.

Calling for the owner, they were met by Praphat Wongsan, 55. When they asked Mr Praphat who he shared the house with, he was confused and it became clear he was mentally ill.

They entered the house and conducted a search.

In the second-floor bedroom, they found the skeleton of a woman on the floor.

The skeleton, dressed in a round-necked sleeveless shirt, was covered with a blanket.



There were no signs of foul play.

Mr Praphat told police that the body was that of his mother, Srisa-at Wongsan, who died of "a congenital disease" at age 84 three years earlier. Mr Praphat said he had not told anyone of her death.

Mr Praphat said he didn't work, but instead lived off money he inherited from his father more than 30 years ago.

Neighbors told police Mr Praphat never associated with anyone else, but just stayed at home.

As far as they knew, Mr Praphat's parents had forced him to stay at home since childhood and he had turned into a recluse.

He was strange but had never

done anyone harm, they said.

Police sent Mrs Srisa-at's skeleton to the hospital to determine the cause of death.

Police believe the family had been quite well off many years ago. Mr Praphat's father had worked at the port, while Mrs Srisa-at had been a civil servant.

The couple had apparently wanted Mr Praphat to study hard and become a doctor – so desperately that they had forbidden him from leaving the house – making him stay indoors to read books all the time.

Mr Praphat became a recluse and developed a slight mental illness. Police took him to the station to give a statement and sent him to a psychiatrist for examination.

The 1960 film *Psycho* features character Norman Bates, who develops a violent split personality: one personality is his own and the other that of his mother, whose decomposing corpse is discovered inside his house.

– Manager Online

Rampaging

THE whereabouts and future plans for Captain, the bull elephant that went on a rampage that sent a Ukrainian honeymooner to hospital with two broken legs, remain unclear amid dubious claims by the owners of Camp Chang Kalim.

Meanwhile, the Phuket Provincial Livestock Office warns all camp owners to exercise caution when using bull elephants for trekking.

TETIANA Meia was left in Phuket International Hospital with clean breaks to her left thigh bone, both bones in her lower right leg and a slew of questions as a result of the rampage.

Suspicions were aroused when the couple found a report on the *Phuket Gazette* that a bull elephant named "Captain" went on a rampage in January 2010 that sent tourists running for their lives and a Swedish man to hospital with a broken leg.

When the *Gazette* asked Camp Chang Kalim owner Witthaya "Ja" Thawiros if this was the same "Captain" involved in the incident last month, he said it was not.

"The 'Captain' we have now is registered as 'Phamorn' and is not the same as the other Captain, who was sent back to Yala [province] – where he's from," Mr Witthaya said.

Mr Witthaya also said that the "current" Captain was sent off the island on Monday morning to Phang Nga province, where he is now working "dragging logs".

However, Phuket Livestock Office veterinarian Chirayu Nirunwoj on Tuesday confirmed to the *Gazette* that his office had no record of Captain being transferred off Phuket – neither after the 2010 incident nor the most recent.

"Normally, when animals are moved off the island, the Livestock Office needs to be informed, and we will issue paperwork to be presented at the checkpoint leaving the island. But I have not heard anything from the camp about moving Captain out of Phuket," Mr Chirayu said.

When presented with Mr Chirayu's statement, camp owner Mr Witthaya responded: "As it was urgent, we did not inform the Livestock Office."

Mr Chirayu said the only information his office had on Captain was that he was registered in Phuket in 2009, had flatulence on May 24, 2009, was in musth around the end of January 2010 (when the first rampage occurred), and was given anthelmintics (anti-parasitic drugs) in April 2010. The records also show that Captain is 22 years old, weighs 3.5 tons and has never been transferred out of Phuket

since registration.

His office was not informed, however, that Captain's bout with musth in January 2010 led to a rampage in which a tourist was seriously injured.

Musth is a condition in bull elephants characterized by highly aggressive behavior coinciding with a surge in testosterone levels.

In addition to behavioral change, an bull in musth often discharges a thick secretion from the temporal glands that is easily identified by "wet spots" between the elephant's eyes and ears.

The condition lasts about one month, during which time the animal should be considered extremely dangerous to humans and other elephants, especially females.

Musth was blamed when a bull elephant went berserk on a trekking tour in Khao Sok National Park in Surat Thani earlier this year, killing one Swiss tourist and seriously injuring three others.

"All elephant camp owners need to keep elephants in musth under control. They need to separate them and chain them up when they are in musth," Mr Chirayu said.

"We warned [Camp Chang Kalim] owners and Captain's mahout last time he was in musth. They need to keep their eyes on him and not use any musth elephants on trekking tours," he added.

However, Captain's latest rampage was likely not due to musth, Mr Chirayu said.

"It may have been that Captain does not like Pancake [the elephant the Ukrainians were riding] and he tusked her. It wasn't related to musth – elephants are social animals, so there is a possibility they simply don't like each other," he said.

Mr Witthaya has a different version of events:

"While they were riding Pancake – who was about 10 meters ahead of Captain – a monitor lizard ran past his hind feet and scared him. Elephants are naturally afraid of snakes and lizards.

"This spooked Captain and he ran away, hitting Pancake in the front and causing her to fall with the couple sitting on her back. Pancake was trying to get up, but Captain probably thought she

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bull leaves trail of questions



The Ukrainian honeymooners smile for a photo on the back of their elephant, Pancake, seconds before the attack. Photo: Artem Perepelitsyn

would hit him back so he kept tussling her," Mr Witthaya added.

The Ukrainians told the *Gazette* that Captain charged and tusked Pancake three times before she fell – and continued to tusk her for "about two minutes" thereafter.

When asked if they were satisfied with Mr Witthaya's version of events, Mr Perepelitsyn responded with a defiant "No".

"How can they claim that Captain was scared by a lizard? If they are using this elephant to trek in the jungle every day, I don't think he'd be scared – he would be used to it," Mr Perepelitsyn said.

He also pointed out that Captain charged three times before knocking Pancake over – he didn't just "bump into her" while running scared, as the camp owner claims.

Mr Chirayu of the Livestock Office echoed the sentiment: "I wasn't there, but I'm curious about why Captain would have kept tussling Pancake. If it's true that Captain panicked when the monitor lizard ran past him, he would not have intended to tusk Pancake like that."

Camp Chang Kalim agreed to pay the 300,000-baht hospital bill for the couple with their insurance, and an extra 100,000 baht on top.

"It's not enough, but it's better than nothing," Mrs Meia said as the newlyweds readied for their flight home on Monday.

She pointed out that she will need extensive physical therapy, will miss at least two months of work and will have to have the titanium plates in her legs removed at some point in the future. The extra 100,000 baht will not be enough, she said.

Camp Chang, although contradicted by Phuket officials, claims that they are left with six elephants after Captain's alleged departure on Monday.

"Normally Captain was a nice elephant and many people liked him," Mr Witthaya said.

"He was often hired to serve for [Buddhist monk] ordination ceremonies and weddings – that day was an accident. Now we'll have to find an elephant to replace him," he said.

Pancake is now recovering from "serious wounds to her stomach" at the elephant hospital in Klong Thom, Krabi province, Mr Chirayu said.

"She's young – in her 20s – so it probably won't take long for her to get well," he said.

"To make sure this doesn't happen again, elephants need to be more than 10 meters apart when trekking," he added.

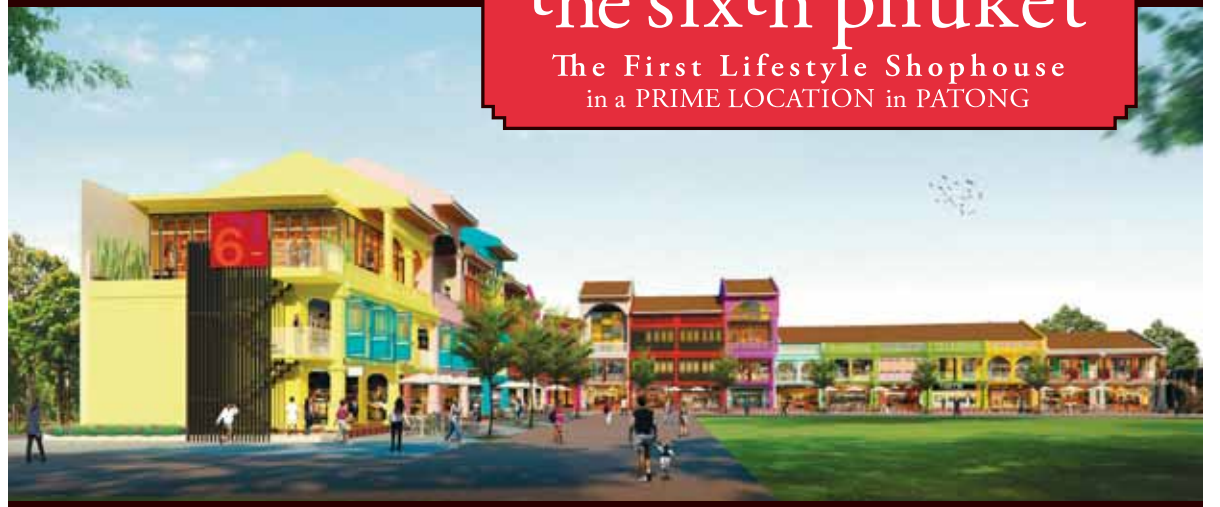
There are five hotels that have "small" elephants registered to them and about 20 elephant camps on Phuket, with a total of 189 registered elephants on the island, Mr Chirayu said.



Camp Chang Kalim owners said Captain (pictured) is normally friendly and is popular among customers for weddings and Buddhist monk ordination ceremonies. Photo: Camp Chang Kalim

the sixth phuket

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Santika men sentenced to three years

THAILAND's Criminal Court last month sentenced two men to three years in prison for recklessness leading to the deaths of 67 people and injuries to scores more in the Santika nightclub fire on New Year's Day 2009.

The court found club owner Wisuk "Sia Khao" Sejsawat and Boonchu Laosenart, executive of Focus Light Sound System, guilty of causing deaths of other persons without intent.

Boonchu and his company were also ordered to pay 8.7 million baht in compensation to five plaintiffs.

Four other defendants, the club's employees and a singer, were acquitted.

More than 1,000 people were inside the upscale Bangkok venue when an indoor fireworks display ignited the blaze after the New Year countdown.

The fire quickly spread throughout the building, sending terrified revellers rushing to escape.

Among the dead were a number of foreigners, including three Singaporean, one Japanese and one Myanmar national.

Clive Garner, lawyer for Briton Oliver Smart, who was injured in the tragedy, told the agency: "This is a pitiful sum and is clearly insufficient to compensate those who have suffered serious injuries and the dozens of families who lost loved ones in this terrible incident," the Press Association reported.

Mr Wisuk was released on 1-million-baht bail. He has vowed to appeal the sentence.

Amnesty 'to include' Thaksin

THE Government will seek a mass pardon of prisoners for HM The King's 84th birthday celebrations in December in a move critics say is aimed at securing an amnesty for fugitive former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

Meanwhile, suspicions that Mr Thaksin is the real power behind his sister Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra's government are growing after he lectured Pheu Thai Cabinet ministers for two hours via Skype last week.

Pheu Thai MP Korkaew Pikulthong said the mass pardon was aimed at relieving the pressure on Thailand's overcrowded prisons. More than 230,000 inmates are being held in prisons designed to collectively hold just 140,000, he said.

But critics lambasted the plans as a thinly veiled attempt to prevent Mr Thaksin, who lives in self-imposed exile in Dubai to escape a two-year jail sentence, from going to jail.

Mr Thaksin, 62, was convicted of abuse of power in a land deal involving his former wife, Khunying Potjaman na Pombejra, in 2008.

AROUND THE nation

He maintains the ruling was politically motivated.

Suwat Apaipak, a lawyer for the People's Alliance for Democracy, said the amnesty would likely include those sentenced to up to three years in jail and/or people over 60 years old.

Meanwhile, allegations that Mrs Yingluck is merely a puppet premier for her older brother gained force last Wednesday, when Mr Thaksin joined a meeting of government ministers at Pheu Thai Party headquarters.

In a Skype phone-in from Cambodia, Mr Thaksin lectured ministers on a number of topics and gave some dressings down that lasted hours.

Ministers reportedly "squirmed uncomfortably" as the former telecoms billionaire dished out frank assessments of their "poor" performances during the first two months of the new government's term.

Democrat Party chief whip said, "It has been clearly shown who is prime minister", dismissing Mrs Yingluck as a "puppet", according to Reuters.

"Thaksin has been pulling the



Thaksin Shinawatra wais during the International Forum on 'Asian Century: Challenges and Prospects' in Phnom Penh. Photo: AFP

strings for a while behind the scenes. Now he has decided to come out publicly," Pavin Chachavalpongpun, a fellow at Singapore's Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, told the agency.

"But he pushes too hard, moves too fast, and thus leaves too little room for Yingluck to breathe," he added.

Meanwhile, the Democrat Party attacked a group of Thammasat

University legal scholars who have been calling for the invalidation of all legal decisions resulting from the 2006 coup that removed Mr Thaksin from power.

Democrat MP and deputy spokesman Atthaporn Ponlaboot said he suspected that the proposal by the so-called Nitirat ("Citizens of Law") group might eventually benefit Mr Thaksin and further attempts to win him a royal pardon.

Thai suspects fight extradition to 'racist' Oz

TWO Thai men fighting extradition to Australia for murder told a Bangkok court they would not receive fair treatment on trial in Melbourne because Australians are "racist".

Surad Seehaverchart, 29, and Thatiya Terdputham, 36, are accused of killing Luke Mitchell, a 29-year-old "Good Samaritan" who was stabbed five times in May 2009 after he broke up a fight outside a nightclub in a suburb of Melbourne.

Mr Surad said he was happy to stand trial in Thailand but would not go back to Australia, where he claimed he had been called a "stupid Asian".

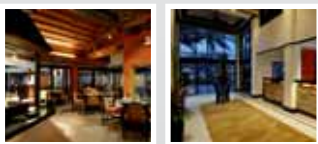
The pair denied killing Mr Mitchell, telling reporters the person who stabbed the Melbourne chef was a third Thai man yet to be arrested, reportedly the son of an influential figure.

LAGUNA

PROPERTY RESALE

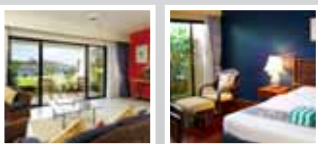
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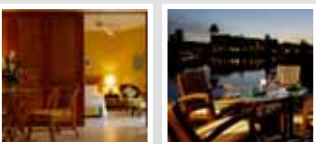
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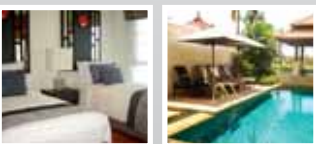
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Fake DSI agent on the run

A CAREER conman who claimed to be a high-ranking Department of Special Investigations (DSI) officer is on the run again after two decades of crime, arrests, womanizing and escaping justice. The *Phuket Gazette's* Atchaa Khamlo reports.

WITCHAYUT Pansampao, the alleged conman who masqueraded as a DSI officer to defraud people throughout the South, was arrested last month in Haad Yai but has gone missing after his release on bail.

Police believe he may be in Phuket, where he has a house with his wife, registered in his name..

Praphan Areebambat, an investigator with the Haad Yai District Police in Songkhla, identified the 57-year-old suspect as a resident of Singha Nakhon District in Songkhla.

Witchayut was picked up by officers as he was enjoying a bowl of *khao tom* (boiled rice) at a local restaurant in Haad Yai. He was wearing a T-shirt and shorts with a black jacket and badge identifying himself as a Department of Special Investigations (DSI) officer.

Arresting officers presented the suspect with a copy of an outstanding warrant on fraud charges issued by Ranong Provincial Court for acts committed in Kraburi District, the province's northernmost district sharing a long border with Burma.

A search of the suspect found him in possession of a fully-loaded .38 caliber pistol.

Officers escorted Witchayut to his Haad Yai hotel room where they found his real ID along with a picture business card identifying him as Pol Maj Gen Witsanupong Phummarin, an officer with the Justice Ministry's DSI, the Thai equivalent of the FBI in the US.

Other evidence recovered included a variety of images of the suspect dressed as a police major general, ID cards identifying him as a member of the Phuket Police, mobile phones and birth control pills.

Witchayut continued to tell officers he was a real DSI agent as he was taken to Haad Yai Police headquarters. He claimed that he had been working in Phuket and was visiting family in Songkhla, where he was born.

After spending the night in a police jail cell, he was granted bail under the promise he would return on September 21 for additional questioning, Lt Col Prapan said.



Witchayut's ID card photograph in as it appears on his arrest warrant.

He has not been seen since and is likely on the run, he added.

"Now I am processing documents to charge him with carrying a firearm in public, but we need to check the gun licensing center in Nakhon Sawan to see whether the pistol was legally registered. When all the evidence has been collected we will forward the case file to the public prosecutor in Haad Yai. In the meantime we will issue a summons for him to appear for questioning. If he does not appear, we will apply for an arrest warrant," said Lt Col Prapan.

The police would not seek charges of impersonating a police officer because the suspect was not using the disguise to defraud

people at the time of arrest, he said.

Subsequent investigation has revealed that Witchayut has a criminal history dating back 20 years, Lt Col Prapan said.

He was also a womanizer of sorts, police said.

"We think he used the ID to impress women and get them to sleep with him, then he probably used the birth control pills to keep them from getting pregnant," he added.

Kraburi Police investigator Sutham Chaosuan said Witchayut's arrest warrant was issued in 2008.

However, his station did not call Haad Yai Police with instructions to hold the suspect and assist in his transfer to Ranong to face court charges for fraud, he said.

Subsequent investigation by Haad Yai Police revealed that multiple arrest warrants had been issued for Witchayut by courts in Surat Thani as well as Ranong, Lt Col Prapan said.

In an effort to learn more, the *Gazette* contacted Police Region 8 Headquarters in Surat Thani, which is responsible for the upper-south region.

Investigator Mechai Nokkaew said the elusive Witchayut has been arrested "more than 10 times" over the past two decades.

One of the arrests was made in Phuket, but the case was dropped in 1993 when the victim chose to mediate a settlement.

"He has been defrauding people for about twenty years. After he serves his prison sentences, he goes back out and does it again," he said.

"He works with other gang members to defraud people. They rent a room and invite their mark to discuss a business proposal, then ask them if they would like to have a gambling session. People who fall into this trap invariably lose because the gang members cheat," he said.

"When caught and convicted, penalties are typically quite light. He might spend a year in prison, while completely avoiding incarceration in some cases through the mediation process," he said.

Police records show that Witchayut and collaborators defrauded one party out of two million baht in Surat Thani in 1998, he said.

Victims typically get less than half their money back through the mediation process, he said.

"Witchayut has been defrauding people for 20 years, ostensibly so that he could afford to educate his child through to master's degree level," he said.

"He always carries fake documents identifying himself as a government officer of some sort.

"He will use the cards to trick women into believing he is a powerful man so that they will like him, and sometimes he uses them to deceive people into believing he is an honest broker," he said.

double take

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Making news a social obligation

IN A departure from the norm, the *Phuket Gazette* would like to use this week's editorial space to thank all our readers and advertisers for their support in enabling our continued growth, not only with the newspaper, which is now on board 10 of the world's leading airlines, but also on the Web; in the whole new world of handheld 'devices'; and in broadcasting where next month sees PGTV on UBC/True Visions with two prime time shows.

The centerpiece of everything we do is Phuket. It is our home base, the focal point of our faith and investment, and our reason for being. It drives everything we publish, broadcast or launch onto electronic gadgets. And we are committed to changing nothing with regard to that policy for our newspaper as we know our readers have unlimited free access to the Web for news about Bangkok, Buriram, Belgium, Ohio and Argentina.

With Phuket at the forefront, we would also like to express our gratitude to the many readers who have helped the *Gazette* by alerting us to newsworthy developments in their communities around the island, either by sending in photos or contacting our editors or reporters with 'scoops' that are relevant, important or simply entertaining.

Your contributions are essential to us and your opinions valued, whether we agree with them or not. We like to publish them in this page and in our Nationwide Edition whenever we have license – legally, ethically and morally – to do so.

The introduction of our online readers' forum about a year ago has been rewarding (it's now by far the island's largest), but it has also brought challenges in terms of managing both the sheer volume of views and the literally phenomenal negativity about Phuket.

With regard to the negativity, we would like to reassure our forum participants that although we do publish some of the whinge-sector banalities in the interest of 'freedom of expression', we know that much of that 'expression' emanates from a handful of disenchanted foreigners likely to be equally disenchanted no matter where they might choose to live.

Even as we thank our readers, we would also like to ask them for patience and understanding with our news reporting when they feel it comes up short of their needs or expectations. We frequently receive comments asking, "Why didn't you cover this?" or "Why didn't you follow up on that?"

Many of us in the media feel we have somehow, like The Great Wizard of Oz, been thrust into a position where we are presumed to have much greater power or 'sway' than we do. One such presumed power is immunity from prosecution for defamation.

Another elusive power is 'reach'. We're a niche-market newspaper. Complaints against Thailand would be better lodged in Thai.

Please keep your contributions coming. Where we can help to make Phuket a better place to live, we will.

– The Editor



Where were the parents?

Re: *Gazette online, Two boys drown in canal along Phang Nga Bay coast, September 25*

In the West it is very possible these boys' parents would be brought up on negligence charges.

Here? The parents don't even warrant a mention in the article.

I'm not saying Thailand needs to be a nanny state, but the general lack of concern Thais often exhibit toward safety of their children sickens me.

Another great example: parents riding motorbikes with helmets while the kids and toddlers go without.

ScubaBuddha
Gazette forum

Phuket Town now on the map

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket Vegetarian Festival blasts into 2011, September 27*

These pop-up maps just bring Phuket Town to life – now I can see where these places are! I've now got a copy of the book *Streets of Phuket* so I can find my way around.

If you want to find out where to get one, do like I did and look on their website streetsofphuket.com. Have a super festival – well done *Phuket Gazette* for making life easier!

Peter
Gazette forum

Tuk-tuk tarnation

I have to complain about the taxis and tuk-tuk drivers in Phuket.

I'm from Germany and have been living in Thailand for a

Letters to the Editor

couple of years now.

I've visited nearly all the islands and a lot of tourist areas, but nowhere are taxi drivers so unfriendly and poorly behaved as they are in Phuket – especially in Patong.

It's hardly possible to walk more than 10 meters without someone asking you to take a taxi.

I know it's just business for them, but for me it is a reason to never come back to Phuket.

It really is a beautiful island, but I will surely tell my friends who wish to visit Phuket about this.

Kris
email

Better airport security a must

Re: *Gazette online, 'Monk' hash mule nabbed at Phuket Airport, September 26*

There are a higher number of drug busts because: 1) you don't have sniffer dogs, and 2) you base your checks on 1970s tactics. These cartels know all of the above.

Oh, and you never seem to catch the island gangsters the drugs are going to.

We can only hope the world's nasty terrorists don't find out, but seeing as the internet carries these stories, no doubt they might be showing an interest. Get a grip Phuket Airport, it's 2011.

Update the customs and security measures.

Col Mustard
Gazette forum

Confusing the point

Re: *Gazette online, Siam Niramit Phuket set for December opening, September 27*

I do not think that Phuket needs another show like this [in reference to the opening of Aphrodite Cabaret on the bypass road].

Bad influence on the youngsters, and not too long ago the *Phuket Gazette* reported that there is a very high HIV infection rate among the population of Phuket province.

concern
Gazette forum

Educate yourself

Another show like Phuket FantaSea? Or a show like it in direct competition?

Or are you referring to the "other" show that features transgender performers?

Please come out from behind your ignorance and understand that the HIV infection rate here and worldwide is no longer a matter of sexual choice, identity or preference. If you have sex with any other human you can get it.

Please take your "concern" and educate it.

James Bond
Gazette forum

Dumbo!

Elephants are intelligent animals that are best left in the wild – as are most wild animals.

Tourists coming here tend to think that they are safe and well-looked-after in a jungle paradise, so we can't really blame them.

Jefferson Andrews
Phuket Town

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Phuket Veg Fest a photographic feast

FIRST PERSON

I BELIEVE that starting a photo walk on the island would be a great way to promote the craft in one of the most beautiful places in the world.

The island of Phuket is famous for many things. It has beaches, scenery, sailing, shopping, and even a Big Buddha. Now it is famous for its photography.

Phuket Town is one of the locations for the Worldwide Photo Walk this year. This is an event that is open to any photographer, no matter their level of experience. A date is selected and the information posted on the internet, allowing photographers worldwide to sign up.

Every photo walk has a different theme: sometimes it can be fairly general, such as "trading at the market" or we can focus on a specific event, such as the Phuket Vegetarian Festival.

I think that Phuket is really a photographer's paradise. It's basically a big studio under the open sky; great beaches, palm trees and lots of beautiful smiles give a photographer opportunity for amazing shots.

The best way to learn and to get better at your art, is to work with others who do the same. That is why photo walks are so great.

People can ask each other questions and improve their skill level much quicker than they would on their own. The relaxed environment of the island also puts people at ease, and their creativity flows.



Karim "Kim" Khamzin is a Canadian photographer who has been in the business for over 30 years. Kim came to Phuket over a decade ago and started Phuket Photo Projects company. Here he talks about the upcoming Worldwide Photo Walk on October 2, of which he is the organizer for Phuket.



The 2011 Phuket Vegetarian Festival through the lens of another of the island's prominent professional photographers, Christian Mouchet.

Phuket is especially useful for photographers because of its events, such as the regattas and the Vegetarian Festival.

The festival is a true photographic wonder with smoke, colors, piercing, parades and lots of emotion – it's an event that should not be missed.

Everyone who walks with us to take photos will certainly come

away with some amazing shots.

It's events like this that make the island so photogenic. The atmosphere and the emotion are conducive to obtaining great shots, if you know how to be in the right spot at the right time. Events such as the Vegetarian Festival make it possible for visiting photographers to take photos they never imagined they could.

Give the beach boys a big hand

PUT your hands together for the lifeguard pictured here. He is the reason we should be proud of the men in red and yellow on our beaches. He is a local hero.

These photos were taken during the Quiksilver Surfing Competition last weekend.

On several occasions, the lifeguard waded in to direct swimmers away from the heavy surf and also from the competition area.

While he didn't have to pluck anyone out of serious trouble, he was on hand to ensure these situations didn't happen. His preventative actions were heartwarming to see.

While surfers contested in difficult conditions on Thursday morning, this lifeguard was one of a team keeping a watchful eye on swimmers and surfers.

Time and again he waded in and out of the surf to speak with swimmers, to guide them away from danger.

He was polite but persistent, calm and collected. He knew when to shout and when not to. He acted like a professional.

He spoke with families paddling in the surf. He brought signs to them so they could get a better understanding of what the dangers were and guided them to safety.

We seldom see this side of lifeguards' work in newsprint. All too often it is after a loss of life we hear their stories. I hope these few words remind us that they work each day to ensure we don't read about a life lost in waters around the island. And in the vast number of cases, their dedication to preventative safety measures makes



Island View

By Blair Christopher

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

sure the number of fatalities is kept down.

But the lifeguards need help. They need their message heard by tourists, expats and locals swimming in the low season.

We can only hope that as a community we help spread the word of the lifeguards.

Surely their job could be made easier through the help of resorts and businesses around the island. And many resorts are doing their part. May this continue, and that we also remind ourselves that it is a duty to share the lifeguards' message.

It is not bad for business to educate tourists on the dangers of swimming while holidaying here. They may even thank us for it.

Again, well done to the lifeguards. You made an old man's day seeing you work last weekend.

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

Broken-down eyesore

There is an ugly, broken-down car in front of my beautiful restaurant in Patong. It has been there for the past eight months. Is there any law that would allow for the car to be removed?

Who should I contact?

Baron kanani
Phuket

Maj Sarawut Chuprasit, chief of Kathu Traffic Police, replies:

You should report this to officers at Patong Police Station and we will have the car removed. Please feel free to come see us – we have legal authority to remove the car. For more information, contact the Patong Police Station at 076 342 719 ext 20.

Greasy beach

For the past 10 years, every time I've gone fishing at Kalim

Send us your queries and we'll ask the right people to respond to them.
Submit your issue at
www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

Beach, there has been a huge puddle of white "grease" floating on the ocean.

It's dumped there early in the morning so no one will see it coming out of the unsightly pipes along this beautiful beach.

Is there anything that can be done, or is it just tough luck for the locals?

Beachboy
Phuket

Phanuphong Wasasiri, Managing Director of Kwanrawee Co Ltd, who is responsible for the Patong wastewater pump station, replies:

There is a pump station in the

area you speak of that pumps wastewater to the Patong wastewater treatment facility.

In a normal situation, the pump functions properly, but there are three scenarios in which the water may overflow and drain out onto the beach:

The first is when it rains. There is no problem during light rains, but when it rains heavily – amounting to three times that of the wastewater in the pump station – it will mix with the wastewater and overflow. But, we consider this to be clean water.

The second is when there are blackouts, the pump will stop working and the wastewater will overflow. However, it will continue working as soon as the electrical power returns.

The third is when the pump malfunctions, in which case we will fix it as soon as we find out about it.

As for the complaint about "white grease", I checked the scene and only saw puddles of white bubbles caused by waves hitting the rocks.



Kalim Beach is known for its good surf. Photo: Steve Martin

Also, where water flows from the pipe to the beach, there was no grease on the sand.

If you are certain that the huge puddle you have seen is grease,

please take photos of it and bring them to Patong Municipality.

You could also email us at info@patongcity.go.th. Your information would be very useful to us.

PATA: Phuket should brace for a 'new breed of tourists'

By Marc Mulloy

PHUKET's tourism industry should take preemptive steps to prepare itself for a major shift in tourism dynamics, a high-powered meeting of industry players was told last Saturday.

A shift in global economics has prompted a trend for visitors to Phuket to be more likely to come from within the Asia-Pacific region, specifically India and China, said Bert van Walbeek, chairman of the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Thailand Chapter.

Known affectionately as 'Bowtie Bert', Mr van Walbeek volleyed the caution at a Skai-PATA meeting held at the Moevenpick Resort & Spa in Karon. The event, endorsed by the Ministry of Tourism & Sports, was the first ever held jointly by the two influential tourism organizations.

Phuket MP Anchalee Thepabutra and her husband, Korean Honorary Consul Tosaporn Thephabutra, along with Phuket Tourism Association Vice President Bhuritt Maswongsa and Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket office

Director Bangornrat Shinaprayoon were all present to hear his address in person.

Rounding out the collection of top-end tourism players at the event were representatives from the Thai Hotel Association; honorary consuls; hotel general managers; tour operators; local business leaders and Phuket-based media.

PATA pulled no punches in making clear the importance it

PATA data research, treated the audience to a breakdown of the strengths and weaknesses of Phuket's apparent tourism strategy.

He highlighted the new breed of Internet savvy tourist in the years to come and pointed out the advantages of having a joint early warning system using the Internet to make sure that the right information is disseminated should there be another crisis, such as the SARS epidemic.

Mr van

Walbeek also demonstrated the depth of research data available through PATA, from which positive, pre-emptive strategies could be devised, by pointing out that, for example, in 1979 Phuket only had 1,945 rooms and in 1997 the occupancy rate for the entire year averaged 54%.

This first Phuket meeting between Skai and

PATA took place with a view to launching a new era of cooperation in order to "promote, protect and enhance Phuket's reputation" and hopefully form a PATA Phuket Chapter.

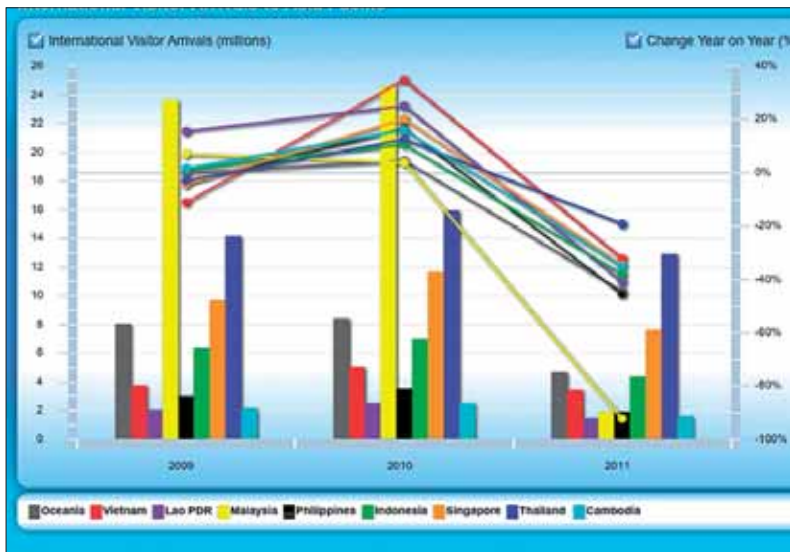
Both non-profit associations have a long history and there are some people who are already members of both. Skai was founded in 1934 and now has some 20,000 travel and tourism professionals who hold regular informal and formal networking meetings. They have been in Phuket for 15 years, have around a 100 members here and are active in supporting

attributed to the event. Headlining the speakers' list were PATA CEO Bill Calderwood and PATA Global Board Member Luzi Matzig, who is also CEO of Asian Trails.

Joining them were PATA Thailand IT Chairman Blair Speers, who is CEO of the Phuket-based HotelTravel.com, and PATA Director of Chapter Development Ben Montgomery.

Heading the Skai International entourage was the organization's Phuket and South Thailand President Blandine Cressard.

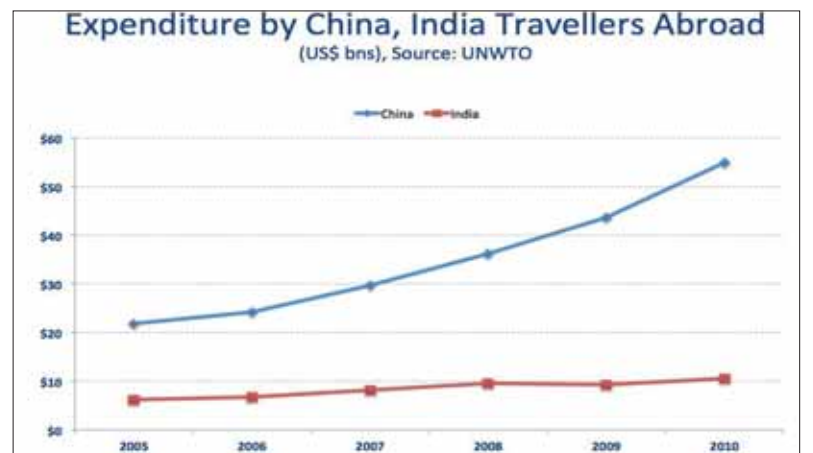
Mr van Walbeek, armed with a slew of statistics garnered from



International arrivals to Asia Pacific (by country). Source: PATA



MASTER OF DISASTER: Chairman of PATA's Thailand chapter Bert van Walbeek had some interesting statistics including the one below.



local community projects.

PATA has been around since 1951 and is a leading authority on travel and tourism in the Asia-Pacific region with strong links to private enterprise. There are 39 active PATA chapters worldwide

including one in Bangkok.

"Skai International Phuket & Southern Thailand's warm welcome and the unique opportunity to meet and greet our Skai and PATA colleagues 'down-south' and share information about each other's valuable past, present and future contributions to the Thai tourism industry, shows that both in the public and private tourism sectors the 'one-for-all, all-for-one' mentality will prevail," said Mr van Walbeek.

PATA Regional Director (Asia) Reid Ridgway agreed that a Phuket chapter would be beneficial to all. However he warned that it would require a lot of work and commitment in order to make it a reality. "Planting a seed is easy, it's nurturing that seed to bear fruit of its own that involves commitment. Phuket tourism can gain deep benefits from PATA's support, but it will require engagement from our members," he said.

The offer has been made, it now remains to be seen if Phuket is ready to join.

Presentations from the evening will soon be available on www.pata-thailand.org

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Chicken****	77.5	0.00
Diesel	28.83	1.41
Benzine 91	37.11	1.09
Gasohol 91	34.08	1.19
Gasohol 95	37.11	1.09

*per kg for 100% Jasmin Rice (Maboongkrong brand)
 ** per dozen as of Sep 28 for class three eggs
 ***per kg as of Sep 28 for pork tenderloin
 **** per kg as of Sep 28 for gutted whole chicken
 Source = Department of Internal Trade

Light Rail bidding window drags on

THE window is still open for investors interested in bidding on the proposed construction of Phuket's Light Rail Project.

"We are still waiting for the invitation letter [to potential bidders] to be approved by the Attorney-General in Bangkok. Legal details have to be considered carefully and so we can't say with certainty when it will get approval," Prajiad Aksornthammakul, Head of the Phuket Development Planning Group told the *Phuket Gazette* this week.

So far, twelve parties have approached Phuket authorities expressing interest. These include

1. Gold Phoenix Construction Consulting (Thailand) Co Ltd, a Thai affiliate of a Hong Kong and South Korea joint venture company, Zhi Shan Yan Construction
2. Moo Han Tech (Thailand) Co Ltd and affiliate of the Global Business Leader Group (GBL) from Korea
3. Korean firm Jung Yong Development Corp (JYDC);
4. Korean mega-project developer, Dohwa Engineering Co Ltd
5. Pan-China Construction Group, a construction and investment company from China
6. Chinese conglomerate, Ershi Sanye Construction Group
7. Korean firm, Keangnam Enterprises
8. Korean firm, AZ Worth Trust Company
9. SPS Global Corporation Co Ltd
10. Lanna Transport Corporation Co Ltd
11. JM Westerling Co Ltd
12. Jude Trust Fund International Co Ltd

If constructed, the project could include up to three routes, and estimated to cost between 7 to 20 billion baht.

First home scheme a letdown?

THE government's new first-home scheme is expected to boost Phuket's real-estate market, though critics say the plans do not go far enough to help low-income earners get a foot on the property ladder.

The market is likely to see a steep rise in new home sales in the short term, as home buyers who had been waiting for the launch of the scheme make their purchases.

The scheme, which applies to new condominiums, townhouses and detached houses worth up to 5 million baht, offers first-home buyers tax deductions worth up to 10% of the purchase price.

Buyers who qualify will receive 20% deductions on their income tax bill for five years.

The scheme applies to transactions made from now until the end of next year. It is expected to cost the Revenue Department about 1.7

billion baht in lost income.

The program has disappointed some buyers who had expected a more generous package that would see interest payments waived for the first five years of their mortgages.

Kasem Srirat, chairman of housing estate developer Winpro Engineering, said recently that he expected First Home to excite Phuket's property market, though it had so far had little effect on property reservations at Winpro's Chao Fa Garden project in Chalong.

Mr Kasem said he thought a scheme to waive interest on mortgages or reduce it to 1% would have had a greater effect on the property market.

Critics have attacked the government's plans, claiming the scheme will do little to help low-income groups purchase their first homes.

They argue that the government should have capped home prices at 1-2mn baht, instead of 5mn baht.

Prasert Taedullayasatit, director and chief business officer of property market leader Pruksa Real Estate, said the first-home policy would not help low-income earners save on costs because people who earn about 20,000 baht a month do not have sufficient net income to pay income tax.

"Even people who have a net income of about 4mn baht a year will get a tax benefit of only 184,000 baht over five years if they buy a first home costing 5mn baht," he said.

According to research by Pruksa, first-home buyers account for about 15% in value terms of annual residential sales, or 41.25bn baht of an estimated total of 275bn baht.

Most people buying a first home will spend between 1-2mn baht per

unit.

Pruksa estimates their yearly net income at between 200,000-300,000 baht, meaning they will save just 10,000 -20,000 baht over the course of the five-year program.

The previous Democrat Party-led government policy offered a zero interest rate for the first two years, resulting in an interest-payment saving of between 120,000-240,000 baht per buyer over the course of the scheme.

The government has also faced accusations that the policy has been designed to benefit SC Asset, the property investment firm owned by the Shinawatra family and formerly chaired by Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra.

Mrs Yingluck denied the claims, saying the company would hardly be affected since 90% of the property it sold was worth more than 5 million baht.

Foreign investor confidence; SET plummets to year-lows in September

TURMOIL in the global financial markets of Europe and the United States may result in a decline in foreign investment in Thailand and other developing countries, Finance Minister Thirachai Phuvanatnaranubala warned. "I'm more worried about abrupt capital inflows and outflows than the impact of an export slowdown," he was quoted as saying in the *Nation* earlier this week.

Amidst worries that Thailand's rice exports will decline as a result of the new rice pledging scheme set to take effect next week, Thirachai compared the lack of foreign investment to running out of oxygen, while saying a slowdown in exports is analogous to running out of food, emphasizing that the government was immediately concerned with offsetting the former. He said developing economies, particularly those dependent on exports, should boost domestic consumption and investment in order to lessen the impact of an expected

slowdown in exports.

Speculations about a coming foreign investment drought were reflected in the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) indices which plummeted to year-long lows in September. On September 22, the SET closed below 1000 points for the first time in a six-month period. Last weekend, the SET dropped another 54 points, closing at 904 points on Monday – the lowest close since August, 2010. While the government has acknowledged the impacts and repercussions of financial activity overseas, critics continue to point to the negative

implications of controversial domestic-stimulus policies such as the 300 baht minimum wage increase and rice mortgaging scheme.

Such policies, when implemented, are expected to dramatically drive up the cost of domestic production and services, and thus further deter foreign investment.

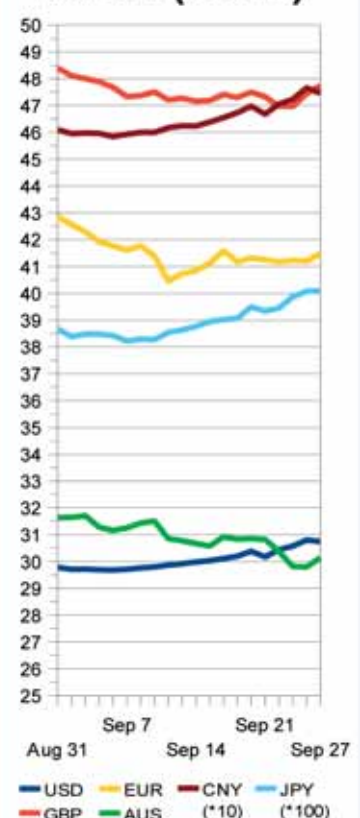
To compensate for the price rises, the Pheu Thai government has also promised to reduce corporate tax rates, currently at 30 per cent, down to 20 per cent over a two-year period, starting with a decrease of 23 per cent by next year. Corporate tax rates in Malaysia, Vietnam, and Indonesia are currently at about 25 per cent, compared to Hong Kong and Singapore which are at 16.5 and 17 per cent respectively.

Incorporated Firms in Thailand and Phuket as of July 2011

Sector	Thailand	Phuket	%
Fishery	295	19	6.44
Construction	63,866	1,301	2.04
Hotels and Restaurants	20,220	1,594	7.88
Transport and Tour	30,605	1,242	4.06
Finance	7,051	217	3.08
Real Estate, Rentals and Biz services	98,804	5,111	5.17
Total Incorporated firms	498,763	13,266	2.66

*Source = Department of Business Development, Ministry of Commerce as of July 2011
 ** Some sector categories have been omitted for relevancy

BoT Buying Rates(baht)



Currency	Change%
JPY	3.67
USD	3.25
CNY	2.97
GBP	-1.36
EUR	-3.19
AUS	-4.74



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Choosing the best wireless connection



Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

IN MY last two Live Wire columns I talked about the three general types of internet connections available in Phuket – landlines, wireless and satellite – and then gave some recommendations about landlines. This week I'll explain how to find a good wireless connection.

Wireless internet may be your best option in a number of circumstances. Of course, if the big landline companies (TOT, 3BB, True, CAT, and the Cable TV companies) won't string a wire to your house, you have no choice but to go wireless.

But even if you can get a wired connection, wireless may be better, for several reasons. If you only have one laptop or tablet to connect to the internet, going with a "3G" connection (forgive me for using the term "3G" very, very loosely) gives you a lot of mobility, because you aren't plugged into the wall. Wireless connections are generally cheaper than wired – and frequently they're surprisingly fast. Wireless has one more built-in advantage, especially here in Phuket: the connections tend to be much more reliable than wired connections, especially older wired connections.

In spite of what you might have read or heard, wireless connections can be shared among multiple co-located computers. If you have a house full of PCs, wireless combined with a MyFi box (for details see my August 6 Live Wire column by typing "is.gd/msmOoK" in your web browser) you can share one internet connection with many devices. Some phones and tablets can also share their connections with PCs and other devices, using a technique called "tethering." The exact method for tethering phones and tablets differs depending on which phone or tablet you're using, so you'll have to hunt down specific instructions. Google is your friend.

Samsung I9100 Galaxy S II

SAMSUNG



GENERAL	2G Network	GSM 850 / 900 / 1800 / 1900
	3G Network	HSDPA 850 / 900 / 1900 / 2100
	Announced	2011, February
	Status	Available. Released 2011, April
SIZE	Dimensions	125.3 x 66.1 x 8.5 mm
	Weight	116 g
DISPLAY	Type	Super AMOLED Plus capacitive touchscreen, 16M colors
	Size	480 x 800 pixels, 4.3 inches (~217 ppi pixel density)
- Gorilla Glass display		
- TouchWiz UI v4.0		
- Multi-touch input method		
- Accelerometer sensor for UI auto-rotate		

YOUR MOBILE PHONE MUST MATCH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE WIRELESS NETWORK: The standard Galaxy S II works on both the HSDPA 850 MHz and HSDPA 900 MHz networks, which means it will work with both AIS and TrueMove-H, but it will not work with the CAT CDMA system.

Right now, the primary concern for wireless connections is whether your phone or tablet will work with a specific vendor's network. If you're going to use a USB dongle to connect to a wireless network – common with laptops – you don't need to worry: the vendor will sell you a dongle that will plug into your PC or MacBook. But if you're trying to connect your phone or tablet, you may not have any choice but to match the phone or tablet with a network that will work with the device.

Right now there are three "3G" networks that are actively marketed in Phuket. (Others are rumored to be coming. Stay tuned.) The three contenders:

CAT "3G" CDMA 1xEV-DO does NOT work with the iPhone 3G, 3GS, iPhone 4, iPad 1, iPad 2, or any of the other phones or tablets widely available in Phuket.

AIS "3G" HSPA 900 MHz does NOT work with the iPhone 3G, 3GS, or the original iPad. It DOES work with the original Samsung Galaxy S, the iPhone 4 and iPad2.

TrueMove-H "3G+" HSPA+ 850 MHz does NOT work with the original Samsung Galaxy S, however, it DOES work with the iPhone 3G, 3GS, iPhone 4, original iPad, and iPad 2.

To verify that your phone or tablet will work on a specific network, go to www.gsmarena.com and look it up. As you can see in the picture above, the new Samsung Galaxy S II works with both HSDPA 850 and 900. That means it'll work on both the AIS and Truemove-H networks.

Note that True no longer offers its original "True Move 3G" network. As of this printing, they're going to be moving all of their customers over to a new network called TrueMove-H 3G+. Confused? Yeah. Me, too. As I explained in my February 3 Live Wire ("is.gd/dkm5OA"), True bought out Hutch in Bangkok, and they've upgraded, expanded and renamed their old 3G service. Bottom line: if you were using the old True 3G service, you have to change your SIM card, but you'll end up with a faster connection

that works all over Phuket.

At this moment I'm having trouble getting my Android phone to recognize the new, improved TrueMove-H HSPA+ signal, but initial indications are that the service is significantly faster than AIS. Stay tuned for more details next week.

If you aren't yet reporting your speeds on www.PhuketInternetSpeed.com, please drop by and sign up! It's free, it only takes a few seconds, and the results help everybody figure out what's working and what's not worth the effort. Remember that all of the data is immediately available to anybody who wants to download, look at or fiddle with the results. Also remember that the Internet Service Providers are watching the reports.

Live Wire is Phuket Gazette columnist Woody Leonhard's weekly snapshot of all things internet in Phuket. Follow him on Twitter: @PhuketPC, "like" his page at facebook.com/SandwichShoppes, or visit his free Sunday morning computer clinics at Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.

Be wary of Chinese initial public offerings

IN THE midst of the accounting scandals that are currently affecting a significant number of Chinese companies listed overseas, Eric Rosenkranz was in typically ebullient form on Squawk Box recently, warning investors to stay wary of new Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) of Chinese companies.

He explained how many firms keep multiple sets of books: "I've been investing in China for the last

10 years and there's one thing I've learned - with many Chinese companies there are usually two sets of books, and whenever there are two sets of books, there are usually three."

The first set of books minimizes taxable profits and is designed to be submitted to the tax authorities.

The second set exaggerates earnings and is designed to be shown to potential investors or to banks.



Island Investor

By Graham Macdonald

The third most closely reflects the true information on the company and is, therefore, the one that investors really need to seek before investing.

Eric went on to suggest a checklist of three boxes that he requires to be ticked before investing in a listing:

1. Is the company listed on a "reputable" exchange such as the NYSE, NASDAQ or Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

2. Is it a new or reverse listing - dangers lurk within reverse mergers that use shell companies to list. Of the 200 Chinese companies that have gone public in the US over the last four years, 75 per cent had done so via reverse listings.

3. Is the company that's listing using one of the big four accounting firms: KPMG, Ernst & Young, Deloitte and/or PWC.

Unless all 3 boxes are ticked, Eric would suggest steering clear, but the quality of the audi-

tor is the most crucial factor.

As an independent non-executive director of Focus Media Network (a company unrelated to Focus Media China), which listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange's GEM board in July 2011, he was quick to point out that Focus Media Network keeps only one set of books, had to pass the stringent regulations of the Hong Kong Exchange, and retains Pricewaterhouse Coopers as its accounting firm.

Even the big four accounting firms are not necessarily 100 per cent reliable - Eric looked at Deloitte's role in failing to pick up sooner on the apparent accounting fraud at Chinese financial software firm Longtop Financial.

"It's not Deloitte US, it's a subsidiary of theirs which is a Chinese company, and one of the issues is US regulators are not allowed into China to look at the books. So the US regulators from the SEC have been forbidden, because of country sovereignty issues, from looking at the books," he said.

While this is fascinating, and while China looks to be of good

relative value today, we still see China exposures as a relatively small part of portfolios. The global economic backdrop is not supportive of any equity valuations right now. China is in a different stage of the economic cycle and may be entering into the end of the fat growth inflationary stage that western economies exited over a decade ago. Also, at this stage, the understandable inability of regulators to keep pace with the huge boom in all things Chinese in recent years means that, right now, we just do not trust the reliability of any numbers coming out of China - corporate or sovereign.

As Nouriel Roubini recently observed, China will be a huge opportunity on the next growth cycle, but depending on how much debt China takes on, the next bust (and, therefore, major buying opportunity) is at least two years away and possibly more. A small exposure to proven stock pickers right now at current Chinese valuations is the most that we would recommend, and even then you would need to keep your finger hovering over the sell button.



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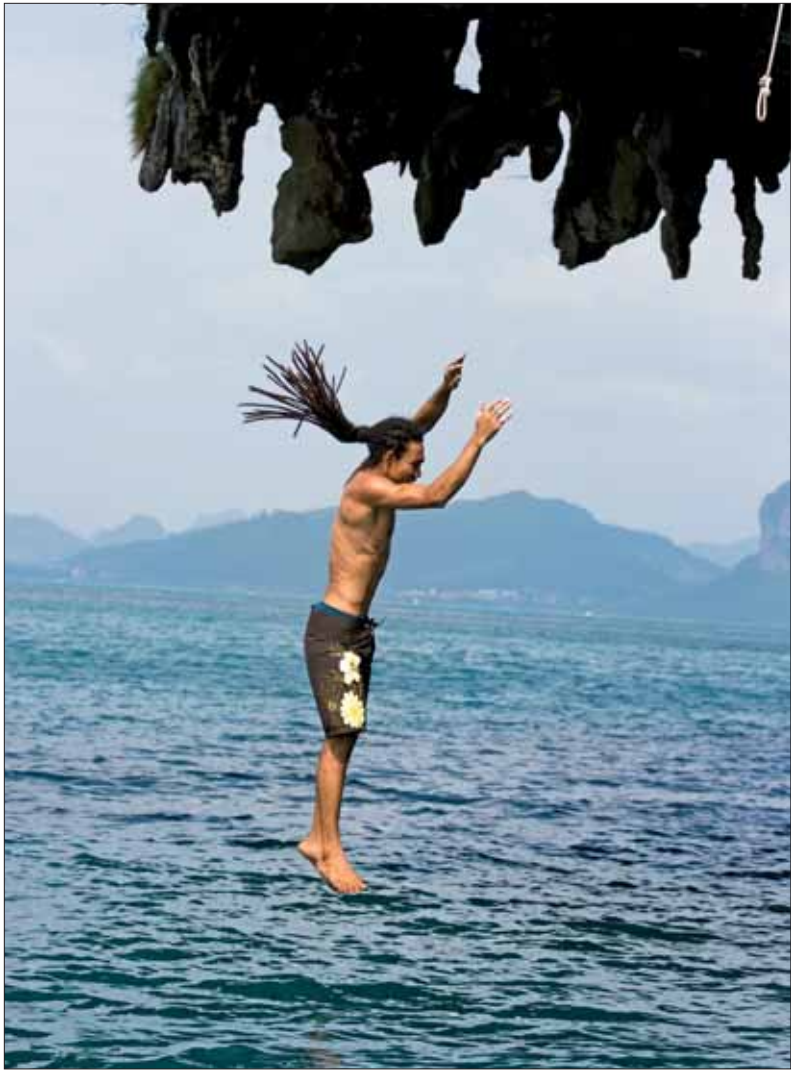


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By Eugene Doberer

DEEP water soloing is a pure form of climbing practiced on seaside cliffs at high tide. It relies solely upon water at the base of the climb to protect climbers from injury when free falling from the generally high, difficult routes.

This exciting sport has been popular since the mid to late 1990s, but actually originated in the late 1980s on the traditional rock climbing routes on the coasts

Go jump off a cliff

Tonsai Beach, in Krabi, is one the five main destinations for deep water solo mountain climbing in Southern Thailand, the others being Ko Phi Phi, Ko Yao Noi, Ko Hong, Ko Lao Liang.

of Dorset and Devon, UK. Trips are now offered in France, parts of Ireland, Sardinia, Majorca, Spain, and Greece.

Here in Southern Thailand, there are five main deep water solo destinations: Ko Phi Phi, Ko Yao Noi, Ko Hong, Ko Lao Liang, and Tonsai Beach.

Basecamp Tonsai, next to Railey in Krabi province, is the pioneer company for deep water soloing trips in southern Thailand. They try rock climbing problems from as low as Grade 5 up to Grade 8a.

You don't have to be a rock climbing pro to make a deep water solo splash: "Apart from climbers of all ages who come from all over the world, we also run deep water solo trips with school groups from Singapore, so anyone who knows how to swim and is reasonably fit can try," said Elke Schmitz, proprietor of Basecamp Tonsai.

When asked if it hurts when you fall, Elke explained: "It depends on how high you are and the position of your body when it hits the water surface. From under 10 meters, a human body can pretty much fall into the water in any position without harm. Nevertheless, you should always try to hit the water upright, press your legs together (especially if you're a guy) and keep your arms close to your

body." In case there are any problems, Basecamp Tonsai is equipped with a first aid kit and rescue-trained boat driver.

All deep water soloing trips include an English-speaking guide, kayak transportation between the climbing rock and the boat, old climbing shoes, chalk, liquid chalk and chalk bags, lunch in reusable boxes, and drinking water. You need to bring swim wear, sun lotion, and dry clothes for the ride back. The trips are environment-friendly, so please don't take any plastic bottles, chip bags, candy wrappers, or any other non-biodegradable products with you.

Basecamp Tonsai also runs sunset trips at half moon twice each month. The

boat leaves at around 2pm and they spend 4 to 5 hours deep water soloing before giving climbers time to relax on the deserted beach of Chicken Island with food and a sunset drink. There's also a great fire show after dark. Contact the shops for exact dates of these excursions.

Basecamp Tonsai grew out of Wee's Climbing School and has been offering professional climbing instructions on the famous limestone cliffs over the Andaman sea since 1996. For more information go to W: basecamptonsai.com, E: elke@BasecampTonsai.com or T: 08 7107 8367.

"...you should always try to hit the water upright, press your legs together (especially if you're a guy) and keep your arms close to your body."

– Elke Schmitz
Proprietor
Basecamp Tonsai

AIR TIME: A guide takes a leap of faith (left); bouldering (right). Photo: Artem

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Climbers are ferried to the climbing rock by longtail. Photo: Artem



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Vegetarian nirvana at Lotus restaurant

By Nanthapa Pengkasem

PHUKET'S Vegetarian Festival is a yearly religious event held in honor of the nine Taoist Gods (Kiu Ong Iah), who are revered for their power to protect the island and its inhabitants.

For ten days during the ninth lunar month, the Chinese community observes a strict code of conduct to purify the body and mind: celibacy, cleanliness of the body, abstinence from alcohol and meat products.

During this time, vegetarian restaurants spring up all over the island to cater to vegetarian practices. Usually, vendors will cook up a multitude of various dishes in advance to save time for this very busy period. So what you get is mostly unappealing overcooked vegetables and soggy fries. Not so with Lotus Vegetarian Restaurant in Samkong, for every dish is cooked fresh on the spot.

Khun Pennapa 'Poom' Somnam, who has been a vegetarian for more than ten years, opened Lotus 12 years ago on Hongyok Utit Road behind Phuket Bangkok Hospital. Only a month ago, the restaurant moved to a larger premise on the same road. The new Lotus is bright and clean and fully air-conditioned. There's also a small outdoor area, which has proved popular for diners.

"Lotus or Dok Bua in Thai is a Buddhist symbol of enlightenment. Admittedly, you don't reach nirvana easily, but I believe that we should all try to at least practice the Buddhist precept of non-violence, and vegetarianism is part and parcel of this," says Khun Poom.

At Lotus, many types of mushrooms which are acquired daily from a nearby farm, are used in place of meat. There is also mock meat to please the die-hard carnivores, which is made by combining mushrooms, soybean derivatives



MOCK MEAT DISHES FOR VEGETARIAN FESTIVAL: (Clockwise from top left) Goong Tempura (battered and breadcrumbed fried mushrooms, wrapped in seaweed); the popular outside deck; the ever-popular Pad Thai with tofu; Pla Pad Pong Curry (mock fish with curry sauce).

and herbs. It comes in many shapes and forms, such as roast duck, stewed pork and even prawns. It tastes and smells uncannily like real meat, although Khun Poom assures me that the seasonings they use are derived solely from natural products, notably the pungent shitake mushrooms and ferment soy paste.

Following the strict code of Phuket vegetarianism, where most strong-smelling herbs are forbidden, Khun Poom will not use garlic, onion, or chives in her cooking. However, pepper and

chillies are allowed, so you will find a few spicy dishes here.

The meatless menu is varied, and all the usual Thai fares can be found here: yam or Thai salads, curries, stir-fries and noodles. Pla Pad Pong Curry (90 baht) mock fish with curry sauce is a cross between stir-fry and curry and has an unmistakably Indian flavor about it. Pad Thai (60 baht) is as every bit as good as the version with prawns. Try also the Kha Moo Rom Kwuan (90 baht) a kind of flavored smoked ham, or the Gaeng

Ped Ped Yang (90 baht), roast duck red curry. For the purists who have an aversion to mock meat, sample instead the refreshing Nam Tok Hed (80 baht) Isaan-style mixed mushrooms salad, or the aromatic Makuer Yao Pad Prik Horapa (60 baht) eggplant cooked with sweet basil and fermented soybean. Perfect as snacks or side dishes are Goong Tempura (70 baht) battered and breadcrumbed fried mushrooms wrapped in seaweed, and Yam Pla Dook Foo (B90) crispy fish (tofu) salad with herbs.

There are various kinds of refreshing homemade herbal drinks. When it was suggested that these drinks tend to be on the sweet side, Khun Poom says she would consider reducing the amount of sugar used.

The restaurant is open daily from 10.30am to 8.30pm. Please note its unusual closing days: every first Sunday, and second and fourth Saturdays of the month. T:076 211985.

Phuket Vegetarian Festival runs from September 27 to October 5.



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Amazing Thailand



Aviation

By Alastair Carthew

THE SIGNIFICANT increase in tourist arrivals in Thailand and consequently Phuket so far in 2011 not only reinforces the impact of more direct flights, but also a number of other factors that make Thailand almost the ideal location for large scale tourism.

In January to March this year Thailand had 5.33 million visitors and from April to June, 4.35 million visitors, both considerably up on the same period in 2010, which itself was a record year. Predictions of an unprecedented 20 million visitors to The Kingdom are now being made by tourism experts.

But what about color politics, elections and uncertainty over the new government? Don't the figures defy conventional wisdom that the sight of unrest in a country scares visitors away?

Not in *Amazing Thailand*, apparently, and there are some good reasons for this, apart from more airlines flying directly to places like Phuket, which boosts overall numbers.

Firstly, according to research by Thaiwebsites.com, it takes just two or three months for potential visitors to resume their interest in visiting Thailand after negative

factors such as the red shirts uprising last year, worldwide recession and H1N1 (bird flu) scares. For example 2010, apart from the April-May quarter when the red shirts-government confrontation was at its height, showed higher numbers than in 2009. By contrast in April this year, according to the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA), Thailand tourist arrivals were up 35 percent.

Economic factors also work in Thailand's favor, as well as against it. For example, the Australian dollar has consistently outperformed the US dollar in recent months. The result. Australians who traditionally come to Phuket in our low season poured in, helped by direct flights from carriers like Jetstar, Pacific Blue and Strategic. The Australian market continues to grow in importance, with Phuket tourism leaders taking a road show to the continent in late 2011 to boost the island's profile.

Thailand's geographic position also makes it very attractive for airlines to fly here. For example, the Middle East airlines, which are still relatively new on the scene quickly discovered Bangkok as a hub. Emirates, Qatar and Etihad all have a sizeable presence at Suvarnabhumi Airport.

Thai Airways membership of Star Alliance also helps with connections through Suvarnabhumi to other Asian destinations



AMAZING SCENES: After the political unrest Thailand now needs to put out a new message.

and domestic ports like Phuket. Star Alliance has 45.9 percent of slots at Bangkok, far ahead of its alliance rivals Oneworld (4.5 percent) and Skyteam (6.8 percent) with the rest, significantly, made up of non-aligned carriers such as Thai AirAsia and Bangkok Airways. Air Berlin, already a large player in the Phuket market, is to join Oneworld, which should further boost its ability to service the island.

The impact of the non-aligned carriers at Bangkok airport is significant. According to the Australian based Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation, Thai AirAsia and Bangkok Airways were second and third, behind Thai Airways International, for seats offered per week, much more than large full service carriers like Cathay Pacific, Emirates, China Airlines, Qatar Airways, Singapore Airlines and Sri Lankan Airlines.

So there are many reasons why Thailand manages to bounce back from multiple body blows.

However, it would be wrong for Thailand to rest on its laurels. A warning about the continued use of the Amazing Thailand brand was sounded earlier this year by David Keen, CEO of KEEN, a Bangkok based branding agency, who told a PATA meeting that the brand was out of date, did not reflect the future of Thailand and was also driving tourism prices down because the word 'Amazing' was misunderstood in the international market place.

Maybe these observations are relevant, but it seems people do relate to Amazing Thailand. Attempts have been made in the past to try other slogans, but without the same success. What such branding needs is consistency - look at Malaysia's *Malaysia - Simply Asia* campaign, which has not changed for years.

Where Thailand has had to adapt is because of the impact of internal and external factors, some self inflicted, that requires a different message that says "Come back, it's safe now".

Boeing's first Dreamliner lands in Tokyo

BOEING delivered its first 787 Dreamliner to Japan's All Nippon Airways (ANA) this week in an historic event witnessed by executives from both firms and the international media.

The aircraft flew out from the aircraft maker's facilities in Everett, Seattle, on Monday and landed in Tokyo the following day.

The new aircraft's first passenger flight will be a chartered one from Tokyo's Narita Airport to Hong Kong.

The Boeing 787 Dreamliner is a long-range, mid-sized twin-engine jet airliner seating 210 to 290 passengers. The Dreamliner, made out of composite materials, is the most fuel-efficient jet Boeing has built so

far and consumes 20 per cent less fuel than the Boeing 767, which is of a similar size. The jet's other distinguishing features include a four-panel windshield, noise-reducing chevrons on its engine cover as well as smoother contours.

Meanwhile, Thai Airways International recently signed up for 37 aircraft through a lease and purchase deal worth 118.6 billion baht. The deal includes six Boeing 777-300ERs, four Airbus A350-900s and five A320-200s.

Roei Ganzarski, chief customer

officer for Boeing Flight Services, told the Asia-Pacific Airline Training Symposium held in Bangkok recently that the aviation industry needed to "bring the sexy back".

Over the next 20 years, more than 30,000 new commercial airplanes will be taking to the skies, and the industry will need up to 460,000 pilots, or nearly twice the number of pilots flying today.

Ganzarski added that the pilots needed a new generation of instructors too.

— The Nation

Malay date



Malaysia Airlines passengers enjoyed baked date cakes when they flew from Kuala Lumpur on the first day of Hari Raya celebrations.

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Having a baby? Panic stations!



Dog Whisperer

By Russell D Russell

A FRIEND of mine recently had a baby, which is a wonderful moment in his life, as it is in the lives of countless others. However, it can also be stressful, emotional and (if the rumors are true) quite tiring.

But for those of you who also have dogs in the house, you need to think about them too. You are right to be concerned about your dog sniffing around the new addition – just think of all the bugs, infections and nasty bacteria that a dog can catch from an unvaccinated toddler.

Bringing your new baby home must be quite exciting. If I had to wait nine months for my XBOX 360 to be delivered, I'd be super excited myself.

Of course, having a new family member, and an uneducated, totally dependent one at that, brings with it a myriad of changes to your normal routine – and consequently to your dog's routine.

Amidst all the excitement of bringing home your new baby, your dog may end up sharing most of the anxiety and less of the fun.

There's quite a bit that can be done with your dog to make the new transition easier, and with nine months to go, you've got time on your side.

The calm before the storm

It's no surprise that your dog needs to adjust to the idea of having a baby around the house because, frankly, so do you. Changes in your routine, unfamiliar noises, less recreational time, and increased stress all have a huge impact on you both physically and mentally and as such, has a big impact on your dog's state of mind too.

QUICK TIPS

1. Make sure your dog has a basic understanding of good behavior. Brush up on his training so that he will lie quietly for short periods, won't jump up, can walk on the lead without pulling and will come when called. This will make both your lives much easier.

2. If your dog is an 'only' pet, it is quite likely he is used to being the 'baby' in your family. Help him get used to being less important, by ignoring him and leaving him alone for short periods of time every day with a tasty long-lasting chew.

3. If you are planning to keep your dog out of certain rooms or areas of the house once the baby arrives, then start doing this as soon as possible.

4. Bring new items of furniture such as playpens, carry cots and highchairs into the house, so that your dog can get used to them.

5. Try to teach your dog the difference between his toys and those that will belong to the baby.

6. Develop a routine that you intend to follow when the new baby arrives and stick with it. This will help your dog cope with all the new changes in your home.

The first thing to think about is what kind of exposure has your dog already had to other animals, children, and infants? How did he react? What kind of experience was it? It's worth consulting a canine behaviorist to assess your dog too.

Don't mistake dog "breed" for safety. Sure, some dogs are promoted as "great with kids and babies", but all dogs are different, and if there's any chance he could react badly to a new baby – you need to know before it happens.

Start preparing your dog by getting him used to you holding something in your arms while you go about normal routines.

Dolls that make realistic baby sounds, while nerve shatteringly annoying, are easy to find in Phuket.

You can also take him to the area where your newborn will sleep or play and reward him for being calm. If you have already bought your push-chair, take it on your walks with you as if it's totally normal and allow your dog to get used to it.

Baby lotion, diapers, buggies, and cots will all bring new smells into the house and it's worth having them around well in advance to get Rover used to it. Once baby arrives, you can also bring home blankets that have the babies new smell and place them in the cot, or the buggy.

Exposing your dog to lots of children and babies of all ages in a safe and positive manner will also help him to learn that he can be calm and controlled amidst the commotion. Again, a behaviorist can help you further.

New baby boot camp

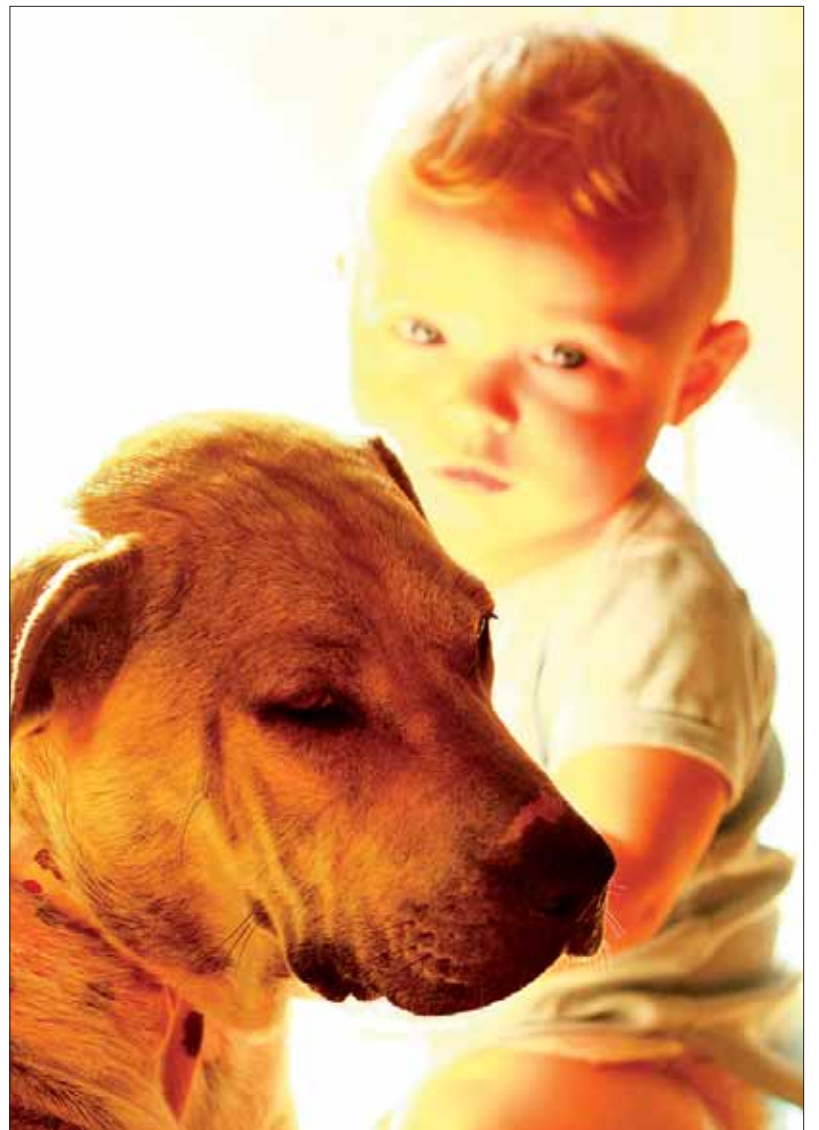
Having your dog enrolled in obedience training prior to baby's arrival should be given serious consideration as you will all benefit tremendously.

You'll truly appreciate the added benefits of having a dog that will sit, lie down, go to place, leave it, or settle down, all on command. In fairness, your priority, and thus all your attention and patience, is going to spent on your newborn, not your dog. While this is completely understandable from a human perspective, our canine friends are very much in the dark as to what all the fuss is about.

You're also likely to react more strongly to bad behavior that previously you might have been more tolerant of. Some people don't mind if their dog barks every now and then, or jumps up to say 'hello' – but if baby is trying to sleep, or you're holding baby in your arms, barking and jumping are going to cause problems.

You can take a lot of pressure and worry off your shoulders (and your dogs) by enrolling the dog in some obedience sessions.

Without the benefit of training, you need to be aware of your dog's limitations and be guarded not to "shut him out" just because he won't sit for you. You can still have a calm, baby-loving dog, but you need to manage it.



TRUST ME: It's important for them both to be assured. Photo: Sharon Pruitt

The beagle has landed

Our first instinct when baby finally arrives home is to forget everything else and focus on your newborn. But it's really important not to forget about your dog, or to act differently with them.

Maintain the status quo by continuing with your familiar feeding and walking routines but attempt to incorporate them into your new routines. By being involved with you and the newbie, you're preventing your dog from building up too much frustration or anxiety.

Your pet will no doubt be curious about the new sounds and smells associated with your baby, but will not understand how delicate he is.

Obviously, you will want to supervise all interactions between baby and dog. Your canine friend might be awesome with them, but

that doesn't mean he won't snap if awoken suddenly by a baby yanking on his whiskers. Having your pooch under some level of obedience control will clearly help, but you can also look to other management techniques such as baby gates or using a doggy travel crate.

The humane treatment of all animals is an important lesson for children of any age, as is respect for a healthy set of canine teeth. Having a pet in the house is by far the best way for your child to learn about how to properly handle a dog, or other animal.

Having them involved in walking, bathing, feeding or even training your dog will have immense benefits to them personally, as well as the added benefits to your pet.

If you'd like more information on introducing babies and dogs, obedience training, or simply have some canine questions, feel free to drop us a line at T:089 588 4050 or E:canineworld@me.com.



BACTERIA: You need to protect both of your babies. Photo: Aidras D

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Wanida Hongyok

WANIDA Hongyok hails from one of the most prominent families in Phuket. Her life is a rich tapestry of events and experiences, some of which were played out during the time when Phuket, due to its natural resources, was the richest province in the country.

Her grandfather, Luang Anupaskitkarn, of Chinese descent, ran a successful tin-mining business in the first half of the century. The title 'Luang' (a rough equivalent of the British knighthood 'Sir') was conferred to him by King Rama VI in 1931 in recognition of his business success and his contributions to local communities.

During the heyday of the tin-mining, Luang Anupas built a row of three adjacent shop houses for his large, extended family and as a business premises. These elegant Sino-Portuguese houses still stand today along Krabi Road.

Wanida remembers that, "the houses were teeming with people coming and going. Three generations were living there, along with office workers, mine labourers, and servants. The cooks had to boil rice in a huge cast iron wok to feed us all. My siblings and I spent our days playing on the mountains of stored ore bags. They were great for hide and seek."

THAI gallery

By Nanthapa Pengkasem

Having studied Business Administration in England, Wanida worked in Bangkok where she met and married her Canadian husband, Glen Dunkley.

"I was always a tomboy and naively I thought I'd never ever marry. Although I had a few suitors, I knew those men were interested because of my father's position (he was twice mayor of Phuket) so it was no go for me. Luckily my father was a liberal man and he never forced us to do anything that was against our heart. Still, when Glen proposed, my parents heaved a big sigh of relief."

She started to write for the *Phuket Gazette* in the early 1990s when the family settled down here. "Momma Duck was my Hash name given to me because I was always the last at the finishing line. I enjoyed the scenery more than the actual running. Foreign friends always asked me for advice on this and that, usually the cultural stuff. Then the newspaper thought it was a good idea to run a col-

umn featuring my friendly advice."

Thus was born the hugely popular column 'Ask Momma Duck'. The *Gazette* ran it for ten years, and its readers were dismayed when it ended in 2001.

The column generated all kinds of questions, some weird and a few wonderful. But what Wanida remembers most was, "this farang man worrying about his Thai wife cutting off his penis while he slept. I said to him, 'we Thai women tend to have that kind of outburst, and if you have been unfaithful you should sleep on your tummy!'"

Wanida now works as Vice-Chancellor for the Phuket Austrian Consulate, the job that has always been in her family. Her boss, the Honorary Consul, Khun Phumisak Hongyok, is her cousin.

"It's an honorific title, but the job is not dissimilar to Momma Duck column - service to the people, especially those lost and frustrated expats."

During her free time, Wanida devotes herself to charity work helping homeless children. She is proud of her humanitarian efforts. "It runs in the family, I guess. The Hongyok people believe that you should return what you earn to the society. My grandfather always said, 'money will flow readily into your life when you give freely.'"



About Thai Gallery

The individuals profiled in "Thai Gallery" are chosen on the basis of their contributions to Phuket as an international community, and, often, for having made those contributions through successful social and/or working relationships with foreigners. This implies some foreign language skills and an interest in interacting with different cultures. They are people who in our experience help make the lives of expats far more enjoyable here than might be the case without them.

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Hip 'n' chic in Phuket Town

By Abby McMillin

IF YOU'RE looking for a weekend market that doesn't sell tasteless, trendy items right next to rows of hanging raw meat, look no further than Hip and Chic Market in Phuket Town where there is a fusion of fashion and food.

This market, held at Siam Indigo and Island Paradise on Phang Nga Road, takes place on the first Saturday of every month from 3pm onwards.

Friends and business partners Cé line Masson and Khun Lek pair up with more than a dozen local vendors to showcase some of Phuket's most talented artists and designers.

Here you can not only shop for handpicked vintage items and custom creations, you can even take a break and get your nails done by a skilled artist. Handmade Bambi jewelry straight from the Chatuchak weekend market in Bangkok is on display right at your freshly painted fingertips.

You'll also find an assortment of imported design pieces, wonderful wall paintings and indulgent body products.

Khun Lek, owner and head de-

signer of Island Paradise, also displays his unique clothing lines; Century 22; Odd and Ends; 13.1 and Rococo which are available at major shopping centers on the island.

Khun Lek, who has 23 years of design experience, makes it clear that his main focus is apparel-design. "The other things are just hobbies, the clothes are the real work," he said.


Indigo Siam's monthly market does not charge the vendors anything to set up as it is intended to be a fun collaboration.

"We just want people to get a chance to see all the cool things available right here in town and enjoy their weekend," said Cé line.

The beautiful dé cor of both venues flows seamlessly through adjoining doors and patios to provide a perfect backdrop to the colorful items. There's no pushing or haggling here and the unpleasant smells of other markets, and their crowded stalls, are soon forgotten after passing through the venues' lavish archways draped in heavy, red velvet. So if you are in the market for food, fashion or art or just looking for a new treasure check it out.



SHOPPERS' PARADISE: Khun Lek (left) shows off his latest creations to his relaxed clients.


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FITS TO A TEE: Phuket Town T-shirts on sale in Phuket Town.



BEADS AND BAUBLES: Handmade Bambi jewelry straight from the Chatuchak weekend market in Bangkok is on display here.

WHAT'S ON in Phuket

September 27 to October 3. Ceramic Sculpture / Adult Visual Art Class

Ceramic Sculpture and Pottery Wheel Course for Adults. Our pottery course teaches throwing techniques on the pottery wheel, and hand building and sculpture through clay. The cost is 300 baht per person per session, plus materials, plus a fire charge of 500 baht per course. Adult Visual Art Classes allow you to explore your individual style under the guidance of professional artist Luxsana (Nok) Charernsri. Drawing and Painting Class: Thursdays, from 8:15am to 10am. Watercolor Class: Saturdays, from 9:30am to 11:30am at Phuket International Academy Day School. Oil and Acrylic Painting Class: Saturdays, from 1pm to 3pm. Cost: 300 baht per lesson for members; 500 baht per lesson for non-members (excluding materials). Contact: Jo at T:076-336000 E:jo@pia.ac.th or visit W:thanyapura.com.

September 27 to October 3. Stilts Walking / Sculpture and Recycling Course for Kids

Juggling, Walking on Stilts, Hula Hoop, Creative Dance – for kids aged 6 years and up. Learn how to balance yourself by using different tools to develop body flexibility, strength and coordination. Wednesdays from 3:45pm to 5pm. Juggling, Walking on Stilts, Creative Dance, Poi or Bolas, Pantomime, Sticks, Hula Hoop. Saturdays from 10am to 11:30am; cost 3,000 baht per person per 10 classes. Sculpture & Recycle Course: Express your emotions

September 27 to October 5. Vegetarian Festival 2011



This Annual Festival is always held during the ninth lunar month of the Chinese calendar. Although the origins of the festival are unclear, it celebrates the Chinese community's belief that a strict vegetable only diet will purify the mind and body. Sacred rituals are performed at all the Chinese temples in Phuket. The processions from each temple show strict vegetarians, known as devotees, ostensibly possessed by gods, piercing their tongues, cheeks and other parts of their anatomy with sharp implements. The devotees apparently feel no pain and show no sign of real injury.

and imagination through your hands to art. Tuesdays from 3:45pm to 5pm. Saturdays from 11:30am to 12:45pm; cost 3,000 baht per person per 10 classes at Phuket International Academy Day School. Contact: Jo or Greta at T:076-336000 or E:jo@pia.ac.th or greta@tamburellarte.com or visit W:thanyapura.com.

October 1 and 15. Saturday Brunch

Twice a month at Two Chefs Kata Centre, we are setting up our now famous Saturday brunch from 12pm to 3:30pm. Delicious

food with a big inspiration from Scandinavian cooking. This huge buffet is only 395 baht, and if you add another 300 baht you get to drink whatever you like from our free flow options. Of course our Filipino house band performs live too, with MJ & Megan at the microphone and Mr Ollie on the drums. Reserve at T:076-330065 or E:katacenter@twochefs.com, or visit W:twochefs.com.

October 5. Thursday Special

Les Angeles introduces our new, weekly Thursday Special starting September 29 onward from 7pm to 10pm. We are delighted to offer this promotion on our selected menu "Come 4 Pay 3". This gives you a 30 per cent discount on food and beverage. The evening will also be complimented by a live duo band. Contact: Murat at T:081-7973364 E:мурат@royalphuketmarina.com or visit W:royalphuketmarina.com.

October 5 , 19. Tex Mex Wednesday

Twice each month, Wednesday night means Tex-Mex at Two Chefs Karon from 6pm to 10pm. We set up probably the best Tex-Mex Buffet on Phuket. Only

495 baht, we are serving this great buffet with great prices on the drinks and MJ & Megan at the microphone, we can promise you a good party too. Reserve at T:076-286479 or E:karon@twochefs.com or visit W:twochefs.com.

October 7, 21. Curry Fridays

We present Curry Fridays on the 1st and 3rd week of each month, on Fridays from 7 to 11:30pm at Navrang Mahal, Karon Sea Sands Resort & Spa. Here's your chance to enjoy an authentic and lavish Indian curry buffet. Selections include all-time favorite chicken tikka masala, spicy mutton vindaloo, juicy kebabs, Goan fish

curry, chickpea curry and much more, all served with nan bread and basmati rice. All you can eat for only 449 baht net! Draft beer by the glass: just 50 baht net. Special discount on beverages. Reserve at T: 076-286464 ext 4 or E:sm@karonseasand.com, or visit W:karonseasand.com.

October 7. Indian Feast

Royal Phuket Marina is pleased to invite you to our Indian Feast at Les Angeles. You will now be able to enjoy authentic Indian cuisine every Friday night starting from the week of September 30 onwards, from 7pm to 10pm, price 495 ++ baht per person. This authentic home-made Indian buffet will be prepared and served by our very own in-house Indian chef Padum Kahtri. Reserve at T:076-360803 or Murat at T:081-7973364 E:мурат@royalphuketmarina.com or visit W:royalphuketmarina.com.

October 9 to 11. AOCAP Alternative Ownership Conference Hotels and Resorts - Asia Pacific

From 8:30am to 6pm at Shangri-La Hotel, Bangkok. The Alternative Ownership Conference Asia-Pacific provides a platform for Resort Developers and Operators within Southeast Asia to meet and discuss exciting new real estate concepts which are now appearing in the region, and which offer developers greater scope and flexibility in their master-planning and execution. The AOCAP Conference will provide an opportunity to learn more about concepts such as Branded Residences, Condo-hotels, Buy-to-Use-and-Let, Destination Clubs, Fractional Ownership and Private Residence Clubs, and how they can be successfully introduced into a resort's menu of recreational real estate offerings. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*. Contact: Chanut at T:089-5127030 E:info@aocap.org or visit W:aocap.org.

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When PATA met SKAL



SKAL International Phuket President Ms Blandine Cressard.



PHUKET PLAYERS: (from left) Vice President of Phuket Tourist Association Mr Bhuritt Maswongssa, Phuket MP Ms Anchalee Thepabutra and PATA Regional President - Asia, Reid Ridgway.



TRAVELERS: (from left) PATA CEO Bill Calderwood, Director of PATA chapter development Ms Ben Montgomery, Hoteltravel.com CEO Mr Blair Speers and CEO of Asian Trails Mr Luzi Matzig. Photos: Dan Miles

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CHAMP: Phuket's Annissa Flynn



SHORTBOARD: Kularb Buuchalern



PAYING IT FORWARD: 100,000 live shrimp were released in Phang Nga bay.



DUDES: (Clockwise) Suparat Meeprecha, Peerawat Herabutr, Danai Jarujinda, Ronnaporn Kaniwichaporn, Paranyu Rojanavudtitham, Chaiwat Thongsang and Rattasart Rungsirithip pose on the beach.
WAXING LYRICAL: Samang Pheongkong (below) prepares her board.



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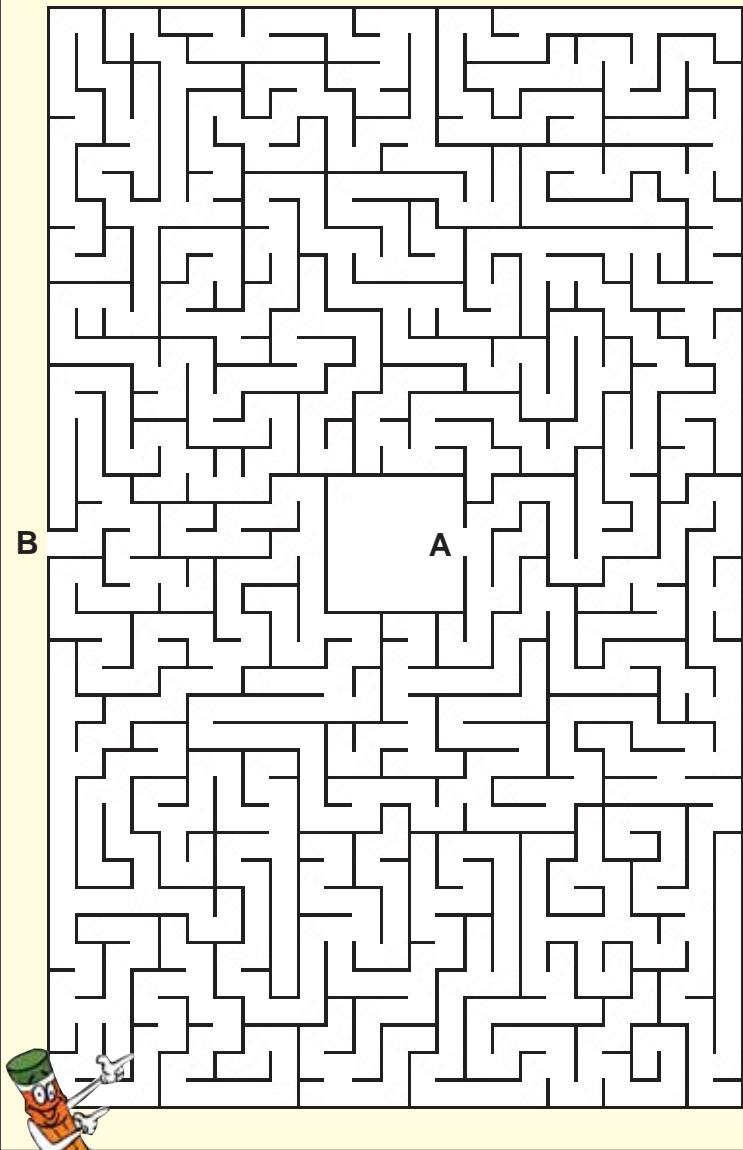
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A *Gazette* staff member completed this maze in 30 seconds. Can you beat their time? Make your way out of the maze.

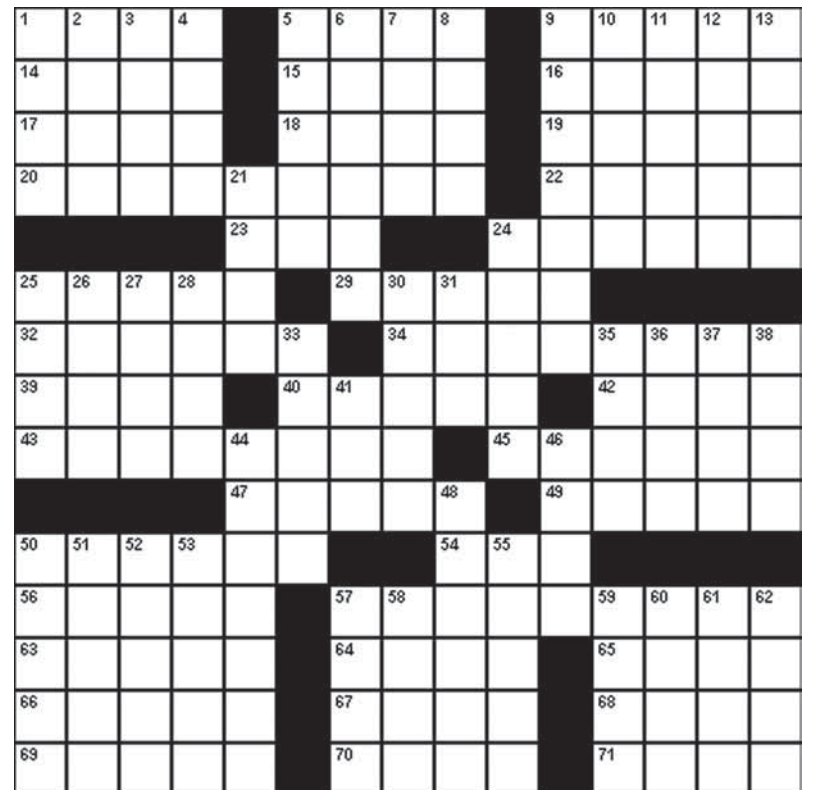


Across

1. Woven fabric
5. Blueprint detail
9. Brief brawl
14. "Night" author Wiesel
15. Blue hue
16. Feels for
17. Trent of the Senate
18. This, in Tijuana
19. Deflect
20. Fraudulent
22. Buy alternative
23. Farm female
24. Past prefix
25. Conductor Dorati
29. Colorado resort
32. English photographer
34. Concentrated extracts
39. Dynamic beginning
40. At full speed
42. Crew needs
43. Hot and humid
45. Spotted cat
47. Wraith
49. Mixed bags
50. "West Side Story" Oscar winner
54. Blue
56. Ooze out
57. Eulogistic
63. Wild dog of Australia
64. French 101 verb
65. Horne solo
66. Farewell
67. Take -- from me
68. Quantity of paper
69. Makes a loan
70. Gone by
71. Chuck

Down

1. Bring into complete union
2. "The Time Machine" race
3. Seizures
4. 9th letter of the Hebrew alphabet
5. Pad user
6. Monetary unit of Ghana
7. Chow
8. Coagulate
9. Having three unequal sides
10. Roof overhangs
11. Pay for
12. Curt
13. Blender brand
21. Capital of Norway
24. Kind of question
25. Blind as --
26. Not e'en once
27. Edible corn
28. Looking down from
30. Closes
31. Trident-shaped letter
33. Tortilla topped with cheese
35. Christmas
36. Colombian city
37. Switch ending



38. Fast fliers
41. Long March leader
44. Pertaining to fire
46. Conclusion
48. Trouble, slangily
50. Decoration
51. Rust, e.g.
52. Argument
53. Beat by a hair
55. Crackerjack
57. Bound
58. -- boy!
59. Fruit-filled pie
60. Black and white treat
61. Narrow inlets
62. Edible roots

Provided by BestCrosswords.com
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Puzzle solutions on page 39

LIBRA (September 24-October 23):



Librans continue to be a source of surprise to those close to them. As October commences there are signs that you will find more ways to take control. Laying firm foundations should be a focus as the stars suggest that disappointments this year have resulted from trusting to luck. Those with a birthday in the coming week should become more settled in their romantic lives. The number five is fortunate this week.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22):



Light is finally shed on a bureaucratic matter this week. Certain Scorpions will be pleased to learn that this issue is not as insurmountable as they thought. Those who are determined to make mountains out of molehills are forecast to be affected by stress. If you're looking for romance, another water sign would like to get up, close and personal. The number one can bring good luck this weekend.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21):



Sagittarians are predicted to be all fired up by something they learn this week. The stars say that your chances of success in October should be strengthened by this news and it will also act as

an incentive to set your sights higher. Where your domestic life is concerned, there are signs that a partner's need for more material comforts becomes a bone of contention. Your lucky number this week is eight.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20):



Finances take a turn for the better as October commences, but the stars advise Capricorns to look at possibilities of reducing their outgoings on a permanent basis. Where romance with an air sign is concerned, the stars suggest that you will grow tired of a never-ending story. An indecisive mood this weekend could lead to your missing out on some fun. The number three can bring good fortune.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19):



A meddlesome family member is forecast to cause headaches for Aquarians this week. The stars suggest that you remind the person concerned that to live and let live would be a healthy philosophy to adopt. In the world of work, it should be full steam ahead for those involved in a new project. Expect an earth sign to provide more support than you anticipated. Your lucky number this week is seven.

YOUR horoscope

By Isla Star

PISCES (February 20-March 20):



Domestic issues are firmly on the agenda for Pisceans during the first part of October. A half-hearted idea to relocate could become more serious when a fire sign has a tempting suggestion. The stars suggest that following this up could prove that the grass really is greener on the other side. Where romance is concerned, a partner is predicted to ask a loaded question this weekend. The number four can bring good fortune this weekend.

ARIES (March 21-April 20):



The first week of October is a positive time for communication. Arians who have been delaying contact with a business colleague over a sensitive issue will now find it easy to say the right words. The stars advise that romance on the rebound is likely for those who have recently become single. Keep new relationships casual until you are ready to leave the past properly behind. Your lucky number this week is nine.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):



Your generous spirit could be taken for granted during the week ahead. Taureans who are prone to speaking before they think things through will be sorry that they reacted too hastily. Flirtation with another earth sign brings sunshine into some Taureans' lives, but could cause problems for those already involved. Money matters are best dealt with on Tuesday and Wednesday. The number six can bring good luck this weekend.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



Gemini's natural magnetism will attract fire and earth signs this week. In the world of work this could result in new collaboration, although working with certain fire signs is forecast to be affected by disagreements. Where personal relationships are concerned, those seeking love may be spoiled for choice. A water sign friend shows an unexpected side to their character this weekend. Your lucky number this week is two.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):



October is forecast to be a month when Cancerians can rely on their intuitions. After the ups and downs of September, look forward

to a steadier time, particularly where romance is concerned. For those who are single Cupid is ready to encourage an introduction to an air sign. In the world of work, there are signs that being late for appointments could leave the wrong impression. The number seven brings good luck this weekend.

LEO (July 24-August 22):



Leos waiting to learn of better opportunities within the world of work should follow up leads from other fire signs this week. After a trying time in September, the stars advise that you shouldn't feel guilty about spoiling yourself on a shopping trip this weekend. Words spoken in the heat of the moment can create an uneasy atmosphere in a relationship with a water sign. Your lucky number this week is five.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23):



A vague plan starts to take shape this week. Virgoans who needed advice from others about how to proceed can trust what they hear from a water sign. A fire sign friend's chaotic approach to doing business will not be compatible with your level headed style. The first week is an auspicious time to complete tasks left on the back burner. The number one brings good fortune this weekend.

PROPERTY Gazette

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

Exploring palatial Yin

LUXURY living

INSPIRED by respected Thai architect Charupan Wiriyawatt of Hong Kong-based Naga Concepts, Villa Yin is a palatial work of art that mixes elements of classic Thai architecture and a collection of contemporary art with an ultra-luxury design approach.

Situated on Kamala's headland, this 2.5-rai site overlooks the Andaman Sea and features a private stairwell to a natural, shallow swimming enclave in the sea below.

Villa Yin's five Thai-style pavilions – the entrance, guest, outdoor,

main and master pavilions – are all connected by footpaths, but secluded by design.

The villa's indoor-outdoor tropical living plan showcases four bedrooms and an 18-meter marble pool that wraps around expansive entertaining platforms along one of the island's most prestigious west coast locations, Millionaires' Mile.

"Villa Yin is an extraordinary example of the ancient Chinese belief of yin and yang; complementary opposites within a greater whole. It mixes a natural landscape with industrial materials like concrete, glass and steel; antiques rest beside modern art that burst with color," explained Joanne Baylis, Direct Villa Owner Representative of Awesome Villas, a Hong Kong-based corporation.



AWESOME: Villa Yin's 18-meter marble infinity pool overlooks the azure Andaman Sea. Priced at \$US8 million.

Dark hardwood terracing, marble and granite highlight the design statements introduced throughout the property: plate glass vanities and shower screens with pebble and bamboo inclusions, beaded bathtubs and glass stairways.

The state-of-the-art kitchen from Minotti, and other luxury features such as wine cellar, sauna, massage room and home cinema all add to the beautifully-appointed outdoor dining and chill-out area.

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PROPERTY

Battlelines are drawn in Koh Samui Brandquest

PHUKET and Samui continue to be described as the Yin and Yang of resort island destinations. Characteristics that they both share are that both are islands in Thailand that champion tourism as the overall economic prosperity jackpot. But beyond the obvious, many questions remain about how much they differ.

After recently completing a mid-year hotel market update for Samui, I find myself asking: What's the real story on that other island?

Viewing the rest of the year, an influx of global hotel chains onto the scene is undoubtedly the headline. Seemingly under a slogan of "Bring it on!", names such as InterContinental, Conrad, Le Meridien, Accor and Moevenpick will all be selling – or at least renting – beds by the end of 2011.

Luxury also has a good foothold on the island as evidenced by many of the resorts bearing desirous monikers such as Four Seasons, Banyan Tree, Starwood's chic and trendy W and Orient-Express. Other well-known brands targeting broader



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

market properties include affiliations to Renaissance, Centara, Six Senses, Ibis, and Outrigger.

Stepping into the hallowed halls of Destination Branding 101, we find scribbled on the chalkboard a single sentence along with a familiar quizzical ending: Will more brands induce more tourists to visit Samui?

Are we at the beginning of a new and more refined milestone in the industry's cyclical pathway or is this "brandspeak" hype?

In many consumer models, brands without a doubt act as a catalyst to generate demand. Look at upscale shopping malls that rely on well known leading brands to provide an anchor attraction.

Consumerism at times is a predictable venture, though of course shoppers can be as fickle as schizophrenics. Shopfronts key into brand awareness and resort destinations are no different.

Taking a step back from my



THE OTHER ISLAND: A Koh Samui seaside resort. Photo by Jerome Yang.

love of the Phuket numbers based growth model, and getting my boots back on the ground, I personally think that much of the new Samui hotel product is more scalable, offering new designs and products. This prompts the prediction that more Yin and Yang competition will be seen in the future.

However, the largest obstacle

in Samui's path to growth remains airlift. It's quite hard to cast aspersions at Bangkok Airways, which operates the private airport and has a commercial stranglehold on transport to and from Samui.

Years ago, when the island was accessible only by sea, the company put up their own money, took on risk and at times suffered in pioneering the destination. I recall media mogul Rupert Murdoch saying something along the lines that "a monopoly is a terrible thing, until you have one."

At the heart of the issue is the government's neutral stance towards developing a second larger public airport to handle wide-body aircraft. As the private sector continues to ramp up new hotel and property projects without any zoning or intervention by means of a long-term sustainable tourism plan, the end result is what could best be described as "It's complicated."

Some people remain of the opinion that Samui should stay small and exclusive and this indeed has merit. But what this scenario does not consider is the fundamental disconnect that has allowed and is continuing to see new hotels go into the pipeline.

More development on the outlying islands of Koh Pha-ngan and Koh Tao is also displacing airlift. Perhaps the most visible example of this is the increasingly popular Full Moon parties. A variety of travellers fly in from domestic and international destinations and simply travel onward to the event.

As in Phuket, the Samui airport gateway is providing a "Greater Samui" horizon that requires more airplane seats to quell the savage beast of tourism.

Lopping it all into two words for the moment, Samui's story is about brands and airlift. These in reality are not Yin and Yang at all, but more aptly "star-crossed lovers".

As for my own rant, Thailand's government simply cannot stay glued to their seats on the airport issue and needs to create a forward looking strategy now.

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

In brief...

Lombok aims for Phuket's market

BALI'S neighbor Lombok is seeing its tourism market shift into high gear with the opening of its new international airport on October 1st.

Located in Tanak Awe in West Nusa Tenggara, the Bandara International Lombok Airport is able to handle widebody aircraft.

Currently flights to Lombok consist of domestic carriers and Silk Air internationally from Singapore, but this looks to change given the new facility.

While Lombok's numerous white sandy beaches have long been on many hotel developers' horizon, as Phuket and Bali are crushed with mass tourism numbers, the island could see a fast acceleration of growth.

Thailand's Airport Authority in the red

DESPITE surges in international and domestic passenger numbers and traffic the Airports of Thailand (AoT) turned in a loss for the period of April to June 2011.

Private sector financial analysts had been forecasting a profit for the period, but AoT has referenced losses on foreign exchange though traffic was higher than expected.

The AoT which trades on the Stock Exchange of Thailand manages a wide portfolio of airports including primary and secondary destinations in the country.

Banyan targets China residential opportunities

THERE IS little doubt over the past year the Banyan Tree vis-a-vis their controlling interest in Thai listed Laguna Resorts and Hotels, are looking abroad for greener pastures.

An orderly divestment of key assets, namely the Laguna Beach Resort and Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket have been made, and publically the group has said they want to lower their financial exposure in a market ridden with political risk.

Key Banyan Tree executive K.P. Ho has been quoted by Dow Jones Newswires that the group is looking to build upscale houses in China's secondary destinations.

With seven resorts open and more than 20 in the pipeline the group is now keen to shift into property offering as well, with Ho naming Chengdu as a likely example.

Here in Phuket it is no secret that the developer has hit challenging times with a large surplus of completed units that remain unsold throughout the integrated resort.

So for now a shift to China and the soon to launch Laguna Hue in Vietnam will increasingly diversify and expand the groups ambitions.

– Bill Barnett



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Jones Lang LaSalle to manage the new Pelican in Krabi

JONES Lang LaSalle has announced that it has entered into an agreement to manage The Pelican Krabi, a prime resort development by Perry Group International.

The agreement is Jones Lang LaSalle's first property management contract in Krabi and marks the fast growth of the firm's property management business in Thailand.

The Pelican Krabi is situated on 33 rai of oceanfront land on the west coast of Krabi and comprises three development phases. Scheduled for completion in mid 2012, the first phase will feature 90 condominiums with 1-3 bedrooms at prices ranging between 6 million and 14 million baht.

The other two phases will include 40 villas and a five-star hotel component. Upon completion, The Pelican Krabi will also offer resort facilities, including a free-form swimming pool, a fitness centre, meeting facilities and a snack bar.

Mr. Andrew Ngamsappasilp, the CEO of Perry Group International, said "As we want to ensure that the property and its owners are well looked after, we chose Jones Lang LaSalle, the leader in property management, to manage The Pelican Krabi.



The first phase will feature 90 condominiums ranging between 6 million and 14 million baht.

"Jones Lang LaSalle is an experienced management company, and we believe that it understands what level of service is required and can provide expert guidance in the field of juristic management. In addition, Jones Lang LaSalle is a strong international property management brand, and our customers, many of whom are overseas buyers, will recognize it and see that we have considered high-standard after-sales service for them," added Mr. Ngamsappasilp.

Mr. Dexter Norville, Head of

Estate Management for Jones Lang LaSalle, said that the company is pleased to have been awarded the contract to manage this property as it represents the firm's first appointment in Krabi.

"We are expecting Krabi to become more popular over the next few years as it has increasingly been recognised as an alternative destination to Phuket and Samui, which are both established destinations. The growing reputation of Krabi and the international airport will help bring more tourist arrivals each year. Thais and for-

eigners alike who are looking to purchase a holiday home or retire in Thailand may well choose Krabi," he remarked.

Property and asset management is one of Jones Lang LaSalle's fastest growing businesses.

Today, the firm is the largest international property and asset management service provider in Thailand with a portfolio of 3.9 million sqm of real estate and corporate facilities managed in Bangkok, Phuket, Pattaya, and in the most recent case Krabi.

Akyra nearly fully booked

KOH SAMUI's recently built up-scale lifestyle resort, Akyra Chura Samui, has registered a 90% occupancy rate since its opening just three months ago, outperforming island-wide occupancy rate averages of 61%.

The data was released by respected hospitality consultants C9 Hotelworks' Samui Hotel Market Update, which stated that even the 61% occupancy figure was an improvement on last year.

The 61-room akyra Chura Samui, on the northern tip of Chaweng Beach, is the first property managed by Akaryn Hospitality Management Services (AHMS) who announced their arrival in the resort/hotel management business after the success of their Aleenta resorts in Hua Hin and Phuket.

AHMS Managing Director Anchalisa Kijkanakorn was delighted about the news. "We have a strong track record through our luxury Aleenta brand and we have been able to leverage this and craft a new four-star lifestyle brand Akyra which caters to everyone from young, free-spirited travellers to discerning tourists" Ms Kijkanakorn said. Top visiting markets to Akyra Chura Samui are from the UK, Germany and Scandinavia as well as from Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan, Italy and Australia in the Asia Pacific region.

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CENTRAL AMERICAN MIGRANT: *Tithonia diversifolia*, the Mexican sunflower, is one of the shrubs that does a great job of hiding bare and unsightly areas in local gardens. Photo: chuck b_Crop

Covering a lot of ground

THE many virtues of ground cover plants were discussed here last week: their contrasting textures and colors; their capacity to act as a retaining layer by protecting the topsoil during tropical downpours, or as a natural mulch that absorbs much of the sun's heat and inhibits the growth of weeds. Most importantly, they cover bare and unsightly areas.

No ground cover plant is better than *Wedelia trilobata* or creeping daisy (*kradum thawng*). Originally imported from the Caribbean, it grows like a weed in Phuket, rapidly covering patches that have been churned up and left for dead. But nothing stays dead for long in this part of the tropics, and *Wedelia* is one of the first to re-colonize such places. Indeed, such is the success of the creeping daisy that it is classified as an invasive species in some Pacific regions.

A member of the aster family, it has



Gardening
By Patrick Campbell

shiny, dark green, trilobed leaves, and yellow flowers that resemble daisies, with up to a dozen petals. The reason it spreads so quickly is due to their creeping stems – they put down roots from their leaf nodes as they explore new terrain.

If you want to grow *Wedelia* in your own garden patch, simply pull up some rooted stems and replant them where you require cover. Since it tolerates sun or shade, and most soil conditions, *Wedelia* will do the rest on its own. It does particularly well under trees: in one area of my garden it has provided denser cover than the original Malaysian palm grass.

Since it has a naturally trailing habit, it also does well in raised containers. However, it can become straggly, so trim when required, especially if the stems

invade border areas – and it will. Nothing will cover the ground faster or more effectively than this plant. In the right conditions, it will form a dense green mat that's constantly adorned with yellow blooms.

Tithonia diversifolia, or *bua thawg*, is another bright bloomer that also takes up a lot space. It doesn't lie low, but instead forms spectacular clumps. Naturalized in parts of Northern Thailand, it may cover whole hillsides with its orange flowers from September to December. The flowers are huge – up to five inches across – hence its common name, Mexican sunflower. Although it's more of a screening shrub than a ground cover agent, it's definitely worth growing should you need to blot out any unsightly objects or spaces in your garden.

The same can be said of *Lantana montevidensis*, another hardy shrub which provides a useful cover for sunny parts of the garden. It has rough, dark green foliage, and constant clusters of pinkish-mauve flowers. Nowadays, many hybrids are available in Phuket's nurseries, often with different combinations of

colors on the same plant. Since *Lantana* spreads by means of creeping stems, it covers the ground effectively and rapidly and needs little attention apart from liberal doses of sun and well-drained soil. It dislikes waterlogged conditions, but it's not likely to encounter this in most Phuket gardens.

Cuphea hyssopifolia is a much smaller shrub (about 50 centimeters high) with tiny, evergreen leaves and a multi-branched habit. With its low spreading growth and small mauve flowers, from a distance it looks like a heather, hence its common name, false heather. A popular plant for border edges when planted en masse, it can carpet a whole area. Don't put it in deep shade – it will die back.

What do these shrubs have in common? Well, they all come from Central America, they all provide ground cover, and oddly enough, they have all been labeled "invasive" in other parts of the globe.

If you have a question, or a garden that you would like featured, E: drpaccampbell@gmail.com

Tip of the week

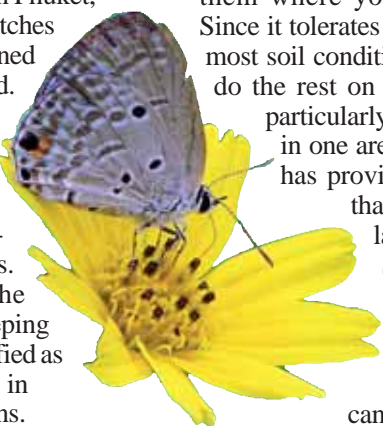
Making the most of microclimates

A MICROCLIMATE is defined as a small area which has a climate that differs from that of the surrounding area. It may be wetter, drier, warmer, colder, sunnier or shadier.

Even a small island such as Phuket has distinct climatic variations. From May to November, the prevailing winds come from the southwest – from the Indian Ocean – which result in heavier rainfall on the west coast. From December to April, northeast winds arriving from China bring cooler, drier air. Since Phuket has a backbone of hills, the windward side is more affected by these climatic patterns.

Some microclimates exist because of inland water, forests, or shorelines. Urban areas are hotter than 'green' spaces because of the generation and retention of heat and carbon dioxide.

If your garden undulates, the south-facing slopes will get more sun, so you need to select plants that will tolerate its full effects, for example *euphorbias*, *ixoras*, *bougainvilleas*, or *pereskias*.



Chilades pandava on a Wedelia Photo: YIM Hafiz

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for sale. Onyx Project. Two villas. 2 bedrooms, furnished. Price: 8.8 million baht. Tel: 082-272 4628.

LAND FOR SALE



Stunning sea view, land ready for building on Andaman Mountain, overlooking Patong Beach. Has a concrete road, power and water. Area 1,048sqm (¼ rai) 15mx70m. Price: 10.48 million baht. Tel: +44 7885488091. Email: crane prop@hotmail.co.uk Website: www.property-land-phuket-thailand.co.uk

SEAVIEW LAND FOR SALE



Near Chalong Pier, 150m from the sea. 3 rai 2 ngan plot. Chanote title. Price: 20 million baht per rai. No agent. Tel: 084-446 0684.

LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

390sq wah, nice flat land, quiet area, Chanote. In Pasak Soi 5 near Laguna Home. Price: 6 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118, 086-709 2933.

PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

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

7 ROOMS, 3.6 MILLION

4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 living rooms, 2 floor, 165sqm attached house at dead end (last in line). For sale by owner with Chanote. Tel: 087-282 5008. Email: katafrog@hotmail.com

30 RAI IN TOWN

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

POOL VILLA FOR SALE



In Land & Houses Park Phuket. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, fully furnished. Price: 7.6 million baht. Tel: 081-606 2284.

BANG JO LAND FOR SALE

4 rai, Chanote title at Bang Jo. Nice plot, direct from owner. Price: 15 million baht. Tel: 081-9560 527 (English & Thai). Email: tuenjai1@hotmail.com

SEAVIEW LAND BANG TAO/ SURIN

Beautiful views, upscale development, near beach, build yourself or with our expertise. Owner financing possible. Tel: 086-267 0157. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

LUXURY CONDO CENTRAL KATHU

For sale or rent. 2 bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms. Guest toilet. Total 161-212sqm. Very nice view, large balcony, common facilities pool/gym. Tel: 086-268 7901 (English). Email: martin@pentinax.asia

THE SURIN SABAI CONDOS



Only 1 unit available, fully furnished, (ready to move in) 264sqm, 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms on the sixth floor overlooking Bang Tao Bay and Surin Beach, 400 meters easy walking to Surin Beach. Price: 18 million baht per unit. Tel: 084-848 5273 (French, English) or 081-747 6571 (English, Thai). Email: jessy@phuketasialand.com or michel@phuketasialand.com Website: www.phuketasialand.com

3 SHOPHOUSES FOR SALE RAWAI

Lease contract. bar, beauty salon and massage. Empty units. Each unit has one bedroom and a bathroom. 1.5 million baht. Tel: 081-535 4049.

KATHU HOUSE FOR SALE

2 floors, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 6.5 million baht. MTel: 081-956 5650 (English), 089-646 9278 (English & Thai). Email: info@kathu-property.com More details: www.kathu-property.com

LAND & HOUSE IN KATA BEACH

2 rai. 25 million baht ono. Please call for information. Tel: 081-893 7348.

HOUSE RAWAI 2.6MB AND 50M BEACH



Quick sale! Completely renovated townhouse, 50m from Rawai Beach in quiet & secure dead end street. Chanote title. Freehold - Sold with company - no transfer fees. Comes fully furnished. Ready to move in. Tel: 088-451 5540, 088-878 8587. Email: ben@boomingbox.com For further details, please see our website at www.bbx3.be

PROPERTY IN RAWAI



Ready to move in. Tel: 089-812 4070 (English & Thai). Email: mituna692@me.com For further details, please see my add at: http://thaisnitch.com

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

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Properties For Rent

2-BEDS HOME, KAMALA BEACH

For rent from Nov 1. 28,000 baht/month. 1-year lease, 2-minute walk to beach, fully furnished, TV, DVD, open-plan living/dining area, 2 bedrooms with aircon, 2 bathrooms, European-style kitchen, featuring 40sqm sala. Children, pets OK. Electricity, UBC, hi-speed internet, not included in the rent. Tel: 081-086 7003. Email: patgreen999@yahoo.com

EXCLUSIVE HOUSE NAI HARN

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, pool, jacuzzi, 800sqm land. For long- or short-term rent. For further details, please see our website at www.phuketqualityhouse.com

THAI VILLA AND POOL NAI HARN

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

HOUSE WITH LARGE GARDEN



3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 110sqm. Fully furnished, in Land & Houses Park. 40,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-607 8567. Email: suk savat@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuket-apartment-house.webiz.co.th

2-BED APARTMENT IN PATONG

120sqm apartment with 10sqm balcony. Large sunken living/dining room, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Full built-in kitchen, storeroom. European standard. All aircon. Tel: UBC, WiFi, etc. 19,000 baht, long term pref. Tel: 084-185 8536.

3-7 BEDS POOL VILLA NAI HARN



5 minutes to Nai Harn beach. Living rooms, sala, pool bar, 5x12m swimming pool, hot water. 2 rai huge garden. Tel: 089-289 8483 (English & Thai), 086-689 6680 (Thai). Email: songsrivi@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

PATONG SPACIOUS APARTMENTS

1 & 2 bedroom. 5 mins to town. Free cable TV, maid, WiFi, pool and gym. Call for showing. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English). Email: phvcondo@aol.com

2 B/R CONDO FOR RENT PATONG

Luxury fully furnished condo. Swimming pool, etc. Tel: 084-523 1714 (English). Email: bern@global.net.au

SURIN APARTMENT

1 bedroom, pool entrance apt. 400m from Surin Beach. Fully furnished. Email: jgstryker@gmail.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: 7,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-692 3163.

LONG-TERM RENT

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

THALANG LUXURY POOL VILLA

European standard, fully-furnished, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, living, dining, kitchen, 2 car parks, garden, internet and TV. Near PIA school and Laguna. 12 mins to western beaches (Layan, Nai Thorn and Nai Yang). Price 45,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-606 2827 (English & Thai). Email: nij017@hotmail.com

KATA SEAVIEW WESTERN APART



1 bedroom, great sea view, penthouse, 100sqm, with huge terrace, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, ground floor 115sqm with 60sqm covered terrace. Sat TV, Internet, fully furnished, fitted kitchen, parking. Tel: 084-840 1262. Email: north8east98@yahoo.com



4 Bedrooms Villa for Rent / Sale
Fully Finished, Wi-Fi, Cable TV, Maid, Pool Cleaner, and Gardener are included.
www.PropertySeekByKMD.com,
(081) 895-7310

ORCHID KATHU HEIGHTS

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

DELUXE OCEAN VIEW CONDO, KARON

Furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen. Available short or long term 29,500 baht per month, 1 year. Tel: 076-486624, 086-281 9311. Email: phuket.seaviewcondo@ymail.com

SEAVIEW CHALONG-RESIDENCE



5-bedroom-pool villa on 1 rai of land. Brand-new construction near Wat Chalong on the way up the hill. A huge 685sqm of living area. Fully furnished. Attractive terms. Modern European kitchen. Big seaview pool terrace with sala and attractive bar area. Security alarm system, stereo, remote gate entry, phone, video. Monthly long-term rent 160,000 baht. WiFi, cable TV, maid, pool cleaner and gardener included. By owner directly. Tel: 085-654 4011, 089-404 0737. Email: schulz.th@gmx.de

ROYAL PLACE PHUKET

1 bedroom apartment available for rent now. 13,000 baht per month neg. Gym, swimming pool, parking next to Tesco, cable TV. Tel: 085-069 0938. Email: nnorthwo@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR RENT IN KARON

Executive style house for long term rental. Spacious lounge, dining, kitchen area with 2 large bedrooms both with en-suite & balconies on the upper level. Fully furnished, as new. 25,000 baht per month o.n.o. Tel: 080-690 5248. Email: lil@ladolcevitare.com.au

PATONG STUDIO 28SQM
Aircon, fridge, TV, DVD & ADSL. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-971 5664. Email: ronny2507@hotmail.com

KATHU HOUSE FOR RENT

Single house with swimming pool, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 aircons, hot shower, fully furnished. Near golf course. Rent 28,000 baht per month. Sale: 7 million baht. Tel: 081-440 0101.

500 B/DAY OR 10,000 B/MONTH



Rawai bar pool guest-house. Affordable rates, standard and family room with aircon, fridge, WiFi, cable TV. Car and motorbike for cheap rent. 100 meters from the Rawai Pier. Tel: 076-284716, 081-416 1072. Email: info@rawaitan.com Website: www.rawaitan.com

HOUSE IN PATONG



Newly build 40sqm, near Sea Pearl project, Patong. 2 stories, 3 beds, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, 2 aircon, kitchen with hood, refrigerator, dining room, living room, hot water, cable TV and internet. Tel: 089-4691813.

HOUSE IN MAI KHAO FOR RENT

Fully finished, 2 bedrooms, 3 aircons, ADSL, charming garden, in safe area, 10 minutes to airport and beach. Tel: 081-719 7015. Email: jyfieviet@voila.fr

SUPER POOL VILLA

Near Laguna. Low rates weekly, monthly. Has everything: internet, spa, new luxury. Tel: 089-594 4067.

THE ONE! BEACH HOUSE

At Kamala, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, European style. 75,000 baht/month. Includes all services. Available September 15 until December 15. Tel: 081-894 3839. Email: ayearlikenoneother@gmail.com

PATONG STUDIO 28SQM

Aircon, fridge, TV, DVD and ADSL. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-971 5664. Email: ronny2507@hotmail.com

12,000 BAHT/ MONTHLY RENT



Apartment, pool, fully furnished, WiFi, cable TV, kitchen. Cheap lease with private financing for foreigner 10-30 years. 100,000 baht yearly rent. 200 meters from Rawai Pier. Tel: 089-054 5271. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com Website: www.thai dreamvilla.com

POOL VILLA IN RAWAI

Fully furnished, with 3 bedrooms near Lotus Rawai, in quiet and secure area. Tel: 089-472 9870. Email: d_chaibut@yahoo.com

SEAVIEW 2 BEDROOM CONDO NAI HARN

Fully furnished, quiet area, aircon, pool, TV, Internet, laundry, 2 terraces - 25,000 month. Tel: 088-445 6108. Email: thekimbha@yahoo.com.au

2 RAI WITH HOUSE FOR RENT

Layan, 2 bedrooms, 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-714 8391. Email: andreapaolotti1@hotmail.it

HOUSE FOR RENT NEAR LAGUNA

in Soi pasak, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, internet, A/C, car park, long term 16,000 baht/month. K. Jureeporn. Tel: 087-274 0680 (English & Thai). Email: noegabriele@hotmail.com

PHUKET VILLA DOWROONG



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

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.

50,000 BAHT YEARLY RENT



or lease, studio at Rawai condotel, quiet, furnished, cable TV, fridge. Cheap lease with private financing for foreigner 10-30 years. 200 meters from Rawai Pier. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com Website: www.haidreamvilla.com

HOUSE IN PATONG

Newly furnished modern house with 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, spacious dining area and stylish open western kitchen. Living room with balcony. Full aircon. All extras: LCD television, Internet, satellite. Quiet setting. 27,000 baht per month. Please call for more info. Tel: 084-185 8536.

2 BEDROOM RAWAI CONDO

60sqm, fully furnished, top floor, aircon, cable TV, pool. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 085-039 3784 (English). Email: tomin phuket@gmail.com

POOL VILLAS FOR RENT

1,2,4 bedrooms, Bang Tao area. Fully furnished. 17,000 baht. Tel: 085-674 6786.

2-BEDROOM TWIN HOUSE



in Phuket Town. 20,000 baht/month.

Surface: 45sqm (180sqm).

- 2 storeys: ground floor with living room, kitchen, bathroom, terrace, garden and parking lot.

- Top floor with 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 2 balconies and living room

- Peaceful area in a nice neighborhood (and uncommonly large roads)

- Only minutes away from Bangkok Hospital Phuket and Central Festival

- 24-hour security

- Clubhouse with swimming pool
Call 081-868 7676 or 089-868 2268 for more information or house inspection.



In the frame of rapid growth,
we are looking for the following candidates

- Bakery Chef : 1 Position**
- Bakery Sous Chef : 1 Position**
- Thai Nationality
- Minimum 3 years of experience as the same position with record
- Ability to manage team of 10 staffs
- Must have a through knowledge of the materials, methods and equipment direct used in preparing bakery/pastry
- Good Benefit for the right candidate**

Please send the resume to hrrcruitphuket@wineconnection.co.th
or call 076-282 411 and 081-895 3314 for further information



Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

REPORTER

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

Good salary for the right candidate.

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

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



PHUKET ADVENTURE GOLF

Do **YOU** want to share the "Adventure" with us?

We are currently looking for dynamic
"Team Members" to join Us!

POSITIONS

- ▶ Operating Manager
- ▶ Sales & Marketing Person
- ▶ Restaurant Supervisor
- ▶ Bartenders
- ▶ Waiters/Waitresses
- ▶ Cooks (Western and/or Thai Food)
- ▶ Pizza bakers
- ▶ Golf kiosk Attendees

If you believe you can be an asset to the team, please send us
your updated resume to: manager@phuketadventuregolf.com
Tel: 087-1806942(Thai).
www.phuketadventuregolf.com

Benefits: Bonus • Insurance
• Paid holiday (full) • Free meal • Free uniform
• Take part of the tip-sharing

-More than a game... Open NOW!



THE SWEETEST JOB ON PHUKET

We need Thai staff for our
candyshops in Kata, Karon
and Patong. You must
speak basic English, be orga-
nized and service-minded.
Full time with good salary.
Please contact for more in-
formation. Tel: 087-888
1819. Email: marie@phuketgodis.com

CREW POSITION ON LIVEBOARD

Thai male or female, age 20-35.
Good organizer, neat, tidy and
pleasant. English language
skills essential. Work-and-learn
attitude more important than
previous experience. Salary:
15,000 to 20,000 baht, depend-
ing on capabilities and experi-
ence. Tel: 076-398370. Email:
info@nautica-diving.com

WEB PROJECT MANAGER/FRENCH

Must have experience in pro-
gramming, software develop-
ment and project management.
Tel: 086-478 0322. Email:
kannika.liva@gmail.com

MOUNTAIN BIKE TOUR LEADER

Amazing Bike Tours are seek-
ing more guides to join our
team. Must speak good En-
glish and be passionate about
biking. Thai nationals only. Tel:
087-263 2031 (English). Email:
info@amazingbiketours-thailand.asia

THAI STAFF NEEDED

Work in the sun. Must speak
English. Basic salary, commission
and contacts included. Patong
area. Contact Mike. Tel: 081-270
1370. Email: m@bayshoreprojects.com



Positon : Assistant Resort Manager

We are seeking an adventurous, motivated and experienced person to join us to work on
the beautiful remote Island called Koh Pra Thong for the period of October through April.

Responsibilities:

Assisting Resort Manager in daily resort operation but mainly responsible for all administrative
functions such as handling daily bills for the resort, bookkeeping, vendor payments,
correspondence, and maintaining accurate reservation records.

Requirements:

1. Male or Female - Aged 28 years and up
2. B.A Degree
3. Good spoken and written English and Thai.
4. Good literacy with Microsoft Office
5. Pleasant personality, service-oriented and good problem-solving skills
6. Prefer Hotel/Travel or customer service-related experience.
7. Experience with billing and knowledge of PayPal system is an advantage

Interested candidate please send resume, a recent photo and expected salary
to Khun Pissa Tipsombut Email: pena@goldenbuddhaharesort.com
www.goldenbuddhaharesort.com



URGENTLY REQUIRED!!!

The famed and legendary Boathouse in Phuket, set on the amazing beach of Kata, was
recently acquired by Montara Hospitality Holdings, and has just been totally redesigned
and beautifully renovated. We are currently urgently looking for the following positions:

Management Level Financial Controller Sales & Marketing Manager Re Ka Ta Beach Club Chef Re Ka Ta Beach Club Manager Purchasing Manager	Front Office Receptionists Driver & Bellboy Housekeeping Room attendant Food & Beverage Bartender Waiters/waitresses	Kitchen Chef de partie - Western cuisine Engineering Painter Electrician Engineer
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Interested applicants, please e-mail full resume and a recent photograph
to sales@boathousephuket.com or panwadee@boathousephuket.com

Boathouse
182 Kuktanode Road, Kata beach, Phuket 83100, Tel: 076 330 015
www.boathousephuket.com

Ocean Resort Group

is currently seeking staff for the following positions:

- Baker/Pastry Chef
- Cook
- Waiter/Waitress

Contact Human Resources Department
Phone: +66 (0) 76-314263-69 ext 7732 or email your
CV to hrrsunwing@oceanresortgroup.net
www.sunwingphuket.com



One of Phuket's biggest Dive Centers has free positions in the following departments:

1 Accountant, Chalong office, Phuket
1 Thai booking staff, Chalong office, Phuket

For the accountant the following qualifications
are needed:

- Able to speak and write English
- Minimum 2 years of working experience in accounting
- Knowledge of QuickBooks an advantage
- Knowledge of official papers as work permits, TAT
license and related company papers an advantage.

For the Thai booking staff the following qualifications
are needed:

- Knowledge of the English language
- Knowledge of the dive business
- Knowledge of hotel locations on Phuket
- Knowledge of working with a computer
- Presentable and flexible

Interested candidates are welcome to Email a resume
immediately. We will then call you to make an appointment for
an interview.

Chalong: Phone: 076-383052
Email: info@scandinavian-divers.com

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

THAI TEACHERS

iLearning Tutorial School Krabi urgently offers 2 positions for Thai and English teachers. Candidates must be able to teach English to high-school students or teach Thai to foreigners. Please email your CV or call for more details. Tel: 075-623443, 089-724 1479 (English & Thai). Email: director@geaw.net

LUXURY VILLA MANAGER AND PA

Thai only. Good English and computer skills. 16,000 baht + bonus. Send CV via email: toddplay@hotmail.com

BABYSITTER FULL TIME

or part time live-out babysitter needed to help clean and cook for a family in Kamala. Tel: 089-291 6205. Email: kokakat@gmail.com

CASA BLANCA BEST

Persian Italian restaurant is looking for chef/bartender, cook. Attractive salary, service charge paid, vacation, 2 meals a day. Tel: 081-892 8208.

LICENSED TOUR GUIDE

Licensed guide - Phuket and Phang Nga. Thai nationality. Fluent English. Tel: 087-980 7570, 088-080 3820 (English). Email: peter@oriental Phuket.com

LIVE-IN MAID

8,000 baht per month. Cherng Talay area. Tel: 085-790 2241.

STAFF: ALL POSITIONS

Reception, hostess, maid, gardener, waitress, cook. For more information. Tel: 087-265 6089. For further details, please see our website at www.karoncliff.com

POLE & LAP DANCE

Instructor wanted. Foreign or Thai. Tel: 080-324 5481. Email: newnightspot@gmail.com

THAI STAFF NEEDED

Must speak English. Basic salary, commission and contact included. Patong area. Tel: 081-270 1370. Email: m@bayshore projects.com

WEB CONTENT MANAGER

For IT company. English speaking Thai national, degree in philology. Must have good knowledge of English and good computer skills. Tel: 076-304117. Email: gws.mari nina@gmail.com

MOUNTAIN BIKE TOUR LEADER

Amazing Bike Tours are seeking more guides to join our team. Must speak good English and be passionate about biking. Thai nationals only. Tel: 087-263 2031. Email: info@amazingbike toursthailand.asia

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

SUB-EDITOR

- ▶ Able to write news stories in clear, concise English
- ▶ A team player
- ▶ Willing to work extended hours
- ▶ Naturally curious about the world, especially Phuket and what affects its residents
- ▶ Have the initiative to delve into the facts to make a good news story
- ▶ Newspaper experience and/or layout skills, especially PageMaker

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV and samples of work published in print or on the internet by email to Oh@PhuketGazette.net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew
A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-273555 Fax: 076-615240

SALES PROFESSIONAL BKK OR KL

Various sales and marketing roles for native English speakers or other nationals with exceptional/fluent English speaking abilities. Excellent earning potential, unlimited for certain roles. We are looking for highly motivated self-starter types looking to stay in the region. A proven track record in sales is a must. Please send email to careers@faramond.com

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER/ACCT

Strategic Financial Controller. Working with us at our dynamic internet marketing company, the ideal applicant will be someone with a strong financial / accounting background with strategic analysis experience gained in a corporate, commercial or professional services environment.

He/she will have:

- The ability to solve complex financial problems and make decisions effectively under pressure whilst ensuring the optimum outcome
 - An outstanding ability to develop effective business relationships and provide high-level stakeholder management
 - Experience and commercial acumen in an e-commerce / software environment
 - The ability to identify and negotiate commercial and financial opportunities, produce budgets and prepare review papers.
 - An understanding of, or the ability to quickly gain an understanding of: Onshore / offshore banking and management of funds; international monetary jurisdictions and laws as well as multi-jurisdictional operations; and Property Development.
- Remuneration consistent with experience, negotiable for the right person. Tel: 080-081 6484. Email: admin@nriteam.com

OFFICE / ADMIN MANAGER

Working with us at our dynamic internet marketing company, you must be an experienced office / admin manager who can demonstrate excellent written and verbal communication skills (both English and Thai). You will lead and facilitate change through process engineering and must have a proven ability to manage multiple projects, objectives and deadlines in a fast-paced office environment. You must be proactive and flexible with a "can do" attitude and be fully computer literate. Salary 25-30,000 baht per month dependent on experience. Tel: 080-081 6484. Email: admin@nriteam.com

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

TLI are seeking an experienced, fluent English speaking Thai Landscape Architect to join our expanding Phuket office. Tel: 076-620099. Please forward resume including photo and expected salary to info@tropical-landscaping.com

CREW POSITION ON LIVEBOARD

Thai male or female, age 20-35. Good organizer, neat, tidy and pleasant. English language skills essential. Work-and-learn attitude more important than previous experience. Salary: 15,000 to 20,000 baht, depending on capabilities and experience. Tel: 076-398370. Email: info@nautica-diving.com

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

New IT Company is seeking Graphic Designers to join our rapidly growing company. A creative mind and willingness to work as part of a team is a must. Skills required: Adobe PhotoShop (HTML not compulsory). Monthly salary is 20,000-35,000 baht. Tel: 086-951 3478. Email: kirrin.lis.iecki@nriteam.com

Paradise Koh Yao

island hideaway near phuket

'Island hideaway near Phuket'

The Paradise Koh Yao, a contemporary 70-room boutique resort, is located on Koh Yao Noi island, a 60-minute boat trip from Phuket.

Our eco-chic environment is complemented by our 'conscious living' ethos of barefoot luxury philosophy.

We are looking for superb leaders to join our dynamic team.

HOST CHEF (looking after the culinary aspects of the resort)

Covering all aspects of the F&B operations, including kitchen and restaurant:

- 3-5 years experience in equivalent property/position
- Leader personality, motivator / outstanding guest relation skills
- Implementation of innovative food / restaurant concepts
- Previous assignment in Thailand / Asia an advantage
- Multi language skills including. Basic thai an advantage
- Foreign or Thai national

ACCOUNTING MANAGER (based in phuket)

In charge of accounting, financial statements and bank relations – based in Phuket, regular visits to the resort are required.

- Financial degree 3 - 5 years experience in equivalent property/position
- Fluent in English
- Leader personality, strong on internal controls
- Thai national

We are looking for the very best people!

Contact us at gm@theparadise.biz

www.theparadise.biz, [facebook/theparadise.biz](https://facebook.com/theparadise.biz)

EXPERIENCED PHP PROGRAMMERS

Internet Marketing Company in Bang Tao is seeking experienced PHP Programmers to work as part of our highly creative development team.

You must be able to demonstrate a "can do" attitude, be flexible, adaptable and have an outgoing personality.

Skills Required:

- PHP & MySQL Development
- xHTML & CSS
- JavaScript & jQuery
- Good command of the English Language

Salary range: 35,000+ depending on experience.

Tel: 080-081 6484 (English). Please contact email: admin@nriteam.com

TIMESHARE CLOSERS WANTED

Patong's newest and fastest selling deeded Holiday Ownership concept wants top closers to join our team. Exceptional package which includes flights, accommodation and top benefits. Tel: 083-396 1918 (English), 084-308 3688 (English). Email us your CV today. Email: bigdogphish@gmail.com

HANDYMAN

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14	E	L	I	E	15	T	E	A	L	16	C	A	R	E	S
17	L	O	T	T	18	E	S	T	O	19	A	V	E	R	T
20	D	I	S	H	21	O	N	E	S	22	L	E	A	S	E
23	S	O	W	24	Y	E	S	T	E	R					
25	A	N	T	A	L	29	A	S	P	E	N				
32	B	E	A	T	O	33	N	E	S	S	E	N	C	E	S
39	A	E	R	O	40	A	M	A	I	N	42	O	A	R	S
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S/N: 4636005. HS-RGR. SNEW Airframe 1,410hrs. Engine 501hrs. Engine trend monitoring, Garmin MX20 moving map, 6 seats. Price: 35 million baht. Contact Dana Whorton, Minor Corporation Public Company Limited. Tel: 081-937 1443. Email: dana_wt@minornet.com

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-Price: 1.5 million baht
-Registration: U-B08
-Year of Manufacture: 2002
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Aircraft is based at Klong 15
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TSLC offers a chance to play against the Pros

By Neil Quail

TENNIS on Phuket has received a spectacular boon with Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club (TSLC) announcing that their facility will host one round of the Chang International Tennis Federation (ITF) Thailand Pro Circuit 2011 tournament.

The competition will run from October 29 to November 12 and is the very first tennis event of this caliber to be held in Phuket.

Aspiring tennis players on Phuket will be thrilled to learn that an opportunity to play against these professionals is now available as part of the Thanyapura Tennis Challenge 2011.

The tournament is scheduled for October 14 to 16 and is open to men's singles and men's doubles entries. An exciting goal for participants will be that finalists in the men's singles competition will both receive a qualifying wild card entry for the ITF tournament.

There is also a leisure section open to women's and men's doubles which will cater to casual players who want to experience the challenge and excitement of playing in an organised tournament.

Entry fee for all singles players in the Challenge is 1,000 baht while the fee for doubles partnerships is 1,200 baht.

One of the many positive factors which ensured TSLC the ITF tournament was that of the advanced Plexicushion surfaced tennis courts. Notably, this surface is the same as that laid at Melbourne Park, venue for the Australian Open tennis tournament.

A purse of USD10,000 is on offer for the ITF event which is sure to draw the very best Thai and international professionals who participate on this highly competitive satellite circuit.

One big name already confirmed for the event is Thailand's up and coming star Kittipong Wachiramanowong. The 21-year-old from Songkla is currently Thailand's number two, but is touted to be number one soon and already has five ITF titles to his credit in doubles events.

It is also hoped that the Thai national tennis team will use the facility from October 29 to November 5 in preparation for the SEA Games in Indonesia.

TSLC Vice President David Roberts is delighted with the meteoric rise of TSLC as a



TSLC NETS A BIG ONE: The Challenge tournament will gift two players an ITF wild card entry.

destination sporting venue, affirmed by being awarded the upcoming ITF tournament.

"It is an honor to host Phuket's first ITF event and it is a great indication for the future of the sport at the TSLC," Mr Roberts said.

"These satellite tournaments are a fantastic breeding ground for young tennis players to learn about the ardors of life on the tennis circuit, and I am sure it will be the start of a long relationship between the ITF and the TSLC to promote the sport in Phuket, he added.

According to Mr Roberts, the ITF tournament will act as a platform to bring more tournaments to the club.

Director of tennis at TSLC, Travis

Bertram is delighted with this opportunity.

"I think this is a great chance to have professional tennis in Phuket and it's exciting to see players at this level compete on our home turf. The tennis challenge is a unique chance to get a wild card entry to the main event which is rarely done. It would be a great chance for anyone to try their hand against a professional player if they were to win," Travis explained to the *Gazette*.

Registration for the Thanyapura Challenge takes place until October 10. To register visit W: thanyapura.com or call Khun Prasert or Khun Tanyaporn T: 076 336 000 ext 1608.

The *Phuket Gazette* is a sponsor of the Chang ITF Thailand Pro Circuit 2011 tournament event in Phuket.

Quiksilver serves up a surfing gem at Patong

QUIKSILVER Thailand's 2011 Surf Competition came to a thrilling finale last Saturday with Bali's Raditya Rondi claiming victory in the Men's Open Shortboard Division.

Rondi gave a master class of producing big moves on small waves for the crowds which packed Patong Beach, Phuket. Along with the title, Rondi was awarded 30,000 baht, accommodations from Ibis hotels and airline tickets from Nok Air.

"I'm so stoked to be the winner today. I've been so close and almost won several times this year, but now I've done it. And in such a great place, I'm so happy I came here to Phuket. For me and all the boys from Bali, it's been a super fun and amazing experience with the food, the beach, the nightlife, and the locals have been so cool to us too. I really thank them for sharing their beach and waves with us and they are welcome in Bali anytime," said Rondi.

The top spots on the podium in all divisions were taken by Indonesian surfers, with Arif "Mencos" Hidayat from West Java winning the Longboard Division, Yasnyar "Bonne" Gea



FEELING IT: Indonesia's Gamala Hanafiah placed 3rd in the Women's division at this year's Quiksilver surf competition. Photo: Tim Hain

from Sumatra victorious in the Women's Division, and Bali legend Wayan Gantiyasa winning the Master's Division.

Phuket's own surfing sensation, Annissa Flynn, was the top Thai surfer in the Women's Division. The teenage star secured the 1st runner up spot ahead of Indonesia's Gamala Hanafiah and Australia's Charmaine Gale.

"I had lots of fun out there and I didn't lose by much, only by half a point, and so I feel good about today," Annissa said.

CEO for Quiksilver South East

Asia, Paul Hutson, was delighted with this year's event.

"This was another example of the outstanding execution of professional event organizing by Surached and his team at Quiksilver Thailand, and I couldn't be more pleased. A big shout out also to the media and celebrities that came down for the weekend for a fabulous weekend of surf, sun and fun here at Patong Beach, and to the Patong locals for being such great hosts," he said.

– *Phuket Gazette*



AT LAST: Bali's Raditya Rondi won his first competition of 2011 at the Quiksilver Thailand event on Patong Beach. Photo: Tim Hain

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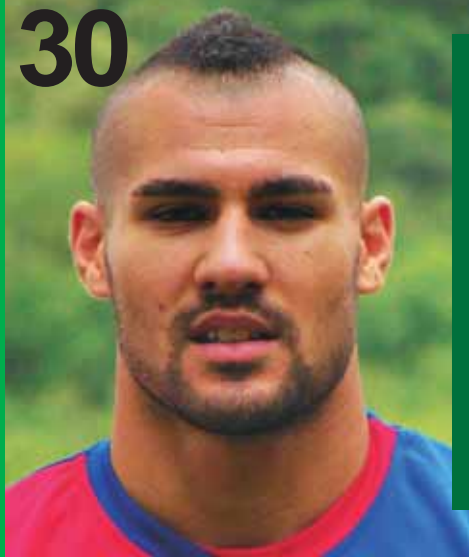
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30



BIO

Johnathan 'John' Matijas

Born: January 6, 1990

Position: Goalkeeper

Height: 181 cm

Weight: 79 kg

Nationality: French

Hometown: Niece, France

FC Phuket oust Rayong



HANDS OFF: FC Phuket's Tameezee Hayeyusoh is pressed for a response by Ivorian forward Amadou Quattara of PTT Rayong. Photo Apinun Saithong

**By Steven Layne
and Stephen Fein**

FC Phuket recorded their fourth consecutive league win on Sunday, with a 3-0 drubbing of PTT Rayong in wet conditions at Surakul Stadium.

Phuket went into the match without golden boy Sarach Yooyen due to a suspension from bookings in previous games.

Watcharapong "Paeh" Jangnam shouldered the goal scoring responsibilities dutifully. He got the Southern Sea Kirin on the board in only the 7th minute when he drove down the right wing past PTT defense to hammer the ball beautifully inside the far post.

Confidence high, Phuket controlled play throughout

much of the first half, but the score remained 1-0 into half time.

PTT went on the attack in the second half, but could not find the back of the net. Phuket's defense was composed and had few counter opportunities, but Watcharapong doubled their lead in the 72nd minute with a towering header off a free kick by Boubacar Issoufou.

On 79 minutes, Phuket midfielder Hossian "Sian" Nussim came off the bench to replace Jongrak Pakdee. Moments later, Phuket attacked

PTT's right flank with Kone Adama driving all the way to the goal line, drawing defenders with him. His shot towards Watcharapong at the near post was parried by PTT Rayong's goalkeeper out to the middle of the penalty area where Nussim met his queue to finish and secure the final 3-0 score line.

Phuket's win avenged a 1-0 loss away to PTT Rayong earlier in the year and moved the Southern Sea Kirin up to sixth place in the TPL Div One table, ahead of PTT Rayong and Bangkok United,

who lost an away match, with a score of 0-1 on Saturday against 15th place team JW Rangist FC.

14th placed Bangkok FC also upset the form book with a home win against 3rd place Chainat, who are only 10 points ahead of Phuket.

Phuket's next match will be against Chiangmai FC at Somphot 700 pi Stadium on Sunday.

Few FC Phuket fans are expected to make the long-haul journey as the match falls in the middle of the Phuket Vegetarian Festival.

A source in the "Hulk" FC Phuket fan club said some Phuket students studying in Chiang Mai would be there to see the Southern Sea Kirin vie for their fifth straight league win against 16th place Chiang Mai, who already have six home losses.

Team	P	Pts
Buriram FC	24	57
Chula Utd	25	52
Chainat FC	25	48
Songkhla FC	23	39
Rajapraecha	24	39
FC Phuket	24	38
PTT Rayong	24	38
Bangkok Utd	25	38
Saraburi FC	23	32

Phuket now move up to 6th place.

THANYAPURA TENNIS CHALLENGE 2011
QUALIFIER FOR ITF WILDCARDS

THANYAPURA TENNIS CHALLENGE 2011
QUALIFIER FOR ITF WILDCARDS

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LEISURE - MEN'S AND WOMEN'S DOUBLES

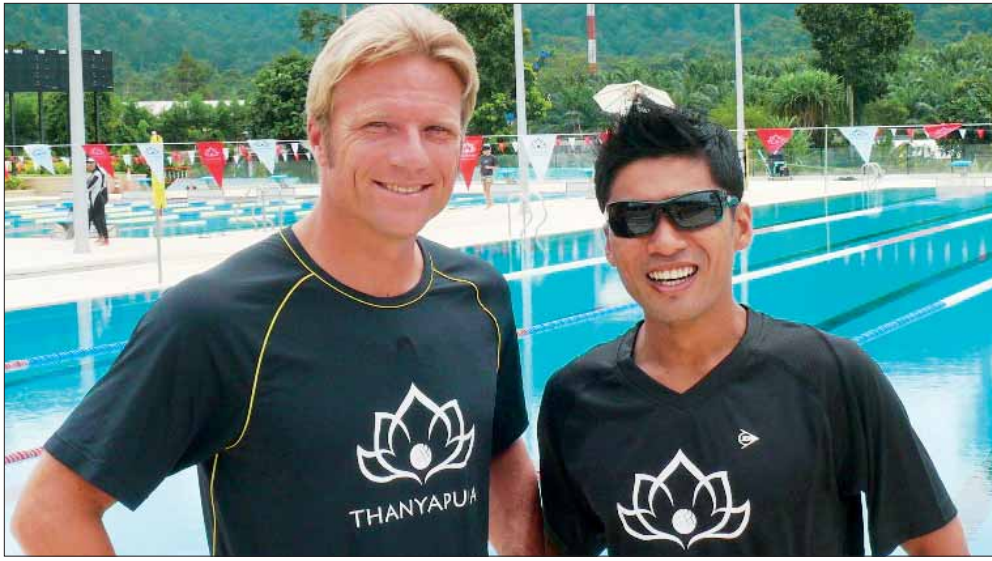
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IRONMEN: Jürgen Zack is coaching Jaray Jearanai at TSLC in preparation for his first Kona Ironman on October 8, 2011 – the first time a Thai has competed at the event. Photo Neil Quail

Triathlon Tips By Jürgen Zack

Jurgen Zack has won the European Ironman Championship five times, the Ironman Austria twice and has been Ironman Australia Champion. This supreme German athlete has also had three top ten finishes at the most gruelling distance event in the world – The Ford Ironman World Championship in Kona, Hawaii.

With just eight weeks to go before the island's Tri-Fest beginning on November 27 with the Phuket Triathlon followed by the Ironman 70.3 on December 4, Director of Triathlon Training at Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club, Jurgen Zack will offer training tips and advice for Phuket Gazette readers who intend to participate in these most demanding of events.

Start your Triathlon Training now.

Swimming, Biking and running are wonderfully healthy sports. They require relatively low-cost equipment, and you can enjoy them almost anywhere on your own.

But if you want to do it right I suggest joining a triathlon group or use the knowledge of an experienced coach. Getting advice from an expert helps to avoid "beginners mistakes".

These fundamental errors include:

1. Wrong equipment.
2. Too high or too low intensity or quantity of workouts.
3. Poor swimming, biking or running techniques.
4. Inadequate nutrition.

By the time I started competing in triathlons in 1983 there were neither Tri-Clubs nor Tri-Coaches.

I was on my own and made a lot of these "beginner mistakes". I went through trial and error.

Fortunately, I managed to join an elite bike group with experienced veterans.

I was the goofy young triathlete, and they looked at me like I was an alien. But I did learn a lot from this group of experts such as; Choosing the right gear; Pacing myself; Cornering and downhill skills; Training methods.

I started from zero, but with the right guidance I became the fastest cyclist in triathlon for more than a decade.

Over 23 years as a professional triathlete I had the chance to learn a vast array of triathlon training techniques and I was inspired by these world-class training partners over those years.

Now I am here to pass on that experience to anybody who wants to start in triathlon or wants to be the best that they can be!

Join a group with the right mentor. Just doing it – doesn't do it. Do it right.

Thai volleyball will challenge the world

LAST stop on the 2011 FIVB Beach Volleyball Swatch World Tour is the Phuket Thailand Open powered by PTT from November 1 to 6 and this popular event is now being used as a springboard for the Thai teams to make a challenge on the 2012 World Tour.

Thai teams have rarely made an appearance on the international circuit over the past 10 years, despite favorable results on the home sands of Phuket. But next year, due to the availability of sponsorship support, it has been announced that at least two teams will compete on the FIVB Beach Volleyball Swatch World Tour.

Beach Volleyball coach Petcharat Putsorn who along with the Thailand Volleyball Association is organizing the Thailand teams for the 2012 World Tour briefly outlined a two-year plan.

"The teams will use the Phuket Thailand Open as a springboard to test the local girls' competitiveness against the world's top teams. It is our target to get the Thai teams through to the second day of the main draw competition. If we can achieve this goal, then we know we have the ability to make an impact next year. Of course it won't be

easy for us in our first year on the tour. We will have to play in the qualifying rounds at most of the tournaments as our teams do not have any ranking points. It is our goal to use 2012 to gain the necessary experience and pick up as many points as possible, so that we can launch a strong challenge in 2013 with the goal of getting at least two teams into the world's top 50," Petcharat said.

Thailand is hopeful of getting three teams into the main draw of the Phuket Thailand Open with pairings of Kamoltip Kulna and Varapatsorn Radarong, Jarunee Sannok and Usa Tenpaksee, and Tanarattha Udomchavee and Rumpairuet Numwong.

One of the more senior members of the Thai team, Kamoltip Kulna is looking forward to the upcoming challenges.

"We have been training hard for the tournament in Phuket and the SEA games, so we are feeling fit and confident about our chances of causing some surprises. Of course a lot depends on the draw, but I am sure that the Thai beach volley fans will be out there cheering us on, which is a huge motivation for us," she said.

– Phuket Gazette



SWATCH OUT FOR THAILAND: Jarunee Sannok and Usa Tenpaksee will hope to put Thai volleyball on the world map by 2013.

New games for Youth Games

THREE new sports have been added to the official program of the 28th Thailand National Youth Games, to be held on March 18 to 28 next year, at the request of the host province, Phuket.

Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT) executives confirmed the inclusion of fencing, billiards and snooker, and woodball at a recent meeting on Phuket attended by Governor Tri Augkaradecha and the SAT's Deputy Governor of Elite Sports and Sports Science, Somkid Pinthong.

The new additions bring the total number of sports to be contested at the "Phuket Games" to 40.

"We have prepared the stadiums that will be used for the competition and the dormitories that athletes will be staying in. I can say that we are now 80 per cent ready," said Gov Tri.

However, he added that some of the venues still needed upgrades

and that final decisions had yet to be made on which venues will host some of the competitions.

"We are working on finding suitable venues for the sailing, rowing, billiards and snooker, fencing and hockey competitions," Gov Tri said.

The governor confirmed that the required budget of 130 million baht had already been secured.

"We will not spend too much money on opening and closing ceremonies. The money will be spent on improving competition venues instead," said Wirach Patee, Director of the SAT office in Phuket.

Phuket has hosted many international competitions, but surprisingly we still do not have any stadiums that meet international standards, not even Surakul Stadium does," Mr Wirach added.

Phuket Provincial Administrative Organization is assigned to be in charge for the opening and closing ceremony, as well as de-

termining the athlete that will be the games official torch runner.

"The torch runner for the Phuket Games might be Nithi Piyapan, a former member of Thailand national athletics team, or famous Phuket badminton players, Maneephong Jongjit and Nitchaon Jindaphon," said Mr Wirach.

The previous National Youth Games were held in Utharadit province. Phuket athletes won eight gold medals, six silver medals, and 16 bronze medals, which ranked them in 15th place overall for the competition.

"Our goal this year is to win 15 gold medals from events including; golf, badminton, tennis, karate-do, and patanque. Though we want to focus on providing a good standard of stadium and fair games management. Winning medals is the least of our worries for this year," said Mr Wirach.

– Phuket Gazette

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Lift off

The 2011 Quiksilver Thailand Surf Competition came to a close last Saturday after four days of incredible exhibition surfing in difficult conditions.

Indonesia topped the rankings taking first in every division. However, Phuket surfing protege, Annisia Flynn flew the nation's flag with pride and skill to reach second on home waters.

Surf clinics and a range of entertainment added greatly to the competition on Patong Beach with organizers hailing the event as a great success.

Turn to page 41 for a full report.

Photo: Fraser Morton



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