

Phuket Gazette

ANDAMAN Edition

Volume 18 Issue 46

November 12 - 18, 2011

Daily news at www.phuketgazette.net

25 Baht



Two men navigate the streets of Bangkok. Photo: AFP

Phuket reacts as flood crisis continues

THE impact of the floods in Bangkok and Central Thailand have been rippling across Phuket over the past week, with product shortages continuing to plague the island and local residents pouring heart and soul into relief efforts.

Students at Phuket Vocational College are calling for volunteers to help make 12,000 meals a day to send to flood victims, while Phuket Vice Governor Somkiat Sangkaosuttirak has called for officials to arrest anyone found illegally raising prices while the nation is suffering.

All six Rotary Clubs in Phuket have combined their efforts to provide assistance to flood victims and Phuket's renowned Soi Dog Foundation is working hard to rescue animals stranded by the flood waters.

See pages 4-5 for our full coverage.

Fanelli sentenced to 10 years for murder

Prosecutor may appeal sentence, which was halved due to confession

By Chutharat Plerin

AMERICAN citizen Ronald Fanelli has been sentenced to 10 years and three months imprisonment for the stabbing murder of bar hostess Wanphen Pienjai last year.

Fanelli was formally handed down a sentence of 20 years imprisonment for murder and another six months in jail for hiding the body, Phuket Provincial Deputy Chief Public Prosecutor Permgiat Bumrung, the lead prosecutor in the case, told the *Gazette*.

"The sentence was halved to 10 years and three months because he confessed," he explained.

During the trial, the court heard that Fanelli confessed to killing Miss Pienjai by stabbing her, but said it was an "accident".

Police presented evidence to show that Fanelli disposed of Miss Pienjai's body by stuffing it into a large suitcase – posthumously breaking both of her legs so he could fold them into the luggage.

"He kept the body in the room for two days before disposing of it," said Mr Permgiat.

Fanelli carried the suitcase by



Former US Marine Ronald Fanelli was sentenced to 10 years in prison for murdering Wanphen Pienjai (inset) and stuffing her body into a suitcase.

motorbike to a remote part of Wichit. He dumped the suitcase several kilometers from his rented home, where he was later arrested, the court heard.

Prosecutor Permgiat said Fanelli has until December 1 to appeal the verdict. "We are also considering filing an appeal over

the reduced sentence because 10 years is not a long sentence for a case like this," Mr Permgiat said.

The private lawyer who defended Fanelli in the case, who asked not to be named, on Monday said, "I have yet to discuss [an appeal] with my client. I am also waiting for US embassy officials

to discuss what they would do like to do further with the case...

"As for whether or not we will file an appeal, that all depends on my client," she added.

Prosecutor Permgiat explained that the US embassy had filed a letter to the court through the defense lawyer. "The US embassy explained in the letter that Fanelli is a former Marine who served in Afghanistan for several years. He killed many people during his tour of duty, and this could well have affected his behavior," he said.

Phuket Provincial Prison Director Rapin Nichanon revealed that the reduced sentence will be further reduced by the 471 days that Fanelli has served in detention.

"As Phuket Prison accommodates prisoners serving sentences up to 15 years, he can stay here if chooses to," Chief Rapin said.

"However, he has the right to contact his embassy and ask to be transferred to another prison, such as Klong Prem Prison in Bangkok, which would be more convenient for him if he wants to stay in regular contact with embassy officials," he added.

Transport chief pushes for new bus routes

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

PHUKET Provincial Land Transportation Office (PLTO) Chief Terayout Prasertphol has announced that his office will apply for Phuket to have two new bus routes operating from the airport: one to Rawai and another running through Patong to Kata-Karon.

He expects bus services along the new routes to be in operation by February.

"The next step is to apply to the Department of Land Transport in Bangkok. If they approve, we can then offer concessions for

private operators to provide bus services on those routes," said Mr Terayout.

The services will offer "hop on, hop off" bus stops. Exactly where the bus stops will be is to be discussed at the next Provincial Transportation Committee meeting, for which a date has not yet been set, he added.

The PLTO has offered three bus-service concessions since 2003, Mr Terayout explained.

The Airport Bus Phuket company already provides services on one route, from the

airport to the bus terminal on Phang Nga Rd in Phuket Town.

The other two concessions are for a bus service within Patong and another from the airport to Kamala, Patong, Karon and Kata.

"However, no operators applied to provide bus services on those two routes for fear of being attacked by 'mafia'," Mr Terayout told the *Gazette*.

"When we apply to Bangkok for permission to offer concessions for the two new routes, we will also apply to revise the Air-

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This Week

Business



Base wage won't rock the boat on seafood prices. **Page 11**

Environment



Cleanup shows Phuket coral not as trashy as it used to be. **Page 16**

Books



Funny girl Tina Fey tells all about who's the real 'Bossypants'. **Page 18**

Entertainment



Thai reggae master Job2Do to play Nai Yang Beach. **Page 19**

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A new form of 'Privilege' rises high in the hills of Patong. **Page 25**

Sport



China gold at FIVB. Cricket All Stars in ACG opener. **Pages 41-44**

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Officials blasted for blockade inaction

By Chutharat Plerin

PHUKET Tourist Association (PTA) Vice President Bhuritt Maswongsa has lashed out against local authorities for their failure to stop taxi drivers from dictating to Phuket resorts who can and cannot pick up guests from their hotels.

Mr Bhuritt's rail against the Phuket regime of "transport co-operatives" comes after a driver was refused entry to the Naithonburi Beach Resort to pick up two Russian tourists on November 1.

"I have heard about the blockade at the Naithonburi. I do not know much about it in detail, but I do know that last week the PTA received a written complaint from a tour agency," Mr Bhuritt told the *Gazette*.

According to the complaint, local taxi drivers specifically listed



Bhuritt Maswongsa

26 tour companies that are allowed to collect guests from the resort, but drivers or representatives from any other companies are refused entry by the taxi drivers who guard the "checkpoint".

"In the cases where the driver is in an unmarked vehicle and has only a list of names of the tourists he is to pick up, the local taxi driv-

ers will then escort the clients to the front of the resort and check the voucher that the tourists have by themselves," said Mr Bhuritt.

"They are acting like they are working for the hotel and taking care of the clients themselves," he added.

"The officials who should be taking responsibility for this problem have not stepped up to say this is against the law," he said.

"They should take action over the checkpoint being on a public road - it is against the law. They should be acting against this kind of activity, which I would call 'unlawful occupation'," he explained.

"Months ago, Pranai Suwannarat, then-Deputy Interior Ministry Permanent Secretary, came to Phuket to hear what can be done about tourists being cheated."

"Now he is the Permanent Secretary at the Interior Ministry and still nothing has changed," he said.

Pickup truck hit-and-run slams woman into ravine

POLICE are searching for the driver of a pickup truck that was involved in a hit and run on the Chalong-Kata Hill last Sunday.

Witnesses reported seeing the pickup collide with a motorbike, resulting in the woman rider plunging over the edge of the steep slope and landing in a ravine about eight meters deep.

The accident was at precisely the same location where a tour bus full of Chinese tourists skidded and went off the side of the road on October 22.

According to the police report, witnesses described the pickup as a "white or bronze colored Toyota without a seat behind the driver".

Phuket Ruamjai Rescue Foundation Chief Sayun Thummaphun told the *Gazette* that he received a dispatch call from the Narethorn Center at Vachira Phuket Hospital, in Phuket Town, at about 12:50pm.



Rescue workers recover Ms Jitra from the ravine. Photo: Sayun Thummaphun

"We arrived to find 51-year-old Jitra Puenrak lying at the bottom of the ravine, about eight meters below the road.

"She was conscious with a broken right leg and a serious two-inch gash under her chin," he said.

The team used a rescue board and rope to lift Ms Jitra to safety.

"The rain made it very difficult to get her back up from the ravine," Mr Sayun said.

He presumed that Ms Jitra worked for a hotel in Kata because she wore what "looked like a kitchen uniform".

"We rushed her to hospital, where at last report she was in safe condition," he said.

More buses coming to Phuket

From page 1

port-Kamala-Kata route," he said.

As one of the new routes will run from the airport to Patong and Kata, the revised route will terminate in Kamala, he explained.

"We got approval for this route when I was chief here a few years ago. At that time, no bus owner bid for this route because they were afraid of being attacked.

"This time the situation has changed. People are more aware of creating a good reputation for Phuket. With the revised routes, we are sure that kind of problem will not happen again," Mr Terayout said.

The conditions of the concessions to be offered stipulate that

all buses be air conditioned, seat no more than 30 passengers and have room for tourists' luggage.

Both the Airport-Rawai bus and the Airport-Patong-Kata-Karon bus are to run 32 trips (16 each way) a day. The maximum fare will be 70 baht on the Rawai bus and 71 baht Kata-Karon bus. The minimum fare on either bus will be 18 baht.

"Airport limousines cannot protest because it is our duty to arrange transport services for the public, and taxi operators in Patong and Kata-Karon should be glad because the bus will bring them customers," said Mr Terayout.

"When tourists get off at Patong or Kata Karon, they will ask a taxi or motorcycle driver to take them to their hotel," he added.



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No 'nipple gangs' in Phuket: Police

POLICE this week were firm in the assertion that there were no "nipple gangs" at work in Phuket.

The news follows a report by a Chinese daily newspaper saying that Singaporean men on holiday in Phuket had been drugged by knock-out drops smeared onto women's breasts.

Once unconscious, the men were robbed, the report said. Other newspapers and websites carried similar reports of "nipple gangs" operating in Phuket and in Pattaya.

However, Provincial Police Commander Pekad Tantipong, told the *Phuket Gazette* that he had received no reports of such incidents occurring in Phuket.

Maj Thammasak Boonsong, duty officer at Patong Police Station, concurred. "We haven't had any reports about 'nipple gangs'. We are not sure if the gang really exists," he said.

"We just get reports from victims who say they fell sleep and woke up to find their belongings gone. But they did not give specific details about what made them fall sleep, other than having a drink," he said.

— Warisa Temram

Patong hill road repairs must wait for flood aid

By Chutharat Plerin

THE Phuket Provincial Highways Office (PPHO) chief Arun Sanae has applied for a budget of 8 million baht to fix the damaged road over the top of Patong Hill, but he says that he does not know when the funds to begin repairs will arrive.

The road suffered a severe rip in its surface last month after heavy rains caused a landslide underneath it on October 13.

The road then suffered further damage after yet another landslide at the same location on October 19.

"Because Phuket was included on the list of 'flood disaster areas' by officials in Bangkok, Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha has already forwarded the budget request as a top-priority project under the 'disaster funding' system," said Mr Arun.

"That way, instead of having to wait for normal budget channels, we should get the budget at the same time as Bangkok gets



The budget to repair the busy Patong Hill road, damaged by a landslide last month, must wait until Bangkok starts funding repairs to its own roads.

the budget to fix its roads [after the floods]," he said.

The news follows Patong Deputy Mayor Chairat Sukbal on October 29 appealing directly to

Governor Tri to have the dangerous road fixed as soon as possible in order to ensure the safety of passing motorists and to limit the negative impact on tourism from

such a busy road being left unrepaired.

Mr Arun said the 8mn baht applied for was only a "tentative" estimate of what was required to fix the road.

"A full repair plan has yet to be drawn up as engineers have yet to fully assess what would be required to fix the road permanently," he said.

Patong Mayor Pian Keesin said he expected Bangkok officials to treat the matter as a high priority. "If the road remains like it is now, there will be many accidents," he said.

"The road will probably collapse again, and this time it will be much worse," Mayor Pian added.

"The budget isn't too much for them to approve. They can either pay 8mn baht [to fix the road] or lose more than a billion baht in tourism-generated income, because that is the potential impact of exposing tourists to such an unsafe road," the mayor said.

Tuptim gets 'life' support

THE Rama Foundation at the Ramathibodhi Hospital in Bangkok has pledged to provide the financial support needed to keep Phuket baby Tuptim Jadngooluem alive — for life.

Dr Suporn Treepongkaruna at Ramathibodi Hospital in Bangkok called Tuptim's father, Rattanachai "Kru Nai" Worvalapol, to confirm that the Ramathibodi Foundation will from now on cover all expenses for any further surgeries Tuptim may have undergone.

The foundation also pledged to ensure Tuptim gets the expensive immunosuppressant drugs she needs each day to stay alive.

Tuptim was diagnosed with a liver condition in August last year, when she was three months old. By December, doctors said she had weeks to live.

But thanks to a vital fund-raising effort organized by Tiger Muay Thai, where Kru Nai works as a



Baby Tuptim with dad 'Kru Nai'.

trainer, and Grainne Farrell of Lotus Medical International, Tuptim underwent a marathon 18-hour parent-donor liver transplant surgery in January.

Now the hospital's foundation has pledged to provide liver care for Tuptim for the rest of her life.

"The daily medication is vital for Tuptim's survival. It costs 300 baht per day; that's 9,000 baht per month," explained Will Elliot, general manager of Tiger Muay Thai.

— *Phuket Gazette*

Truck crushes woman to death

A YOUNG woman was killed on the Patong beach road on Monday when a six-wheeled truck ran over her after colliding with the motorbike she was driving.

Kathu Police received a report of the accident, near the junction with Phra Barami Road, at about 6pm. Arayada Budsayakul, 27, from Phang Nga, was killed instantly, police said.

"From our initial investigation, it appears that vehicles ahead of Ms Arayada had stopped, waiting to turn left [toward Kalim Beach] and right [onto Phra Barami Road] from the one-way road," said Duty Officer Pathapee Srichai.



Police at the scene by Patong Beach.

"Ms Arayada was driving on the left side of the right lane — nearly between lanes — when the truck, which was traveling in the middle of the road, hit her from behind.

"Her motorbike fell over and she was thrown under the truck," Lt Pathapee said.

Police noted that the force of the accident was enough to kill Ms Arayada even though she was wearing a helmet at the time.

The driver of the truck, Rattana Kumsin, did not flee the scene and was not drunk when the accident occurred, Lt Pathapee said.

"The accident is still being investigated and we are awaiting results of a post-mortem examination from Patong Hospital as well as from the Provincial Police Forensic Department," he said.

"Neither Ms Arayada nor Mr Rattana were carrying passengers," he said, adding that Mr Rattana will be asked to undergo more police questioning.

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Officials cracking down on Phuket price gouging

By Chutharat Plerin

PHUKET Vice Governor Somkiat Sangkaosuttirak on Tuesday ordered Phuket Provincial Commercial Affairs acting chief Jarus Phetpakdee to conduct price checks on consumer goods in Phuket and to crack down on any irregularities.

At a meeting of top officials convened at Provincial Hall expressly to tackle the issue, V/Gov Somkiat said, "We have received many complaints about the rising prices of consumer goods. Whoever raises prices illegally must be arrested. This is an emergency problem that must be solved."

"I suggest that special teams be assigned to work on conducting price checks and other teams to arrest whoever breaks the law by increasing prices illegally," said V/Gov Somkiat.

Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) President Paiboon Upatising joined the call for action.

"We are now in a crisis. If the committee does not check on



Paiboon Upatising

Phuket suppliers they will definitely raise the prices on consumer goods. People are relying on us. We have to be strict on it," he said.

Mr Paiboon said that Phuket officials had to discover a solution to the supply disruptions from Bangkok on their own.

"We cannot rely on Bangkok because they have the floods to take care of. We have to do our best to make sure Phuket has enough goods for its residents and tourists.

"I would also like to ask hotel owners not to overstock on supplies. I have heard that some hotels

have enough stock to last a month. Please give other people a chance to survive," he said.

Charan Sangsarn of the Phuket Chamber of Commerce explained that the problem was two-fold.

"The floods in Bangkok have affected many supply industries. Most of them closed because the floods directly damaged their factories and others had to close factories simply to prevent flood waters from damaging their equipment.

"The other problem is that land transport companies are not working because they cannot risk transporting goods from Bangkok to other provinces. If they agree to deliver goods for another company and they cannot deliver due to the floods, they will have to take full responsibility for all losses," he said.

V/Gov Somkiat asked Mr Charan to have members of the Phuket Chamber of Commerce help the price-check task force.

Reports of any progress made by the task force will be made directly to Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha, he added.



Dogs in distress

PHUKET charity Soi Dog Foundation (SDF) has been active in rescuing animals from the floods in Bangkok and is asking for help to continue their efforts.

"It is vitally important to understand the gravity of this situation in terms of its impact on animals," an SDF press release stated.

"One of our rescuers described to me in tears the sight of dozens of dead dogs floating past her team's boat while en route to rescue dogs and cats from an area of severe flooding."

With the help of donors, SDF now has two motorboats working to save Bangkok's dogs and cats. They have asked for more donations in the form of motorboats, nets and animal catching equipment.

"Bangkok has a large population of street animals who depend on the human urban environment for their survival and without a resident human population they have nowhere to turn," SDF said.

SDF urged overseas supporters to write pet food manufacturers requesting that they donate bulk quantities of food.

For more information and to make donations, visit soidog.org/en/flood-relief. Photo: The Nation

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Youth games on hold

THE 28th National Youth Games, originally scheduled to be held in Phuket from March 18-28, have been postponed.

Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha announced the news yesterday at a meeting of the organizing committee, attended by Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) President Paiboon Upatising and Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT) Phuket Office Director Wirat Patee.

Phuket Games 2012 comprise 40 different sports to be contested by young athletes from across Thailand.

The games are now scheduled to take place from May 26 to June 5, Gov Tri announced.

"The governors of provinces seriously affected by floods [in Bangkok and surrounding areas] sent letters explaining that they

were not ready for the games," explained Gov Tri.

"They are currently facing issues traveling to Phuket as well as problems training their athletes," he added.

The committee sees the postponement as good news for Phuket.

"We will have more time to find the financial support, from the government and the private sector, needed to prepare and welcome about 14,000 visitors from around the nation," Gov Tri said.

"From May 26 to June 5 is the best time [for the event]. If we host the games after that, it will conflict with the Asian Beach Games 2012 in Haiyang, China, set to be held from June 16 to 22, as well as with the Olympic Games 2012 in London from July 27 to August 22," said SAT Director Wirat.

— **Pimwara Choksakulpan**

'Relief' market a big hit

PHUKET Town residents took just hours to snap up all the produce on sale at a special market last Friday aimed at providing relief from price rises brought on by the floods in Central Thailand.

The market, set up in front of the Phuket Chamber of Commerce (PCC) offices in Phuket Town, sold out of 200 kilograms of chicken, 7,500 eggs, 150kg of pork as well as grilled chicken from Five Stars Chicken and frozen food and other products from Charoen Pokphand [CP] Group.

All the produce – sold at lower-than-market prices – was provided by local distributors operating in Southern Thailand, which has not been directly affected by the

floods, explained PCC Secretary Surachai Chaiwai.

Many shoppers at the market complained to the *Phuket Gazette* that much of the produce on sale was difficult to find locally as the floods had caused shortages.

"We would like to help people get through the crisis by holding these discount products fair on the first Thursday and Friday of every month until the situation returns to normal," said Mr Surachai.

"Many people came to the market today, and eggs were the highest in demand. We will try to bring more stock next month to make sure people have enough," he said.

— **Warisa Temram**

Locals pitch in for flood relief

THERE has been no shortage of local organizations and individuals chipping in for the flood-relief effort in Bangkok and Central Thailand as waters continue to rise in more areas of the capital.

Stepping up their efforts this week were the six Rotary Clubs of Phuket, British International School Phuket, the Phuket Vocational College and many other government offices and private businesses.

The Rotary Clubs aim to provide one million bottles of drinking water for those affected by the floods, a Rotary Club of Patong Beach (RCoPB) newsletter stated.

In an open letter to Rotarians, District Disaster Relief Chair Sanguan Kunaporn wrote, "Everyone would realize about the shortage of clean water for drinking during the worst flood disaster in Thailand. The solution of this problem is to boost water and bottle production in non-flood areas, mostly in southern Thailand."

Anyone wishing to make a donation may transfer funds to the "Rotary Club of Patong Beach/Charity" bank account at Bangkok Bank. The account number is 563-3-01480-7 and for wire transfers, the swift code is BKKBTHBK.

The RCoPB also asks that donors send an email to treasurer@rotarypatong.org notifying of any transfers made.



BIS is calling for donations or loans of motorized boats as ones such as that pictured above 'are just not enough'. Gov Tri Augkaradacha also oversaw the donation of 200 boats on Monday. Photo: Saeed Khan/AFP

British International School is appealing for donations of motorized boats and life vests to help those affected by the floods in Bangkok.

"BIS will of course arrange the transportation of these to Bangkok and their safe return," said the email. For more information call BIS at 076 335555 or email info@bisphuket.ac.th.

On the food front, the Phuket

Vocational College in Phuket Town has been dedicated to cooking at least 12,000 meals a day to be delivered to flood victims in Bangkok.

"Phuket has been assigned [by

the Ministry of Interior] to distribute food to flood victims in the Klong Samwa district," said Phuket Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkhaosutthirak.

Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor) has dedicated five million baht to buy ingredients, he said. Also assisting are The Legacy Golf Club and the Panya Indra Golf Club, he added.

Nuchaporn Kongkapun, director of the college, called on the people of Phuket for donations of time, effort and ingredients.

"Call the college at 076 214818 or my personal number, 081 964 0096, for donations or more information," she said.

Meanwhile, Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha on Monday presented 200 boats donated by Phuket people to Education Minister Adviser Sophon Petchsawang at a ceremony at Queen Sirikit Park in Phuket Town.

The boats were provided under funds donated by many government offices and private businesses, including the Phuket Provincial Office, the OrBorJor, Phuket City Municipality, Phuket Vocational College, Phuket Technical College, Thalang Technical College, Phuket Polytechnic College, the Northern People's Club of Phuket, and local residents.

Hotels offering 'flood discounts'

AT LEAST seven Phuket hotels and resorts have signed up for a Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) campaign, offering discounted room rates to Bangkok flood evacuees.

Bangornrat Shinaprayoon, director of the TAT office in Phuket, said the island was one destination that many people from Bangkok were fleeing to.

"Hotels in Phuket can still join the campaign. All they need to do is register what discounted room rates they are offering with the TAT," explained Ms Bangornrat.

However, Panu Maswongsa, a vice president at the Phuket Tourism Association (PTA), told the *Phuket Gazette* that he did not expect many of the tens of thousands of people who have been forced to flee their homes to take advantage of the Phuket hotel offers.

"Any Phuket people fleeing Bangkok will be staying with relatives here.

"Phuket is not attractive for people fleeing Bangkok as Phuket has few houses available for rental periods of one to two months.

Mr Panu added that another disadvantage was that many Phuket hotels and restaurants had already raised their menu prices for the coming tourism high season, making it expensive for Bangkok evacuees to dine out.

Hotels offering discounted room rates for flood evacuees: Chandara Resort in Pa Khlok; Sino Inn Phuket Hotel in Phuket Town; All Seasons Naiharn Phuket; Daeng Plaza in Phuket Town; Rawai Palm Beach Resort; Woraburi Phuket Resort and Spa in Karon; and Pearl Hotel in Phuket Town.

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Local beaches slated for surfing reserve shortlist

AT LEAST three surfing locations at Phuket beaches are being shortlisted for recognition as National Surfing Reserves (NSRs).

Brad Farmer, global chair of the non-profit organization National Surfing Reserves (NSR), conducted a site inspection at Kata, Kalim and Nai Yang Beaches on November 4.

"The surfing reserve concept is a symbolic dedication whereby surfing areas are recognized as coastal resources worthy of conservation; a reserve is essentially a badge of merit, a proactive endorsement to recognize iconic natural locations around the world," said Mr Farmer.

In Australia, Mr Farmer's home country, the NSR project has gained much high-level support, including that of state premiers.

"Beaches are Thailand's great income generators, so it makes sense to recognize the special attributes of the coastal resources, such as surfing areas," he noted.

There are currently 14 NSRs in



Brad Farmer (right), the global chair of National Surfing Reserves, inspects Nai Yang Beach with local environmental lecturer Steve Martin.

Australia, two in Hawaii and several more under review in the region, including in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, the Philippines and China.

"The creation of a surfing reserve in Thailand, the first in Asia, is a golden opportunity for Thai-

land to show its forward thinking and proactive effort toward conservation on the Andaman Coast," said Steven Martin, a coastal researcher with Prince of Songkla University's Faculty of Environmental Management.

"Thailand is being considered for this distinction not only because of the existence of the natural resource, but because it is a safe and accessible destination with a favorable climate of environmental awareness, especially with tourism," he explained.

Mr Martin added that surfing in Thailand is gaining in popularity and surfers are inevitably custodians of the coastal environment.

"The surfing reserve program globally promotes stewardship of the natural environment, including the reefs and aquatic life," he said.

"If anything good came out of the 2004 tsunami, it was the rise in awareness of coastal resources and the support from the Thai government alongside international organizations and NGOs.

"It's really an honor that Brad has taken the initiative to visit Phuket and consider surf sites, such as Kata, Kalim and Nai Yang Beaches, for this internationally-recognized distinction," he added.

Butterflies taking wing in the wild

ABOUT 2,000 butterflies will be released into the wild on November 26 as part of the fifth annual Butterfly Release Charity event put on by Phuket Butterfly Garden and Insect World.

The free-admission event will be held from 9am to 2pm at Bang Pae Waterfall in the Khao Phra Thae Wildlife Reserve in Thalang.

At the event's auction participants will be able to bid on a variety of environmentally-friendly goods, as well as the opportunity to release 500 of the 2,000 butterflies planned to be released that day.

"A butterfly is a symbol of nature's richness. The more butterflies in an area, the more balanced the ecosystem is," said Managing Director Wasin Koysiripong.

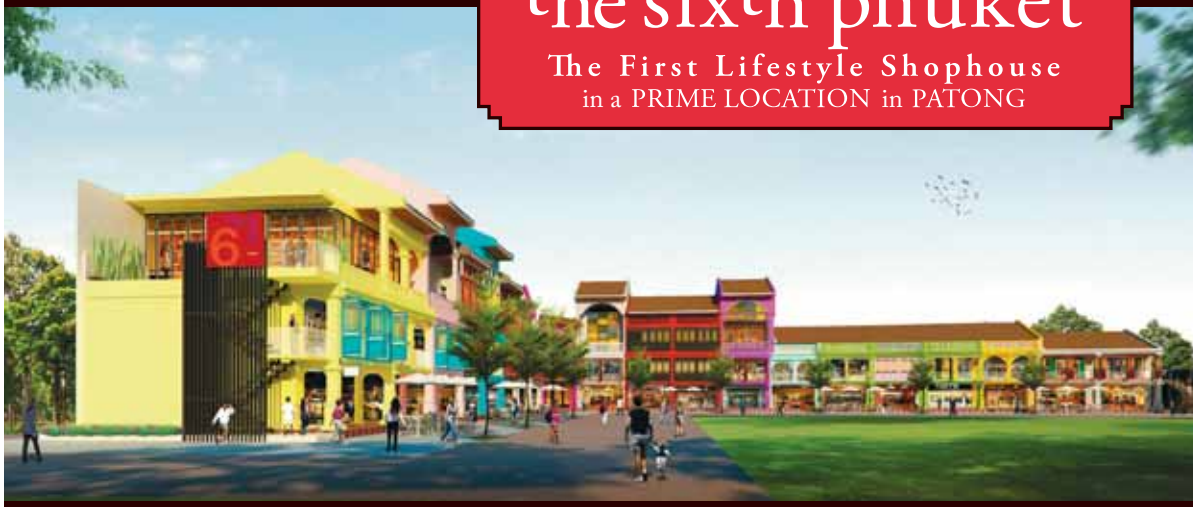
In addition to the auction and butterfly release, 800 trees are to be planted at the event.

All donations from the event will go to the Phuket Special School and the Gibbon Rehabilitation Program.

For more information, call the Phuket Butterfly Garden and Insect World at 076-210861

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Local elections brew trouble for booze sales

ALCOHOL will be off the menu as residents go to the polls on November 19 to elect presidents and council members for six Phuket Tambon Administration Organizations (*OrBorTor*).

The ban on alcohol sales, as is policy for every election in Thailand, will begin at 6pm on November 18 and last until midnight on election day.

Residents in Koh Kaew, Kamala, Cherng Talay, Thepkasattri, Mai Khao and Sakoo will cast votes in presidential and council member races.

Currently there are 16 candidates for six presidential positions, and 183 candidates for 84 council member seats.

Chalong and Srisoonthorn – both formerly administered by *OrBorTor* – have been elevated to "municipality" status. The election dates for the new municipalities have yet to be set, said Phuket Election Committee (PEC) Director Kittipong Thiengkunagrit.



Phuket Election Commission Director Kittipong Thiengkunagrit

"Officers of these two [new] municipalities are now considering the 'election zones'. Once they have been decided, the PEC will seek approval from the Election Commission of Thailand," he said.

There will be no advanced voting, he said, adding that if a registered voter cannot vote on November 19, they must submit a letter of explanation to their *OrBorTor* if they wish to maintain certain rights.

Foreigner found dead at sea

A THAI fishing boat found the body of a caucasian man floating in the waters between Racha Yai Island and Coral Island, to the south of Phuket, on November 6.

Samnieng Srisan of the Phuket Tourist Rescue Center at Chalong Pier told the *Phuket Gazette* that the squid fishing boat *Sor Naja* made the discovery at about 10:15am.

"The body is of a fair-skinned foreign male dressed in a black singlet and gray shorts. There was no ID found on the body," he said.

Phuket Ruamjai rescue workers and officers from the Chalong Police recovered the body from the *Sor Naja*.

"The body was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital," he said.

Rescue workers believe the man had been about 45 years old.

Given the condition of the body officers estimated the man died about five days ago.

"There were no visible wounds on the body. We suspect that the man may have drowned," he added.

Outbreak feared

Experts warn of the threat of disease in the wake of ongoing floods

AS THE worst floods in half a century continue to inundate more neighborhoods in Bangkok, Thailand faces another, associated, threat: disease.

The floodwater standing in northern parts of the capital as well as its surrounding provinces contains human waste, animal carcasses, rotten food and other dangerous substances that pose a threat to human health.

Making the problem worse is the inability of garbage trucks to reach many areas and the fact that many people lack toilet facilities, leading them to defecate in the water.

Experts say the threat will only get worse as the floods recede, leaving behind stagnant pools of water.

"There's a lot of danger around it," Mark Thomas, a spokesman for UNICEF, which is assisting with sanitation issues, told the Associated Press. "You need to keep kids out of the water, and everybody should stay out of the water as much as possible," he said.

The Ministry of Health says up to 200 new cases of diarrhea are being reported daily, with a total of about 100,000 fungal infections.

Disease Control Department director-general Porntep Siriwanarangsun last week assured the public that although diseases had been detected, they did not pose a serious threat.

But concerns have grown about the government's ability to cope with an exploding health emergency, as the Flood Relief Operations Centre (FROC) is structured primarily for water



Human and animal waste, animal carcasses and rotten food in stagnating floodwaters pose a health threat, experts warn. Photo: AFP

AROUND THE nation

management and immediate rescue operations.

FROC's reach has proved very limited in rescue activities, let alone dealing with a health crisis at a time when a large number of people could be exposed to diseases. Hospital personnel have been stretched or affected by floods themselves, and transport has been difficult.

Public fear about health risks has increased lately after international agencies such as the World Health Organisation and the Inter-

national Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) voiced concerns.

The government, however, expressed confidence that the situation is still under control. "We have been monitoring the situation. Some cases are detected but the diseases are not spreading among a big group of people," Director-General Porntep pointed out.

Matthew Cochrane, communications and advocacy manager South East Asia at the IFRC was quoted by CNN warning of diseases such as diarrhea, dengue fever and malaria in the coming days and weeks in flood-hit areas.

"There are places on the outskirts of Bangkok and in other parts of the country which have been flooded for nearly two weeks," he said last week.

Time runs out for Viktor Bout

A JURY in New York has found Russian arms dealer Viktor Bout, who was arrested in Thailand in 2008, guilty of conspiring to sell a huge quantity of weapons to a group the United States deems to be terrorists.

Mr Bout was found guilty on four counts, including conspiring to kill US service personnel, after trying to sell weapons to US agents posing as high-ranking members of Colombia's FARC guerrilla group.

Russia has reacted angrily to the verdict, attacking the United States' treatment of Mr Bout and the fairness of the verdict itself.

Mr Bout, who plans to appeal the verdict, faces a minimum of 25 years in prison and a maximum of life. He will be sentenced on February 8.

"As the evidence at trial showed, Viktor Bout was ready to sell a weapons arsenal that would be the envy of some small countries," the lead federal prosecutor for Manhattan, US Attorney Preet Bharara, told AFP.

Floods to last a month, says energy minister

THAILAND's protracted flood crisis is expected to continue for another month, Energy Minister Pichai Nariphaphan said last week.

However, floodwater will start to subside in Bangkok from the middle of November, he said.

Since late July, the floods have killed 527 people, mostly by drowning and electrocution. Some provinces north of Bangkok have been inundated for more than a month.

In the capital, a battle to protect the city's central business and shopping districts continues, though non-mandatory evacuations have been ordered in 12 of Bangkok's 50 districts.

The government has come under severe criticism for its handling of the crisis. Some critics have attacked the government for giving out unclear and conflicting information.

Others say that provinces around Bangkok have been sacrificed in order to save the capital. Many suggest that the authorities should have allowed Bangkok to flood earlier in order to get the country's industrial heartland, where several huge industrial estates have been inundated, back in business.


Last week Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra announced she would not be attending the coming Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in the US in order to manage the crisis.

The summit, to be hosted by US president Barack Obama, will bring together leaders of 21 nations, including Chinese President Hu Jintao, AP reported.

"Now it's time for all Thai people to help each other, so I've informed [the host] that I would not go," Mrs Yingluck said.

Mrs Yingluck already cancelled a trip last month to China due to the flooding crisis. The trip was to allow the new Thai PM to "become acquainted with Chinese leadership."

A Taste of France




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Just the ticket

PHUKET Provincial Land Transportation Office Chief Terayout Prasertphol has admirably answered criticism against him and his office for not developing public bus transportation in Phuket by applying to his superiors in Bangkok to approve even more bus routes on the island (see page 1).

Chief Terayout at the next meeting of the Provincial Transportation Committee will discuss precisely where bus stops will be, so commuters can “hop on, hop off” en route – thus finally offering Phuket genuine bus services as offered elsewhere around the world.

In so doing, he has now thrown down the gauntlet for Provincial Police Commander Pekad Tantipong to make sure that it is safe for operators to run these services.

Offering the opportunity for operators to provide safe, reliable bus services is Chief Terayout's job.

As the top-ranking police officer on the island, ensuring the safety of the people of Phuket is Maj Gen Pekad's job.

But Maj Gen Pekad does not have to carry this burden alone; he has much support. Indeed, he need look no further than the Phuket Provincial Office.

When told in late September that not a single operator had stepped up to run buses along even one of the available bus routes in Phuket due to fear of violent attacks from “opposing forces” – meaning private transportation operators – Vice Governor Weerawat Janpen's face transformed into the most grave of expressions. He knew that Phuket's public administration was failing its people.

With this in his favor, it would be very surprising if Gen Pekad did not receive support from Phuket's top government officials.

The catch is that Gen Pekad must now step up and announce precisely how he intends to guarantee that operators will be safe in providing bus services. If he doesn't, all these glorious plans of having normal bus services in Phuket will come to nothing.

He can assign police officers to ride the buses, but that would be a tad too Africa for Thailand's liking.

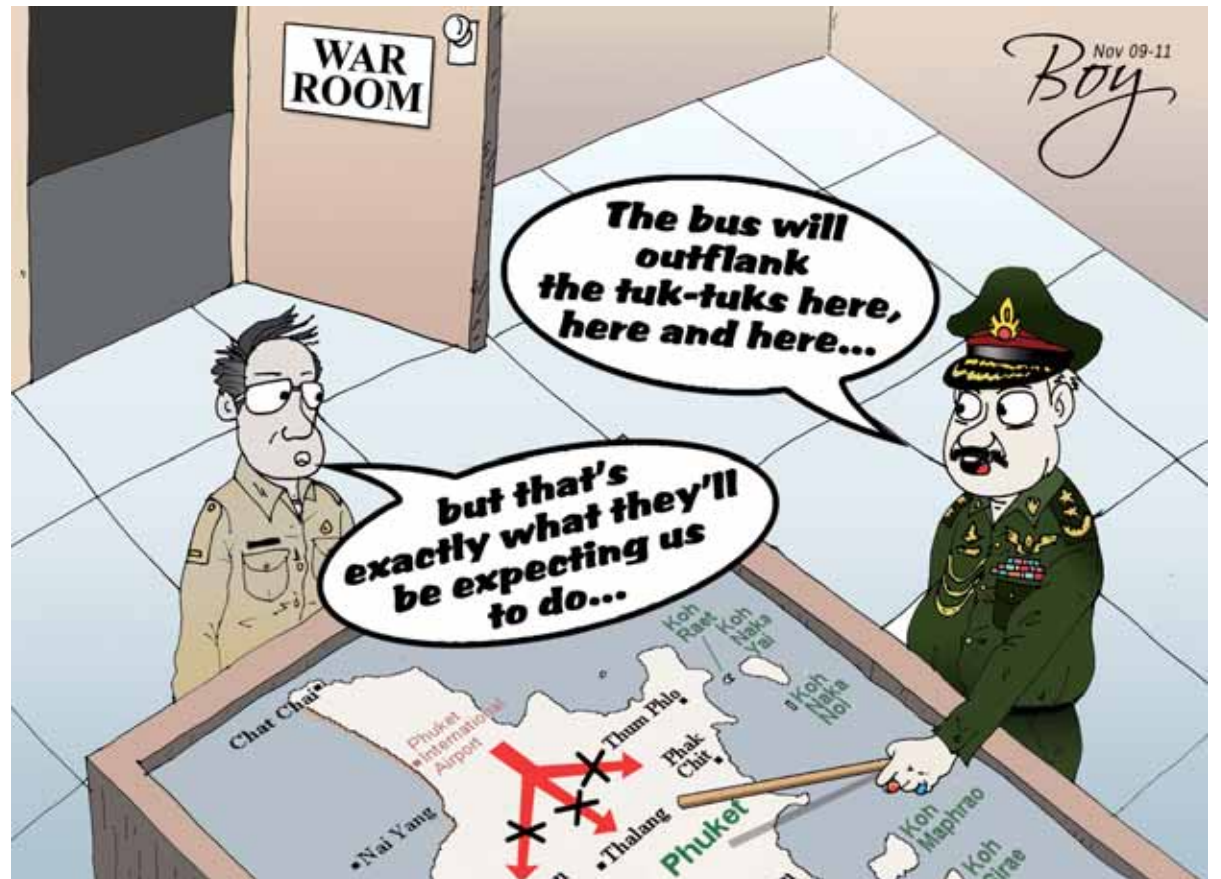
What Gen Pekad really needs is the support of the people. He must devise a campaign to bolster that support, to foster enthusiasm among the public. If an operator steps up to run a bus service, people must support it and use it.

To ensure widespread support, every bus must carry signs in various languages telling passengers to report any acts of violence or intimidation against the bus service, and the police must set up a hotline for receiving such reports. Whoever receives those reports must be able to dispense with any language difficulties, a qualification the Tourist Police volunteers possess in spades.

We, the residents of Phuket, have the right to enjoy the same public transport facilities on offer in the rest of Thailand and throughout the world.

The message must be sent loud and clear: We will not tolerate threats and violence any longer.

The decision to have cheap and reliable public transportation is ours. It does not belong in the hands of “dark influences” or others who rob us wholesale for their own personal benefit.



Please, spare the nipples

Re: *Gazette Online, No 'nipple gangs' in Phuket: Police, November 8*

Thank you for clarifying the situation. I have admittedly been very wary since the bar girl drug bust last week. It's easy to turn down a drink when you take someone home, but if tourists are getting drugged in other fashions – you have to start wondering what the point is.

As many have mentioned in the *Gazette* forum, these drugs – mixed with alcohol and other medications tourists might be taking – could turn deadly.

Despite the police saying that “nipple gangs” are not currently working the streets of Phuket, I worry that they soon will be – how will we know?

I really hope the police are able to find a way to nip the bud on this one before someone dies.

Simon Wargel
Phuket Town

Banking on booze

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket officials rally to stave off flood shortages, price hikes, November 6*

I read in the *Phuket Gazette* that officials were checking the prices of items in some stores. Please also check on the drink distributors in Patong – I think they are trying to cheat people!

I have many friends who own restaurants in Patong and they told me that the drink distributors in Patong have doubled the price of beer.

I also read in the *Phuket Gazette* story, “Bangkok floods hit Phuket bars with ‘beer crisis’”, that ThaiBev had not passed on any of the extra costs of delivery to their customers and that they were selling products at the same prices as before the floods.

So I want to ask, why are drink

Letters to the Editor

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

distributors raising prices? They just tell customers, “It is about the flood”. I think they are only wanting to make more money! Please stop this.

Peter
Gazette Forum

Drivers kill drivers, not roads

Many people in Phuket feel like road conditions are a major factor in accidents, but everyone needs to fess up – the accidents are because of people.

If you are a smart and safe driver you will drive based on the road conditions instead of expecting the road conditions to match how you drive.

Tony Bertozzi
Phuket Town

Special tourist shorts

Do people really buy *muay Thai* kickboxing shorts as souvenirs?

I see shops selling a rainbow selection of these shorts everywhere in Patong, but I can't imagine a reasonable person buying them. It takes a “special” kind of person to buy ridiculous looking paraphernalia for a sport they have no business representing. It's like buying a pair of cricket trousers when you go to England, without knowing a wicket about cricket.

Now, I know that Phuket has competent *muay Thai* artists, but don't they buy their shorts where

they train? It makes me nervous to think that there are enough of these special tourists in Patong to support this many shops.

Andy Churt
Patong

Eggs in a basket

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket gets cooking for Bangkok flood victims, November 8*

The work being done at the Phuket Vocational College cafeteria in Phuket Town is inspirational.

It's always such a treat to see the citizens of Phuket step up and do something that's both newsworthy and shows their humanity.

I think it's a good reminder to tourists, expats and everyone else on the island that there are more good eggs here than bad ones.

Tina Sift
Patong

The beer hunter

Re: *Gazette online, Bangkok floods hit Phuket bars with ‘beer crisis’, November 6, 2011*

Why can't Phuket business temporarily source alternative products from Malaysia?

Both [Thailand and Malaysia] are ASEAN trading partners, so there shouldn't be any legal problems with being able to do that.

But I can imagine there's some protectionist bureaucratic red-tape road block in there somewhere.

I'd take a big truck down to Malaysia to bring back some myself, but I know I'd be breaking some sort of odd law.

John
Gazette forum

Phuket Gazette

In association with The Nation Multimedia Group PCL

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79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang, Phuket

Homemade fix for local water sources

FIRST PERSON

A PUBLIC hearing held by the Phuket Provincial Office was part of a project to draft a master plan for long-term solutions to water issues in Phuket.

It was said that Phuket might need to lay water pipes to bring in water from Ratachaprapha reservoir (in Surat Thani Province) to solve the ongoing issue of water shortages.

It is a good idea to support everyone's needs, but I think this idea "spoils" the Phuket people. It's not that I don't agree with the plan – I agree with laying the pipes. However, authorities should also give support to the idea of local residents being more self-sufficient.

Phuket's focus on tourism is the reason we have water problems every year. We welcome people from different parts of the world who use our water.

The authorities then have the responsibility of providing enough tapwater for these people and these "new" systems allow local residents to ignore the idea of being self-sufficient.

Now they are waiting for tapwater lines to pass their houses, despite having no problems with using groundwater in the past.

If the authorities supported the idea of local residents using groundwater, the number of people facing water shortages



Nanyaroon Yadee, 50, is an officer at the Pa Khlok Tambon Administration Organization (OrBorTor) Public Works Division. He graduated from Phatthalung Technical College. Mr Nanyaroon has been living in Phuket since 1990. Here he talks about solutions for Phuket's water shortages.

would be greatly reduced. This idea is not helpful for people living "in town", who don't have anywhere to dig a well, but it's very useful for people living "out of town", and 80 per cent of the area of Phuket is considered "out of town".

Think of the mining ponds all over Phuket that are full of water; surrounding areas should also have groundwater. I believe these areas have 10 times more water than is seen in the mining ponds.

Some say they won't use the groundwater because it is "rusty water".

Why don't the authorities use their resources to at least treat the water enough so that it can be used for laundry, baths, and washing dishes?

I have a seven-meter-deep well at my house in Kamala that has rusty water. I solved the problem by creating my own water filter.

I used cement-drain pipes with four layers of filters: bricks, small stones, charcoal and sand. After passing through the filter the

water is stored in three other containers made of cement pipes. This filtration method produces water clean enough to use in my house.

People can buy filtration systems similar to mine. Digging a new well starts at about 20,000 baht, but I have saved a lot by spending much less over the last six years on tap water.

More than just being self-reliant, if an area can support multiple wells, it is possible to sell the water to neighbors or to hotels.

If I can do this by myself, at my own home, I think government authorities should have even better ideas and technology to support methods of self-sufficiency like this.

Please, authorities and local residents, I ask that you focus more of your resources and thoughts on this idea of self-sufficiency. I am sure we will be able to solve Phuket's water-shortage problems in the near future this way.

Relief effort adds rubbish to the heap

Island View

By Steven Layne

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

ily surpass a million boxes to be distributed throughout the capital.

All good news for the plastic production sector. Bad news for the environment, particularly the Gulf of Thailand, where tons of single-use plastic bottles and boxes are bound to end up.

How forgiving should we expect our beloved water guardian to be?

According to the most recent Customs data, the island's largest three export items are rubber, boats, and seafood.

If Phuket really wanted to make a difference – in flood victims' lives and the environment – it should exploit that which it specializes in.

It makes much more sense for Phuket to donate locally-built boats, insulated with rubber (considering many of the flood deaths have been from electrocution) and filled with dried seafood.

The *Phuket Gazette* reported last week that the Phuket Chamber of Commerce was accepting donations for boats and life jackets. It was also reported that student volunteers at Phuket Technical College were building dozens of boats to be donated to flood victims.

This is a move in the right direction. Though, perhaps it would be more beneficial to just send the boat builders to the Chao Phraya river estuary to teach flood victims how to build rafts from the excess of plastic bottles and polystyrene foam trash already there.

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

Costly mistake

We have been cajoled into visiting a development company's office in Phuket. The very next day we realized that due to being pressured into signing the contract immediately, we had bought something that we couldn't afford. We went back to cancel the contract, but were told that there was no "cooling off period" in Phuket.

Is this correct? This stupid mistake cost us 114,473 baht.

I think holidaymakers should be aware of this, as most gullible people like us need a little time to think a deal over before signing.

Gullible Patong

An officer at the Office of The Attorney General of Phuket replies:

It really depends on the particulars of the contract you have signed. This does not mean that there is no cooling off period in Phuket.

If you have more questions, feel free to contact us and bring your

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

Submit your issue at

www.PuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

contract into our office. In this case I won't be able to give you an exact answer until I see the contract.

In general, each development has its own signing conditions. You have to read these contracts carefully before signing. If you have any questions please come see us – we are here to be your law consultant.

Our office is located at 38/13 Rattanakosin 200 Pee Road, Talad Nuea, Muang Phuket. You can also visit our website at pket.go.th.

A burning issue

My wife and I live in our own house in Thalung, which is part of a small community not far from the

Phuket International Airport. We are unable to enjoy our yard and the pool at the house most days because of fires from neighboring houses.

About three weeks ago one of the landowners next to us started using his property as a landfill for construction debris and garbage. Trucks are pulling in as late as 11pm and fires are burning on his property non-stop.

There used to be a little pond in the area, but now it is a foul-smelling swamp full of garbage.

I am also concerned about the groundwater being contaminated with chemicals (paint and paint thinner) from the dump site. Everyone here is complaining, but no one wants to be branded a troublemaker. Even the police officer living next to us can't do anything about it. Can you please advise us what can be done to correct this situation without getting us into trouble with the owners of the dump?

Bjorn Schneider Thalung

Chawalit Chumputtipong, chief of the Thepkrasattri Tambon



Rubbish piles up at the Saphan Hin landfill. There are also many 'private' landfills around the island to cope with an increasing volume of waste.

Administration Organization (OrBorTor), replies:

At the beginning of October, a complaint about this issue was filed with the *OrBorTor*. Officers, including myself and a council member of your village went to inspect the site. We determined that the landfill was on private land and that the landowner wanted to use his land in this way, so he made a deal with Lotus in Thalung to dump construction debris there. He has the right to do this with his property.

Lotus has all chemical materials collected at the store and burnt in an incinerator at Saphan Hin. As for the paints, they are cement-based, which will not contaminate the groundwater.

We have asked the owner and contractor to cover the debris with soil to prevent any unpleasant smells from the dumping of food items. They have agreed to do so, but are waiting for the rain to stop. Right now the area is too muddy to work.

Bangkok floods boost bookings

THE hospitality and real estate sectors in Phuket look to benefit from one of Thailand's worst floods in a century.

A report released by professional services real estate firm, Jones Lang LaSalle stated that Bangkok's housing market has been hit particularly hard by flooding considering that many major housing areas across the capital are now submerged under water.

This has resulted in a large number of refugees fleeing the capital in pursuit of temporary sanctuaries in unaffected locations such as Pattaya, Hua Hin and Phuket.

Meanwhile, real estate investors who initially had their eye on the Bangkok market are now turning to markets outside the capital.

According to the report, house sales in the areas affected by floods have completely stopped while sales in areas that have not yet experienced flooding have drastically slowed.

The report speculated that buyers in the Bangkok market have suspended their purchase decision to wait and see if or how floods will hit the housing project that they are interested in.

Meanwhile, the Bangkok condominium sector has been in a better position due to the general perception that high-rise properties would be less affected by floods.

Nonetheless, sales in condominium projects that are located in the flooded areas have inevitably been affected by the flooding.

Suphin Mechuchep, Managing Director of Jones Lang LaSalle, said, "Some residents in Bangkok who live in the currently flooded areas may consider buying condominiums in low-risk locations as a second home in the future."

However, we do not expect concerns over future floods will result

in a dramatic shift in residential demand from landed houses to high-rise condominiums."

"Although there is a concern whether the flooding that the city is suffering from is an isolated incident, the Thai government is expected to do its best to protect Bangkok and its vicinity from future floods more efficiently," she explained.

Speaking about the effects of the flood on the hospitality sector, Andrew Langdon, Senior Vice President of Jones Lang LaSalle Hotels, said "Hotels in Bangkok are experiencing a softening in occupancies as international tourists and business travelers postpone travel to the city."

"On the other hand, Bangkok serviced apartments are receiving strong short term demand from the domestic market and expatriates that have been displaced from homes affected by floods," he said.

While a number of hotels in Phuket are now offering discounted rates for Bangkok evacuees, the island's house rental market is not expected to benefit as much as hotels and serviced apartments since most house leases require a six month to one year contract.

Villa rentals, however, are particularly performing well now compared to the same period last year. Kit Fordham, an agent with Direct Rooms, a Phuket-based company specializing in hotel bookings, property sales and rentals confirmed this latest trend.

"For the last few months, we've had an increase in inquiries from Bangkok-based buyers. A lot more Thais have been contacting us about villa rentals in particular, which is out of the ordinary since it's usually tourists who rent villas," he said, adding that he believes the flooding is definitely a factor. — *Phuket Gazette*



REBIRTH: Starting this month, Strategic Airlines says goodbye to make way for its new all-Oz brand, Air Australia.

A Strategic rebranding

AUSTRALIAN Low Cost Carrier (LCC) Strategic Airlines recently announced that its rebranding as Air Australia will officially take effect on November 15 of this year.

The reinvented LCC revealed the news last Thursday, showing off its new-look livery and flight attendant uniforms while emphasizing a commitment to bring Australia a fresh approach to affordable air travel.

Strategic Airlines, founded in 2009, will now retire its red, white and blue brand, former name and full service business model and replace it with a wholly Australian-owned LCC.

It will now gradually transition its in-flight product, website, uniforms and airport facilities.

"Simplicity, value, operational integrity, genuine fares and service are our promise and all that we believe many Australian travelers want in order to get safely and enjoyably from A to B," said CEO Michael James.

"Air Australia will avoid the massive product complexity of larger airlines as we do not want to be strapped down to charging our passengers ever higher fares to cover ever escalating costs," he said.

"Many of our staff and advisors have extensive airline backgrounds and we have seen it all before. We understand the challenges of the industry and we understand the market."

"We also believe that there is mounting nostalgia in the consumer market and in the industry for an airline which offers genuine value and makes it readily possible for families and Australians of all ages to have the chance to fly," he added.

The airline will continue to serve existing routes flown by Strategic Airlines out of its bases in Melbourne and Brisbane, and it will take over international leisure routes to/from Phuket, Bali and Honolulu.

Currently the LCC operates two weekly flights each from Phuket

to Brisbane and Melbourne.

Air Australia's all-Airbus fleet currently includes three A320 and an A330, with a second A330 arriving in December for the Honolulu service.

The company has also been granted rights to operate services between Australia and China, as well as Australia and the USA.

And it is in the process of doubling its pilot base and recruiting new flight attendants.

This year it also opened its own engineering subsidiary company, Strategic Engineering Australia Pty Ltd to service its Airbus fleet. The Brisbane-based facility has to date employed 30 new licensed aircraft maintenance engineers.

The last time the LCC made the news in Phuket was back in June when some of its Brisbane and Melbourne flights were grounded, canceled and/or delayed due to a series of aviation complications, leaving many passengers with a slightly extended, expenses-paid holiday in Phuket. — *Phuket Gazette*

Campaign to lure food tourists

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

EFFORTS are underway to collate recipes and historical information of local *Baba* ("Straits Chinese") cuisine as part of the bid to have Phuket Town recognized by UNESCO as a City of Gastronomy.

Dr Kosol Tang-Uthai, president of the Thai Peranakan Association, said that 65 local *Baba* chefs were involved in the process.

"Phuket *Baba* food combines recipes from Royal Thai Cuisine, common Thai dishes, Hokkien Chinese food and Malay cuisine,

which together create a unique blend of delicate flavors that are not too spicy, not too sweet and not too salty," he said.

Dr Kosol said it should take about six months to collect the evidence needed to nominate Phuket Town for the accolade.

If bestowed the title, Phuket Town will be the fourth such city in the world to be recognized for its food by the United Nations cultural heritage agency.

The three Cities of Gastronomy include Popayan City in Colombia, Ostersund in Sweden and Chengdu in China.

Among the dishes being included in the nomination are the *Baba* recipes for *moo hong* (salted boiled pork), *oh-aew* (white jelly made from squeezed Chinese herb and bananas, served with boiled red bean and shaved ice), *mee Hokkien* (stir-fried Hokkien noodles), *mee hum* (stir-fried white noodles served with spare ribs soup), *nam chub yam* (spicy shrimp paste sauce)

and *bue tord* (batter-fried grass with small shrimp).

"Regardless of whether or not we win the nomination, we have much to gain from this project," said Dr Kosol.

"We have to admit that nowadays Phuket's natural attractiveness is waning. If we win [the nomination], our gastronomical culture will also catch tourists' attention and help delay the decline of natural resources. It will also help to support local fishermen, as they provide the ingredients," he said.



Dr. Kosol Tang-Uthai talks to press.

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Seafood prices to fluctuate regardless of wage increase

By Janpen Uptising

MINIMUM wage rises may not have a major impact on the wholesale price of seafood, which will continue to fluctuate due to a number of economic and seasonal factors, Phuket fishery industry representatives have expressed.

Wiroj Wasinwasukul, the manager of Por. Pichai Fishing Port in Rassada was insistent that wholesale seafood prices will not rise specifically because of wage hikes.

"The increase and decrease of seafood prices do not directly depend on [fishermen] wages, but are related to the quantity of marine life caught in addition to the demand by customers," he said.

Representing an increase of at least 40 per cent from current wages, the new daily rate of 300 baht is set to be piloted across all sectors in Phuket and the Bangkok metropolitan area starting in the first half of next year.

"At the fishing port, buyers and sellers are the ones who determine prices, which depend on the satisfaction between the two parties bidding," Wirot said.

"For example, I want to sell a type of seafood at 50 baht per kilogram, but you want it at 45 baht per kilogram. Then, I negotiate the price to be 48 baht per kilogram. If you are okay with it, then I am okay to sell. The seafood price is immediate. It is not like pork or chicken prices, where there are current going rates which are posted," Mr Wiroj explained.

The price of seafood is unpredictable and depends on demand and supply, he emphasized.

"For example, if a type of crab is in high demand, the price of it will rise automatically. Or if there is a high supply of a particular fish in the market, the price will go down.

Sometimes, that fish cannot be sold at all, even if days before it was in high demand," Mr Wiroj said.

If wage rises were to cause seafood prices to rise, it would happen at markets and restaurants, he said.

"Most customers coming to the port are vendors who sell seafood at markets. Some customers supply restaurants while there are also representatives from restaurants who buy from the port directly," he said.

Anan Taebunyanuphap, managing director of Phuket Union Foods Co Ltd, a major seafood wholesaler that supplies fresh and frozen seafood to over 100 hotels and restaurants in Phuket, also thinks the wage increase will have minimal impact on wholesale prices.

"Hotels also haggle the prices when buying from us or other suppliers – the same way as at the fishing ports.

"Prices of the same seafood will vary day by day depending on the demand. In the high season, the price will rise automatically...the

higher numbers of tourists means a greater demand for seafood," Mr Anan explained.

Vasan Tongsa, president of the Food and Beverage Managers Club (Andaman region) and who also is the manager of Serene Resort in Kata echoed the notion, adding that weather was another factor affecting supplies.

"The seafood price always changes – especially during the rainy season when marine life is harder to find and thus results in more expensive seafood," he said.

However, not everyone along the seafood supply line believes that prices will be immune from wage increases.

Somyos Wongbunyakul, president of Phuket Fishing Association said that the rise of minimum wages will have a huge impact on the fishing industry, including seafood prices.

"Apart from the minimum wage, [overhead] cost factors in the fishery business also include the oil price in addition to the supply and demand of seafood," said Mr Somyos.

"Currently, the daily wage of Burmese workers in the fishing industry of Phuket is about 200 baht. We also provide accommodation and food," he added.

Mr Somyos said that the industry is now suffering a shortage of Burmese workers.

They have been gradually leaving fishing jobs to work in the construction and rubber plantation sectors, he said.

"Recruitment [for low-wage labor] now is very competitive. Employers in those industries pay higher wages than us. Normally, the workers in construction sector are paid about 250 baht per day. I heard that some skilled laborers are paid between 300 and 400 baht.

"If the daily minimum wage rises to 300 baht, it would be better to hire Thais since employers wouldn't have to deal with the hassle of work permits," Mr Somyos said.

"Some Burmese workers tend to leave their employers soon after getting a work permit. The employers not only lose the time and money invested for applications and exten-



STOCK MONITOR: A laborer at Por Pichai fishing port stacks crates of fish.



SEA FARE: Seafood prices depend on supply, demand and season.

sions, they also have to recruit new workers – which are not easy to find," he said.

However, Thai nationals may not want to work in this industry anymore since they are looking for higher salaries that require less work, he added.

Suttipong Saisakares, Chief of Phuket Provincial Labor Office told the *Gazette* that the minimum wage must cover both Thai and foreign nationals.

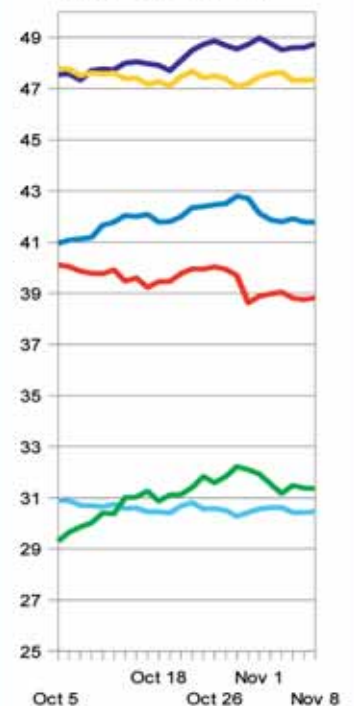
Vegetable prices continue to rise

IMPACTS from the flooding crisis continue to be felt at the consumer market level in Phuket, with prices of several vegetables nearly doubling over the previous month.

A survey conducted at the Kaset Market, near Robinson's Department Store in Phuket Town found that Sweet Basil went from 50 baht up to 80 baht per kilogram, a change of 60 %; while cucumbers jumped from 25 to 30 baht up to 45 to 50 baht per kilogram (50 to 100 %);

Meanwhile, coriander or cilantro went from 80 to 130 baht up to 180 baht per kilogram (38 to 125 %); Chinese Cabbage rose from 35 to 40 baht up to 55 to 60 baht per kilogram (37.5% to 71%); and luffa gourd from 25 baht up to 50 baht per kilogram (100 %).

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|----------|----------|-------|
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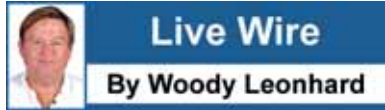
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3G or not 3G - that is the question, and what's 3G+?

CAT's getting "3G+" but it isn't all good news



FIRST the good news: CAT, like TrueMove-H, is coming out with an HSPA+ service.

As you may recall, HSPA+ is the only real "3G" available in Thailand and, at least in theory, it should be substantially faster than other "3G" services currently available – including, confusingly, the service CAT currently calls "3G."

Confused? Yeah, I understand. Let's start with the basics. The term "3G" doesn't mean anything. It's marketing sizzle with absolutely no steak behind it. Most of all, it's confusing when every Tom, Dick and Harry Internet Service Provider calls any sort of wireless internet product "3G."

Thailand isn't unique: lawsuits are being fought right now all over the world over the confusing terminology. A kid on the corner can put together a string and two tin cans and call it "3G."

But let's face it. The name 3G sells and it's their job to sell you whatever the market will bear. It's your job to figure out if what you're paying for is worth the money. To help nudge you in that direction, I've re-published a graphic here I originally distributed about six months ago, updating it with information about the latest services available in Phuket.

Right now, if you have a CAT 3G dongle for wireless internet, you're using a technology called CDMA/EV-DO.

You may have found out that

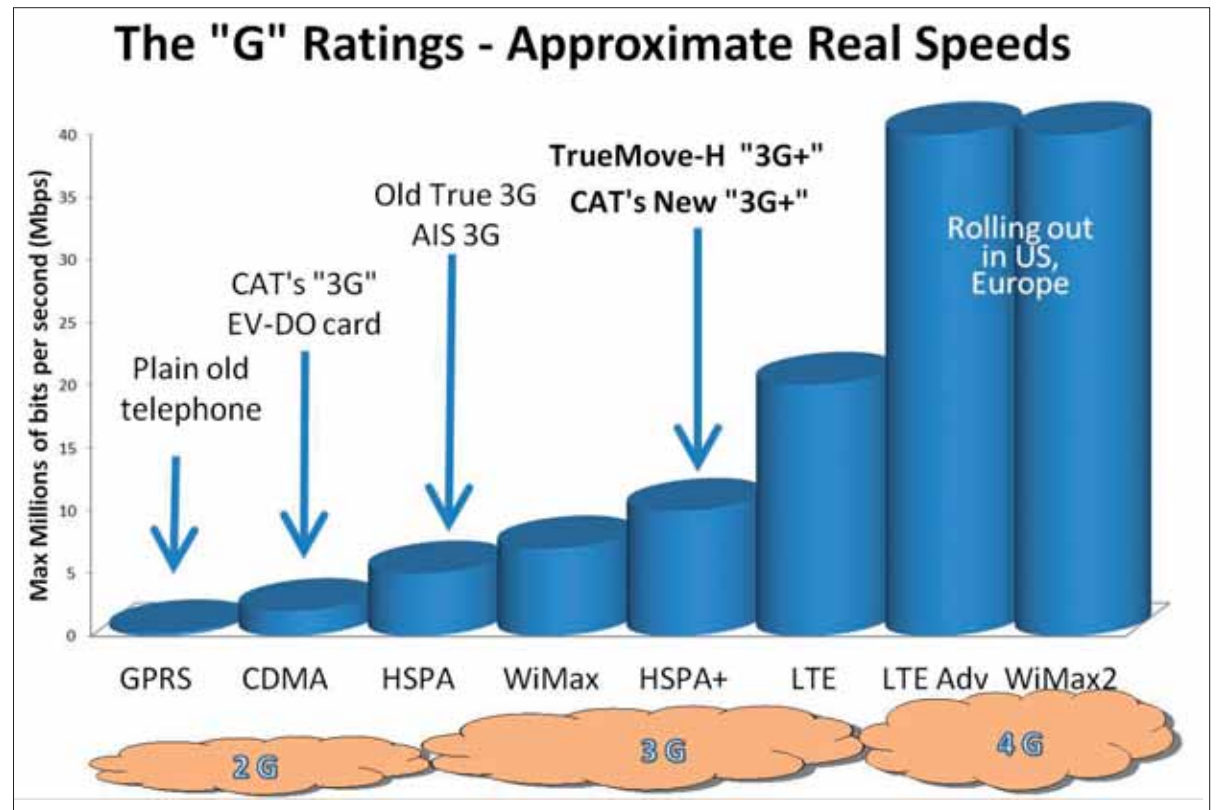
CAT's 3G doesn't work with any common 3G telephone or tablet. As of early December, that's going to change.

The old True 3G system – which you can't get any more – ran on a technology called HSPA. AIS also uses HSPA technology for its 3G service, which is currently the only 3G service you can get on most parts of the island.

The new TrueMove-H 3G system, which True calls "3G+," uses HSPA+. Theoretically, HSPA+ is much better than HSPA – it runs much faster, over greater distances, and accommodates a larger number of simultaneous users. But it's also more expensive. Most phones and tablets these days can use HSPA+ but if your phone can't hack the faster system, it will fall back automatically to HSPA. You don't need to do anything.

I just discovered recently that CAT is planning to move from its old CDMA/EV-DO system to a new HSPA+ system. The change is supposed to take place in early December. As my friend reminds me, they never say December of which year, but I suppose it'll be out sooner or later. CAT HSPA+ (the official name appears to be "My Click," as best I can tell) has some significant implications for all of us potential wireless customers.

First, it's going to be cheaper than any other 3G system out there. I've seen CAT's price list, and they're going to sell a new dongle (the D-Link DWM-156) for 1,890 baht. The service will run at 590 baht per month, compared to 790 baht for AIS and TrueMove-H. It's capped at 4 GB per month, after which the speed gets knocked down to 256 Kbps. (AIS caps at 5 GB, TrueMove-H caps at 3 GB, although both may change as soon as they hear about CAT's plans.)



MY GENERATION: Anybody can call anything "3G." Here's how Phuket's wireless internet services really stack up.

Now here is the bad news: Current CAT "3G" CDMA EV-DO customers won't be able to get the new signal with their old equipment. And they won't be offered a free or reduced-cost upgrade to the new technology.

However, I'm assured, the old CDMA/EV-DO service will continue to work, for the foreseeable future.

Contrast that upgrade approach to True, which killed its old 3G service when the TrueMove-H service rolled out, and ticked off more than a few customers along the way. To its credit, True upgraded customers for free. But they didn't roll out the new network all over the island, and they left many customers without any 3G service for months. More about that in a future Live Wire.

Bottom line: even though you can't get this new CAT service right now, this looks like a worthy contender in the 3G wars. Soon we should have three competitors – and that's good for everybody.

It remains to be seen how fast CAT's new My Click will run in the real world.

For that, we'll all need to watch the speeds that are reported on PhuketInternetSpeed.com.

Now you know why I've been recommending that people avoid the CAT EV-DO card.

Live Wire is Phuket Gazette columnist

Woody Leonhard's weekly snapshot of all things internet in Phuket.

Readers can follow him on Twitter: @PhuketLiveWire, "like" his page at facebook.com/SandwichShoppes, or visit his free Sunday morning computer clinics at Woody's Sandwich Shoppes. Also don't forget to post your internet speeds at PhuketInternetSpeed.com.

QROPS! What does it mean?

Island Investor
By Anthony Lyman

NO DOUBT reading through many magazines and news articles these days you are likely to have come across or noticed this strange [QROPS] acronym popping up quite frequently. But what does it mean and why has it only just recently come to the forefront of advertising? You may wonder, what effect does this have on me and is this something to which I should be paying attention?

Thailand, and in particular Phuket, is a popular destination for many individuals entering retirement and also a home to many expatriates who have identified this island destination as a great place to enhance their career and general day-to-day living experience. If you fall into either bracket then potentially a QROPS could have a beneficial effect on your income both now and in the future.

So, let's start from the beginning and firstly lets break down that acronym; a Qualifying Recognized Overseas Pension Scheme (QROPS) is an offshore

pension scheme offering many benefits to expatriates who have UK-cited pension schemes.

In essence, if you have UK based pension schemes from time spent working there, extensive benefits could be available via a QROPS. First, many individuals are unaware that their UK pension will be taxable in retirement. Yes, that's correct; the UK government will continue to tax you even when you reach a pensionable age.

This is not the case with a QROPS, as all income is received tax free. Are you looking forward to the UK government feeding on your pension when you die? Well they will do through their inheritance tax laws.

Once again, these can be mitigated through a QROPS. You can even nominate a beneficiary to receive the funds when you die, an option not permitted through a UK pension.

It is fair to say that there are further benefits available within the scheme. Please also note that QROPS are not beneficial to all, so financial advice must be sought before finalizing your plans.

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CONTEMPORARY: Grilled Eggplant Salad with Crab meat

Suey Restaurant: beautiful fusion

By Nanthapa Pengkasem

CALL me old-fashioned, but I have misgivings about so-called "fusion food". I like my food the way it's cooked traditionally: no added milk in my *tom yum goong* please, and I am very wary of mango sticky rice in the form of a shake.

All that changes when a friend invites me to dine at Suey Restaurant in Phuket Town. Built like an old-style Phuket bungalow, surrounded on three sides by shaded verandas and a small front garden, Suey feels very much like home, albeit a stylish one.

White is the predominant color here, accentuated by a small dose of bright acid-green. It's minimalist, timeless and smart – a perfect backdrop for the kind of contemporary cuisine on offer. Suey's clientele is a mixture of local Thais and expats but as its reputation grows, some tourists are seen to frequent the place as well.

Khun Thammasak 'Noi' Chootong, who is a seasoned international chef and food consultant, helms the kitchen here. He has an impressive track record of working for a Michelin-starred restaurant in Germany, on the QEII world cruises, and more recently at the Banyan Tree in

Indonesia and Phuket. Noi believes that a great dining experience doesn't have to be prohibitively expensive.

Here at Suey, Noi has designed a menu that is a creative mix of classic Thai and Western dishes that are tasty and a feast for the eyes. Excellence here is gauged not only by flavour but also delicate presentation and a delightful twist from the norm.

Take, for example, the Cappuccino Sea Scallops Tom Kha (119 baht) which is typical coconut galangal soup dressed up with frothy milk and garnished with grilled Japanese scallops on lemon grass sticks. The texture and aroma of the slightly charred scallops contrast delightfully with the creamy frothy soup. I take back what I said about milk in *tom yum*.

Steamed Salmon Wraps In Khao Soi (northern curry) Sauce (129 baht) is the creation that has earned Noi a reputation as a distinguished food designer. This special dish is being served in Banyan Tree restaurants all over the world. Here is your chance to savor it without breaking the bank.

For meat lovers, Suey stocks a variety of imported beef and lamb. Lemongrass Roast New Zealand Lamb Chops (650 baht) will not disappoint with its succulence and

aroma. No need for mint sauce here as it is served up with a fresh and spicy tomato salsa.

Another favorite main dish, Steamed Sea Bass, is served up in lime juice with plenty of garlic and green chilli. Noi prefers to use Chilean sea bass, which he says is fleshier than its Thai counterpart, making it perfectly succulent when steamed.

The classic Isarn (Northeastern Thailand) food, known for its extensive use of aromatic herbs, is given a creative twist. Among many salads on offer are Tuna Salad, a refreshing concoction of fresh yellowfin tuna in mint and lime sauce, Spicy Salmon Carpaccio, Suey style with plenty of fresh herbs, and Spicy BBQ Eggplant Salad garnished with crab meat and dill.

The lowly sticky rice is given a new lease on life too, presented in gorgeous purple, a color derived from the *anchan* flower, a kind of Thai sweet pea.

Noi is particularly passionate about dessert as he says it gives him plenty of scope to be decorative and playful. His confections reflect his passion as he transforms familiar sweets into something that will confound all expectations and touch the senses.

Particularly impressive are the

Mango Sticky Rice Spring Rolls, deep-fried, sticky-rice-stuffed pastry rolls served with ripe mango and homemade black sesame ice cream.

Another classic delight is the Crepe Suzette with Peach Melba and vanilla ice cream smothered with plenty of Cointreau. The crepe is done in a true French style – lacy and paper-thin, the best crepe I have had in a long while.

For drinks, Suey has a small wine list, but offers plenty of cocktails and healthy sodas, using locally sourced fresh

aromatic herbs.

'Suey' means beautiful in Thai and this restaurant lives up to its name while offering unique dishes in a quaint and relaxed setting.

It is a perfect place for quick lunches on work days and also sustained leisurely dining in the evening.

For the Crepe Suzette alone I will definitely return.

Suey is located on Takua Pa Road (near Rassada Road) in Phuket Town. Opening times: 11am-3pm, and 6pm-10pm. Closed on Mondays. Tel. 081-747 2424



MINIMALIST, TIMELESS AND SMART: Suey's interior is a perfect backdrop for the kind of contemporary cuisine on offer.



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FUSION: Green Apple Salad with Crispy Catfish. Photos: Nanthapa Pengkasem

TEFL Certification Courses: the good, the bad and the cowboys

In the Classroom

By Eric Haeg

PHUKET has no shortage of expats who want to live and work here. Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) is a popular way to achieve this goal, which means that the competition for these jobs are fierce and wages are relatively lower than those in other urban areas of Thailand.

One way to improve the odds of finding quality employers is through earning a TEFL certificate. Phuket is home to no fewer than five certification courses, but not all centers are reputable.

One way to identify Phuket's quality courses from those known by industry insiders as "cowboy courses", is to ask the right questions before making any monetary commitments. Such questions are not limited to, but should include

the following:

Is the course accredited?

Each training course should be accredited by an independent institution. These will typically be institutions of higher learning. Accreditation should provide information relating to regular moderation reports and customer satisfaction. Anyone wishing to stay in Thailand should also ask if the course is recognized by the Ministry of Education.

How long has the center been operating?

It takes time to perfect a training course and you don't want to get stuck with a provider that is going through a learning process of its own. Additionally, the longevity of an operation speaks to the levels of recognition the certificate carries. There's no point in holding a certificate from a course employers aren't familiar with.

What are the trainers' qualifications?

Experience is paramount here, but also look for a variety of teaching locations and disciplines—business vs. academic English, young learners vs. adults, and so on. Qualifications such as advanced diplomas and degrees are also important, but nothing can substitute real world experience.

Will I be teaching real English foreign language (EFL) students with real materials?

Believe it or not, some centers will have you teaching fellow trainees or creating your own materials. These are gimmicks and should serve as warning signs. Courses should supply trainees with real EFL students who possess a variety of English language abilities. Teaching materials should be plentiful, modern and mirror those found in real settings.

What is the pass rate of your course?

Specific figures cannot indicate a good course, but one answer in-

dicates a bad one: Everyone passes. Enrollment in a TEFL certification course should not automatically bring with it a certificate, because not everyone is capable of passing course requirements. Despite their best efforts, trainers are not miracle workers and cannot turn water into wine. Some trainees are not fit to teach and sometimes it takes a training course to prove that.

Ask to speak with former trainees. Any course worth its salt is going to have a lengthy list of past trainees who are satisfied with their course and willing to share their experiences. It's best if these comments are published on an independent website or provided via email. However, be wary of internet forums where anonymous individuals can make overly positive or critical comments. These people may be skills or have an ax to grind.

Finally, beware of course providers that guarantee employment; it's simply impossible to do in an hon-

est fashion. If a job market is saturated with teachers, or if local qualification requirements exceed a TEFL certificate, how can a course guarantee employment? And in regions where demand for teachers is high, guarantees of employment are redundant.

The fact of the matter is that most courses which "guarantee" jobs have systems that place graduates with employers who are typically unfit to keep their own teachers for any amount of time. This may be due to poor pay, poor working conditions, unreasonable management or a combination of all three factors. In addition to this, the course will often shave wages off the top in the same way a recruiter does — they just don't tell you that.

While the list of Phuket's TEFL certification courses is lengthy, a few good questions and a savvy approach will easily separate the island's cowboy operations from its quality courses.

Primary schools relax the rules

THE Phuket Primary Education Area Office has relaxed the requirements for foreigners to be hired as English-language teachers at government schools in Phuket.

The move is aimed at combating a critical staff shortage according to Jian Thongnoon, director of the Phuket Primary Educational Service Area Office.

"We need about 100 English teachers, but right now we have only about 50 teachers and some of these are not very good in English. This is a big emergency that we need to solve," he said.

Among the reasons for the staff shortage were that many English teachers had moved from primary to middle schools, and teachers were applying for early retirement, the director said.

"Ideally, we have to hire teachers specifically trained to teach in English. Just hiring native English speakers is not really worth it because these people do not have teaching skills. However, in the meantime we will have to hire teachers who just have English skills until we can find qualified teachers who have both English and English-teaching skills" Mr Jian explained.

Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor) President Paiboon Upatising expressed his concern that an ongoing shortage would have a serious impact on Phuket's ability to remain competitive after the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) charter comes into full effect.

"This is a top priority. The AEC

comes into effect in 2015, so the sooner we resolve this issue the better. Neighboring countries such as Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia already have good English skills, so we will be at even more of a disadvantage if we do not have enough English teachers to educate our children. Many English teachers have retired from OrBorJor schools this year. We have been announcing that we need English teachers, but there have been very few applications," said Mr Paiboon.

Mr Paiboon explained that the problem is not restricted to OrBorJor schools and that other relevant officials are facing the same problem. Officials from the OrBorJor, Phuket City Municipality and the Primary Educational Service Area office will continue to meet to discuss strategies to overcome the problem.

"The OrBorJor will start the by teaching English to existing teachers so they can teach the children and we will hire native English speakers to help," Mr Paiboon said.

The long-term strategy involves coordinating with educational institutions in Phuket in order to fill the skills gap, said Mr Paiboon.

"Previously, educational institutions in Phuket have been catering to the needs of the tourism and hotel industries, but having English teachers is very important.

"A shortage of English teachers will affect our children's English skills, which will result in Thailand not being able to compete [economically] against other countries," he said.

— Warisa Temram



LANGUAGE CRISIS : A lack of English teachers may cause Thailand to fall behind other ASEAN nations. Photo: Rex Pe

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Corals and consciences now cleaner

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

THE sandy seafloor suddenly gave way to the wall of wrecked coral skirting Coral Island. The forest of dead branching corals, which should have been a Mecca of sea life, was a ghost town. The site was haunting, but further along the reef, the barren coral landscape gave way to signs of life as a volunteer-dive team carefully picked fishing net from a coral's branches.

Sights like this are becoming more common in Thailand's waters. In fact, the coral reefs of Thailand and the rest of the Indian and Pacific Ocean area are declining at a rate of nearly 1,553 square

kilometers a year, twice the rate that the rainforest is disappearing.

On October 29th the Thailand Diving Association (TDA) dug in to make a difference at Coral Island with their annual coral reef cleanup dive, which is part of "Save the Nature @ Phuket", a marine awareness program run by Tourism Authority of Thailand, Phuket Marine Biological Center and the TDA.

The TDA and its volunteers collected rubbish around Coral Island and did their best to raise awareness of the ecological and economical importance of the coral reefs around Phuket.

Ninety volunteer divers, aware

of the importance of coral reefs boarded two different boats on Saturday, one provided by All4Diving company and the other from Dive Master Co Ltd.

Though only 95.22 kilograms of rubbish was collected during the cleanup dive, the TDA saw this as a positive sign for the area.

For TDA representative Varaporn Jittamonta the relatively small amount of trash collected during the dive [compared to previous dives] wasn't a story of failure, but a story of promise.

"It was a very successful day. There wasn't a lot of garbage collected, but that's because local people have become more aware

of the importance of conserving our natural marine areas," she said.

"This year was different, because there were more Thai divers helping out; last year it was all foreigners," she added.

Mrs Varaporn believes that the improvement is a result of educational programs, such as "Save the Nature @ Phuket," which focus on creating an awareness of the importance of nature conservation, with the hope of eventually restoring the marine systems around Phuket to a healthy state.

"Tourism in Phuket is about our natural resources. If we destroy them, we destroy our source of income," she said.


Claude de Crissey, owner of All4Diving, was glad to be a part of the coral reef cleanup again. Claude is also planning to participate in the Patong Beach cleanup organized by the TDA and Patong Municipality, scheduled for December 16.


Tour Director of All4Diving, David McGuire, was also pleased with the outcome of the event.

"We went out and cleaned up some rubbish. We did some good and that's what matters," he said.

"The thing is, it [the cleanup project] is like being faced by a raging inferno and all you have is a bucket of water to throw on it – it doesn't do much, but it's better than doing nothing," he said.

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Sea creatures will soon have to swim for their lives

INTERNATIONAL marine scientists have warned that fish and other sea creatures will have to travel large distances to survive climate change or they will risk extinction.

According to a new study by an international team of scientists, sea life, particularly in the Indian, Western and Eastern Pacific as well as the sub-arctic oceans are facing growing pressures to adapt or relocate to escape extinction.

"Our research shows that species which cannot adapt to the increasingly warm waters they will encounter under climate change will have to swim farther and faster to find a new home," says Professor John Pandolfi, team member of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies and the Uni-



Polar sealife is under pressure from other species. Photo: S. Snodgrass

versity of Queensland.

To understand how sealife will be affected over the coming century by shifting climates and seasonal patterns, researchers analysed 50 years' data of global temperature changes.

The findings have serious implications for marine biodiversity hotspots, and for life in polar seas, which will come under rising pressure from a range of other species moving in.

– *Phuket Gazette*

Namfon Kanjanasaya

CERAMIST and restaurateur Namfon Kanjanasaya was once employed in her dream job. As a marine biologist working for Phuket Marine Biological Center in 1987, Namfon spent her work day in the sea, collecting specimens and taking photographs of endangered species of marine life.

A graduate in biology from Prince of Songkhla University, Namfon then studied engineering at the University of Warwick in the UK. She turned to ceramics quite by accident, when she inherited a studio in Kathu from a friend.

"I had to learn everything from scratch – throwing, forming, and firing. Luckily I am a scientist so mixing and using glazes is something at which I excel."

During the 1990s Namfon taught a ceramics class and made kitchenwares, decorative items and furniture fittings for hotels and restaurants in Phuket. Her creations became appreciated far and wide, and were even noticed gracing the entrance of the Taj Hotel in the Maldives. In 2005 she opened the second branch of Ceramics of Phuket in Cherng Talay.

When creating, Namfon is inspired by nature and her childhood impression of the world. Her work is characterized by the green-blue color of the sea. The patterns she employs are undulating and organic, bringing to mind the ocean

THAI gallery

By Nanthapa Pengkasem

waves and the imprints they make on the sand. Namfon also makes clay sculptures of large, voluptuous women, which are in some way a portrait of her larger-than-life self.

"I grew up playing on the beaches and in the mines, so instinctively I turn to the sea, sand, and earth for inspiration. My family had a distillery in town and the place was full of fantastic stuff – the smell of alcohol, the crates and bottles, tools, and machinery. I developed a love for construction tools there."

Apart from making ceramic art, Namfon also works as an interior designer and has worked for hotels in Phi Phi and Koh Yao, and is now in the process of completing another design project on the latter island. The job is all embracing; Namfon has to be designer, architect, engineer and furniture-maker all in one. The techniques she uses to designing space are not dissimilar to those she uses to create ceramic works in the sense that she makes full use of natural materials like wood, bamboo, clay, paper and textiles. Recycling also forms important part of her design work, and she uses reclaimed mate-

rials wherever possible.

"There's a tremendous satisfaction in seeing the conclusion of any design project. While some people are just dreamers, I can turn dreams into reality. When I have a design in my head, I can turn it around quickly into a concrete form. I am a dream-maker."

Recently, there has been a new addition to Namfon's line of business. Last year she opened Ceramic Kitchen, a restaurant serving traditional English food and Thai dishes inspired by the family's recipes. The restaurant is a large, open-aided mud house, separated from the studio by a small garden. There is a band playing every night. From the restaurant customers can walk across the garden to see ceramists at work, and also browse the shop for decorative items.

This new departure may not be as strange as it seems. By her own admission, Namfon has always wanted to have a bar, live band, and a large kitchen where she can entertain and cook for a circle of friends.

"Cooking is also an art form. I love cooking and creating new dishes. I also like to party and entertain friends in my home. Families, friends, and socializing are important to me. Living in the moment and loving every bit of it is what I do well. You don't need anything else in life," said the 47-year-old artist.



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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I am Woman, hear me laugh

Books

By James Eckardt

THOSE eminent contemporary philosophers Jerry Lewis and Christopher Hitchens have advanced the proposition that women lack a sense of humor. This notion can be shot down in two words: Tina Fey.

The former Second City improv trouper, head writer for *Saturday Night Live* and creator and star of her own sitcom *30 Rock*, has now produced her first book, *Bossypants* (Little, Brown & Company, New York, 2011, 273pp).

As befits the writer of comedy sketches, the 25 chapters of her book are short and vary widely in quality. The best of them are hugely entertaining.

Born in 1970, she grew up in a Greek suburb of Philadelphia. She obeyed her mother and adored her father and would have graduated to a life of suburban normality except for joining a summer theater group that was a haven for gay kids. She is shocked when two young actors fall into an adult romance.

"I had to face the fact that I had been using my gay friends as props," she writes. "They were

always supposed to be funny and entertain me and praise me and listen to my problems, and their life was supposed to be a secret that no one wanted to hear about. I wanted them to stay in the 'half closet'... [The romance] was a major and deeply embarrassing teenage revelation. It must have been how straight teenage boys feel when they realize those boobs they like have heads attached to them."

In Tina Fey's hands, teenage angst about her face and body—eyebrows, lips, legs, hips, and boobs—become geysers of humor. She notes: "Wide-set knockers that

aren't so big but can be hoisted up once or twice a year for parades".

Then she is on her own as the lone Greek in a white bread college.

"Let me start off by saying that at the University of Virginia in

1990, I was Mexican. I looked Mexican, that is, next to my fifteen thousand blond and blue-eyed classmates, most of whom owned horses, or at least resembled them."

Next stop: Chicago and The Second City troupe. To survive, she works at the front desk of a YMCA, "the epicenter of all human grimness". At The Second City she finds that each cast must have four men and two women.

No variations. "This made no sense to me, probably because I speak English and have never had a head injury."

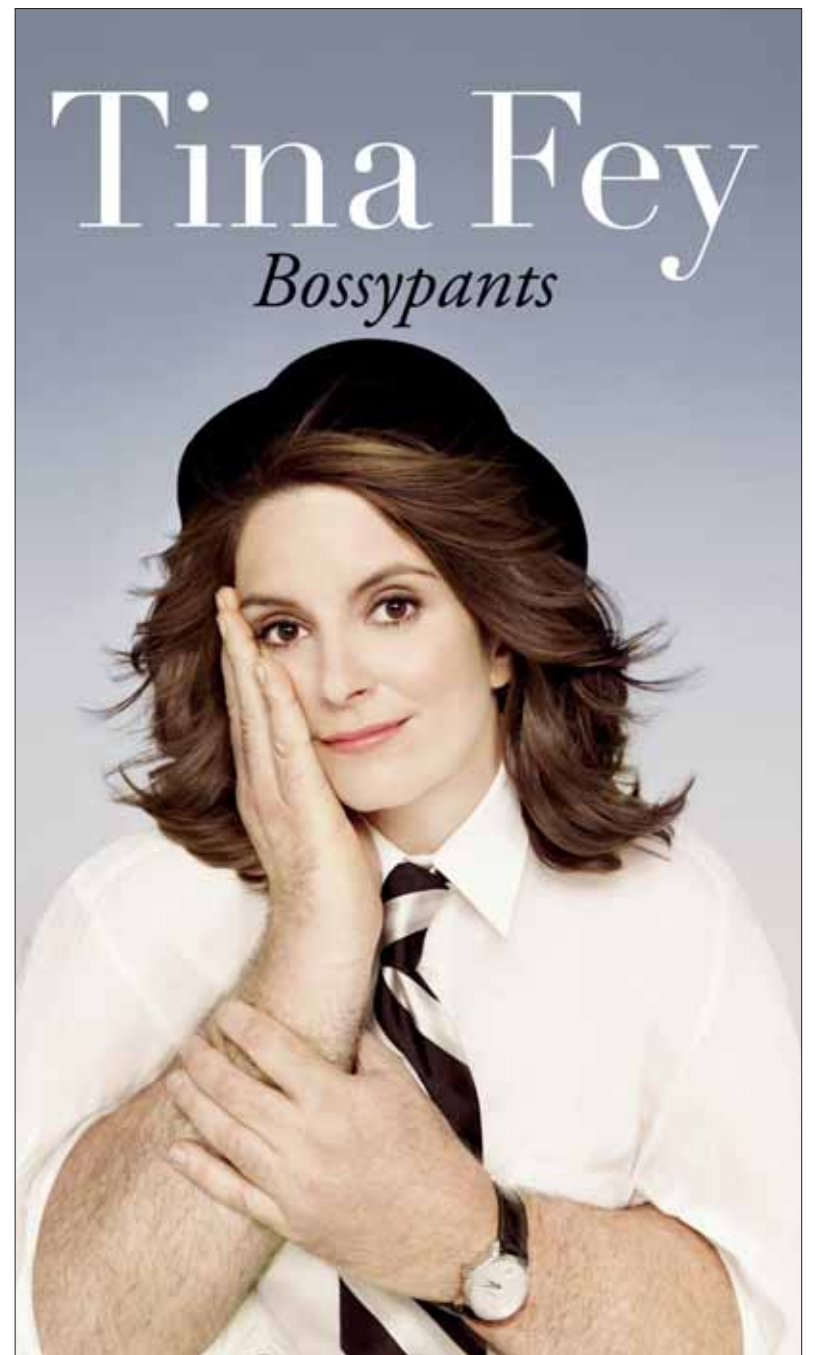
Things have since changed. "You might see four women and two men. You might see five men and a YouTube video of a kitten sneezing. Once we know we're really open to all the options, we can proceed with whatever's the funniest... which will probably involve farts."

Fey treads water with a couple chapters on *faux* beauty tips before returning to the main trunk of the story and her 1997 interview with Lorne Michael for a writing spot on *Saturday Night Live*. She will rise to head writer.

"I tried to apply Lorne's lesson when staffing *30 Rock*," she writes of her sitcom that mimics the back stage antics of *Saturday Night Live*. "Our current staff makeup has us as four Harvard nerds, four Performer-turned-writers, two regular nerds, and two dirtbags."

She treads water again with a long, unfunny bit about posing for magazine covers before she hits her stride with the long rousing saga of her six-week-long Sarah Palin imitation.

She also has a great time answering the emails of fans and foes. To one poison pen writer who claims that Tina Fey doesn't have a single funny bone in her body, she replies: "You know who does have a funny bone in her body? Your mom every night



ROCK SOLID: Tina Fey is also famous for her Sarah Palin imitations.

for a dollar."

She closes her book with a typically whimsical take on motherhood: "There's a drunk midget in my house" in which she observes: "Ah, babies! They're more than just adorable little creatures on whom you can blame your farts."

This leads to a self-deprecating meditation on the tug of war between family and fame. She's happily married with a five-year-old daughter. Should she have another one? But what about the 200 people on *30 Rock* who depend on her?

My advice? Stick with the show.

Book briefs

INJECTING a little humor into the horror genre, Garry McNulty tackles zombies and domesticity in his latest release – *Mom and Dad aren't getting along* (now that Mom's a zombie) now available worldwide as an eBook, courtesy of Untreed Reads.

Teddy's teen years were bound to be affected when his Mom returned from the supermarket infected by a zombie bite.

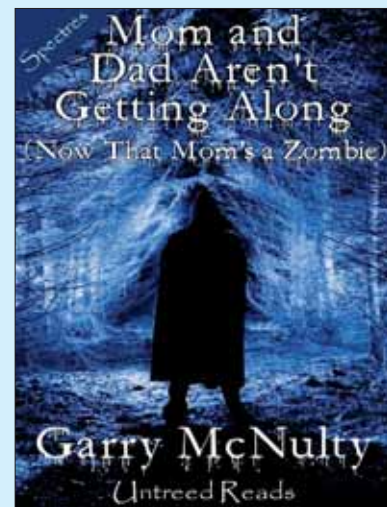
Dad immediately insisted he and his wife sleep in separate bedrooms. Mom silenced a complaining neighbor by eating him and then there was the unfortunate Avon Lady incident.

Family harmony hit a new low, however, when Mom discovered Dad's new girlfriend and became one really unhappy zombie.

Teddy's doing his best to keep the family together, but it's getting tougher all the time. What's a teenager to do?

Garry McNulty has previously published another work of science fiction with Untreed

Reads titled *Eric and Derik: Two Clones Searching for Love*.

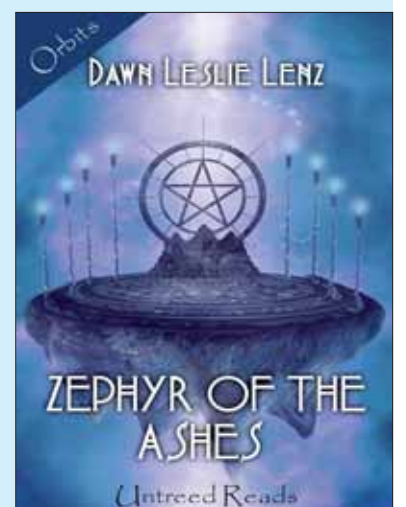



THE sun's intense draw lures out all the people of the world, leaving them hypnotized and helpless. Agoraphobic Chava Logan hunkers down inside her San Francisco apartment watching in terror. Slowly, more and more people succumb to the allure of the sun.

The Sun Pandemic is a global phenomenon that no one seems to understand or to fight. Alone in her

apartment, Chava struggles against this unknown force. Can her neurotic behaviors actually save her life?


Dawn Leslie Lenz is a fiction writer and freelance editor. She is a contributing editor for *River Styx* literary magazine. Her work has appeared in books, journals, online and elsewhere, including *The Green Tricycle*, *The Rambler* and *Mirror: Reflections on the Way We Look* (New York 2004), among others.





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Pearl of Thai reggae at Nai Yang Beach Club

By Neil Quail

REGGAE fans can start preparing for a magical evening by the sea on November 25 when The Beach Club in association with Indigo Pearl launch the 2011 Nai Yang Beach Party Grand Opening Season and headlining this event will be the hugely popular, Job2Do.

Indigo Pearl is the title sponsor of this platform event which is the initial collaboration between the award winning resort and The Beach Club to bring a range of top musical talent to the island in the hopes of enhancing Phuket's prominence as a destination venue for famous and upcoming musical acts while boosting the local economy.

GM of Indigo Pearl, Kelly Lewis, spoke to the *Gazette* about how the idea and planning for this event came about.

"We wanted to highlight the upcoming season with something special which would also benefit local communities and businesses. Following a conversation with Arun 'Kio' Phelphanchoo, The Beach Clubs' owner, an idea was generated to

establish a firm relationship between the resort and the club to develop Nai Yang's entertainment prospects," Mr Lewis said.

"Arun has previously promoted Job2Do in Phuket, and we are very fortunate to have such a young, energetic talent to help get this event off the ground in such a short space of time," Mr Lewis added.

This will be the first beach party in what is planned as a series of music events scheduled for Phuket's high season at Nai Yang Beach.

Arun has been the driving force behind The Beach Club's success for the past 15 years and is very enthusiastic to develop this new partnership and future entertainment promotions.

"This is an exciting venture for both establishments and will put Nai Yang Beach on the map for more of these types of parties," Arun told the *Gazette*.

"Job2Do have not performed for a year and this is their first return headline gig. There will also be two other acts on before them including an amazing instrumental group and another very good reggae band who have toured with Job2Do in the past. After the live music there will be a DJ from Phuket House



Lead singer 'Job'. Photo: Dean Noble



PEOPLE GET READY: Arun Phelphanchoo and Kelly Lewis shake on a partnership that will bring Job2Do as the first of many headline acts for Nai Yang beach parties. Photo: Neil Quail

Mafia to keep the party going," added Arun.

Thailand's leading reggae star, "Job", is a popular character while many expats are familiar with his smash hit "Tham mai thung tham kab chan dai".

The Nai Yang Beach Party featuring Job2Do starts at 6pm with tickets available at the Indigo Pearl reception desk or at The Beach Club and cost 250 baht.

Fans can also tune into Blue Wave 90.5 FM's

radio station for a chance to win free tickets and luxury accommodation for the event.

A selection of food and drinks will also be available for all attending this fantastic first for Phuket.

The *Phuket Gazette* and Blue Wave 90.5FM are sponsors of the Nai Yang Beach Party Opening Season.

For information, visit indigo-pearl.com or phone 076-327006.

Culinary arts festival

NORTH Phuket Resorts will host its second Culinary Arts Festival of the year from December 2 to 4 on Mai Khao Beach to celebrate the culinary experiences and attractions of this unspoiled area of the island.

Located just minutes away from Phuket International Airport on Mai Kao Beach, North Phuket Resorts hosts this festival twice each year with the first event held in July and again in December.

An epic-sized dining table at

over 300 meters long will be set up on the beach front between Sala Phuket and Renaissance Phuket on Friday's opening night.

On Saturday evening the festival moves to Anantara Phuket for their Infinity Sunset Grill on the pool deck, followed by dancing to DJ'd tunes.

JW Marriott Phuket will conclude the festival on Sunday with a "brunch of your life" for the whole family to enjoy.

An individual event pass costs

1,500 baht per person or a weekend pass costs 4,000 baht per person.

Children under 12 years will be charged at half price, while admission is free for children under seven years.

The *Phuket Gazette*, PGTV and Blue Wave 90.5FM are sponsors of the North Phuket Resorts Culinary Arts Festival.

For more information see northphuket.com or send an email to events@northphuket.com.



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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

October 29 - November 12. Chang ITF Thailand Pro Circuit 2011 (Mens)

For the first time in Phuket, the Chang ITF Thailand Pro Circuit 2011 (Mens) will take place at the newly opened Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club (TSLC). TSLC's six ITF standard-approved 'Plexicushion' tennis courts, with a "Cool-Lite" roof system covering four of them, is the perfect venue to host these elite players. The competition will be intense as all the players fight for ranking points and prize money. Venue: Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club from 8am to 7pm. Admission fees: starting from 50 baht. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*. Contact: Virapol or Napapen at T:076-336000 E:virapol@thanyapura.co.th or visit W:thanyapura.com.

November 16. Two Chefs Tex-Mex Wednesday

Wednesday night means Tex-Mex at Two Chefs Karon, from 6pm to 1am. We set up probably the best Tex-Mex Buffet in Phuket. For only 495 baht we are serving this great buffet. With great prices on the drinks and MJ & Megan at the mics, we can promise you a good party too. Don't miss it. Reservations at T:076-286479 E:karon@twochefs-phuket.com or visit W:twochefs.com.

November 17. PIWC Monthly Lunch at Vocational College

The Phuket International Women's Club (PIWC) monthly lunch will be held in the Vocational College, Phuket Town from 11:30am to 2pm. The

November 19 - 20. Camp Quest Laguna Phuket Adventure



A two-day, one-night camp at Quest Laguna Phuket Adventure in our "Go Green" series of camps for children aged between 8 and 12. Two full days of fun, adventure and environmental awareness with off-site excursions, evening campfires, BBQ parties and Quest's famous adventure activities. Children sleep in large tents in our very own private jungle. Limited to 25 children. 2,500 baht per child (including VAT). Price includes absolutely everything. First-come, first-served basis. Contact Jazz on 082-4230578 or sales@questlagunaphuket.com. Please visit facebook.com/questadventurephuket or questlagunaphuket.com.

students will be on hand to display their skills and sell handicrafts, so you may even pick up some Christmas presents! All are welcome and prior booking is essential. Tickets cost 500 baht for members and 650 baht for non-members. Contact: Carole Dux at T:085-7821332 E:info@phuketiwc.com or visit W:phuketiwc.com.

November 17. BIS University and Higher Education Fair 2011

British International School (BIS) and local Thai school students and parents are invited to attend the fair and explore the many opportunities from noon to 5pm. This year it is expected there will be a very

diverse set of representatives from Australia, Europe including the UK, Canada, America, and of course many Thai universities. Contact: Bevin Clark at T:076-335555 E:bclark@bisphuket.ac.th or visit W:bisphuket.ac.th.

November 18 and 25. Navrang Mahal India Curry Fridays

We present Curry Fridays at Navrang Mahal India Restaurant in Karon Sea Sands. Here is your chance to enjoy an authentic and lavish Indian Curry Buffet every Friday from 7 to 11pm. Selections include all-time favorite Chicken Tikka Masala, very hot Mutton Vindaloo, succulent Kebabs, Goan Fish Curry and much more. Served with nan bread and basmati rice. 'All you can eat' for only 449 baht nett! Draught beer by the glass: just 50 baht nett. Special discount on beverages. Reservations at T:076-286464 ext 4. E:sm@karonseasand.com or visit W:karonseasand.com.

November 18 - 20. Foundations of Ashtanga Yoga with Kimberly Roberts

Learn the practices of yoga and meditation with Kimberly Roberts. The practices will be adjusted to be appropriate for each level of student. No prior experience is neces-

sary. All levels are welcome. Three-day, two-night packages start at 11,600 baht, including yoga, meals, access to the fitness club, pool, and a complimentary spa massage. Program: November 18, 7-8pm: Introduction and Discussion. November 19, 9-11:30am: Foundations of Ashtanga Yoga; 4-5:30pm: Moving into Meditation; and 5:30-6pm: Discussion/Q&A. November 20, 9-11:30am: Foundations of Ashtanga Yoga; 2-3:30pm: Moving into Meditation; 3:30-4pm: Discussion/Q&A. Contact: Napapen at T:076-336000 E:napapen.k@thanyapura.co.th or visit W:thanyapura.com/yoga-retreat.

November 18 - 25. Designer Clothing Sale at Koh Yao

Designer Clothing & Accessories Sale: Versace, Gucci, Armani, Diane

Von Furstenburg, Eley Kishimoto, Gerard Deral, Jovani, Calvin Klein, Escada, Alberta Ferretti, Chloe, Stella McCartney, Basler, Kenzo, Olsen, Catharine Molandrino, Chanel, Oron, Wayne Cooper, Salvatore Ferragamo, Jil Sander and many more amazing haute couture pieces to add to your collection. Sizes 36-48, from 1,500 to 10,000 baht, from 10am to 3:30pm at Paradise Koh Yao Resort & Spa. Contact: Nadine Oliver at T:081-8924760 E:gm@theparadise.biz or visit W:theparadise.biz.

November 19 and 26. Two Chefs Saturday Brunch

Welcome to our brunch that we serve every Saturday from noon to 3pm at Two Chefs Kata Center. We serve a big buffet with loads of Scandinavian specialties. Our popular musicians will entertain you for the afternoon. All this for only 395 baht. Also drink what you want from our free flow options for an additional 300 baht. Reservations at T:076-330065 E:katacenter@twochefs-phuket.com or visit W:twochefs.com.

November 20. Phuket Youth Sailing Club (PYSC) Endeavour Trophy Regatta at Ao Yon

This regatta is open to all Dinghy Classes & Beach Cats not involved in the Phuket King's Cup Dinghy Series from 8am to 5pm at Club house in Phuket Youth Sailing Club, Ao Yon Beach. Come early to rig boats and attend skippers' briefing at 9:30am and racing starts at 10am. Classes: Optimist Topper (Junior, Youth and Adults), Laser Standard and Tasar Beach Cats. Crew needed and boats available for charter. Entry Fee for Members: 100 baht per person. Non-members: 200 baht per person. This event is sponsored by PGTV and the *Phuket Gazette*. Contact: Katy Gooch-Firmin at T:085-2159185 E:phuketyouthsailing@gmail.com or visit W:phuketyouthsailing.org.

Free Computer Clinics

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

November 13 - Laguna
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A TASTE OF FRANCE: Albatross Lufthansa City Center and Wine & Taste organized a French dinner at Best Western Allamanda Laguna Phuket recently. From left are Lillian Carpenter, Wipa Tanmanatragul, Maitree Narukapichai, Martin Carpenter Robert de Graaff and Busaba de Graaff.



ACCORDING: B-Lay Tong Phuket Owner Kanmongkol Kamolrattapiboon (in blue) and Accor Vice President of Development Victor Pang at the MGallery Collection soft reopening and rebranding under the management of Accor. Money was also raised for Thai flood victims.



ON THE WAY: Larry Amsden from the Rotary Club of Patong Beach collected a truckload of donations for flood victims from The Phuket Gazette office handed over by events manager Kanjana Sriboonsom.

YOUR Phuket



HANDS ON HELP: HeadStart students help make Effective Micro-organism (EM) balls to send to Bangkok to help clean the floodwater.



DESIGNING WOMEN: Attending the Grand Opening of The DeSign Den home accessories shop near the Heroines monument were (from left) Linda Kul, Yuma Yuwaree, Monica Angrove, Julie Street and Anne Weistein.



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FRANCK MULLER SUPER CAR RALLY 2011 IN PHUKET

A convoy of 24 exotic cars from Malaysia, Singapore and China arrived from Penang this week to celebrate the finer things in life. Photos: Christian Mouchet



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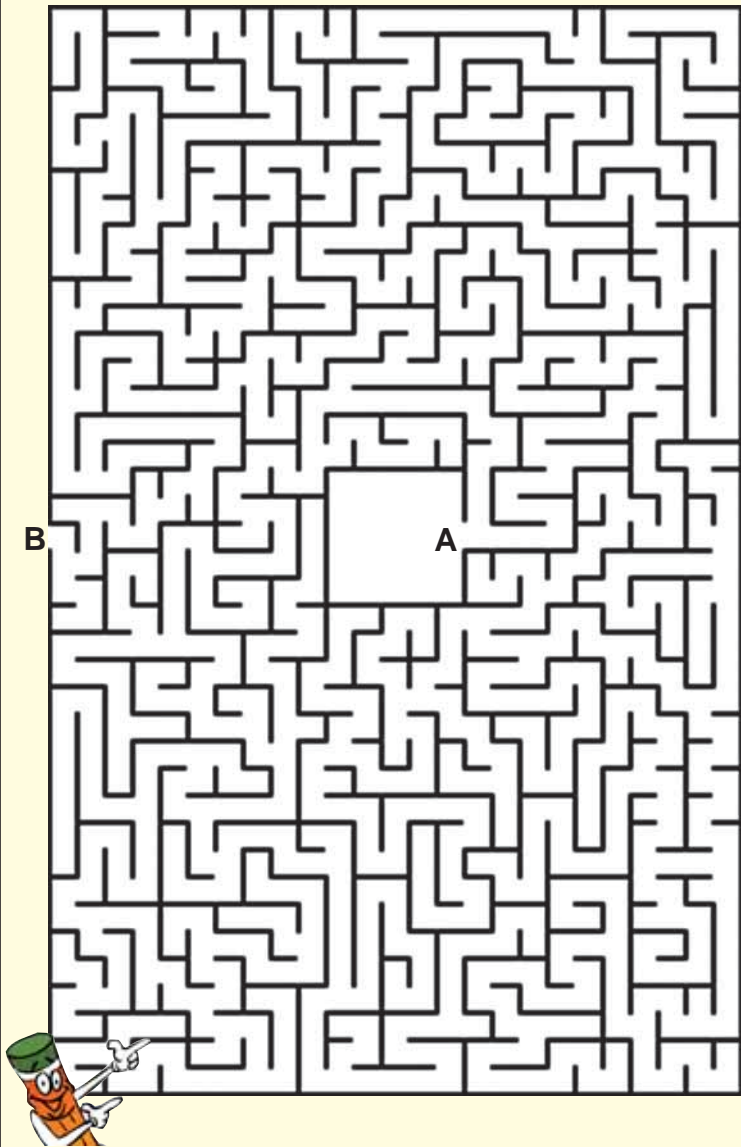
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A *Gazette* staff member completed this maze in 30 seconds. Can you beat their time? Make your way out of the maze.

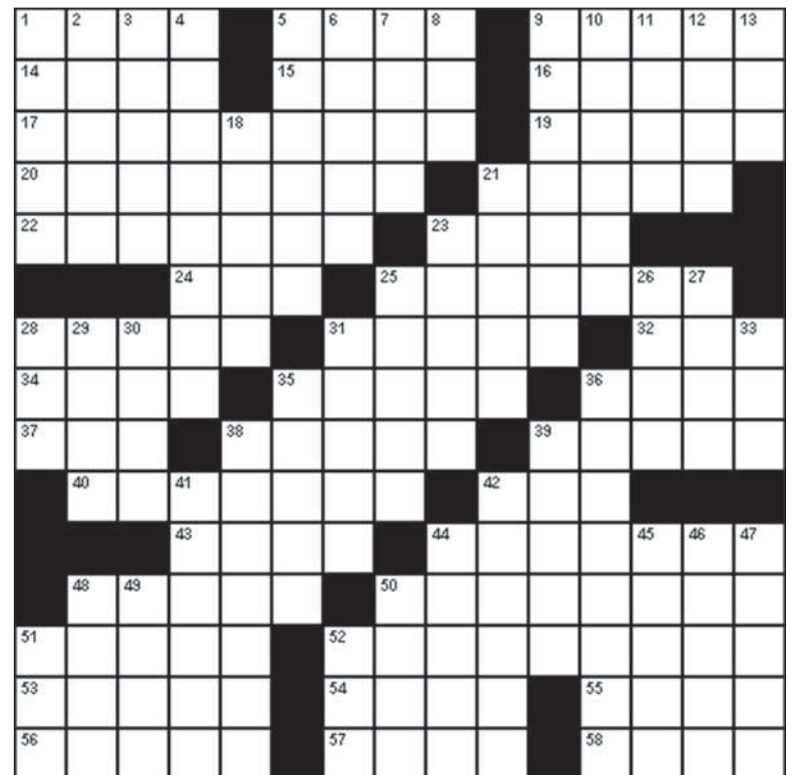


Across

1. I smell -- !
5. -- Alto
9. Bludgeons
14. House rodents
15. Chieftain, usually in Africa
16. Company emblems
17. Howling as a dog
19. Acclaim
20. Tranquility
21. Edible plant product
22. Appetite
23. Goddess and sister of Ares in Greek mythology
24. Enzyme ending
25. Possessing knowledge
28. Curt
31. Blasting
32. Crackpot
34. Came down to earth
35. Capital of Morocco
36. Roundish projection
37. Classic Jaguar
38. Shrub of the cashew family
39. Shades
40. Slid
42. Corn holder
43. Fibbed
44. Variety of grape
48. Pooh's creator
50. Variety of red apple
51. Rate
52. Flexible
53. Portents
54. Env. notation
55. Writer Sarah -- Jewett
56. Jackie's predecessor
57. "-- quam videri" (North Carolina's motto)
58. Capone's nemesis

Down

1. Divert
2. Angered
3. Legend maker
4. Live feed of CNN, e.g.
5. Diminutive
6. Friendship
7. Full of streaks
8. Assn.



9. Literati
10. Grasshopper
11. Wrinkly fruit
12. "We're all in the same -- --"
13. Concorde, e.g.
18. Licorice-like flavoring
21. Frozen dew
23. Early computer
25. Spoil
26. A party to
27. Raise to third power
28. Levy
29. Lodge members
30. Monetary unit of Cambodia
31. Titled

33. French possessive
35. Monetary unit of India
36. Lobate formation
38. Covered with prickles
39. Bottom line
41. "Fighting" Big Ten team
42. Like a dog
44. Prices paid
45. In what place
46. Marriage announcement
47. Pays to play
48. Baby's cry
49. Bit of gossip
50. Fast aircrafts
51. CD- -- --
52. Actress Charlotte

Provided by BestCrosswords.com.
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Crossword answers on page 39

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Many Scorpios are predicted to breathe a sigh of relief during the week ahead. The stars suggest that a decision made in your favor will mean that a money - related problem can be laid to rest. Those with a birthday in the coming days will have better luck in love in the year ahead. Hot days for romance are Wednesday and Thursday. Number four looks lucky on this weekend.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Sagittarians' usual ability to rise and shine is affected by a sluggish mood this week. The stars advise that you take a rain check on social invitations that don't really float your boat. Those romantically involved with another fire sign see that quiet time together brings a new level of closeness. Finances fall under auspicious astral conditions, with investments highlighted to pay off more than predicted. Your lucky number this week is eight.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): This is a good week for all Capricorns to catch up on tasks that were conveniently swept under the carpet at the start of November. The stars advise you

to spend quality time getting your personal finances organized as there are clear signs that discrepancies can be uncovered. Romance with another earth sign becomes more exciting, but an affair with an air sign is confusing. The number three brings good fortune.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Carrying out plans is a challenge for Aquarians this week. Another air sign will be hard to pin down, but an earth sign can be relied on for last minute support. A romantic connection can be made within the world of work, but keeping this relationship private will be harder than you think. Those already committed could have some explaining to do. Your lucky number is one.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Where a new business venture or job is concerned, Pisceans should find out whether they will sink or swim. Those who discover that this isn't going to work out the way they hoped can take a valuable lesson from the experience. In the realm of romance, another water sign has a change of heart, but you might not be pleased with what you hear. The number five can be lucky on this weekend.

YOUR horoscope

By Isla Star

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Alarm bells should start ringing when someone is trying to cover up the truth this week. The stars advise that a water sign has reason to feel guilty, but will find it hard to confess. Tuesday is the most auspicious day for an honest discussion. Finances are affected by uncertain astral conditions - borrowing or lending is not recommended at this time. Your lucky number is seven.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Taureans should guard against giving advice unless they are completely sure of facts this week. There are hints that another earth sign could come knocking on your door for answers to their problems. The stars suggest that this situation will turn out to be more complicated than it first appears. A fire sign is keen to move forward - from knowing you casually - to a romantic involvement. The number six can bring good luck this weekend.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Those born under the sign of Gemini are advised to stop and think more carefully about the direction their life is heading in. There are signs that you may have taken a wrong turn recently, but it's not too late to retrace your footsteps. This week is an auspicious time to tie up loose ends and repair broken items - the stars indicate that money can be saved. Your lucky number is nine.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Come rain or shine, Cancerians will be cruising along comfortably during the days ahead. Those who were out of sorts since the start of November have some catching up to do. The stars advise giving priority to a business situation that has been left hanging as this is a favorable time to finalize agreements. Where romance is concerned, the time is ripe for commitments. The number eight looks lucky.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Those born under the sign of Leo should be more than ready for what the astral atmosphere has to offer this week. Good news is forecast for Monday and Tues-

day, and this should involve letting go of a financial commitment that has become too heavy to handle. Your romantic luck increases during the second half of November, with an emphasis on a reunion with an old flame. Number two brings good fortune.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Relocation becomes a distinct possibility this week for many Virgoans when an old friend turns up out of the blue. The stars suggest that a fire sign can put you hot on the trail of a dream residence, but this will probably mean moving fast. Where romance is concerned, another earth sign is poised to say the words you've been wanting to hear. Your lucky number is five.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Work goes well for those Librans who are ready to give and take. Expecting to have things all your own way will lead to disappointment, but the stars indicate that a new collaboration with an earth sign will bring satisfaction. In the realm of romance, those already committed find out that their partner has a surprise up their sleeve. Number six can bring good luck this weekend.

PROPERTY Gazette

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

Update: The Privilege Residences Patong

THE Privilege Residences Patong is the sister project of successful luxury condominium project The Bay Cliff. After the first project sold out, The Bay Cliff Development decided to launch another condominium project and take the definition of 'luxury living' to the next level.

"Since we launched The Privilege Residences Patong in October last year, we have sold about 30 per cent of our units. Although this figure may seem low compared with other condominium projects in Phuket, this is really quite a positive percentage relative to other sales in the high-end market," said Mr Theeraphan Choprasertchok, Chairman of The Bay Cliff Development.

"Our project has four different buildings: Two buildings are situated on elevated ground, while the other two are situated on the lower level and it is these that have sold the most," Mr Theeraphan said.

"We have five types of unit: one,

two and three-bedroom units, duplex, and penthouse. Prices start at six million and go up to 55mn baht," he added.

The Bay Cliff Development is scheduled to complete the project by early next year and the overall construction is nearly finalized.

"The project was first launched in October 2010 and is expected to be complete and ready to move into by May 2012," said Mr Theeraphan.

"So far, construction is 70 per cent complete. We now have some architecture and interior work to do. We will get the lower buildings completed first, since it is easier to work on the lower land," he added.

The Bay Cliff Development set their target on the foreign market. However, the economic crisis in Europe has made it difficult for investors to commit during this time of instability.

"We had aimed to sell mostly to Europeans, since they were our



The project, first launched in October 2010, is expected to be complete and ready to move into by May 2012.

main customers from our previous project. Surprisingly, most of the buyers who bought units from The Privilege are Thai. Even the only penthouse of our project was sold to a Thai buyer. Most of them have bought units as an investment, since we offer a six per cent net guaranteed rate return program on the buying price of all units," said Mr Theeraphan.

The Bay Cliff Development have a contingency plan in order to solve this problem.

"I came up with the back up plan in order to solve the problem. We see a very good potential in the Chinese and Australian markets and will now focus our strategies there," he added.

"I believe the projects' location is correct. Timing is the only issue. We measured our success from our previous project. Everyone who bought from us

previously said that this is a prime location. I know the economic crisis has affected our sales and currently this is a difficult time to market to Europeans," said Mr Theeraphan.

The Bay Cliff Development hopes the completion of the lower buildings will attract a lot more people to come and buy from them.

"Once the first two building are complete, more people will buy. There are a lot of customers who will make purchases when they see the finished units and not just computer graphic images. We expect to sell another 20 per cent of our rooms before May 2012," he added.

The completion of the building is not the only incentive to attract more people to buy as The Bay Cliff Development also intend to offer promotions to those who

wish to purchase units.

"We may offer discounts, but we will still use high quality products for all our units. Since our condominiums are positioned in the luxury market, it is important we offer high end quality materials to our customers," said Mr Theeraphan.

The Privilege Residences Patong also have a plan for unsold units once all the buildings have been completed.

"We plan to make part of our condominium available for monthly or yearly rental. We will target foreigners who work in Phuket, especially hotel executives. We won't rent out a lot though, because we know all of our customers are willing to pay for their privacy. We will try to keep it that way," said Mr Theeraphan.

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PROPERTY

The thinking man's guide to modern hotels



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

CHECKING into a hotel or resort often dictates that you leave your brain at the front door. Common sense, reason and simplicity remain an endangered species for the frequent traveler.

While a full frontal lobotomy is not often on the anonymous, ubiquitous room service menu that features greets such as the club sandwich, prawn cocktail or the exotic tinged *Nasi Goreng*, but maybe it should be.

Yes, things are going to get messy from here on in.

Why do hoteliers have to make things so difficult and lacking in imagination?

I can't recall how many times I've bobbed and weaved through a resort lobby in a near fugitive like state while being chased by smiling guest service staff wanting to give me a technicolor welcome drink. I've often thought of making a grab for the massive half chunk of prickly pineapple to fend off the sycophantic staff.

I'm thinking to myself, "Just let me go to my room in peace. Please go away and don't bother me anymore".

Nowadays, key cards have

taken on a life of their own. Which way do they fit into the elevator security card reader? Do I stick it into the slot on the doorknob or make a magic wave like a wand and damn, where is the arrow? More than once I've considered just breaking down the door, after what seems like hours of working out how the card works.

Hotels of course promise icy dreamlike states of "your home away from home", but it doesn't take me 45 minutes to get inside my own house unless a drink has been taken.

More tragedy awaits behind the green door – such as how to turn on the lights and the television or turn down the aircon that has frozen over my sunglasses like one of those arctic explorers. Then I have to clear away the garbage heap of in-room promotional material just to be able to sit down and think about the entire rain forest slaughtered and killed in printed material despite that nice green reminder on the sink about how the hotel wants to save the world so please shower with dirty towels for the next week.

This ruse is more often than not a way for the hotel to make even bigger profits by saving laundry and staffing costs. It's a bit like



YOU LIGHT UP MY LIFE: Nowadays, key cards have taken on a life of their own. Photo: Tanya Hart

those big oil company ads trying to say how much they love the environment. Oil spill? No worries, we are all in this together, with a crew of happy face smiling school children humming we are the world. Collective nonsense in the hands of well paid admen or should be say madmen.

In-room technology is another cutting edge trend, with every chain now trying to one up their competitors with iPads, entertainment stations, Wi-Fi, docking stations and internet televisions. Now it has taken me another hour to try to turn off the in-room hotel menu and find a watchable television station.

Once the TV goes into that sleep thing, I've been known to physically pick it up and start shaking it just to find a glimmer of programming hope in the depths of the pitch black screen.

Sleep never comes easy in ho-

tels. While the babble of NASA space mission control panels have thankfully gone out of style, today's multi-switches and finding a way to turn off that one last light turns into a nightly Mr Bean episode. I've been known more than once, twice or even ten times to sleep in the glow of lights that have no way of being turned off.

I won't bore you here by going into buffets and bad week old coffee at breakfast that tastes exactly like one of those oil spills. Nope, I'll go straight to check out.

That last interrogation from the hotel with the international affiliation that spends millions of dollars on promoting an image of caring now turns into the Guantanamo sequel of "Did you take anything from the mini-bar"?

After croaking out a mild "no", the clerk picks up the phone and calls someone just to check – assuming all hotel guests are liars, thieves or idiots or a combination thereof.

Perhaps the madmen need to target this market group and that last golden moment in the hotel, the lasting impression which reminds me of being six years old and my mother questioning me about some coins missing from her purse.

I escape at last. Just another hotel fugitive on the run, until the next visit.

In brief...

India's budget carrier IndiGo a success story

THE recent entry of India's budget airline IndiGo is already setting the stage for what is being hailed as the New Economic Order or NEO.

One of the region's true success stories, the airline has swiftly come to prominence and now, by volume, is India's second largest carrier.

Given low airfares and the expansive size of India's own domestic destinations, Thailand presents an affordable alternative to what was previously an in-house market.

On recent trips to South Asia in Sri Lanka and India, hoteliers are already starting to talk about concerns that Thailand's relatively low price points for accommodation are creating serious competition for them in their own markets.

As Phuket's hotel pipeline continues to spiral upward – as does Bangkok's – expect both to try to tap increasingly into the Indian hotel market.

Qantas gives away 100,000 air tickets

IN A move meant to assuage brand damage over the recent grounding of national carrier Qantas, the airline has announced a giveaway of 100,000 free tickets within Australia and New Zealand.

It's expected the move will cost the airline an estimated 633 million baht.

While love means never having to say you are sorry, clearly there is no love lost on Qantas at the moment.

HSBC Expat poll: Thailand's the best place to live

FINANCIAL Institution HSBC has released the result of their 2011 Expat Explorer Survey.

Thailand has been ranked as number one for lifestyle and economic profiles.

While always popular as a retirement destination for many expats, the new poll shows other leading considerations which include quality health care, and it also rates highly as a place to work.

Two new entrants this year on the list were Vietnam and New Zealand.

Bangkok's Quo creates new Maldives logo

A NEW logo and tagline has been created for the tourism destination of the Maldives by Bangkok-based Quo Global.

The line "Always Natural" has been created in line with a strong new graphic for the island nation.

Quo is the latest venture of well known hospitality branding expert David Keen.

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Sales rise with TIDE

LUXURY living

CONSTRUCTION has just been completed on 10 high-end oceanfront condominiums located on the south end of Klong Nin beach on Koh Lanta, with six units already sold.

The Thai Island Dream Estate (TIDE) development comprises 10 oceanfront condominiums, four oceanfront villas, and several sea view villas and townhouses which are yet to be completed.

Work on the condominiums was just completed on October 20, and already half of the waterfront villas and condominiums have been sold.

"Seven out of 14 of the waterfront units have been sold. We met most of our clients at real estate exhibitions around the world," remarked TIDE developer, Ben Cottrell.

The property sales sector in Krabi has slowed down over the past few years, but is gradually starting to recover.

Duane Lennie, Managing Di-

rector of KoLanta.Net Real Estate explains, "The success of TIDE apartments illustrates that while the property industry in Krabi has still not returned to the form of the pre-financial world crisis, there are still sales being made by developers who understand the current market."

The price of the TIDE apartments are set where the market continues to thrive – in the low to mid range."

Each of the condominiums includes two bedrooms with en suite bathrooms, a kitchen, and a living area.

The upstairs units have a spectacular balcony with a built-in, 4-person jetted tub, and a separate entrance. The downstairs units are slightly larger, and boast both a sea view and a poolside deck – they're perfect for vacationing families. These 110sqm units are priced from 9.7 to 11.9 million baht.

The Balinese-Thai style villas consist of modular rooms with expansive wooden decks connecting each of the rooms. They each include a waterfront pool, three bedrooms with en suite bathrooms, a kitchen/dining area,



FAST SELLERS: Sea view, poolside family condos.



Rooms with Andaman views. Photos: Robbie Tree

and a living room. The lot size is 540sqm, and the living space is 420sqm. Oceanfront villas are priced at 24.7mn baht.

Klong Nin is a quiet, beach re-

sort area located on the middle of the west coast of Ko Lanta. Koh Lanta is best known as a place to escape the tourism hubs of Phuket and Koh Samui.

For more information on the condos and villas, visit their website kolanta.net or contact Duane Lennie by email, duane@kolanta.net.

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Butea's flowers suggest the common name "parrot tree". Photo: Lion_Heart

Thriving in stormy weather



RECENTLY I enjoyed a visit to a Phuket spa with a South African couple who had come to live on the island. They pointed out that while many of the flowering shrubs are the same as in Cape Town or Johannesburg, they seem to be much less colorful in Phuket.

There are reasons for this relative dearth of blooming. As we all know, the rainy season has been unnaturally prolonged; consequently, there has been much less sunshine than normal. The surplus of precipitation has encouraged plants to grow more leaves than is usually the case, partly as a way of avoiding sodden root systems by increasing transpiration, but also to delay flowering and fruiting until the

ripening sun returns. Many tropical shrubs will not bloom unless they receive their due ration of sunlight.

But there is another reason which has nothing to do with climatic aberration. It resides in Phuket's tropical pattern of alternating hot, dry 'winters' with hot moist monsoons. The key word here is 'hot': the temperature here rarely drops below 25 degrees, and the nights are warm and humid. Plants used to Mediterranean, or even subtropical conditions will not readily tolerate year-round heat and humidity. They need a cool period when they can rest and recuperate.

Although the climate may hinder or prevent some trees from blooming in Phuket, *Butea monosperma* (*thong-gwao* in Thai) is perfectly at home and flourishes in both tropical and subtropical regions. It may be a bit large for the average garden, but as an Indian native – where



FLOURISHING: *Butea monosperma* is perfectly at home in tropical climates, like we have in Phuket. Photo: Shyamal

it's heralded as a harbinger of spring – it has the great advantage of being both drought and salt-resistant.

A deciduous and leguminous tree, it's related to last week's choice, the *Brownea*. Usually growing in a less than orderly way with a somewhat crooked trunk, it atones for this asymmetry by producing flaming orange red flowers which are borne on leafless branches in dense, short spikes, usually clustered in panicles. They put on a truly spectacular and lavish show of blossoms.

The large individual, beak-shaped flowers betray a clear resemblance

to other members of the pea or bean family – to which the *Butea* or 'flame of the forest' belongs. This fact helps to explain its other common name of 'parrot tree'. Predictably, its fruit are flattened, bean-like pods. The pinnate leaves, which consist of three leaflets, are large (10 to 20 cms) and leathery. They only appear after flowering.

Butea monosperma is a slow grower, so it won't take over your garden, and will tolerate some pruning. Although it's not easy to find here in garden centers, it's a great choice if you can track one down. If a friend has a tree, try propagating *Butea* from seed.

The *Butea* has a peculiar way of handling mosquitoes. The female, attracted by the color and smell, lays her eggs in the water that collects in the center of the flower. Yet, happily, the eggs never hatch.

If you have a gardening question, email: drpaccampbell@gmail.com

Tip of the week

Surviving the rains

AT LAST the rains seem to have relented – at least for time being. The garden is lush and green, but some plants definitely haven't enjoyed the deluge. *Adenium*, for example, are desert plants that enjoy dry conditions. For that reason they are an excellent choice for containers where, in theory, moisture levels can be managed.

Sadly, some of mine got too much water, and the result is root rot and spongy stems that suggest an imminent demise. In such rainy conditions, it is better not to hand-water at all, unless the plant is showing evident signs of distress.

Plumeria are also liable to fall foul of the over-moist conditions, as are *Euphorbias* and potted cacti.

On the other hand, plants that can't get too much water are thriving. *Canna* lilies, the ginger brigade, *Sambucus* (southern elder) and *Heliconia* are all reveling in the current soggy conditions.

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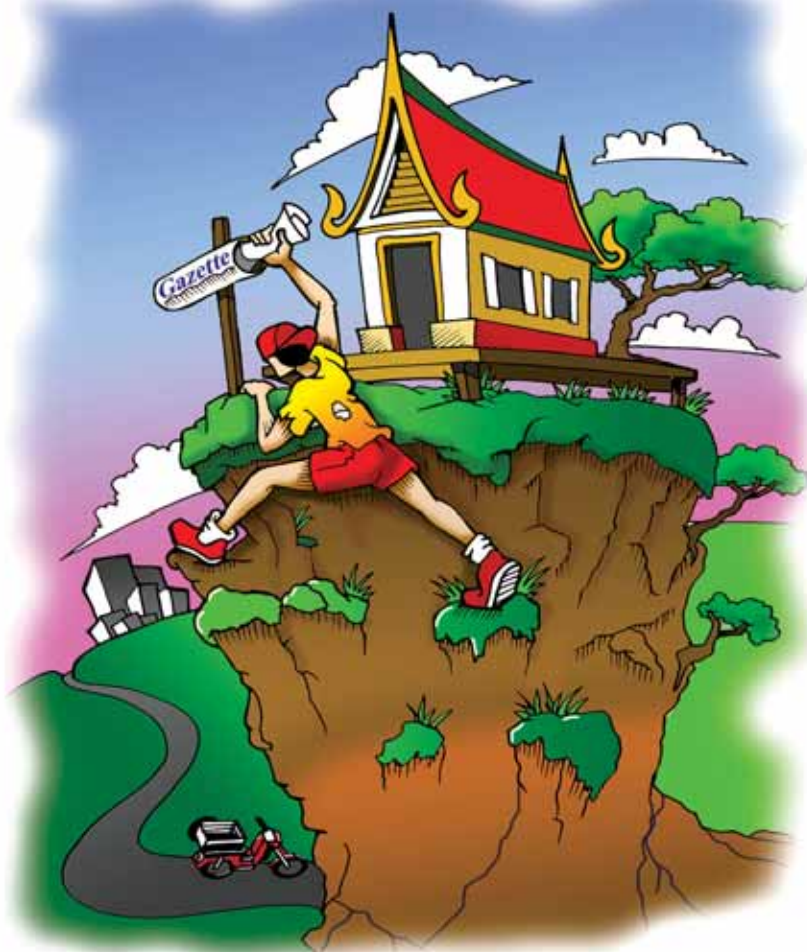
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Freehold 3-bed, 3-bath, garden & private pool. Fully furnished, 14.15 MB. Tel: 076-610232, 081-970 0743 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-610233. Email: ready@twovillas.com

SEAVIEW LAND SURIN / BANGTAO

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

HOUSE & FURNITURE

Single house, 60sqm. 2 floors, 3 bedrooms and 3 toilets. In Chaiyapruke Village at Land & Houses Park, Chalong. Good location and entrance from bypass road. Built 2 years ago. Tel: 084-627 7001.

30 RAI IN TOWN

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

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.

SUPER CHEAP, PATONG

Now only 4.7 million baht. New pool villa with seaview. 3 storeys, 6 rooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, 4 aircons. Tel: 087-053 6016.

LAND PLOTS FOR SALE

Peaceful location, near PIA school, next to Mission Hills golf course, 860sqm plots in an estate with underground electricity and security. For sale: 1.75 million baht. Tel: 081-343 0777.

LAND FOR SALE

Near the main road to Baan Don-Cherng Talay. 68sq wah. 1.1 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118. Email: honda.1437@yahoo.co.th

OCEAN VIEW LAND BANG TAO

Luxury hillside project, over 1,000sqm. Price: 5.5 million baht. Next to river w/waterfall. Road, utilities. Tel: 084-445 8880 (English). Email: philipagordon@yahoo.com

3 RAI LAND IN TRANG

For sale. 3 rai in Baan Po, Muang, Trang. Very good location for business, suitable for house projects. Electricity, access road. Sale by owner. With Chanote. Price: 9 million baht ono. No agents please! Tel: 075-210646, 087-270 9093.

HOUSE IN KHAO LAK

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms on 1 rai land in Phang Nga, 20km from Khao Lak. Price: 7.5 million baht. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

NICE PLOT

Urgent sale. Behind Layan Hill Estate (Manik-Bang Jo Area). 1,364sqm. Original price: 7.2 million baht. Now: 6.9 million baht. Tel: 080-520 2989.

SEAVIEW LAND FOR SALE

Near Supalai Resort on the east coast of Phuket slope. A 3-rai plot with road and electricity access. Price: 3.6 million baht per rai. No agents please. Tel: 080-520 2989. Email: pakaporns@yahoo.com

KRABI, AO NANG

Holiday homes, 1-2 bedroom pool villas. 3.8/4.8 million baht. For more info call 085-573 4734.

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.

POOL VILLAS RAWAI

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished, 60% finance, 0% interest, 40% deposit. Tel: 083-641 9327. Email: rawaipoolvillas@hotmail.com

URGENT SALE!

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

LAND PLOTS FOR SALE

Peaceful location, near PIA school, next to Mission Hills golf course, 860sqm plots in an estate with underground electricity and security. For sale: 1.75 million baht. Tel: 081-343 0777.

LAND SALE AT NAI YANG BEACH

3 plots: 400sqm each. 5 mins from the beach. Chanote title. 2.6 million baht per plot. Contact Khun Nan. Tel: 087-091 8331. Email: chiangmaibeltrade@hotmail.com

LAND AND HOUSE

In exclusive 22-house estate apply English. Tel: 084-842 4237 (English), 087-419 8534 (Thai).

3-BEDROOM HOUSE

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

CONDO FOR SALE / RENT, RAWAI

26/56sqm, center Rawai. Nice and clean. Good price for long term. Tel: 086-112 1477 (Thai). Email: rawaireservation@yahoo.com

NOVEMBER SPECIAL

1 ngan of land in Rawai, 50m from beach road. Land ready to build on with small 1-year-old house already built. Chanote title. This month only reduced from 4 to 3.6 million baht. No agents. Tel: 081-597 9049.

NEW APARTMENT FOR SALE

Patong condo 46sqm, furnished, pool, security 24/7. 2.9 million baht. Freehold. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

2 bedrooms, bathroom, fully furnished, 350sqm land. Urgent sale: 3 million baht. Tel: 084-851 6121.

SUPERB NAI HARN VILLA

Best location in centre of Nai Ham. 220sqm. Minutes walk to everything. Cedar roof, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, laundry, pool, waterfall, garage. Many others major benefits: ADSL, WiFi, Cable TV, 5 aircons Private sale. Was 17.5 million baht, now for quick sales 14.9 million baht. Tel: 087-470 7570.

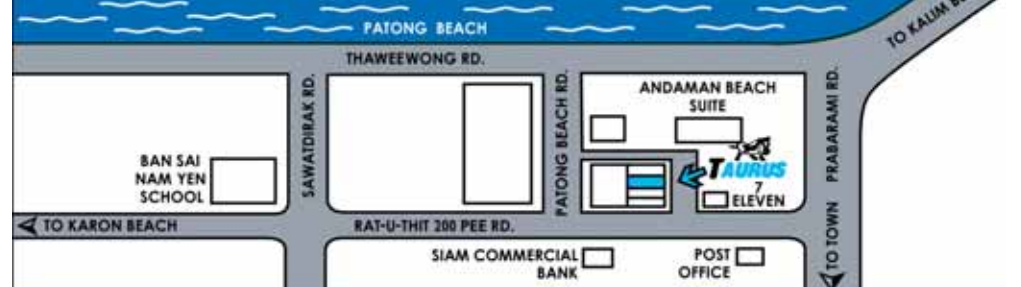
ONE-BEDROOM POOL VILLA

Near Laguna. Land 125sqm, building 83sqm, fully furnished, private pool 3.5m. Sale 5.5 million baht. Long-term rent 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-979 3369. Email: bhee@phuketrealty.net

Looking for land to buy?

See more classified ads
at www.phuketgazette.net

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simultaneously - and **FREE** - in the Gazette Online!

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Properties For Rent

PATONG TOWER CONDO A BEAUTY



Beautiful Patong Tower Beach Condo with stunning 280-degree panoramic views of the ocean, mountains and town. Large outdoor patio and wrap around balcony. Completely renovated, Internet and washing machine. Available from November 1, 2011. Tel: (86) 1381634 4147. Email: PatongTowerRental@yahoo.com. For further details, please see our web site at www.PatongTowerRental.com

BALINESE POOL VILLAS

Luxury Boutique Villas available for short, long term rent. Swimming pool, two, three bedrooms. Rates from US\$89/night. Tel: 076-384691, 087-264 9695. Email: enrico@easyhomephuket.com For further details, please see our website at: www.villasuksan.com/gallery.htm

LUXURY POOL VILLA

3 bedrooms, has everything. low rates. Day/week/month. Near Laguna. Tel: 089-594 4067.

HOUSE CHALONG BEACH

Furnished, 3 and 2-bedroom houses. Pool, cable TV, internet included. Price: 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-470 6104.



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

3-BED POOL PENTHOUSE KATA

Still available for rent for X-mas + new year. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

Long-term rent: 15,000 baht per month. 3 bedrooms in Phuket Villa California, tel, ADSL, cable. Contact K. Toom. Tel: 081-569 3768.

POOL VILLA IN RAWAI

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

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.

HOUSE IN PATONG



Newly built 40sqw, near Sea Pearl project, Patong. 2 stories, 3 beds, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, 2 aircons, kitchen with hood, refrigerator, dining room, living room, hot water, cable TV and internet. Tel: 089-469 1813.

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: northEast98@yahoo.com

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

2 PATONG STUDIOS AVAILABLE

For long-term rental, 25,000 per month. Free WIFI, maid, pool, gym. Close to town. Tel: 080-052 8082. Email: phvcondo@aol.com

NICE CONDO PATONG

One bedroom at 54sqm, pool and parking. Quiet location. Rent: 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 1621.

LARGE HOUSE NEAR BIS SCHOOL

4-5 bedrooms, parking. Tel: 076-239435. Email: 4132john@gmail.com

HOUSE FOR RENT



At Land & Houses Park, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, small garden, safety area and clubhouse. Tel: 081-569 7068. Email: sirio@tisco.co.th

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. 15 mins to western beaches (Layan, Naithom and Naiyang). Price long-term 45,000 baht per month or short-term min 1 month 80,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-606 2827 (English & Thai). Email: nij017@hotmail.com

CHAOFA GARDEN HOME 2 BEDS

Fully furnished, 2 beds, 2 baths, 2 aircons, living, kitchen, small garden. Long-term. Price 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-048 6906 (English & Thai). Email: j7chin@gmail.com

BALI VILLA NEAR BIS

15,000 per month, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Tel: 086-571 3667 (English & Thai). Email: kinnie.nalaphus@gmail.com

2-BEDROOM TWIN HOUSE



in Phuket Town. 20,000 baht/month.

Surface: 45sq wah (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.

Luxury Pool Villas near Nai Harn Beach

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, guesthouse, pool with waterfall and Jacuzzi, covered terrace with bar. Separate kitchen, carport, fenced with wall and elec gate.

Built in Thai-Bali style with first-class materials.

Long-term rent min. 1 year unfurnished: 43,000 baht per month.

Long-term rent min. 1 year furnished: 50,000 baht per month.

Short-term min. one month furnished: 90,000 baht per month.

Selling price: 16 million baht.



Available from October 16, 2011. For more information please contact us at Tel: 083-388 8036. Email: coldplay66@hotmail.de or look at our website at www.phuketqualityhouse.com

RENT NEW APARTMENT

Patong condo. Pool, security 24/7. 46sqm, fully furnished. Day/month. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

3-BED POOL VILLA SEAVIEW KATA

Family villa, private pool, tennis, gym on exclusive estate for Christmas, New Year. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

PATONG STUDIO

and 1-bedroom apartment, 500m to the beach, aircon, cable TV, kitchen, fridge, furnished. 12,000-16,000 per month. Tel: 085-757 3240.

PATONG POOLSIDE APARTMENTS

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

CHALONG RESIDENCE SEAVIEW



Dream pool villa with 5 bedrooms all with en-suites on 1 rai of land. Big hall, office, maid room. Brand-new construction. Near Wat Chalong on the way up to hill. A huge 685sqm of living area, full. Fully furnished, modern European kitchen. Big seaview, pool, terraces include sala and attractive bar area. Security alarm system. Monthly long-term rent or by the week available. Best service. By owner directly. Tel: 085-654 4011, 089-404 0737. Email: schulz.th@gmx.de

HOUSE FOR RENT IN KATHU

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and 2 balconies, 107sqm. Fully furnished with internet, cable TV and small garden with car parking. Near golf. Quiet. 7 mins to Patong, 4 mins to Central Festival. 14,800 baht per month, not less than 6 months rent. Tel: 089-872 6895. Email: jospeder@live.no

LUXURY HOLIDAY VILLA

6-bedroom villa on unspoiled Natai Beach. Only 20 mins drive from Phuket Airport to the north. Personal staff service during stay. Please contact us for more details. Tel: 081-970 7019. Email: stay@villasundara.com

KARON, DELUXE OCEAN VIEW

Condo. Furnished, 2.5 bedroom, kitchen. Available. Short or long term. Tel: 076-486624, 086-281 9311.

DELUXE STUDIO APARTMENT



at Kalim Bay. Close to the beach. 1 bedroom, fully furnished, WiFi. Kitchen, dining room, LCD TV, stereo, seaview rooftop swimming pool. Fitness, sauna, 24hr security. Rent: 35,000 baht per month. Email: plpphuket@hotmail.com

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PART TIME (FLEXI TIME) REAL ESTATE MARKETING PROFESSIONAL

- The ideal candidate must have a good command of English, be currently or has previously worked in the field of real estate marketing and have strong background in high-end real estate marketing.
- Good knowledge, skills and experience in how and where to market the properties, with good network connections not only in Thailand but also internationally, such as in Russia, Hong Kong and Singapore markets.
- Part time hours to suit (flexi time) with high rate of pay and good working conditions
- Open to both Thai nationals and foreigners.
- Company car available when needed.
- Office based in Kathu.

Want to know more?

To arrange an interview call **Mr Geoff** on **081-854 0061**

Resumé with current photo required before interview
Email to: **mrgeoffcurry@yahoo.com**

TECHWORX ARE RECRUITING

Office Manager/Administration, Purchasing Manager, Secretary/Receptionist, Draftsman (M/F), Electrical/AV design engineers (M/F), Trainee draftsmen, IT technicians and Systems Programmers (M/F). Please send CV with picture, references and expected salary to **info@techworx-projects.com**

HEADSTART INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

HeadStart International School invites applications from fully qualified KS3/4/5 Mathematics Teachers. Start Date: January 2012. Tel: 076-612876. Fax: 076-612877. Please send a full CV and letter of application to **ralph@headstartphuket.com**

CLINIC OFFICE MANAGER

Manage staff budget & sales target. Friendly, bachelor degree, female. Sales experience preferred. Good Thai & English. Tel: 076-239525. Fax: 076-239527. Email: **yupares.nimkarn@gmail.com**

CAD TECHNICIAN

To work in new office in Phuket. Proficient in AutoCAD (2004 or higher) for 2D drawing. Experience of 3D AutoCAD, Google SketchUp, Adobe Photoshop or Adobe InDesign would be a bonus. Proficient in Microsoft Excel, Word, Outlook. Thai national, good spoken and written English. Send CV indicating qualifications, experience and expected salary. Tel: 081-854 1056 (English). Email: **david@yes.co.th** Visit website: **www.soundide.as.co.uk** to see the type of work we do.

ASSISTANT MANAGER

Good spoken and written English. Advanced computer user. Thai national. Send CV to **sales@rt-pro.ru**

PROMOTION STAFF

English-speaking Thais wanted. Full training. Given airport and Patong locations. Basic salary plus commission. Immediate start. Tel: 087-105 4566.

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER

Native English-speaking teacher with experience to teach classes of 10-12 children age 3-7. Mon - Fri. 8-4 Chalongs. Start November. Please send email to: **buds-span@yahoo.com**

FREELANCE TOUR GUIDE

Thai national with tour licence. For land tours. Very good English. Tel: 088-381 9390. Fax: 076-384389. Email: **office@orientalphuket.com**

FINNISH STAFF

20-30 years old, Finnish-speaking female staff wanted. Please send CV & photo to: **rainforest.job@gmail.com**

NANNY WANTED

to help look after 2-year-old boy, also help with household chores, 5 days a week, 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. MUST have references from previous farang and Thai employers with telephone numbers. Tel: 086-270 3517 (Thai). Email: **john_kennedy67@yahoo.com.sg**

SAMUI JOBS

Position is now available for sales staff in Chaweng, Koh Samui. Tired of traffic in Phuket? Then move to a real island with a great lifestyle! English-speaking skills are necessary as is an outgoing personality. Great salary, commission and accommodation. Tel: 089-731 6814 (English). Email: **cameronjhansen@yahoo.co.uk**

SALES MANAGER & SALES EXECUTIVE



A reputable tourist magazine is looking for 24-45 yrsold, male or female, good personality. Applicants should have relevant experience and be able to speak English

Send resume to **ajapply@yahoo.com**

A HOTEL GROUP IN PHUKET HAS TWO FOUR STAR RESORTS, ONE IN PATONG AND ONE IN KARON AND HAS THE FOLLOWING VACANCIES:

FRONT OFFICE

- ▶ Receptionist
- ▶ Night Receptionist

FOOD & BEVERAGE

- ▶ Night Room Service
- ▶ Hostess
- ▶ Waiter
- ▶ Waitress

RESERVATION

- ▶ Reservation Supervisor
- ▶ Reservation Officer

Welfare: salary, service charge guarantee 3,000 baht per month, life insurance, staff apartment, transportation, uniform, meals, social security, birthday party, staff party, staff picnic etc.

If you are confident, please send your full details with recent photograph to email: **hr@horizonbeach.com**, Tel: 076-292526-30, 076-284555

DETOX WELLNESS MANAGER

Samui detox resort seeks multi-skilled therapist as Wellness Manager. Email: **fasthealing@yahoo.com**

TEACHING AT PSU

Contact person: Kanokrat. Prince of Songkla University International College, Haad Yai Campus is looking for English-speaking teachers in social science, with Master's or Dr qualification. Please email cover letter and resume to: **ckanokrat@hotmail.com**

NOW HIRING SALES ASSISTANT

English speaking sales person required. Own transport and experience. Salary: 15,000 baht a month plus %. Thai. Tel: 087-462 0014. Email: **j_vpartners@hotmail.com**

BARTENDER / CASHIER REQUIRED

Experienced, English-speaking bar person required for bar in Soi Bel Air, near Sainamyen Rd. Must be cashier also. Good salary. 2pm - 1am. Please contact Warren. Tel: 086-725 0771. Email: **meccalatte@hotmail.com**

THE SANDS CONDOMINIUM CONDOMINIUM MANAGER

The Sands is a condominium development of 36 units situated close to Nai Harn Beach.

The Board of Directors wishes to appoint a Condominium Manager to replace the existing manager who is leaving at the end of November

Applications are invited from suitable candidates who meet the following requirements:

- Age over 25
- Familiar with the duties of Juristic Person Manager under the Condominium Act
- Experienced in property management and maintenance
- Capable of managing and motivating a team of employees (there are currently seven employees engaged on gardening, security and maintenance)
- Experienced in accounting and working within budgets
- Experienced in negotiating with and supervising contractors for maintenance and other services
- Fluent written and spoken English and Thai

Written applications should include applicant's experience and previous employment, the salary expected and should name two persons from whom references can be sought if required

Application should be delivered no later than 17th November by e-mail or post to sent to:

The Sands Juristic Person

The Sands 23/46 Moo 1, T.Rawai, A.Muang Phuket 83100

E-Mail: **thesandsjp@gmail.com**

The company is one of the largest entertainment groups in Phuket with over 300 employees and operates large clubs such as Seduction Beach Club and Disco, The Factory and Phuket Beach Club. A rapid expansion is foreseen with different entertainment concepts in Thailand and overseas.



The Clubs are well known for their international club acts and active involvement and sponsoring of exciting major events including beach parties.

In order to manage and professionalize the daily operations and to support the expansion of the Company, we are looking for dynamic candidates to fill two key leadership positions:

Managing Director (Thai/foreign national)

Responsible for all management aspects with the purpose of promoting sales and revenue while keeping focus on positive margins and the development of the various brands. The position reports to the Board of Directors.

Job qualifications

- University graduate, preferably business degree holder.
- At least 5 years experience at senior management level, preferably in the hospitality business.
- Self-starter, able to implement initiatives quickly and effectively.
- Planning and execution skills.
- Strong organizational and leadership skills, written, verbal and interpersonal skills.
- Able to make sound business decisions, effective problem solver.
- Proven track record of business operations management, ability to develop financial plans.

Finance and Administration Director (Thai / foreign national)

Manages, evaluates and oversees the development and implementation of finance and accounting policies in order to maximize financial results through cash management, tax planning and financial controls. The position reports to the Managing Director.

Job qualifications

- University graduate in Finance and/or accounting, preferably holds a CPA.
- At least 5 years of experience in a senior finance position.
- Knowledge of QuickBooks is an advantage.
- Excellent planning skills and knowledge of all aspects of finance.
- Responsible and self-motivated. Can work under pressure, firm, attentive to details, has a positive hands-on work attitude.
- Fluent in spoken and written English.

The company is offering an excellent package for successful candidates for these challenging positions.



Suitable qualified applicants should email a cover letter (with expected salary), resumé and 3 contactable referees to **vacancies.md.fa@gmail.com**.

We regret that only short-listed candidates will be notified.

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

THE SUNRISE OCEAN VILLAS

looking for self-motivated staff:
PA/ Secretary 2 positions
Boat captain 1 position
Pool maintenance 2 positions
Maid 2 positions
Chef (Thai food) 1 position
Waitress 2 positions
Contact. Tel: 081-343 0777.
thesunrisevillas@yahoo.com

RUSSIAN STAFF NEEDED

Cable Ski Park restaurant need guest relations staff. Female only, Russian and English speaking. Tel: 082-329 3207.

HOUSEKEEPER/ MAID

Senior foreign national requires Thai lady age 35-45 with fair English. Location: Chalong. Please email about yourself to: breaker43@aol.in

MOUNTAIN BIKE TOUR LEADER

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

STAFF NEEDED

Cable Ski Park need staff for guest relations. Thai female only, with good English. Full time salary. Tel: 085-474 7317.

PERSONAL ASSISTANT REQUIRED

Must be able to deal with jobs in Phuket, sent by phone or email from UK. Property management / general business. Part time, paid by hour. Apply by email with hourly charge. Tel: +44-704-200 5381 (English). Email: chris_ske1ton@yahoo.co.uk

STAFF NEEDED

Cable Ski Park need restaurant manager, Thai with good English. Full time salary. Tel: 085-474 7317.

ITALIAN LADY TEACHER

Lessons 300 baht per hour. Or in exchange for English or Thai lessons. Tel: 090-071 6846.

Employment Wanted**NATIVE TEACHER OF CHINESE**

Provides private lesson in Phuket. Contact Ms Sara. Tel: 086-276 4443.

DESIGN JOB WANTED

Female, age 21, German & Thai, graduated in Italy seeking a job in Phuket. Email: gabriele-w@live.com

PBVC-RECEPTION SUPERVISOR

Patong Bay Vacation Club is seeking a reception supervisor who has vacation club experience and is eager to work with our world-class team. Must be female, can be Thai or foreign, age up to 30 years old. Please send your CV by email to: eve@patongbayvacationclub.com Tel: 076-344161 # 4302.

QUALIFIED PERSONAL ASSISTANT

We are looking for a personal assistant for the CEO of an important events company. Conditions: Must speak, read and write French, English & Thai. Have administrative and computer skills. We offer a salary of 20,000 baht plus accommodation. CV and reference required. Tel: 087-895 3900. Email: ynahabed@hotmail.com

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

Career Opportunity

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

Text & Layout Editor**Job Description:**

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

Qualifications:

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

Salary & Welfare:

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

Interested applicants apply at:

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



Phuket's leading beach resort, the Village @ Coconut Island
(Koh Maphrao), Phuket

Resort Sales Director

As the resort sales director, you will be responsible for creating and delivering a sales strategy for The Village.

You'll play a fundamental role in developing future growth, and provide vision, direction and leadership. Your specific duties will include:

- Developing strategies, tactics, sales plans and profit targets.
- Delivering sales by developing relationships with travel partners.
- Identifying and reporting on business opportunities in target markets.
- Increasing market share in existing markets and maximizing new business development opportunities.
- Achieving targets for revenue, profitability and sales growth.
- Provide direction to your department.

Hours and Environment

Nominally, you'll work 8am to 5pm, Monday to Saturday. However, your duties are likely to involve a lot of out of extra outside of work hours.

You'll be office-based, but also spend much of your time visiting clients and partners in the field. You may also need to attend trade fairs and exhibitions. Your job will involve travel.

Skills and Interests

To be a sales director you'll need to have:

- Excellent sales and negotiation skills
- Good business sense
- The ability to inspire, motivate and lead a team
- Initiative, drive and enthusiasm
- Excellent communication and 'people skills'
- Good planning and organisational skills
- The ability to work calmly under pressure
- Good IT, budget and report writing skills

Entry

You'll need proven sales management experience, together with a proven record of achieving challenging targets.

Package

A substantial package including salary and commissions will be available to the successful candidate.

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SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES

Crossword puzzle:



Aircraft For Sale

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CESSNA 177RG



Good cross-country plane (cruising speed 135 knots). Registration: HS-ASP. Aircraft serial number: 1263. Manufactured 1977. Blue seal overhauled engine, November 2006 (80hrs). Overhauled propeller (80 hrs). Airframe: 2,780 hrs. Reason of sale: Formerly a 1/3rd partner who does not fly anymore. However, now the law has changed.... Price: 925,000 baht. Tel: 081-843 4026. For more details send email to: beric@chanon.co.th

CHALLENGER II SW ULTRALIGHT

This ultralight a 2-seats and located at Eastern Airfield (Pattaya). Only 50hrs on engine and 250hrs on airframe. Cost: 850,000 baht. Contact Alex at tel: 081-825 9713. Email: alex@bangkokbase.com

CESSNA 172P

With full IFR for 3 million baht. Everything on the aircraft is new, including Garmin Aera 500. Interior and exterior was redone in 2010. The engine has 700hours with TBO at 2,000. Dual nav/dual com, EGT, transponder, etc. Registration: HS-SEX. Cost: 2.8 million baht. Location: Best Ocean Airpark (near Bangkok). Email: sonny@salientgroup.net.

1995 PIPER MALIBU JETPROP DLX

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

TECNAM P-92

-Price: 1.5 million baht
-Registration: U-B08
-Year of Manufacture: 2002
-Equipment: Full standard equipment
-Engine: Rotax 912-80HP 350hrs.
Aircraft is based at Klong 15
Contacts: Tharee. Tel: 081-840 8418.

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Aircraft Service

GENERAL AVIATION IS ALIVE

Aero Pro Management has new offices, a flight school, and maintenance services opening 15th October at the Best Ocean Airpark, a 45 min drive South of Bangkok. Email: pat@aeropromgr.com For further details, please see our newsletter at www.aeropro.com/newsletter/index-no3.html

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Ceiling: 17,400 ft

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Range: 700 nm
Fuel Av Gas 100LL
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China returns to power

A POWERFUL 40-minute performance from top-seeds Chen Xue and Xi Zhang from China secured the gold medal and a share of US\$ 30,000 at the sixth Phuket FIVB Beach Volleyball Swatch World Tour final held on Karon Beach last Sunday.

USA's second-seeded Jennifer Kessy and April Ross couldn't cope with the tournament favorites and eventually suffered a 21-16, 21-14 defeat at the hands of the Chinese pair, giving Xue and Zhang a clean sweep of six victories and no losses for the tournament.

Having won the tournament in 2008 and 2009, Kessy and Ross were hoping to claim a third Phuket title, while Xue and Zhang were determined to avenge a loss to the Americans in Beijing earlier this year and add to their victory at the inaugural Phuket competition in 2006.

Even a knee injury to Zhang, suffered during their semi-final win on Saturday, couldn't hamper the Chinese team as Xue covered for her teammate and forced an early advantage in the first set with seven-point leads at 12-5 and 14-7.

Zhang scored the last two points to close out the set at 19-16 following a brave fight-back by the Americans.

The USA kept the second set tighter with six early ties, but when Xue served an ace at 6-6 the Chinese duo sensed victory. Strong attack and net defense by both Xue and Zhang enabled them



Xi Zhang smacks the Mikasa as Jennifer Kessy of the United States blocks. Photo: FIVB

to build leads of 13-8, 17-11 and 18-12, then rounding off a superb display at 21-14 for the win.

"My teammate carried me on her shoulders today and was always there when I wasn't quiet there, it was remarkable to experience. We really didn't make very many mistakes and by controlling the tempo we got what we really wanted – a happy ending. The Americans are a great team, but somehow today we didn't miss on very many, sets, digs,

kills and blocks," said Zhang.

"This was the last competition of the year and it's very important to end it well which we did this week. My teammate is injured, but it hardly showed during the match. She is tough and what showed was how all of our practice and hard work prepares you for different situations and we played extremely consistent this entire tournament," added Xue.

With their Phuket win, Xue and Zhang can boast nine gold

medals from their FIVB Beach Volleyball Swatch World Tour career, 35 top-four finishes in 67 tournaments together as well as earning their 30th podium finish.

The win was the Chinese pair's second gold medal of 2011, the other was awarded in Finland. The victory also increased their win ratio record, now 7-2, over Kessy and Ross who walked away from Phuket with the 10th silver medal of their career and a share of US\$ 21,000.

Sunday's bronze medal encounter saw Italy's fifth-seeded Greta Cicolari and Marta Menegatti put an end to a valiant effort by Australia's 19th-seeded Louise Bawden and Becchara Palmer in two-sets, 21-19, 21-15 in 47 minutes.

Surprise third-place contenders, the Australians were in their second final-four appearance and their first bronze medal match. This was the Italians' sixth final-four in the 25 tournaments they have played together in three years as a team, their second bronze medal and third overall medal.

The first set was incredibly close with six ties and two lead changes as Italy clawed back a 12-15 deficit to take the lead at 18-17. After a tie at 18-18, Menegatti and Cicolari kept their heads to see out the first set.

After three early ties in the second set, Italy took the lead at 4-3 and never looked back. At 12-6, Australia called a medical time out and on the restart Menegatti and Cicolari kept the Australians five points down until the final six-point margin at the finish.

Although the Italians lost in the second round of the tournament, they were able to make a come back through the contender's bracket and ended the tournament with a 7-2 record – the most matches played by any team in the competition, and earning a shared US\$ 15,000 in the process.

– *Phuket Gazette*

ITF heads into finals this weekend

By Neil Quail

THE first Phuket Chang ITF Thailand Pro Circuit tennis tournament being held at Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club (TSLC) reaches its exciting finale this weekend with the men's singles final scheduled to start at 10am on Saturday, November 12.

As this edition went to print, the quarter-final draw for the singles competition due to start on Thursday morning had just been released.

Yannick Jankovits from France, last weekend's beaten finalist, will hope to see off Germany's Richard Becker on Thursday morning to book a place in the semi-final.

Third seed Laurent Rochette will have to come through his match with Jason Patrombon of the Philippines, which could put him in a semi-final berth with Jankovits or Becker.

In the other half of the draw, Mick Lescure also from France will hope to defeat fourth-seed Zhe Li of China.

In the last quarter-final match, Dennis Laiola of the US will be hard pressed to beat number-two seed Jimmy Wang of Taipei, who beat last week's winner Soong-Jae Cho of Korea.



Soong-Jae Cho from Korea won last week's singles final.

With seeding running to form, the final should see Wang and Rochette competing for the title, but an all-France final may well come to fruition.

The doubles semi-final will also have been played on Thursday with Thailand's hopes resting on the challenge of Weerapat Doakmaiklee and Kirat Siributwong playing Firmin and Jankovits.

The second semi-final sees Zhe Li and Kelsey Stevenson take on the Korean duo of Soong-Jae Cho and Ji Sung Nam, but the final looks set for a Thailand-Korea showdown.

However, the main upset for the Phuket ITF tournament was the withdrawal of Thailand's number-one player and world number 224 Danai Udomchoke, who suffered a muscle injury in last week's tournament.

Speaking to the *Gazette* on Wednesday, Danai voiced his disappointment, but had much praise for his first visit to Phuket.

"The competition at these tour-

naments is always very strong and this first ITF in Phuket was no different. The facility at TSLC is perfect. Great accommodation for the players and having covered courts to protect competitors from rain and sun is ideal," Danai said.

Danai is representing Thailand at the SEA Games in Indonesia this week, a competition he has won twice in the past.

"I hope I can win again, but the

competition is very good this year. Once the SEA Games are over, I will play in Japan and then return to Bangkok for a training camp before I travel to Melbourne for the Australian Open," Danai said.

The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV are sponsors of the Chang ITF Thailand Pro Circuit tennis tournament.

For information on the tournament and TSLC visit thanyapura.com

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JUMPER: Phuket's Nenebi challenges former team-mate Adisak Kraisorn.



TIGHT HOLD: Ronnachai Rangsiyo's attack is halted by Wiratrot (left) and Seksit (right). Photo: Apinun Saithong

Thailand U23s out to SEA in Phuket

By Steven Layne

IN THEIR final pre-SEA Games warm up match last Thursday evening against FC Phuket at Surakul Stadium, Thailand U23s national side fell by a score of 1-2.

Though only a friendly match, the U23s' loss to the Southern Sea Kirin was a valuable lesson: shots on goal mean nothing unless they can beat the keeper. And beat Phuket's keeper Jonathan Matijas, Thailand certainly struggled

Thursday's affair was Thailand's second of two friendly matches scheduled in Phuket. In their first on October 30, the U23s annihilated an FC Phuket B-team, 6-1.

Thailand played a 4-4-2 line up comprising Panupong Pijitthum (Chainat FC) as goalkeeper; Komkrit Kumsokcheuk (Bangkok United), Thanapol Udomlarp (Bangkok FC), Chalerm Sak Kaewsuktae (Chainat FC) and Weerayut Kayem (Muang Thong United) in the back line; Pollawut

Donjui (Bangkok United), Sarach Yooyen (FC Phuket), Pokklao Anan (Insee Police) and Issapong Leelakorn (PTT Rayong) in midfield; and their two strikers, Adisak Kraisorn (Buriram PEA) and team captain, Ronnachai Rangsiyo (BEC Tero).

Phuket fielded Johnathan Matijas at goal, Nenebi Tre Syllee Tre, Wiratrot Chanteng, Pongsak Panicharoen and Niran Panthong in the back; Poramut Krongborisut, Kornphrom Charoonphong and Seksit Srisai in midfield and two strikers, Tameezee Hayeyusoh and Watcharapong Jun-gnam in the front

Thailand controlled possession early on, making a handful of attempts at goal. And they would easily have gone up early had it not been for brilliant goalkeeping.

Phuket's first real shot happened to be the opening score at about the 40th minute. A free kick by Niran Panthong's found the head of Tameezee Hayeyusoh, who sent the ball into the back of the net.

The score remained 1-0 going into the half time break.

Phuket came into the 2nd half with an increased attacking game. Only 10 minutes into the second half, the home side's lead was doubled. In a desperate tackle, Chalerm Sak Kaewsuktae took down Niran Panthong prompting the referee to award a penalty. Pongsak Panicharoen was given the spot-kick task to score, and that he did.

Phuket's score sheet was tarnished when Thailand scored the match's final goal late in the game from a penalty kick taken by Ronnachai Rangsiyo bringing the final score to 1-2.

Manager Kasem Jariwatwong said that Thailand had created many opportunities for their attacking game even though they didn't turn them into scores. It was an important lesson for the team about what happens when you don't take the chances you have. "More important than the score was that we didn't gain any injuries from this match," he said.

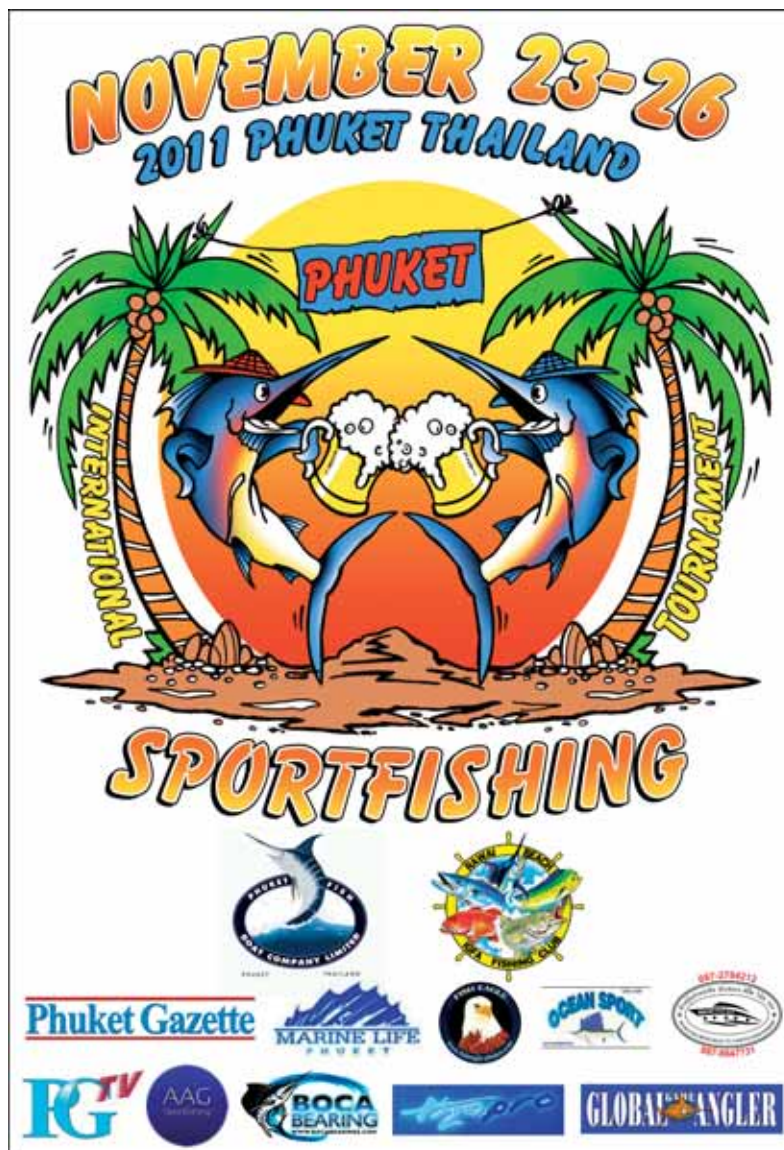
Head Coach Prapon Pongpanich

said his team isn't too down about the [losing] result as they know they had many chances to score, but Phuket's goalkeeping was really good. If anything, the team has learned they need to improve on their finishing.

Phuket Coach Somphong Wattana said "Thailand played very well, especially on their attacking game. They should have a good chance to advance into the later stages of the SEA Games."

Thailand returned to Bangkok the next morning and flew out to Jakarta on Sunday. In their opening match against defending SEA Games' champions, Malaysia, Thailand suffered a 1-2 defeat - the same score line two years ago that saw Malaysia advance to the finals, and not Thailand.

The U23s are next set to play Cambodia on November 11, (4pm Phuket time) followed by a match against hosts Indonesia on November 13 and finally Singapore on November 17.



BIS tourney a success

THE British International School (BIS) held its 10th annual international 7-a-side football tournament last weekend in perfect conditions.

Over 700 players from 25 schools participated in the competition with all teams exhibiting good footballing skills and excellent sportsmanship.

Schools, clubs and projects from all over East and South East Asia traveled from as close as Pa Khlok and as far as Seoul, Taipei and Jakarta to give the tournament a truly international atmosphere.

Most of the pool games concluded on Friday while all the playoffs and finals took place on Saturday with matches extended

to 15 minutes each way, extra time of 10 minutes if still a stalemate and finally penalty shoot-outs to decide the winners.



BIS O15 girls' team shows their gold.

BIS Phuket Under 13 girls endured extra time and then a nerve-racking penalty shoot out before claiming their age-group trophy.

In the over 15 boys final, Youth Football Home secured the title after another penalty shoot-out against Regents from Pattaya.

BIS Phuket had a great tournament with the Under 9s, Under 11 girls, Under 13 girls, and Over 15 girls all victorious in their respective age groups. BIS Phukets Under 15 girls and Under 13 boys both finished in bronze medal position.

A full break down of results from the tournament is available on the school website bisphuket.ac.th.

All Stars bowled over at ACG opener

THE eagerly anticipated opening of the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG) was launched in thrilling style last weekend when the Phuket Cricket Group (PCG) "All Stars" took on the oldest cricket club in Asia, Singapore CC, at Thailand's newest cricket facility.

Heavy downpours overnight meant the new synthetic surface was still damp, making batting a treacherous task. Singapore won the toss and wisely gave Phuket the honor of testing the crease first.

However, before the game began in earnest, Alan Cooke MBE took to the crease and turned his arm over to deliver the first ball at the ACG.

Dave Thomas and Anthony Van Blerk opened the batting and made for the center, applauded from the pavilion by the faithful few to welcome a bright new era for Phuket cricket.

A lively pitch did not deter Van Blerk from opening in his usual aggressive manner, but he was soon ruining his strategy when caught out after skying a ball in an attempt to hit the first boundary.

Sameer Khan, 2011 PCG cricketer of the year, replaced Van Blerk and found the middle of his bat early to record the first boundary scored at the ground. Khan seemed to have found the measure of the pitch, just as he was bowled by a T Larbey for 20 runs.



Overnight rain made batting first a slippery task. Photo: Dean Noble

Deepak Mehra and Thomas averted a potential collapse, but consistent line and length bowling from the Singaporeans combined with a slow outfield made runs difficult to score.

Thomas was eventually dismissed for 19 runs and after the drinks break Richard Folds and Mehra returned to the middle, determined to boost the run rate. However, Folds couldn't make an impact on the scoreboard and was out soon after with Phuket struggling at 68 runs for five wickets.

Phuket's remaining batsmen all

failed to reach double figures, and the "All Stars" went in for an early lunch all out for 103 runs off 33 overs. Best bowlers for Singapore were S Bird with 3 wickets for 9 runs and A Moorthy with 2 wickets for 18 runs.

After lunch, Phuket took to the field knowing that such a low target to defend meant they needed to bowl out Singapore.

Prospects of such a lofty task took a positive turn when Diwan Mydeen cartwheeled B Hammond's middle stump with his second delivery. Hammond returned to the

pavilion to be forever remembered as the first player to score a duck at the ACG.

A fantastic Richie Desmond diving catch in the second over dismissed K Patel off Richard Folds' bowling. With Singapore two wickets down for just 15 runs, an extraordinary win for Phuket seemed possible.

Khan was introduced into the attack to stem the flow of runs. He trapped V Jeyaratnam for lbw on 17 runs, followed by the lbw dismissal of M Byfield by Folds.

Kahn then struck with a direct hit and Singapore were five wickets for 43 runs.

R Frere-Smith and Larbey then scored the innings' biggest partnership of 25 runs, until Larbey was caught by Stuart Reading off Khan's bowling. Roly Cooper was introduced into the attack and his first ball sent P Salt back to the clubhouse seeing his team teetering on the edge of defeat at seven wickets for 74 runs.

M Seabright then joined Frere-Smith and nervously pushed the score along to 99 before being bowled by Dave Thomas, who followed this up with another great ball, bowling A Mahtani for a duck.

Singapore were now 99 for 9 needing just four runs for victory. Moorthy came to the crease and faced a cordon of fielders close to the bat baying for a final catch.

After another tense over, Singapore finally clinched victory off a wide ball down the leg side.

Best bowlers for Phuket were Dave Thomas with 2 wickets for 9 runs, Sameer Khan with 2 wickets for 15 runs and Richard Folds with 2 wickets for 18 runs.

On Sunday, another select Phuket team faced Singapore in a 20-over challenge match that was slightly more one-sided.

Singapore batted first and posted 224 runs for just four wickets. Phuket could manage only 112 before being bowled out.

Bill Stahmer, Phuket's oldest player at 62 years, was the team's top scorer with 25 runs.

After the match, Mr Cooke took the opportunity to show his appreciation for Singapore CC and all those involved with developing the ACG's facilities.

"On behalf of the ACG and my construction team, I welcome Singapore CC. We are especially pleased to welcome our distinguished visitors for these first games on the ACG and our first international matches.

"I must take this opportunity to thank those members of the PCG who have worked hard to contribute to this day. I must recognize those individuals and companies who have provided services and expertise for the development of the ground," said Mr Cooke.



FLYING FLYNN: Phuket's Anissa Flynn is riding into a bright future.

Phuket's surfing star on the crest of a wave

LOCAL surfing starlet Anissa Tita Flynn is ready to take on the best of Asia in coming weeks as she heads off to Hong Kong and Malaysia for the Reef Cup and the final event of the new Asian Surfing Professional tour at Kuala Terengganu.

The Asian tour has been formed to promote surfing but also to encourage more ocean awareness amongst the traditionally water-shy Asian community, and the surfers who do well are given invitations to the larger and more

professional Australasian Pro Tour where the sports best come together.

Anissa will be returning to the cold waters of Hong Kong to defend the event she won last year at Tai Long Wan.

At 13 years old, young Anissa is currently holding onto fifth position on the Asian tour and is hoping to place in the top three if she does well in the final.

Anissa is sponsored by Quicksilver Thailand and Ark surfboards.

— Marc Mulloy

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Chinese kill Americans

CHINESE beach volleyball duo Chen Xue and Xi Zhang served Americans Jennifer Kessy and April Ross a solid defeat at Karon Beach on Sunday to win the 2011 FIVB Beach Volleyball Swatch World Tour.

The pair were the top seed heading into the tournament and earned themselves a spot in the final against last year's winners Kessy and Ross.

Xue and Zhang commanded the match, winning in two sets against the second-seeded Americans.

Fifth-seeded Italians Greta Cicolari and Marta Menegatti overwhelmed Australia's 19th-seeded Louise Bawden and Becchara Palmer to claim the bronze.

The internationally-televised women's season-finales of the 2011 FIVB Swatch World Tour schedule, the Phuket Thailand Open powered by PTT, featured 53 teams from 26 countries.

Also on site in Phuket was a special production crew from IMG, the company that not only produces the live international telecasts of select matches, but also the weekly FIVB Beach Volleyball Swatch World Tour highlight show that is syndicated throughout the world.

The Phuket Thailand Open is produced annually by Pentangle Promotions Co Ltd of Bangkok in association with the FIVB and the Thailand Volleyball Association.

The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV are charter sponsors of the FIVB Volleyball events in Phuket.

For a full report, see page 41



SECOND TO NONE: Phuket FIVB Beach volleyball gold medalists Chen Xue (left) and Xi Zhang of China. Photo: FIVB



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