

Phuket Gazette

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25 Baht



Bla, the main character, will attend the Dec 7 screening in Phuket.
Photo: Mike Thomas

Living with the Tiger

A GROUP of students at Prince of Songkla University (PSU) Phuket were on November 9 treated to a special screening of 'Living With The Tiger', a full-length feature documentary by rookie filmmaker Mike Thomas.

The documentary explores the everyday lives of children living at Baan Gerda village in Lop Buri province. The tiger in this real-life drama: HIV.

The PSU students were so impressed that they set to the task of organizing a local screening on their campus. Another screening, this one open to the public, is scheduled for December 7.

See pages 20-21 for our full report of how this first-venture film has changed the lives of students on Phuket.

'Death bend' protest sparks instant action

By Wichai Wittawat and Warisa Temram

THE Phuket Highways Office has closed one southbound lane at the Kor En 'death bend' as a temporary measure to stop more accidents at the notorious black spot in Thalang.

Also installed as temporary measures are signs warning motorists to slow down and small concrete blocks separating the vehicles exiting Baan Kor En from the traffic speeding past heading toward Phuket Town.

The move follows the tragic accident last Sunday that killed four-year-old boy Anupong Sae-Yu and his aunt Malai Kaewkluan.

Anupong's mother, Saijai Boontaeng, still in hospital, was unable to attend her own son's funeral on Tuesday morning.

The accident on Sunday prompted local villagers to take to the road in mass protest, forcing the closure of the two southbound lanes.

The mob refused to budge, demanding government action to make the road safer. Only after Phuket Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosuttirak and Phuket MP Raywat Areerob had arrived and



Somkid Opartwanitchkul reflects over the fresh grave of his four-year-old son Anupong Sae-Yu, who died in the accident. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

heard the villagers' grievances in person, did the villagers disperse, at about 7:45pm.

By 4am the next day the warning signs and concrete blocks

were in place, ahead of an emergency meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall on Monday, where a battery of Phuket officials pondered other steps that could be taken to re-

duce the number of accidents at the site.

The meeting was one of the conditions agreed to the night before by Vice Governor Somkiet.

At the meeting, V/Gov Somkiet pointed out that the lay of the land and the road itself were inherently dangerous.

"It's an engineering mistake on the road due to the geographical condition," he said.

Pramote Pirat, Deputy Director of the Phuket Highways Office, said his office will install "S curve road ahead" warning signs in the hope of inspiring motorists to slow down.

"For the long term, we would like to see a road checkpoint set up just before the curve to slow drivers down. We also plan to install flexible plastic traffic poles in between the two lanes to make sure motorists must drive slowly through the curve. However, we should consult the local villagers about this," said Mr Pramote.

"We have been trying to expand the outbound lanes, so we can reduce the sharpness of the curve overall. Ideally, we would like the road to be straight.

"But the problem is that the

Continued on page 3

Governor orders beach vendors evicted – again

A TEAM of about 50 police and municipal officers arrived in force at Karon Beach early last Friday and removed a restaurant belonging to a local family who were forcibly removed from the same location nine weeks ago.

Led by Governor Tri Augkaradacha, Provincial Police Commander Pekad Tantipong and Chalong Police chief Col Krittapad Dejintorrasorn, the officers arrived at 7am and started pulling down tents and removing tables and chairs.

The officers took two hours to remove the offending structures, located in front of the Centara Grand Beach Resort.

Unlike the last time the restaurant was torn down, on September 20, there were no incidents or claims of excessive use of force by the police.

"This is the second time we have pulled down this restaurant. We received a complaint in September and I assigned a team to pull down the structures. Then we received another complaint, so I assigned

officers to check it out. When we found out structures were still on the beach, we returned in force today," Governor Tri said.

All items removed will be kept at the Kata-Karon Municipality office, he added.

The governor said that he will also assign a team of officers to monitor encroachment at all Phuket beaches.

"We are not picking on any particular area. All beaches are to be protected through law enforcement.

– Warisa Temram



The officers took two hours to remove the offending structures. Photo: Warisa Temram

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This Week

Business



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Special Report



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Tri Tim, Try!



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Grumpy Old Men on mission of mercy

MEMBERS of Phuket's Grumpy Old Men (GOM) society are loading four vehicles to bursting point with essential items needed to reunite flood-affected families with their homes, many of which have been submerged by severe flooding, in Nakhon Sawan.

Once there, the group plans to involve the local communities to ensure that the aid reaches the right people. Victims of the floods will be able to register at their local temple and receive aid directly from there.

"This is about helping people in the worst affected areas. You have to imagine that these people's houses have been under water for some time," said Paul Newson.

The "mercy mission" volunteers hope to start the 14-hour journey in the second week of December. They have, with the help of other GOMs, been collecting aid supplies to take to the affected areas.

"We don't want people to give us money" said Mr Newson's



The Grumpy Old Men's Society are rallying support for a flood relief convoy.

wife Skulna "Bird" Varayu.

"Children's clothing is sorely needed. We have not received any donations of this sort.

"There is also a great need for other things – sleeping mats, mosquito nets and first-aid equipment. Many children have lost toys and school books to the floods," she added.

Ms Bird said cleaning materials were also much needed due to the mess left behind by receding flood waters.

Donations can be made from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, at: Lady Pie, 120/6 Srisoonthorn Rd, Chong Talay, Thalang; G.M. Safeway, 26/4 Moo 6, Chao Fa West Road, Chalong; Safeway Asia, Thepkasattri Road, Thalang; and Environmental Solutions & Protection, bypass road, Rassada.

Donations will stop being collected from the four drop-off points on November 30.

– *Phuket Gazette*

Spike girl gang still in town

SOME of the six women arrested on October 31 for lacing tourists' drinks with knockout drops and robbing them are still in Patong, but police believe they will behave themselves this time around.

"Even though I have heard that some of them have left Phuket, we have noticed some of the women are still in Patong, and we are keeping our eyes on them to make sure they don't do it again," said Maj Thammasan Boonsong of the Patong Police.

However, he noted that none of the six women are working in bars now.

"Even though some of them worked in bars on Soi Bangla, we did not reveal which bars they worked at because we would like to protect the reputation of those bars, especially since the tourists were not drugged at the bars," Maj Thammasan added.

The news comes after the Phuket Provincial Court on No-



Patong Police chief Col Arayapan Pukbuakao questions Sukanya Jansong earlier this month.

vember 2 found five of the women guilty of being in illegal possession of a prescription drug.

Kemporn Poosedin, 45, from Maha Sarakham; Saeng Nuansri, 47, from Phuket; and Wanida Yusuk, 36, from Yasothorn, were fined 10,000 baht each.

Supaporn Yusuk, 18, from Yasothorn was fined 2,500 baht and Sukanya Jansong, 23, from Ubon Ratchathani was fined 1,000 baht.

In consideration of all five confessing to the charges, the court

halved their fines, the *Gazette* was told. All five have already paid their respective fines, the court confirmed.

Meanwhile Kemporn, Saeng and Wanida are still due to appear in court on November 28 to face charges of theft.

The court record noted that Kemporn, who police believe to be the gang's ringleader, was sentenced to serve one year in jail at Phuket Prison on charges for receiving stolen property.

Maj Thammasan explained that theft charges were filed against these three women only because victims had come forward and identified them in their complaints of theft.

Meanwhile, Suchada Yusuk, 29, from Sakaew, who was the sixth woman in the gang arrested by police on October 31, has been released on bail pending police locating and arresting another suspect.

– *Atchaa Khamlo*

Swedish snorkeler 'likely died of heart attack'

THE Swedish man who died off Racha Yai Island on Tuesday likely died of a heart attack, the *Gazette* has been told.

Martin Anders Christer Nilsson, 63, was on a Phuket fishing tour with his stepdaughter's boyfriend and her children when the incident occurred.

"He had gotten off of the boat to go snorkeling," said Tourist Police volunteer Gary Halpin.

Soon after Mr Nilsson entered the water, the crew on board the boat noticed him floating face down.

They recovered his body and administered CPR, said Mr Halpin.

At about 12:15pm, a dive tour boat nearby with a medical student on board was hailed for assistance.

"When the dive boat arrived, he was already blue in the face and had seawater coming from his mouth," Mr Halpin said.

Mr Nilsson had no pulse and wasn't breathing, so oxygen wasn't administered, he added.

Family members present said they believed the cause of death to be a heart attack, said Mr Halpin.



Martin Nilsson



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Call to lift flood travel advisors

PHUKET Tourist Association (PTA) President Somboon Jirayus has asked for foreign governments to reduce and/or lift travel advisories and warnings issued for Thailand because of the floods.

Mr Somboon said that sensationalized images presented through foreign media have caused a decreasing number of tourists to come to Phuket. "Images of flooding in the foreign media have [negatively] affected Thailand tourism, including in Phuket," he said, citing footage that he had seen of airplanes at Don Mueang Airport.

"Many countries, especially in Scandinavia, have issued travel advisories for their tourists to avoid travelling to Bangkok because they misunderstand that Don Mueang Airport is the only airport in Bangkok, and [they have] assumed that flooding has affected all of Thailand," he said.

"With the warnings, life insurance policies will not cover tourists when travelling in Thailand. This has caused tourists [from those countries] to cancel their trips to Phuket as well," he explained.

See also 'THAI Phuket flights operating as usual' on page 10

Police given deadline over brutality probe

By Warisa Temram and Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai

PHUKET City Police have 30 days to respond to a complaint by a young man that he was repeatedly beaten by police officers while being taken under arrest – and after he was in custody at Phuket City Police Station.

The complaint also alleged police officers produced false evidence after the man's arrest.

Prapan Kanprasang, chief of the Damrongtham Center, said he personally filed the complaint with Phuket City Police Superintendent Col Chote Chidchai on Monday.

The complaint was originally filed by Chalermporn Keawmanee, 20, alongside his father, Kaset Keawmanee – owner of NS Cable TV in Surat Thani.

Mr Kaset said his son was beaten by police in front of a house on Soi Hong Leng Uthit near Surakul Stadium on November 11.

"I had come back from work and I couldn't get into the house because there was no one there, so I sat on my motorbike and



Chalermporn Keawmanee

waited," Mr Chalermporn said.

"As I was waiting, two policemen drove up in a pickup truck. They stopped and started asking me questions. I told them I lived in the house, but they didn't believe me, so they asked me to shout for someone in the house," he said.

He claimed that while he was shouting, one of the officers hit him in the abdomen, before putting him in a headlock and "poking

him with something hard and injuring him".

He said that he yelled for help as they handcuffed him and dragged him beside the house, where the officers searched him and found *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine) smoking paraphernalia.

The police then escorted him in their pickup to Phuket City Police Station, all the while beating him, Mr Chalermporn said.

When they arrived at the police station, another officer hit him on the back three or four times with a club before setting him down in front of the jail where other officers took turns hitting and kicking him, causing a wound above his left eyebrow, he said.

Police took him to the hospital where he received nine stitches to his brow injury before returning to the police station where he was charged with possession of *ya ice* and resisting arrest.

However, Mr Chalermporn denies the charges, saying he did not resist arrest and he did not know where the *ya ice* he'd been charged with had come from.

He admitted to possessing the smoking paraphernalia and said that he had used all of his drugs before police encountered him sitting on his motorbike.

Col Chote responded to the initial claim, saying, "I need to investigate this case first. I've also been informed that a police officer went to the hospital to get a doctor's certificate regarding some minor injuries sustained in the fight to be used as evidence."

"The officer informed me that during the arrest, Chalermporn attacked him and they both fought – I don't know who started it, but the officer arrested Chalermporn because it's his duty. I'll find out the facts before I come to any conclusions," Col Chote said.

"I will be fair to both sides – to the kid and the officers in question – as the kid has filed a complaint with the Damrongtham Center that the police officer acted inappropriately while arresting him."

"If the police officer has done wrong, he will face the law," he added.

Phuket offers jobs to the Bangkok flood jobless

THE Phuket Skill Development Center (PSDC) along with a consortium of local businesses and recruitment specialists have launched a campaign to secure employment in Phuket for those people who have lost their jobs in Bangkok due to the floods.

"An estimated 600,000 people have lost their jobs because their place of work was closed due to the floods," said Ilyat Koshasawat, chief of the PSDC.

"Those industries need six months to rebuild," he said.

In response, the center is coordinating its "Andaman helps friends" campaign.

"This campaign will benefit local employers as well as people

needing work because qualified, experienced employees are in short supply in Phuket and our neighboring provinces," Chief Ilyat explained.

He urged all local businesses with job vacancies to contact the center.

"More than 20 businesses, including job-placement agencies, have registered with us. On our lists, we already have about 2,000 positions vacant in Phuket, Khao Lak and Phang Nga due to the [tourism] high season," he added.

The Phuket Skill Development Center. 139 Moo 4, Srisoonthorn, Thalang, Phuket. Tel: 076-273470, 076-273471. Email: Phuket@dsd.go.th

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Killer Kor En curve gets instant attention

From page 1

expropriation of the land beside the road has been in process for at least three to four years. As a result, we have not been able to continue with that part of the road improvement project," he said.

Thalang District Chief Nuenart Supattaraprateep said the corner

had claimed many lives over the years. "Accidents occur at this site frequently. This morning, before this meeting, there was another car accident," he said at the meeting.

Narong Singkara, Council Vice Chairman of the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor), said car accidents have been occurring at Baan Kor

En curve since he was young.

"It's very worrying because this spot is where students wait for buses. I think we need to fix the problem very soon," said Mr Narong.

Additional reporting by Anchisa Buajoom. See also our Editorial 'Road to action' on page 8.



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Stars gather for World Musiq Fest

POPULAR Thai artist Todd Tongdee Lavelle, a main organizer of the Phuket World Musiq Festival, has confirmed the lineup of artists who will be performing at the event.

The festival, to honor the 84th birthday of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej, will be held at Saphan Hin, in Phuket Town, on December 2-5.

The festival will open on December 2 with a performance by the Phuket Symphony of Youth and culminate on December 5 with Thai National Artist Naowarat Pongpaiboon leading the "Father of Love" celebration in honor of His Majesty.

The daily concerts are scheduled to start at 4pm and continue to midnight.

The event is free and will



showcase not only music from Thailand, but also artists from around the world.

From the Northern Thailand will be the beautiful Lanna Commins, while KoKaiNaiSon from South Thailand will be demonstrating their style of southern country.

Na Yong & Team from the central plains will supply the rap, while Nga Caravan's contemporary rock and Khun Inn's unique



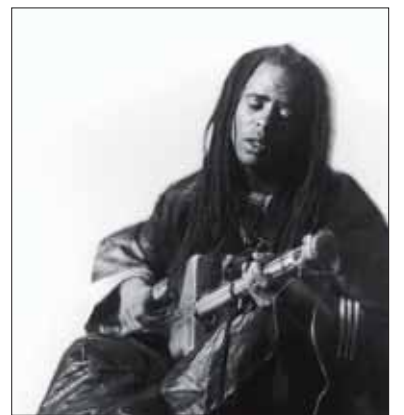
Renowned artists to perform at the festival include (clockwise) Todd Tongdee's Hammapan, xylophone master Khun Inn, sintir player Hassan Hakmounival and Lanna Commins.

xylophone style add to the mix.

An Uruk Lawaoi Phuket sea gypsy band will also be headlining the event.

Worldwide music styles include Americana (a mix of blues, folk, soul, rock and roll), Batucada (Brazilian drums) and from the Middle East the renowned sintir player Hassan Hakmoun.

Todd Tongdee's troupe Hammapan will also be performing their internationally showcased songs and dances.



'Troubled lovers' rumored to be alive

RUMORS have surfaced that the "troubled lovers", who were believed to have jumped to their deaths from Thepkrasattri Bridge last month, have been spotted together in Surat Thani Province, police said.

"I have heard rumors that the couple survived the jump and they are now living together in Surat Thani Province. I have no proof of anything, so I can't comment on it. All I know is that the search has been called off," said Tah Chat Chai Police Duty Officer Watcharin Jiratikarnwiwat.

The rumor seems to have started among communities living near the bridge, he said.

Nattaphon Sitthiyanon, 25, and Chanokporn Aimauskorn, 27, were last seen driving their Honda sedan out of Tah Chat Chai checkpoint toward Phang Nga on October 28.

The car was found abandoned halfway across Thepkrasattri Bridge, over the waters separating Phuket from the mainland. The channel has a strong current that flows out into the Andaman Sea.



A boat heads out during the heat of the search, which now has been called off. Photo: Gazette file

A Kusoldharm Rescue Foundation worker said the search effort was called off after scouring the waters every day for a week after the couple's disappearance.

"We started our mission as soon as the couple jumped off the bridge and we continued for a whole week, dedicating most of our time to this effort, but we never found the bodies," the worker said.

However, Maj Watcharin said, "As long as the couple haven't presented themselves personally or the bodies haven't been found, I can't close this case."

— *Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai*

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Rotary ramps up campaign against polio among kids

THE Phuket Provincial Public Health Office (PPHO) and local Rotary Clubs aim to vaccinate about 10,000 children living on the island, free of charge.

Orachorn Saisrithong, district governor of Rotary International (RI) District 3330 covering all of Southern Thailand and parts of Central Thailand, said that the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has awarded a US\$355-million grant to RI's Polio Plus Fund.

In response, the RI has pledged to raise an additional US\$200mn as part of an End Polio Now campaign aimed at eradicating polio worldwide, Ms Orachorn said.

Although Thailand has not seen a case of polio in more than a decade, the global battle against the disease has yet to be won, said Arunee Suphanan, head of the PPHO Communicable Disease Control and Prevention Division.

"Polio is still a major contagious disease in Nigeria, India, Pakistan and Afghanistan, and although Thailand hasn't seen a case in 14 years, there is still a possibility it could be found within certain groups of foreign workers," Ms Arunee said.



Rotarians in action during last year's polio vaccination drive.

"Children who have never received the polio vaccine should get one. We will focus on alien workers' children because they are at greater risk.

"Our volunteers will administer the vaccines to them no matter where they live, be it on a hill, on a rubber plantation or in very poor communities. In all, we expect to vaccinate about 10,000 children," she said.

Vaccines will be given out in Phuket on December 14 and January 18.

On those days, children can get their free polio vaccines at any government hospital or clinic as well as at any of the mobile clinics that will be visiting schools and "at-risk" communities around Phuket. — *Anchisa Buajoom*

Elections unmask new local leaders

PRESIDENTIAL elections were held across six tambons last weekend and the results are in, with a couple of upsets in the more tourist-dense areas.

The election results were sent to the Election Commission of Thailand in Bangkok on November 23, said Phuket Election Committee (PEC) Director Kittipong Thiengkunagrit.

The results are expected to be approved by December 20.

During the one-month lapse between elected officials taking office, the presidential positions are to be filled by an Acting Chief for each Tambon Administration Organization, said Mr Kittipong.

The new President of Kamala, Karun Sriden, won with 44.7% of the 3,828 votes cast by the 4,448 eligible voters. Previous president Jutta Dumluck received 1,511 votes. There were 200 spoiled ballots and 36 "vote no" ballots cast.

Cherng Talay also secured a new president: Maan Samrarn, who bested his competitors with 42% of the 6,006 votes cast. Previous president Manote Panchalad came last, receiving 1,463 votes. There were 321 spoiled ballots and 108 vote no ballots cast.



Voters register at the polls in Tambon Thepkasattri last Saturday.

Uncontested, Kuakiat Jitkua won in Koh Kaew with 76% of the ballots cast. There were 794 spoiled ballots and 398 vote no ballots cast.

Also uncontested was Sompop Konkaew, in Thepkasattri. Mr Sompop won 4,209 of the 5,845 ballots cast – 67.16% of the eligible voters. There were 1,053 spoiled ballots and 584 vote no ballots cast.

In Sakoo, Surapong Panyawai

held onto his presidency, receiving 52.73% of the votes in a two-man race. Of the 3,780 eligible voters, 3,389 cast votes. There were 156 spoiled ballots and 25 vote no ballots cast.

Sarawut Srisakookham held onto his position in Mai Khao in a five-man race, winning with 3,803 of the 6,805 votes cast. There were 351 spoiled ballots and 73 vote no ballots cast.

— *Chutharat Plerin*



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Well water drillers threaten blockade

By Attacha Khamlo

LOCAL groundwater well-drilling operators have threatened to blockade the Phuket office of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) if the office's chief, Chaipadung Promsawadi, doesn't start recognizing power of attorneys as an acceptable form of representation.

Before approving permits for new wells to be dug, Mr Chaipadung wants to meet the owners of the companies that have applied for the wells to be dug, instead of being presented with a document saying they have empowered another person or company to do it for them.

Mr Chaipadung introduced the new rule when he transferred to the Phuket NRE office as chief on October 11.

But local well diggers say they have suffered a huge downturn in business since that date, simply because they cannot get the permits.



Udomsak Naddasena fights against the new well digging rule.

The issue came to a head on Tuesday, when local well diggers met with Mr Chaipadung to discuss the matter.

The meeting did not go well.

Udomsak Naddasena, managing director of Surat Badaal groundwater drilling service company, threatened to blockade the Phuket NRE office if permits did not start flowing within a month.

In response, Mr Chaipadung simply dug in and reiterated that he would not budge on his requirement to meet the applicants.

"Owners of the companies usually don't have time to come down to see the chief because they are busy, and that is damaging my business," said Mr Udomsak.

"For more than a month, 12 companies who were supposed to hire my company for groundwater drilling have not hired us because the chief does not recognize the power of attorney.

"Because of this, I have had to fire 10 of my workers because I have no money to pay them," he said.

"If nothing has changed within one month, I will bring my workers and machinery to the entrance of the office and block it," he warned.

Mr Udomsak has some support. Nipon Sangrung, general manager of S. Siam Groundwater, said, "Normally the process to get permission takes about a month, but the chief's order to speak personally with the applicants means the approval process is never finished."



Nipon Sangrung (left) and Chaipadung Promsawadi (right) discuss groundwater well digging permits.

However, Mr Chaipadung explained, "Before I came to Phuket, some [well-digging] companies did not adhere to the conditions laid down in the permit. They dug wider or deeper than the permit allowed, and that has affected the environment. I do not want the same problem happening again."

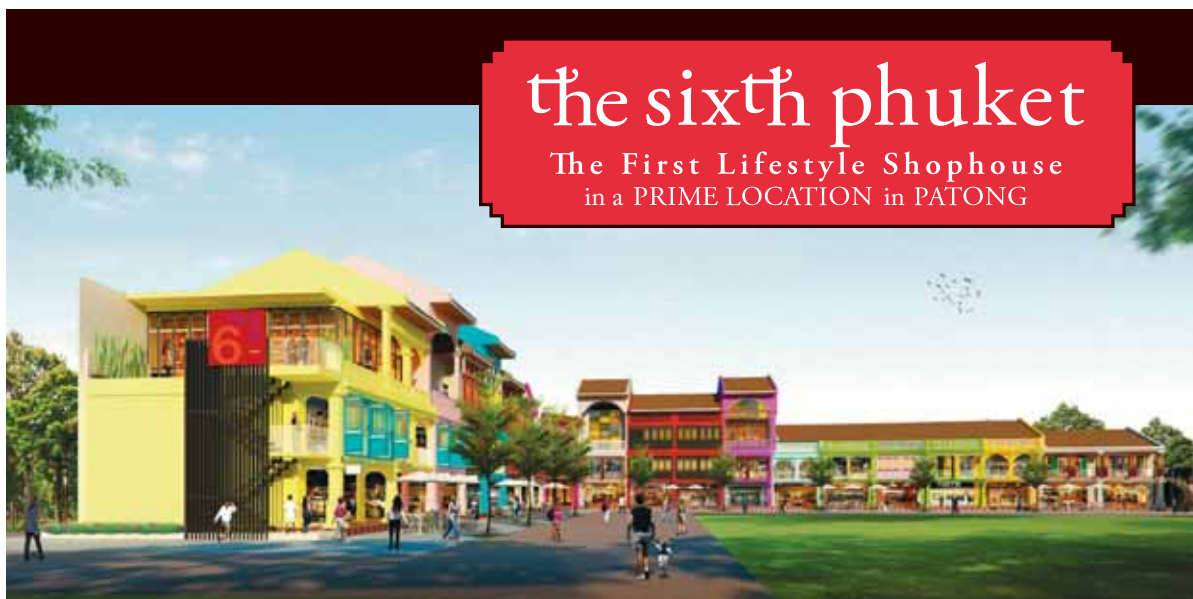
Mr Chaipadung said he wanted to meet the owners of all the companies who were planning on hiring groundwater-drilling service companies before they started any work in Phuket so he could obtain all the details of the project being applied for.

"I want to know all the details of what they are going to do and

how much of the work they are hiring the contractors to do.

"Some companies do not know whether or not the contractors [they have hired] are complying with the permit. Also, we do not know whether or not the companies know what the contractors are going to do. So I would like to see those companies owners," he said.

Despite the parties agreeing to meet later to discuss the issue, Mr Udomsak on November 23 told the *Gazette* that he would now petition Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha and Phuket's MPs Anchalee Thepabutr and Raywat Areerob to intervene.



the sixth phuket
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Nine suspects in total were arrested during a series of drug busts by police last weekend.

Meth Busters

AFTER Phuket police officers swooped in on two suspected meth dealers in Chalong on November 18, fellow police in Phuket City arrested seven people on drug-related charges.

Police Lt Col Charan Bangprasert and Chalong police officers presented the two accused dealers to the media at Chalong Police Station on November 19.

The arrests were made after Chalong police followed up on a tipoff that "teenagers" were selling drugs around Chao Fa East Road.

One suspect, Somkiat Nuanui, 24, from Krabi was arrested in possession of 150 *ya bah* (methamphetamine) pills and 7.5 grams of *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine).

The other suspect, Anon Prim, who was arrested later that night was in possession of 6.5 grams of *ya ice*.

Both suspects were charged with possession and intent to sell category one illicit drugs.

The Phuket City Police, also following a tip-off, arrested a string of suspected drug users last weekend.

All suspects were charged with possession of a category one illicit drug.

As part of the round up, Phuket City Police arrested Kriangkrai Kuangmuang, 36, and Nathi Boonchuay, 24. In the two separate raids involving these men police seized a total of 555 *ya bah* pills, 39.93 grams of *ya ice*, a mobile phone and a set of digital scales.

In Kriangkrai's room, officers found a pen gun as well as .38 and .22 handguns and two .38 bullets.

Both Kriangkrai and Nathi were charged with possession and intent to sell category one illicit drugs. Kriangkrai was also charged with illegal possession of guns and ammunition.

During the raid police also seized a Honda Jazz car and 8,000 baht cash.

— Attacha Khamlo

Passing on Thaksin pardon

THE government appeared to bow to political pressure last week when it backtracked on a plan to grant former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra a pardon on the occasion of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 84th birthday.

The People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD), the conservative pressure group better known as the "yellow shirts", cancelled a planned protest against the move after Justice Minister Pracha Promnok confirmed that the fugitive former prime minister would not be among convicts eligible for a pardon.

Analysts have long suspected the ruling Pheu Thai Party, led by Mr Thaksin's sister, Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, aims to clear its exiled patron of his alleged misdeeds.

Mr Thaksin was convicted of conflict of interest in a land deal involving his wife Khunying Potjaman Na Pombjera in 2008. He claims the conviction was politically motivated and lives in

AROUND THE nation

Dubai to escape a two-year jail sentence.

Controversy flared earlier in the month when it emerged that the Cabinet had held a secret meeting to discuss the issue of this year's royal pardon decree. Prisoners are released on pardon every year on December 5 to coincide with HM The King's birthday.

Mrs Yingluck was not present at the meeting, leading to speculation that her brother was the subject of the discussion.

Critics claimed the government had drafted a royal decree that waived the usual requirement that those who received a pardon had already served more than five years or one-third of their sen-



Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra presented a flower vase to a representative of His Majesty the King as she visited Siriraj Hospital to wish the HM a quick recovery. Photo: The Nation

tences in order to benefit Mr Thaksin.

The PAD vowed to protest against the move outside the government's legal advisory

body, the Council of State, claiming the decree was unconstitutional.

Analysts noted that the move would put HM The King in a dif-

ficult position, since Mr Thaksin remains a highly polarizing figure in Thailand.

But a groundswell of commentary attacking the move may have caused the government – and its patron Mr Thaksin – to backtrack.

On November 20, the exiled billionaire released an open letter to the media in which he appeared to play down the possibility of his own pardon.

"I trust in the principle that the government will not do anything that will benefit me or any individual specifically," he wrote.

Mr Pracha subsequently confirmed that Mr Thaksin would not benefit from the decree.

"Thaksin will not receive any benefit from the decree, and his name will not be included on the list of convicts eligible for a royal pardon," he said.

"Convicts on the run will not be eligible."

The PAD cancelled their planned rally, saying it was "no longer necessary".

Deep South flower pot bomb injures monks

NINE people, including three monks, were injured in a bomb attack by suspected insurgents in the Deep South province of Pattani on Monday.

The monks were collecting alms on Sai Charoen Pradit Road in Pattani City when a 3-kilogram bomb hidden in a plant pot on the sidewalk exploded around 6.40am.

Also injured were three policemen guarding the monks and three elderly Buddhist men who were donating food to the clergymen.

Buddhist monks have often been targeted by militants, leading the authorities to assign police to guard them when they go on



Police inspect bombing site where nine were injured. Photo: The Nation

their daily alms rounds. The attack followed a series of small bomb attacks in Pattani province at the weekend.

On Monday, a bomb exploded in a banana plantation in Yala province, blowing a 55-year-old man

in two.

Yako Ya-ngo, who worked as a security volunteer, died instantly in the attack.

Almost 5,000 people have been killed in the three Deep South provinces of Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat since the long-standing insurgency flared up in 2004.

The three provinces used to comprise a Muslim sultanate until it was annexed by the Kingdom of Siam in 1909.

The shadowy insurgents waging war against the Thai state are believed to be fighting for autonomy for the provinces, though they have never officially released any demands.

Obama calls Yinluck's victory 'inspirational'

UNITED States President Barack Obama congratulated Thai premier Yingluck Shinawatra for her election victory in a clear signal of support for her fledgling government.

Speaking to Mrs Yingluck on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit, Mr Obama said he wanted to "extend congratulations to the prime minister" for an "inspirational election", AFP reported.

The president's words are likely to ruffle feathers among those opposed to Mrs Yingluck and the

resurgent influence of her exiled brother, former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

The country has been riven by political divisions, since Mr Thaksin was ousted in a military coup in September 2006.

Mr Obama's words will come as some comfort to Mrs Yingluck, who is under intense political pressure due to her alleged mishandling of this year's flood disaster, which has claimed at least 600 lives.



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Road to action

THE hundreds of Baan Kho En villagers who formed a mob and commandeered the southbound lanes of Thepkasattri Road last week all knew one thing: they had been down this road before.

The tragic, avoidable deaths of Anupong Sae-Yu and his aunt Malai Kaewkluan (see page 1) were only the latest deaths on the notorious stretch of road, now nicknamed “the 100 bodies curve”, yet this latest incident was enough for the community to unite and demand action from the government to make the curve safer.

This week’s mob followed a mass protest by the same villagers in 2006 when Yam Chanwong, 55, was killed when her motorbike was hit by a pickup truck.

Like the incident this past week, the mob in 2006 forced the closure of Thepkasattri Road and attracted instant attention from Provincial Hall. In both incidents, though years apart, the mobs disbanded only after a vice governor arrived in person and agreed that action would finally be taken.

In 2006, action is what they got. Their protest sparked a 15-million-baht project by the Phuket Highways Office to widen the road and reduce the angle of the Kho En Curve to make it safer.

In all this, one point of distinction must be made between the two mob incidents at Kho En. This year, although the mob stopped all traffic on the southbound lanes – they did not stop southbound traffic altogether. The police allowed southbound traffic to continue by using one of the northbound lanes, so traffic heading to the airport and points south could slowly seep through. No argument from the local villagers arose from that.

The villagers certainly disrupted traffic flow, but they did not hold the island to ransom by cutting off the critical link between Phang-nga and most of Phuket. The people of Kho En wanted attention and action, but not the disgust of their fellow Phuket natives who rely on that road for their livelihoods.

They’ve got the attention they wanted – now we will see what action might follow.

But what cannot be overlooked in this scenario is that elections were held in six tambons across northern Phuket – including in Baan Kho En – on the same weekend as the fatal accident. Just the day before the truck hit the motorbike the Baan Kho En villagers themselves went to the polls to vote for a new tambon administration organization (OrBorTor) president.

The winner of the five candidates who ran for the presidency of Tambon Mai Khao, which includes Baan Kho En, was Sarawat Srisakookham.

The question arising here is: Why did the villagers feel it necessary to stage a mass protest and close the road when they had just elected a person to represent them in matters exactly such as this?

Are the polls failing the people at local elected government level? Or is it just a “fact” in the minds of the villagers that to get anything done in Phuket you need to orchestrate a mob?

If the latter, then why is it that we don’t see mobs forming to protest restaurants encroaching on popular tourist beaches?



Fanelli: The wrong Marine?

Re: Fanelli sentenced to 10 years for murder, Phuket Gazette, November 12

In this page one story, you [the *Gazette*] reported Phuket Provincial Deputy Chief Public Prosecutor Permgiat Bumrung as saying that the US embassy had filed a letter to the court through the defense lawyer [for Ronald Fanelli].

“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,” Prosecutor Permgiat said in your report.

I don’t doubt that Prosecutor Permgiat said what he said, but without confirmation or copy of supposed letter, I believe your paper has erred in your front-page article.

Your newspaper has past articles stating Mr Fanelli was a former US Navy nuclear submarine officer. You also ran numerous articles on the death of the US Marine Dashawn Longfellow, who did serve in Afghanistan and was allegedly murdered by British national Lee Aldhouse, who is appealing his extradition to Thailand. The record lies in your publication.

I just wonder if they confused this Fanelli case with that of Dashawn Longfellow?

David
Chalong

Since receiving your letter, Prosecutor Permgiat has reconfirmed his quote to the Gazette. However, at the time of going to press the US embassy in Bangkok had already declined to comment on the case and the defense lawyer for Ronald Fanelli had yet to become available for comment – Ed.

Letters to the Editor

Well water not the solution

Re: Gazette online, Official offers homemade fix for Phuket’s water sources, November 17

As the unregulated demand for well water increases, the day sea water will contaminate the underground water table [called saltwater intrusion] draws nearer.

When this happens, tap water will be very much in demand.

Unregulated water wells are not the solution to a potential drought – they will be a direct cause of it.

Water diviner
Gazette forum

Next Stop Mars

Re: Gazette online, Phuket targets Brazil as tourism source market, November 19

By 2020, they’ll be targeting Mars for tourists. They will have upset the tourists from every country on Earth by then.

However, it’s a long way for Martians to come, so they’re sure to stay a long time and spend big...

Soapbox
Gazette forum

Beach Restaurant bombardment

Re: Gazette online, Phuket beach vendors evicted – again, November 19

A new restaurant opens on Layan Beach every few months.

The landowner abreast of the beach has built a concrete block fence around his land to keep them [people opening restaurants] out, but they just knock down the fence and keep building.

Now is the time to stop these guys. Not in a few years, after they have established themselves.

How can the local officials not notice these things being built?

Why
Gazette forum

Who you gonna call? Methbusters!

Re: Gazette online, Phuket probe reveals 1,400 meth pills in man’s underpants, November 16

Well done Chalong Police! There are a lot of critics out there, so it’s always nice to see the team getting out on the streets and stopping crime. The issue of methamphetamines being used by Phuket’s youth is disturbing.

So thank you for not just arresting that one kid with a single hit and calling it a day – we’ve got to get the drug dealers off the streets.

Trevor Green
Rawai

Needed: Obituaries

Re: Gazette online, Phuket student killed, classmate injured in truck crash, November 15

The number of stories that the *Phuket Gazette* publishes about fatal accidents on Phuket, which are increasing, tells me the *Gazette* should start considering having an obituaries section.

Otherwise, a day will come when half of the paper will be filled with fatal accident stories.

Proper Public Transport – Please
Gazette Forum

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Savvy can save with solar power pannels

FIRST PERSON

I HAVE lived in Thailand, off and on, for more than 15 years. I've worked with the Department of Energy and Defense and various oil companies throughout Asia.

While working, I started to notice a major shift in energy policies and trends. China was the catalyst for me. They couldn't get enough oil. On top of drilling, they had tried to acquire various oil companies, but had to deal with American competition. About 10 years ago, China realized that oil wasn't going to be a long term solution for them. So, they started to invest significantly in solar energy, which they saw as the future of energy production. They were right: there is enough solar power to power everything in the world. You still need oil for some things, such as plastics, but most common applications for power, such as street lights, water heaters and household appliances can all be partially or entirely run on renewable energy.

Two years ago I opened Mono Sun Technology. What started off as a side-business has quickly turned into a full-scale operation. This goes to show that Phuket is becoming part of an important shift towards using renewable energy.

For a long time, solar energy wasn't practical, because the technology was expensive and would take many years to start paying for itself. That's not the case anymore. With today's



William Innes Amonoo, 49, is the founder and Director of Mono Sun Technology Co Ltd., Phuket's first full service renewable-energy business. He has a diploma in drilling fluids engineering. Here he talks about renewable energy, particularly solar power, as the way of the future.

prices, a solar panel energy system can pay for itself in about three to four years. If maintained properly it will last 25 years and even then only certain parts will need to be replaced.

Many people think that solar energy is only practical for off-the-grid applications in remote locations. But in reality, solar energy systems can be tailor-made to suit everybody's needs. People already on the grid can reduce or eliminate their electric bill by setting up a simple solar panel energy system and using a solar-connected inverter. This system can supplement a household's power supply and when they are not using power it will roll back their meter.

Solar power is even more economical thanks to power conversion incentive programs provided by the government. Most people in Phuket, including some officials, are surprised that the government has a renewable energy policy. Under one program, the government will buy back units of energy that are put on to the

Provincial Electric Authority (PEA) and Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT) power grid. This program has been in operating for several years. With this program a private home can sell back power generated from its solar panels at rate of 11 to 12 baht per unit, three times more than you would pay for it. The contracts in Thailand are for 10 years, but unfortunately, the government has temporarily put a hold on issuing new contracts. I've been informed that they will start to issue new contracts again soon.

Another government-subsidized solar energy program gives rebates to hotels that install a minimum of 40 square meters of solar panels. The rebate is 4,500 baht per square meter and is devised to help cover installation costs.

I think the government is on the right track with these programs and I look forward to being part of this shift towards using renewable energy. Indeed, renewable energy is no longer just the future, it is the present.

Loy Krathong pins preying on barefeet

Island View

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

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

sometimes the answer is no."

Also, I was reminded that they were offerings. So once the *krathong* were offered, it was up to Phra Mae Kongka to do with them as she liked.

The next morning on Patong

Beach I realized that my wish the night before should have been different. The beach looked as safe as it usually did as loads of tourist kicked off their flip-flops, heading for the water.

Unfortunately, more had been sent back to shore than just banana leaves and flowers from



Bare Loy Krathong pins await unaware victims. Photo: Jim Welch

the festivities the night before – the beach was littered with metal pins.

I can't imagine a better way to keep people off the beach than to guarantee an imminent tetanus shot. Perhaps that was Phra Mae Kongka's goal, or perhaps there should be a change in the way that *krathong* are made.

Next year, I will be folding my own *krathong* and pinning it with toothpicks. And I'll be asking Phra Mae Kongka to encourage others do the same.

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

Is bottled water really safe?

We recently moved to Phuket and are concerned about the quality of the drinking water that is delivered in large 20-liter bottles. We'd like to know what kind of treatment the water goes through before being bottled. Also, we would like to ensure that the bottles don't leach chemicals. We could not find any recycling symbol on the bottom of the bottles. Additionally, what materials are the bottles made of?

Peter Plastic
Phuket

Pirat Sodaban, owner of Polar King Drinking Water Co, replies:

Drinking water companies must purify water with a system that meets recognized standards, which are established to ensure that particles and heavy metals will be filtered out and bacteria will be killed.

We follow the Standard Public

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Submit your issue at
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Health Method and Good Manufacturing Process for water treatment by using rough and fine filters as well as resin, carbon and ceramic filters.

We have a chemical purification system that uses chlorine to kill the bacteria. Before we fill the water bottles, we have to wash every bottle thoroughly with dish-washing detergent.

Somporn Rotjanatantikul, owner of Pe La Drinking Water Co, replies:

Many companies, including us, use grade B instead of grade A plastic water bottles. This is done because the two types of bottles

often get mixed up when they are exchanged and if we delivered drinking water in a grade A plastic bottle and the customer gave us the grade B bottle in return, we would lose money.

Grade B plastic bottles are 30 to 40 baht cheaper than grade A bottles. The price difference is due to grade A plastic bottles being made of higher-quality plastic than grade B bottles.

Grade B bottles are made of a mix of recycled plastic and some additional chemicals. You might smell the chemicals in grade B plastic bottles. I can't say with certainty that they are safe.

Treated filtered water can be contaminated [by the bottle] if the container isn't rinsed and cleaned well enough. Proper bottle cleaning is very crucial.

Is flooding slowing down snail mail?

Important mail that my bank in the United Kingdom sent to me on September 20 has not arrived.

Neither have my monthly UK bank and credit card statements, which, before the floods, always arrived like clockwork. Also an EMS letter sent last Tuesday from Bangkok has failed to be delivered to me here in Phuket.

I don't recall the *Gazette* printing anything about the floods in Bangkok disrupting delivery of mail to addresses in Phuket.

My only guess is that the sorting office is flooded or the postal workers are not able to get to work. Is anything being done in Bangkok to improve the mail situation?

Why should international mail from the UK be affected? When it arrives at Suvarnabhumi Airport, isn't it sorted at the airport and then sent by road to Phuket?

Philip Serjent
Phuket

Udom Akarat, chief of the Delivery Division at the Phuket Post Office in Phuket Town, replies:

The floods in Bangkok have delayed mail delivery. Last week we didn't receive any international

mail. On Monday, November 14, we received some of the backlog of the delayed international mail.

Generally, international mail arrives at Suvarnabhumi Airport and is then transferred by road to the General Post Office in Bangkok and sorted there.

Mail destined for Southern Thailand is then transferred by road to Chumphon Post Office, in Chumphon Province. After that, the mail is sent to individual provinces in the South, including Phuket.

The floods have disrupted our ability to transport mail from the airport to the General Post Office and from there to other places.

All international mail goes through the General Post Office, which means your mail sent from the UK during the flooding might be stuck at Suvarnabhumi or the General Post Office.

It takes postal workers in the flood affected areas three hours to get to work, so they can't work a seven-hour shift as usual. In general the difficulties of transportation in flood-affected areas has caused business to run slower than normal.

Brazil targeted as new tourist source market

BRAZILIANS are among the latest target group of tourists to be lured to Phuket and the Andaman region.

Speaking recently at a press conference for the Andaman Travel Trade 2011 exhibition, TAT Deputy Governor for International Marketing Juthaporn Rerngronasa highlighted the South American country as an expanding market for incoming tourism.

"There will be 10 operators from Brazil joining this year's event on November 25 and 26," she said, noting that the fair will host 302 tourism operators in addition to 20 media representatives from 28 countries worldwide.

Ms Juthaporn explained that the 320 operators will be trading with 160 operators representing the six Andaman provinces which include Phuket, Phang Nga, Ranong, Krabi, Trang and Satun.

"Brazil is part of BRIC - Brazil, Russia, India and China. With 200 million people, Brazil has a large population and a good-quality economy," she said.

"Just last month we held a road show in Brazil. We see an opportunity for bringing them here. Since

Brazil is quite a distance from Thailand, each time they come, they will stay longer and spend more money," she explained.

"Last year, about 20,000 Brazilian tourists visited Thailand, and their destinations of choice were Phuket, Bangkok and Pattaya."

Ms Juthaporn added that the TAT expects the number of Brazilian tourists visiting Thailand to grow by 20 per cent this year.

Organized by the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), Phuket Provincial Administration

Organization (OrBorJor) and the Phuket Tourist Association (PTA), this year's Andaman Travel Trade exhibition will be held at the auditorium hall of Phuket Rajabhat University.

This will be the fifth edition of the trade fair, which is held once every two years.

The TAT is spending 18 million baht on hosting the tourism representatives, who also had participated in the Chiang Mai Tourism Forum on November 22 and 23, before coming to Phuket.

- Pimwara Choksakulpan



Dep Gov Juthaporn Rerngronasa



WE'RE HERE: Danish tourists walk through the Phuket International Airport arrival hall earlier this month.

THAI Phuket flights operating as usual

THAI Airways International (THAI) is still operating its full schedule of regular flights between Bangkok and Phuket - for now.

An officer from the 'Enterprise Communication Department' of THAI, asking not to be named, told the *Phuket Gazette*, "I have yet to receive any news about reductions in flights to Phuket."

Her statement was in response to a report by Thai-language business daily Krungthep Turakij (KT) that last week said THAI had cut more than 500 domestic and international flights due to the decreased number of passengers resulting from the country's flood crisis.

The report stated that affected routes included flights between Bangkok and Phuket, Haad Yai, Surat Thani, Hong Kong, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, London, Paris, Zurich, Rome, Munich, Frankfurt, Moscow, Athens, Johannesburg, Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, Ho Chi Minh, Hanoi, Beijing, Shiang Hai, Guangzhao, Taipei, Dubai, Colombo and Mumbai.

"Perhaps Krungthep Turakij had an exclusive interview with some-

one, who gave them that information, but as far as I know, our current status still remains the same," she said.

"As long as there is no official letter from management, I would confirm that all of our flights [to and from Phuket] are still operating as usual until we receive further notice," she added.

According to the KT report, in addition to reducing the number of flights, THAI will also downsize the type of aircraft used on the routes to better suit the number of passengers, with consideration made on a day-by-day basis.

However, in a statement issued on October 30 on THAI's Public Relations website, the airline said it will increase its seating capacity for flights to Phuket, Haad Yai and Krabi, in order to accommodate Bangkok flood evacuees fleeing to Southern Thailand.

THAI reported 4.8 billion baht in losses during the first nine months of the year, attributing the losses to foreign-currency exchange depreciation and a 41.5% increase in the cost of jet fuel compared with the same period last year.

However, during the third quarter, THAI achieved a profit of 2.4 billion baht, an increase of 10% year-on-year.

Speaking to the press, THAI President Dr Piyasvasti Amranand insisted popular destinations Phuket, Krabi, Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai were all unaffected by the floods.

He encouraged travelers to visit these destinations, which could be "conveniently reached" via Bangkok's still fully operational Suvarnabhumi International Airport.

The THAI president admitted that travel advisories warning against travel to Thailand had cut the number of tourists coming from China, Japan, South Korea, Singapore and some parts of Europe.

THAI's passenger load dropped to 65.8% last month from 74% in the same month last year, he said.

Mr Piyasvasti said the Thai government must clarify and create understanding that the flooding situation has improved, and urge the countries to lift travel warnings.

"If we can do it fast, we still have hope that our tourism industry will return to normal by December," he said.

- *Phuket Gazette*

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Luxury car imports steady

DESPITE global economic turmoil, the luxury car import business continues to perform well in an expanding domestic market. Saksri Kerdphol, General Manager of Phuket's premier foreign automobile dealer and servicer AutoExpress, speaks exclusively with the *Phuket Gazette's* Steven Layne about foreign cars and the import market trends in Phuket.

Phuket Gazette: How would you describe AutoExpress' clientele? Who is your main target group in Phuket?

Saksri Kerdphol: Our customers range from prominent businessmen to couples and families. We supply a wide range of cars valued between 3 and 30 million baht, targeting different high-end, luxury, family and sport markets. The majority of our clients are wealthy Thais. However, the expatriate client base is expanding, especially the Russian and English markets.

PG: How does AutoExpress differentiate from other competitors in the imported-car business?

SK: We are well established in Thailand, having starting in Bangkok where we have five showrooms. We offer exclusive customer-oriented service including both sales and servicing for all types of import and luxury cars. The relationship doesn't end with the sale. In addition to our four on-site mechanics, we also fly in one specialty mechanic from Bangkok on a weekly basis. Our parts suppliers are always reliable, so we are equipped to service any vehicle.

Moreover, we don't just sell one or a few types of cars but can import any model of any car from around the world, including used, classic and custom-made cars. However,

special orders may take longer than usual, but it is not out of our scope. Every customer has special needs and our aim is to meet the needs of each customer.

PG: How do you view the local competition?

SK: I have extensive experience in the hospitality industry so I view this business similarly. When a hotel is full, they will refer customers to another hotel.

The same goes for this business. If our order log is full for a certain car or part, then we'll refer the customer to someone else and visa versa. It's better to work with your competition and not against each other.

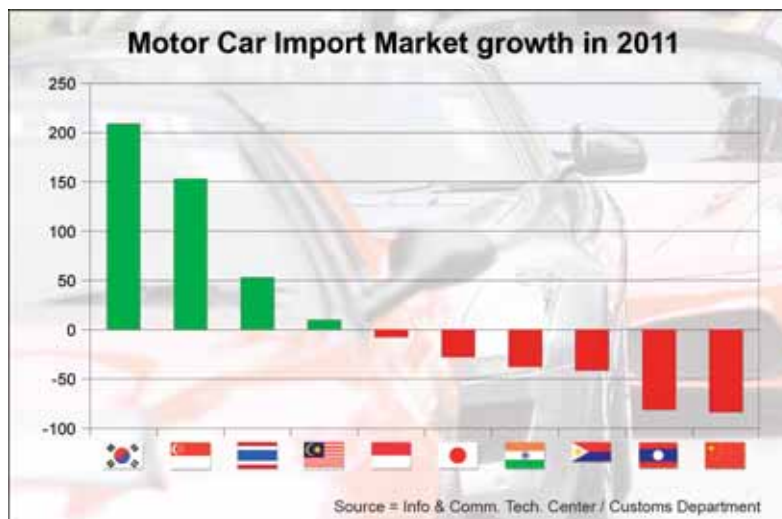
PG: Why do you think this market continues to be popular?

SK: Imported cars have a reputation for being strong, durable and reliable. Customers in this market are willing to pay more for superior quality.

The state of the economy is not usually a factor for them. Our customers always want the maximum with full-options and specifications. There is no cutting corners in this market.

PG: Which of your cars are the most popular and best sellers? Any other good performers?

SK: Without a doubt, Mercedes Benz remains the most popular luxury car for the Phuket and Thai



POTENTIAL: Thailand's the 8th largest vehicle importer in the world. From January to October, the market grew by 53% year on year.

market overall, as it is the ultimate status symbol car.

Other cars performing well include the Audi TT Coupe and the Lexus RX 270.

Lately demand for the Mini Cooper is becoming strong.

For families, the Porsche Cayenne and Audi Q5 are popular choices.

PG: Of all these beautiful cars, which one is your favorite?

SK: A yellow Porche Boxster. I'm trying to convince my boyfriend to buy me one. I really do love convertibles.



GOLDEN MARKET: AutoExpress GM Saksri Kerdphol says import cars are popular in Phuket because of their 'durable and reliable' reputation.

AMCHAM meeting to discuss 'Phuket' brand

THE American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) Greater Phuket chapter will be holding its next meeting at the luxury Anantara Resort in Mai Khao on Wednesday, November 30th.

"This meeting is a 'must attend' for those working in the hospitality, travel, property and hotel sectors,"



David Keen is a keynote speaker.

said Real estate guru Bill Barnett.

"At a time when Phuket makes a transition into a mass tourism and hotel market, global and domestic events over the past few years continue to have varying impacts on the destination," he said.

Wednesday's keynote speakers include leading brand guru David Keen and respected expert in marketing communications David Johnson. The speakers will address the past, present and future of the island's brand.

At the head of Quo Global, specialist agency for the travel, tourism and hospitality industries, Mr Keen is a leading brand strategist in Asia and will speak on the brand evolution of the island and what is needed to sustain growth.

Mr Johnson of Delivering Asia, a Corporate Communications and Advertisement agency, will look at the challenges and solutions of keeping on top of media and image in the current volatile marketplace.

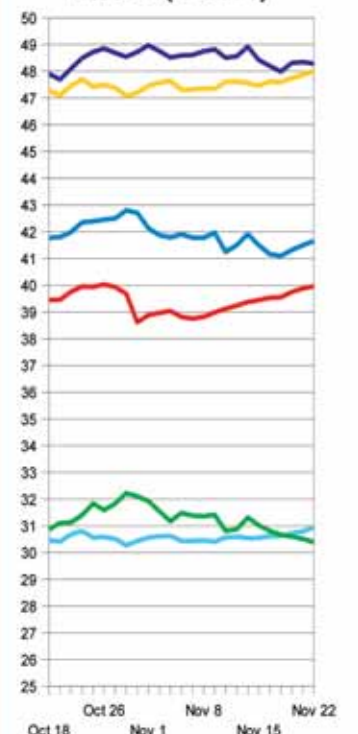
Registration for the AMCHAM meeting starts at 4:30pm with the session set to run from 5 to 6pm. Networking drinks will follow.

Attendance is open to the public for 100 baht which includes drinks.

One can register for the event at W: amchamthailand.com or contact Sheree Tanpensuk: E: sheree@amchamthailand.com, or T: 02-254-1041 ext 212.

— *Phuket Gazette*

BoT buying rates(Baht)



Currency	Change %	
	month	week
USD	1.64	1.11
CNY	1.59	0.84
JPY	1.29	1.09
GBP	0.79	0.19
EUR	-0.29	1.21
AUD	-1.55	-1.36

Phuket investors to pour B2bn into Phang Nga hotels

KHAO Lak's room count may double within two years.

Phang Nga Tourist Association Vice President Prapruet Korphet said "We now have about 5,000 rooms in Khao Lak, the same number before the tsunami hit us. We expect to have another 1,000 rooms by the end of this year, and will have 10,000 rooms within two years."

"We continuously have new investors coming to invest in the Khao Lak area, namely at Nang Thong beach, Bang Neang Beach, and Bang Sak Beach. Investors from Phuket include the Kata Group, Graceland Group, and the Ocean Group, he said.

They are all investing in large-scale hotel projects, with more than two billion baht to flowing into our province, he said.

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You've got scam mail



Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

HAVE you ever received a message like the following and wondered who sent it to you?

I have a group of 24 people who will be traveling in your vicinity in December and we would like to book reservations at your establishment. We will pay for services, including tax and tips, in advance. Please advise what you have available and how much it costs. Send your bank details for full remittance.

Here's another message I received recently: *YouTube Service <service@youtube.com>: Your message was not delivered you have sent the maximum number of messages per day. http://www.youtube.com/support/ticket_id=1497. © 2011 YouTube, LLC, San Bruno, CA 94066*

By now you're savvy enough to know that a message sent From Citibank Customer Service asking for your password – or a message from UPS saying you need to run an EXE file, or from Microsoft saying you have to install the attached program – is probably completely bogus. You also no doubt know that the "From" address can be faked (the technical term is "spoofed"): no, that message didn't come from Barack Obama or Bill Gates or Warren Buffet.

But what about the messages that look like they may – just maybe – be real? How can you see who the message really came from?

The short answer: you can't. The bad guys know it's easy to send out a message that looks like it's from Yingluck Shinawatra or

Brad Pitt. That's kiddie stuff. Getting beyond the kiddie level isn't easy. Few spammers are smart enough to disguise the originating point of their message, for example, or strip off other, often hidden, telltale information. If you're curious about the real source of a message, you should look at the innards of the message, in something called the header.

A message header is the text that wraps around a message. It encapsulates the message, making sure it gets to its intended destination. To a first approximation, the message header resembles a snailmail envelope, with an addressee, return address, and a series of cancellations that trace where the message has been.

Some email programs make it easy to look at each message's header. In Gmail, for example, if you open the message, click the down arrow next to Reply, and then Show Original, the message header appears in a new window. In Hotmail, you click Inbox on the left-hand menu, right-click the message and choose View Message Source. In Outlook Express or Windows Live Mail, right-click on the message, choose Properties, then click on the Details tab.

Outlook makes it difficult to see the headers. Fortunately, there's a program that makes it easy to see your message headers in Outlook. PocketKnife Peek makes it right-click easy to see any message's header. To use it, exit Outlook. Go to xintercept.com/peek/pkpeek.htm. Download and install PocketKnife Peek (it's free). Start Outlook again, and PocketKnife Peek will work. Check it by right-clicking on any message in Outlook, choosing Peek, and



SPAM OLD AND NEW: A message sent to me from service@youtube.com (inset) in San Bruno, California, didn't, in fact, come from San Bruno, much less from YouTube. It came from an IP address in North Carolina. Photo: Alpha

clicking the tab marked Internet Header. The entire header appears.

Sorting through an internet header can be challenging. Fortunately, there's a web site that will do all the hard work. To use it, copy the header. Go to the IP Tracker web site, iptrackeronline.com/header.php. Copy the header into the Email header analysis box and click Submit Header for Analysis. You'll see a full parsing of the header, part of which is shown in the screen shot on this page.

So the next time somebody sends you an offer you can't refuse – or a poor suffering widows asks

you for \$1,000 to unlock her poor departed husband's \$100 million – take a look at the message's header, and run it through IP Tracker Online. If the message came from Nigeria or Kazbukistan, well, you've been warned.

If you aren't yet posting your international downloads speeds on www.PhuketInternetSpeed.com, I hope this column gives you an idea of why it's more important than ever to keep everybody in Phuket apprised of how your internet connection is working. Even if you have a simple 3BB 6 Mbps line, you're helping yourself – and ev-

erybody else – by regularly testing and posting your results. It takes less than a minute. Drop by the speed reporting site and sign up. If you have problems – forgot your logon id or password, or you can't get it to work – drop me a line. It's free, fast and easy and the connection you save may be your own.

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

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Gulliver's app

PHUKET pocket guides abound but occasionally one stands out from the crowd. Released last month Gulliver's guide to Phuket is a free iPhone / iPad app that is very user friendly.

Simplified to include just enough information for a weekend break or short trip, it includes more than 150 attractions, venues and topics, each with up-to-date (2011/2012 season) contact details.

An offline map is included with dozens of pictures of major landmarks and by turning on your location settings you can pinpoint how close you are to them. Nothing is ever more than two clicks away with the easy navigation shortcuts, and intuitive categorization helps you quickly find what you're looking for. Gulliver's Guides combine the best bits of other guides and apps to figure out what works best for smartphone navigation.

Topics include Sightseeing at-

tractions; Activities; Restaurants; Nightlife; Accommodation ; Museums and culture; Day trips; Safety and travel tips and much more.

Everything is categorized into sensible groups for easy access, then ranked according to popularity, proximity or price. Every topic has a brief overview to help you get to know an unfamiliar destination quickly.

The guide is produced by Virtualtravelguides.com - a professional travel content provider with more than eight years experience writing for some of the Web's top names in online travel. The authors are locals, and the editing is done by expert travel editors.

In short they provide just the right amount of detail, in a sensible and intuitive manner and it is the perfect app to recommend to a short term visitors.

Downloadable from Apple's App Store this application is free.

Looking forward to 2012

WALKING into my local shopping center yesterday I was amazed to see Christmas decorations adorning the shops and general surroundings. A quick check of the date on my watch and I realised that although the trees, baubles and tinsel were a trifle early, it certainly was closer to the holidays than I had imagined! This gave me food for thought and with 2011 racing by at a rate of knots I have located my crystal ball and had a look ahead to 2012.

Firstly to say that 2011 has been a difficult year for the world economy and financial markets would be quite an understatement. With the well documented problems of Greece, Ireland and Portugal and perhaps the impending financial crisis within Spain, Italy and France times certainly have been turbulent. Asia however, has been a robust geographical investment area and the outlook moving forward remains positive.

So, looking forward to 2012? We can pretty much expect Europe to remain volatile with Italian bond yields now reaching the dreaded 7% mark. Global analysts openly accept this as the level in which a potential default would be expected. Once we then add high unemployment and government cost cutting into the equation it means all roads point towards very tough times ahead.

Not everything is doom and

Island Investor

By Anthony Lyman

gloom however, in Asia the story is very different, and as we bask on our Phuket beaches we can be quite assured that smoother times lay ahead than with our European counterparts.

The International Monetary Fund trimmed its economic growth forecasts for Asia on Thursday because of financial turbulence in Europe and a possible slowdown in the US. However, a 6.3% growth forecast still shows that Asia is definitely the place to be. With prudent planning, it shows that investments still offer good value over the medium to longer term.

Things won't all be plain sailing, so a totally smooth ride would be wishful thinking. As always we must consider the domino effect, what happens in one part of the world tends to affect the rest in one way or another.

As Asia (and in particular Thailand and Phuket) is a major tourism hot spot, the cost cutting being felt in Europe and the US will no doubt have implications on the revenue being brought into the country. On the plus side, we should still see a continuing flow of Australian tourists and hopefully many Europeans should feel that a holiday has been well earned this year.

What does all this mean if you have an existing portfolio?

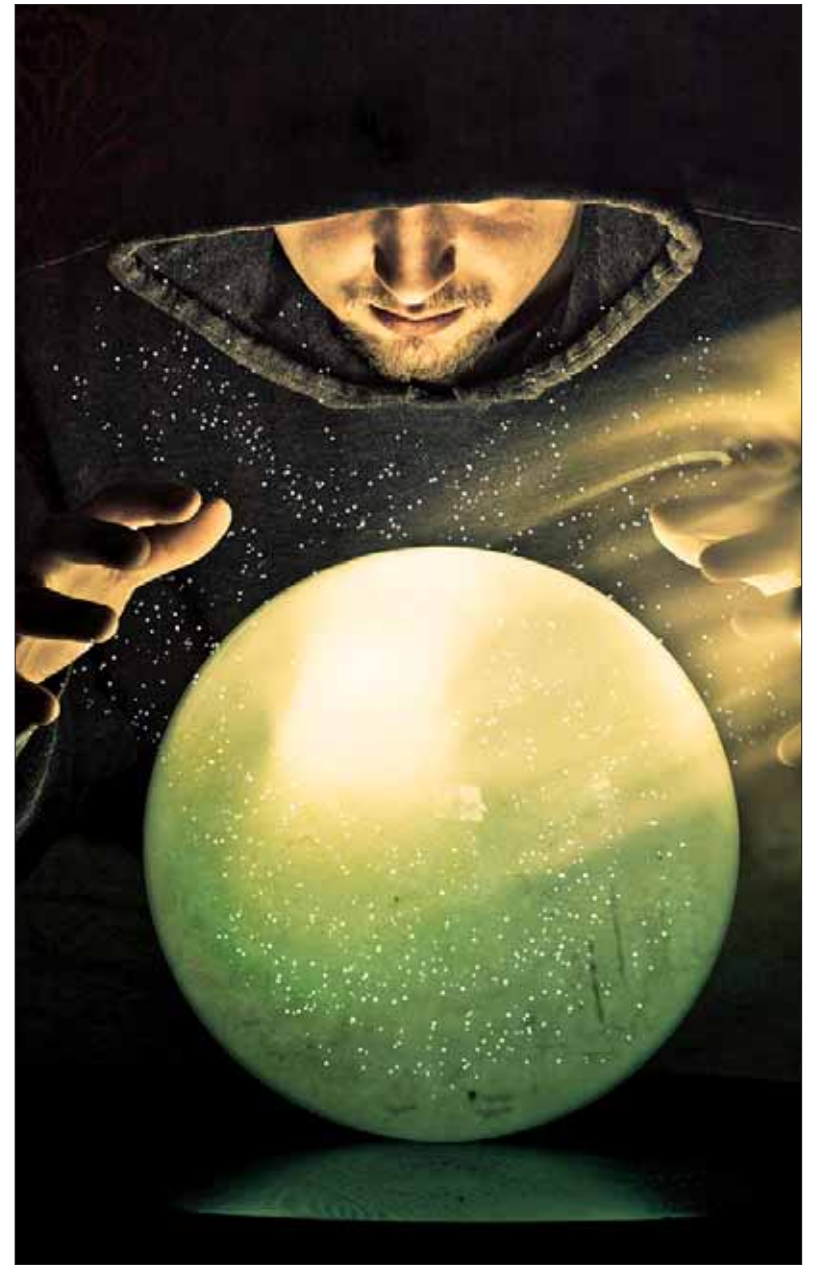
Active management is crucial. Things will remain turbulent moving into 2012 and it is advisable to look at your existing holdings and think, does this still add value? No doubt if you are heavily invested in a geographical area such as Europe, then potentially things could be a little bit bumpy, and a focus on Asia and Latin America could be more prudent.

Professional help and advice is readily available and for savings such as pension funds and investments, be proactive to determine if these are actively managed or will exposure in areas such as Europe and the US have a major bearing on how your individual portfolio performs. To do nothing, could spell disaster.

Certain areas in Europe and the US still offer good value and should not be totally discounted whether this be in mutual funds or individual stocks. The choice is so great and vast that your head could get into a spin, so keeping things simple is a wise choice. Does any of this sound familiar? If so seek professional advice, help is on hand.

For now, I am off to go and pick my Christmas tree!

Anthony Lyman (CEFA) is a Senior Financial Consultant for Montpelier Group. Readers may contact him at Alyman@montpeliergroup.com



LET ME SEE: A totally smooth ride would be wishful thinking. As always we must consider the domino effect, what happens in one part of the world tends to affect the rest in one way or another. Photo: Sean McGrath.

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Slavery on the high seas

Workers in Thailand's fishing industry often find themselves living a violent nightmare with no escape in sight and no help. Meanwhile, human rights experts and local organizations look for ways out.

By Nicholas Altstadt

THE next time you sit down to a seafood dinner, think of Min, a Karen-Burmese migrant worker from Shan State.

Min is one of countless migrant workers who have been trafficked into Thailand as a last resort to earn a living. He didn't know where he would end up or what kind of work he would do, but he had run out of options in Burma.

He recalls his ordeal in *Snap Shot Stories from Invisible Victims of Trafficking in Thailand*, a collection of real-life experiences of trafficked workers published last month by the Mahidol Migration Center (MMC) at the Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University, in Bangkok.

Min was promised 6,000 baht per month as a restaurant or factory worker in Thailand if he could cough up the 12,000-baht "broker fee". He couldn't afford it so he agreed to use his future wages to pay it back.

After walking for days and with swollen feet, Min was taken to a fishing boat. "A Mon and a Thai man watched over the workers. The Thai man had a gun and threatened the workers with it. Min had to work hard and when he didn't, he was kicked in the stomach," the report states.

It goes on to detail how he lived in cramped conditions and was forced to work day and night – and that he was never paid for his work.

Min and his shipmates were beaten for stealing a fish and cooking it on the exhaust pipe of the boat. He didn't know how to escape – every time they were docked, the workers were taken to a house and locked in a small room.

Once, two workers ran away, but one was caught. "The worker was taken back to the boat and tied



Workers on a Thai fishing boat, where they often work 18 to 20 hours a day. Photo: AFP

to a post with his feet half immersed in water... the man was electrocuted... and tortured with cigarette butts. Later he was taken to the back of the boat and shot through the head," the MMC report said.

In October, a crew of Burmese fishermen mutinied and killed their Thai captain and Thai engineer in Indonesian waters before being caught off the coast of Phuket. The confessed murderer said he hacked the men to death because he was tired of the constant abuse – physical and mental.

A common theme in the stories of migrant workers – like Min, who tied himself to a life buoy, jumped overboard and swam through the night for six hours before reaching shore – is that they don't know who to turn to, as law enforcement officials are often reported as being involved in the trafficking process.

"Normally, if a laborer is abused by their employer, they have the right to report it directly to the police," an officer from the Phuket Provincial

Office of Social Development and Human Security told the *Gazette*.

"But if they don't want to deal with the police, they can come to see us – we can investigate and cooperate with the police regarding such a case.

"We are open to reports from anyone, but so far we haven't heard any from migrant or Thai laborers about forced labor or slavery on fishing boats," she said.

When asked how such cases could be investigated if the victims fear for their lives, she added, "Our office is open to everyone, especially regarding human security issues. No matter who they are, if they feel that their life is threatened, they can come to us – we can't really offer them any help if they refuse to come to us."

The Phuket Provincial Labor Protection and Welfare Office (LPWO) echoed the sentiment.

"The laws that we use for local [Thai] and migrant laborers are the same – we require that employers

work their employees no more than eight to nine hours per shift, and no more than six straight days. If they are worked over that, they are entitled to overtime compensation," a Phuket LPWO officer said.

"I haven't had any reports to our office regarding forced labor or slavery on fishing boats – I've heard about it on the news, but we have never received any reports to our office," she added.

According to experts, the official response to what is believed to be widespread rights abuses in the fishing industry is insufficient.

"This is ludicrous," Human Rights Watch Deputy Asia Director Phil Robertson told the *Gazette*.

"Basically, the Phuket Labor Office is taking a 'hear-no-evil, see-no-evil' stance, pretending a serious problem does not exist simply because no one has dropped into their office to tell of an escape from a labor situation and human trafficking issue on a fishing boat," he said.

According to a recent report by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), "Thailand's recruitment for workers in the fishing sector remains largely based on informal processes which often lead to abuse and foster human trafficking."

Conditions on fishing boats are cramped and dangerous, with fishermen expected to work 18 to 20 hours a day, the report said, adding that workers who fail to meet the captain's expectations face beatings, denial of medical care and maiming or even killing.

"While some Thai government bureaucrats in Phuket are hiding their heads in the sand, reports by United Nations agencies have repeatedly uncovered systematic abuse of trafficked migrant workers on Thai fishing boats.

"There have been repeated cases of the sort [that resulted in the arrest of mutineers in Phuket] – migrant worker crews rising up

and overpowering, and killing, abusive captains. The other side of the story is the many fishermen sent to sea against their will who cannot continue their work and are violently dispatched and thrown overboard," Robertson said.

According to the IOM report, forced labor is prevalent in the Thai fishing industry, of which the labor force is largely comprised of men from Burma and Cambodia.

"Estimates are hard to come by because many boats are unregistered, Thai officials are uninterested, and trafficked men on the boats who escape are profoundly afraid of raising what happened to them because they fear retaliation by fishing boat owners and captains," Robertson continued.

The State Enterprise Workers Relations Confederation of Thailand (SERC) is actively involved in promoting the rights of all workers in Thailand.

Through a network of volunteers on the ground, the SERC is well-positioned to field complaints regarding forced labor.

"Sometimes we take some of the cases we have to the government, so they can see what we are dealing with," SERC General Secretary Sawit Keawan told the *Gazette*.

"They don't seem to understand, or they try to ignore the human rights issue – especially the Burmese workers who come to Thailand illegally," he said.

"The most common report from our volunteers in Southern Thailand involves workers in the fisheries and agriculture industries – most involve forced labor and physical abuse," Sawit said.

Sawit added that boycotting the seafood industry would cause more harm than good.

"It's not the most effective way – it may have a negative effect on migrant workers in other industries. If you want quicker results, you can just report incidents directly to the SERC," he said.

Meanwhile, the IOM and Human Rights Watch call on the Thai government to put some muscle behind current legislation to crack down on human rights abuses in the industry, and to create an open system of matching prospective employees with employers.

"Thailand is one of the world's largest exporters of processed seafood. Consumers in North America and Europe should be demanding that the fish importers get involved to make sure their products do not come from forced labor," Robertson said.

"They should also ensure that their governments enforce their own laws to prevent forced-labor goods from being imported. Consumers don't want to eat fish tainted with the blood of trafficked fishing boat workers," he added.

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Bang Pae secret revealed



KIDS AT BAY: Bang Pae restaurant provides shade and space for children.

By Nanthapa Pengkasem

BANG Pae Seafood restaurant has been a favourite among locals for sixteen years.

This charming seaside place is run by a small family, headed by Mrs Prakorb Tiranon, who oversees daily culinary operations.

A beautiful twenty-minute drive in the direction of Pa Khlok from the Heroines Monument through shady rubber tree plantations takes you to a small bay. The restaurant is located on the edge of a mangrove and commands a stunning view of Bang Pae harbour, where flocks of wading birds search for their own seafood in the shallows.

The restaurant has two sections; the main area is shaded, but open on all sides to allow for a bay view and a refreshing breeze from the shore, while the al fresco beachside area is arranged chalet-style. A canopy of large trees provides overall dappled shade.

The restaurant has been guarded secret kept by locals, but clearly not successfully judging from the crowds there during our Saturday visit. Large groups of people were enjoying their meals and soaking up the holiday-like atmosphere while discussing a plethora of topics.

Clientele is by no means exclusively Thai. According to Prakorb, her restaurant has many satisfied foreign customers who send her messages of appreciation and pictures from abroad.

The exclusively seafood menu is not overly complicated, featuring a variety of reliable staples dishes with fish, crabs, prawns, clams and squid. Oysters are also on offer when in season. The restaurant owners prides themselves on the freshness of their fare which is drawn daily from the nearby waters. Only in inclement weather is the fish brought in from neighbouring provinces.

We didn't bother with any starters but tucked right into the *pla nung manao* (fish with lime – 150 baht), and this didn't disappoint. A large sea bass poached to perfection in unguent lime and tamarind sauce, topped with plenty of garlic, chillies, ginger and Shitake mushrooms. It was full of flavors and not as spicy as it looked.

House speciality fish soufflé in banana leaf, *hor mok* (25 baht a

piece), has a smooth and creamy texture tinged with the aroma of basil leaves buried underneath.

Equally fresh and satisfying were clams sautéed with basil (120 baht), which were deliciously sweet. Seafood doesn't get much fresher than this. By contrast, the prawns in tamarind sauce (200 baht) were a little too much on the sweet side. Still, the large prawns were tasty and a treat in themselves.

Try also the grilled mixed seafood (450 baht) accompanied by chilli-lime sauce. Not for the faint-hearted is the seafood hotpot or *poh taek* – literally meaning a "bursting fishnet" in Thai – which is a country version of *tom yum*, with lots of herbs and definitely more heat (150 baht).

Also highly recommended are the native dishes of tumeric crispy fish with garlic dip, and relishes (*nam prik*) of crunchy prawns with assortment of fresh vegetables.

Disappointingly, crabs were unavailable that day, but a glance at the menu told us that they come in many delectable designs. We made a mental note for our next visit to order stir-fried crabs with black pepper and onions, or Goan-style with Indian curry and egg, or simply steamed.

To round up there is a platter of mixed fruits, complementary with any order above 300 baht. A variety of beers is on offer although there is no wine list.

We found prices to be quite reasonable with six mains for five persons at 1,500 baht (no alcoholic drinks). Service was quick and with a smile. In all, this was a very enjoyable experience, worth repeating with friends and family. Children in particular will enjoy walking out during the low tide to explore the rich mangrove wildlife.

If a drive out to the country for a decent seafood lunch is your kind of thing, then Bang Pae Seafood Restaurant is a must.

Please note that the restaurant closes at 8pm.

From the Heroines Monument drive towards Pa Khlok. At exactly 10km (restaurant is signposted in Thai only) turn right into Bang Pae Village until you come to the end of the road at water's edge (about one km).

Opens daily from 10 am to 8pm. Contact on 076 529059, 087 8875785



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Bring it on!

Tri Tim Series: This week, Tim speaks about his enthusiasm to get out and finish the Laguna Phuket Triathlon course on Sunday.

IT'S the moment of truth in my personal triathlon trail this weekend – and as the utter feeling of dread starts to fade, I have a feeling of excitement to hear the Laguna Phuket Triathlon (LPT) starting siren at 6:30am on Sunday morning.

This last week I have realized that my trainer, Darren Hancock of RPM gym, and I have done all that we can to prepare and it's time to enjoy the race.

Every swim, bike and run I've done in all those training sessions over the past six months will finally culminate in my first-ever triathlon.

Actually 95 per cent of my race has already been run over those months by me losing weight, getting fit and changing my lifestyle. Sunday will just be a small part of my personal achievements.

I've already written in detail about my fitness regime with trainer Darren, who has been with me every step of the way since day one. So this week, on the threshold of what will be the greatest physical challenge of my life, I want to look forward instead and describe what my approach (as a "newbie") will be to tackle a triathlon.

First and foremost – the time I post is not really important. I'll be

happy to complete the course in one piece. Although quietly I would like to think I can beat the five hour mark.

My first experience of the sea swim course took place last weekend. I found it a fantastic experience which has given me a real idea of what to expect when the race siren goes on Sunday morning. Except this Sunday it won't be just me and Darren – it will be me, Darren and about 1,000 other swimmers.

I look forward to watching everyone scamper into the water as I take it all in from the beach. Unfortunately all the ladies age groups follow mine into the water and I can expect my moment of peace to be shattered fairly quickly as they all pass me by.

Another unique feature of the LPT is the 620 meter freshwater lagoon that makes up the final section of the swim course. The buoyancy advantage that

someone of my size experiences in the salt water is soon lost when we hit the fresh stuff.

Darren briefed me on what to expect in making the transition from salt to fresh water. So I have that factored into my swim strategy, as well as another little LPT tip from Darren that I'm

sworn to secrecy about.

The transition from swim to bike should be an interesting one. All the experienced triathletes seem to be able to leap out of the water and land on their bike with their helmet strapped on, feet in bike shoes and already sucking on energy gels as they leave the transition area.

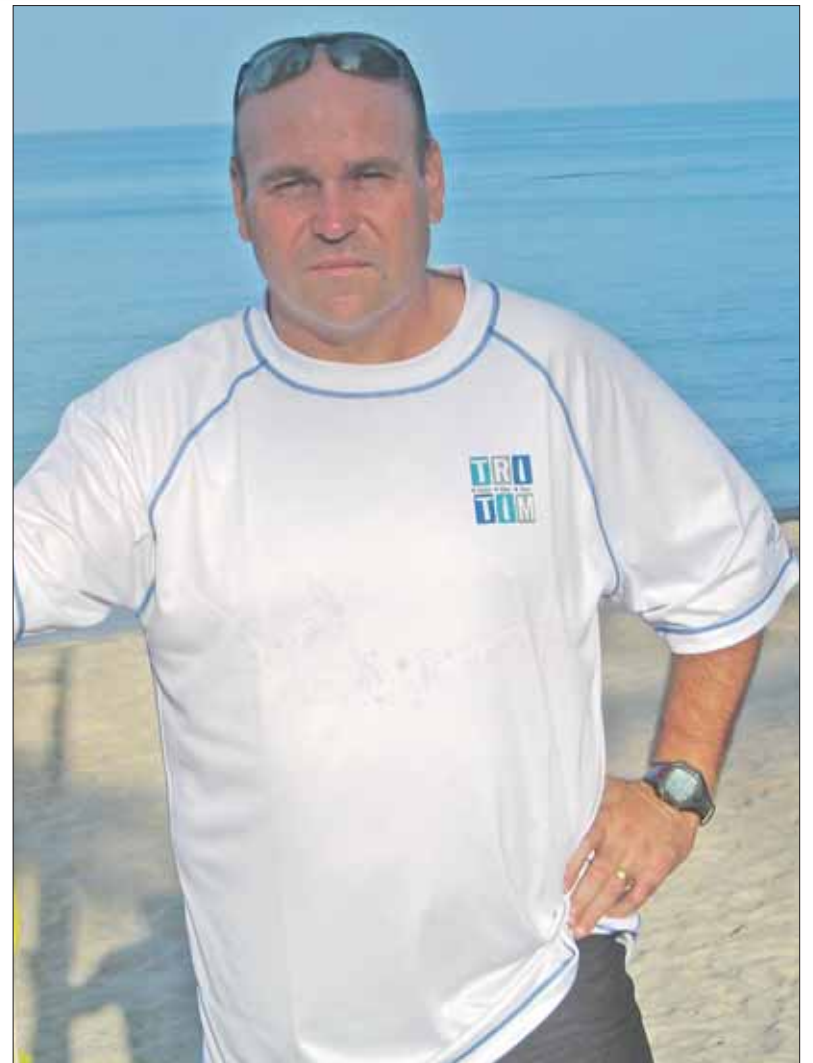
I, on the other hand, and to Darren's disgust (he will have his spies watching me), shall enjoy my walk to the transition area reflecting on the fact that I have completed the swim. A quick towel down, shoes on and I'll depart for the bike course.

My strategy for the 55km bike course is simple – now that I no longer fall off the bike all the time! The fact that the Nai Thon hills hold no fear for me now is crucial. Once over them and the awkward succession of inclines on the old Airport Road, I'll be trying to stretch out on the long flat sections of Highway 402 in the hope of beating my best bike time to date of two hours and 14 minutes.

Once the bike section is over, the daunting task of the 12km run will be upon me. This is one part of my training that has not gone well. Every time I started to make progress, I would suffer a knee injury and a long recovery period would follow.

Having not run for the last month to save my knees for event day, I have no real expectations, but I will try my best to run and walk intermittently as I do in my training.

If anyone sees me out there struggling on the run section, please feel free to throw a cold



LOOKING FORWARD: Tri Tim will become a genuine triathlete come Sunday afternoon when he finishes the Laguna Phuket Triathlon.

wet sponge at me, as it will be much appreciated.

What a welcome sight that finish line will be. The last 100 meters will no doubt be emotional, and with a bit of luck there will still be someone other than my family and the cleaners left to see me cross it and I'll be able to call myself a triathlete!

Aside from the weight loss, this fitness journey has also created the welcome benefit of a reduction in my daily intake of medications for my heart and diabetes conditions.

While I don't think I will ever

be completely free of medications, my new lifestyle has led to my doctor significantly reducing the strength and frequency of my intake and Darren has taught me a sustainable way to lose weight and stay fit which I plan on continuing to do.

The clock is ticking towards 6:30am on Sunday – bring it on!

But there's one feature of LPT that excites me even more than challenging myself. The fact that I'll be among hundreds of others all on similar personal challenges is something that is firing me up for the race of my life.



LOOKING BACK: Tim reflects on a life-changing six months.

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Christmas markets

IN MANY towns in Germany and Austria, Advent is usually ushered in with the opening of Christmas markets. Phuket's first Christmas market was held last year and due to popular demand there will be two different locations and dates to enjoy this year.

The first will be held at DaVinci Restaurant, Nai Harn on Saturday, December 10 and the second will be at Canal Village Laguna on Saturday, December 17. Both will start at 3pm and continue until 6pm.

Organizer, Chantal Fernandes is looking forward to showcasing some of Phuket's fantastic artisans as well as raising money for charity: "Last year, there were over 38 stalls, this year we hope it will be even bigger."

Hand made jewelry, unique gifts, home ware and paintings by local artists are just a few of the many items that will be on offer.

Freshly baked mince pies, Christmas cakes and other festive treats will also be on sale. For the kids, there will be face painting, egg decorating and Santa's Grotto.

The Banyan Tree as well as Sarah Shaw will donate Christmas cookies and a Gingerbread

House each, which will be raffled off at the end of the day.

Handcrafted toys, christmas decorations, hand bags, natural soaps and jewelry will

be available to buy from market stalls and proceeds will all be donated to the Good Shepherd Charity

If you make, bake or create goods, a table will cost 500 baht each which will be donated to the charity. Vendors keep all the profits from sales on the day.

For more information contact chantal.fernandes@gmail.com or visit thegoodshepherd.info



His master's voice?

AS A canine trainer, one of the key things I hear people talk about is that their dog won't come back when they call.

I'll spare you the training psychology behind this for today and focus on another important aspect to a failed recall. It might not be that your dog is blowing you off, he just might not be able to hear you.

Ear infections are no fun, but generally can be easily cured. That said, like many canine infections, you need to catch them early and treat them or you run the risk of things getting much worse. The down side, is that our dogs can't tell us they have earache. The upside is that they will display signs and signals that while not exactly a large neon flashing sign board, should at least give us an idea that all is not well and it's time to go to the vet.

A dog with infected ears will display various signs and symptoms such as excessively shaking their heads, scratching at their ears with their paws, or rubbing their heads along the ground.

Infected ears can also be a tad on the smelly side – an infected ear will be pungently distinct. On top of that, the inside of the ear flap may be red or swollen, from the constant scratching and infection.

Untreated, infections become more severe and shift from the outer ear, to the inner ear which could cause your dog to go deaf. Also, if the nerves within the inner ear become infected, your dog may become disorientated, often tilting their heads or walking in



Dog Whisperer
By Russell D Russell

circles. Unusual eye movements (or Nystagmus) can also occur. If you're dog is acting strange (cue dogs juggling fire balls), or displaying any of the above signals, take them to the Vet for a check up.

So how did this happen? Ear infections are caused by the presence of high numbers of bacteria or yeast cells in the ear, or the introduction of foreign bacteria into the ear. This can happen in a number of ways. For example dogs that swim regularly are exposed to foreign objects in the water and are high risk candi-

ditions help to promote abnormal yeast growth and can lead to chronic infections.

Certain breeds of dogs are more likely than others to develop ear infections for this reason such as Cocker Spaniels and Labrador Retrievers.

Certain characteristics of the breed and individual dog ears can make a dog more susceptible to an infection. Lots of hair around, or even in the ear canal reduces the airflow which leads to an increased incidence of infection, as can long, droopy ears which can prevent air from entering the ear cavity.

The treatment required depends on the type and severity of the infection. That said, medicinal drops or ointments are usually the order of the day and need to be administered over a period of time to ensure the infection is completely cleared.

One can also find various homeopathic remedies that can help alleviate ear infections. These usually include soothing and anti-inflammatory ingredients such as Tea Tree Oil or Chamomile.

Other homeopathic remedies are known for their pain relief or anti-fungal properties both of which may be needed depending on the cause of the infection.

For more information on canine ear infections, or to inquire about training classes contact the Thailand Canine Academy on 089 5884050, email canineworld@me.com or check the website tk9a.com



LOOKS TENDER: A check-up at your local Vet will ease a pup's painful lugs. Photo: Veronica Pierce



HEARING AIDS: Domestic breeds are often used as guard dogs where their sensitive hearing is exploited. Photo: Stella Dauer



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FIGHTING THE TIGER: A scene from the documentary in which children of Baan Gerda act in an opera based on the book 'The Life of Pi'. Photo: Pavlos Christoforou

Living With The Tiger:

Attitudes are changing as Phuket gets screenings of an acclaimed documentary about the children of Baan Gerda, an orphanage for HIV-infected kids cast out by their communities and families.

By Nicholas Altstadt and
Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai

WHAT do you do when stuck alone in a small boat with a big, hungry tiger? In the novel *The Life of Pi*, the protagonist, Pi, comes to form a relationship of mutual respect and understanding with the tiger in his lifeboat, ultimately proving that by understanding the nature of the beast, his fear disappears.

In *Living With The Tiger*, a full-length feature documentary by rookie filmmaker Mike Thomas, Pi's dilemma is explored in the everyday lives of children living at Baan Gerda village in Lop Buri province. The tiger in this real-life drama: HIV.

Most of the 85 children living at Baan Gerda were born infected with HIV to parents who have since died as a result of the disease, leaving them orphaned and unwanted by their extended families.

With his film, Thomas aims to attack the stigma attached to HIV by taking the message on the road with screenings in New York, Singapore, Bangkok, and most recently, Phuket.

A group of students at Prince of Songkla University (PSU) Phuket saw the film and were so impressed that they set to the task of organizing a local screening on their campus. Their work paid off on November 9 with a private viewing for PSU students and another, open to the public, scheduled for December 7.

"This was a project that two of our lecturers suggested to us, and we found it very interesting because it's not just another university project – we are actually helping the community by showing that HIV-infected people are still people," said Sikander Langner, leader of the student group who organized the events.

Bla is a 17-year-old resident of Baan Gerda whose parents died when he was young, leaving him with an extended family who were unwilling to care for him. As the oldest resident of the village, the film focuses on his story as he tells it – as he lives it – with confidence and an unmistakably sanguine acceptance of his lot in life.

"I was invited to this screening for students in Phuket, and getting here was one of

the greatest experiences in my life – it was my first time on an airplane," an excited Bla said after the first screening on November 9.

"I began to understand HIV when I was about five years old. I started taking antiretroviral drugs and I'm still taking the same medicine. I'm strong and I never really get sick," Bla said.

Buddhists believe in karma – that what people did in past lives will affect their reincarnation.

"I don't know what I did in my previous life," Bla said, "But I believe it must have been something really bad. That's why I was born with this disease.

"Personally, I think it's better to be born with the disease than to get it when I'm older. At least I know I didn't do anything that I'll regret later.

"I used to think about what I wanted to be – I dreamt of being a soldier, but now I realize that was just a dream and it always will be. It's difficult to plan for anything when I know I have HIV.

"Most careers, including being a soldier, require a blood test. Even if I have all the knowledge and all the potential they want, they won't accept me.

"I have no expectations. I won't plan my future that far ahead. I don't know how long I will live. I've grown up seeing people I love dying all the time – I don't fear the future or death, I just try to make every minute of my life worth living," Bla said.

"My aunts and uncles [now say they] are happy to have me back, but they are worried about how other people in the village will treat me. There are a lot of people who have no understanding of HIV and how it is spread. I don't really care how other people think of me, I just want to go back and farm my father's land, where we used to live together.

That would make me very happy," he said.

Hundreds of students attended the two afternoon screenings at PSU. As they made their way into the auditorium, they slowly took their seats and thumbed through books, tapped on smartphones, and appeared with the tired lack of enthusiasm to be expected after a morning of attending classes.

Less than two minutes into the film – yes, less than two – all eyes were forward, books closed, phones in pockets as they were drawn in by the cast of characters at Baan Gerda.

The film is a roller-coaster ride that follows Bla and his "brothers and sisters", as he calls them, through daily life, and rehearsals and performances of an opera based on the novel *The Life of Pi*.

As the lights came on, many in the audience had their tissues out, wiping away tears as Bla and Mike – much to the surprise of the students – came in front and center to field questions.

A u t t a w a n "Kaew" Sangkarat and Pitchanan "Pitch" Patcharin, seniors at PSU, said they came to see the film purely for entertainment purposes, but came away with much more.

"I came to watch the film because we had a free period, so I expected nothing. Now I can say I was wrong – this isn't a typical film you see in a film festival. The story is great and meaningful and it has totally changed my attitude toward HIV-infected people," said Pitch.

"I know what HIV is and I know how to prevent myself from getting it, but I didn't know that we can't get infected by sharing a glass of water or swimming in the same pool. I also didn't know that people with HIV can live as long as us if they take good care of themselves and take antiretroviral medicine," she said.

"I felt bad for Bla and the other kids who appeared in the film. From now on I will think of them when I'm feeling lazy or planning to skip a class – there are a lot of people who want to study but don't have a chance like us. I am grateful and fortunate to be able to do what I want to do," Kaew added.

Worakunya Jinpol, said that she felt bad about how others were unfair to the children.

"They're just like the rest of us. I think HIV patients are not the ones with the problem, it's those who don't understand or lack knowledge about the disease that have the problem," she said.

"I cried so many times [during the film], not because they are infected with HIV, but because they don't have equal opportunities. I wish they could earn a living by doing something they want to do without restrictions. Blood screenings for school and work is the most discriminatory process. I wish our society were more open about this," she said.

The results of a survey administered by the student organizers plainly show the film's effectiveness.

More than 91 per cent of the 323 people surveyed said they learned something new about HIV while more than 69 per cent said they were "more accepting" of HIV-infected people after viewing the film.

And what may be the most telling statistic? More than 79 per cent said they would be "more willing to interact" with someone who had HIV.

"I know he's [Bla] having an impact – people watch the film and they feel like they have this bond with him. They know him because he speaks so openly and they're not expecting him to come out and talk after the film," Thomas said.

"Coming from Bla, it's much better than coming from me. Our aim is to always tackle the issue of stigma, because we want to provide a better future for the children – a future in which they can go back to their communities and extended families and be accepted; to be able to live and work in society in a way that anybody else can. At the moment, that is not possible," he said.

"There are 10,000 to 20,000 children in the same situation," he said, adding that HIV rates are on the increase, especially in the



Mike Thomas (back, left), Bla (front, center) and student organizer Sikander Langner (right)



LIVING WITH THE TIGER: About 85 children live in the village in Lop Buri. Photo: Mike Thomas



HOPE: Bla, the main character, will attend the Dec 7 screening in Phuket. Photo: Mike Thomas

film fights HIV stigma

15 to 24 age group. Current statistics from the Bureau of Epidemiology show that there are 372,874 HIV-infected people in Thailand – 4,038 of those are in Phuket.

"Hopefully by showing the film, it will be a wakeup call," Mike said.

"Being here [at the screening] is the best experience. I'm happy to know that I'm accepted. I was a bit nervous – I didn't know if the students would be scared of

me, but it turns out they're not, which makes me very happy," Bla said.

"I would like to be a spokesperson on behalf of all my brothers and sisters. I want to show that we are harmless and are just like the rest of you. We have dreams; we have hopes; we have a future," he said.

"Give us a chance. For us, there is nothing better in the world than being accepted," he ended.

Public screening on Dec 7 at PSU

THE public is invited to attend a free screening of *Living With The Tiger* on December 7 at the theater in Building 5 on PSU's Phuket Campus. Seats may be reserved online at <http://bit.ly/vTsR45> or by calling Colin Gallagher (English) at 087 471 3542 or Penjun Tangpanitanon (Thai) at 087 779 6174. Registration at the event begins at 5:30pm with the film starting at 6pm. Director Mike Thomas and the main character Bla will be present to address the audience's questions. There will be a private screening for VIP's and government officials earlier in the day.

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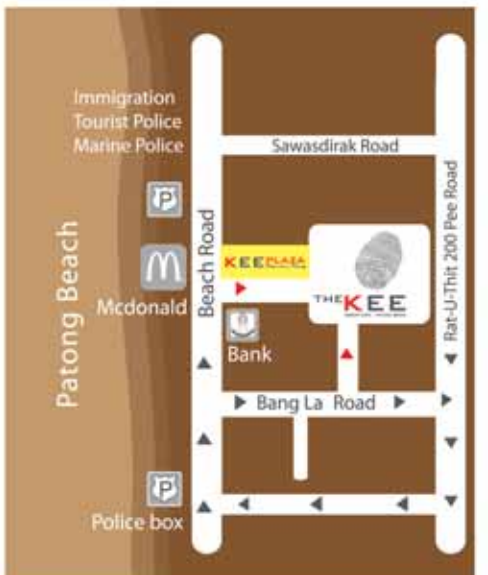
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We would also like to express our appreciation for all those who "Stood Up To Be Counted" and all those who supported the event.

We would like to reassure you that 100% of the funds raised will go to our scholarship programme to help Thai students to complete their education.

WHAT'S ON in Phuket

November 23 to 26. Phuket International Sport Fishing 2011

Phuket International Sport Fishing 2011 Fishing days are held to November 26 off Chalong Bay. Prize giving party on November 26. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV. We hope you will join us for another great tournament! Contact Uwe Schitteck at 076-282036, uwe.schitteck@yahoo.com or visit phuket-international-sportfishing-tournament.com.

November 25 to 26. AustCham (Thailand) Phuket Sundowners

AustCham (Thailand) Phuket Sundowner presentation at 5pm by Martin Smesters, Managing Director of Pura Organics on producing and using organic food products in Thailand. Followed at 6pm by Sundowners business and social networking session with drinks and snacks. A trip is planned on Saturday to visit the organic farm in Khao Sok if enough people are interested. Contact Harry at 081-2831740, harry@ladypie.com or visit austcham.thailand.com.

November 26 and December 3. 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 076-330065, katacenter@twochefs-phuket.com or visit twochefs.com.

North Phuket Culinary Arts Festival



Reservations at 076-363999, events@northphuket.com or visit northphuket.com.

December 2 to 4.

Eat, Chill, Dance and Be Seen at the North Phuket Culinary Arts Festival, Mai Khao Beach. Situated in Northern Phuket, we will play host to the 2nd Annual Festival from December 2 to 4. The festival celebrates the culinary talent and attractions of this unspoiled part of Phuket.

Friday, December 2.

Join us for North Phuket's Epic longest dining table at SALA Phuket Resort and Spa and Renaissance Phuket Resort & Spa.

Saturday, December 3.

Anantara Phuket present's Infinity Sunset Grill, a culinary experience amidst the stunning Anantara pool deck, set to the backdrop of Phuket's finest sunsets, with cool DJ tunes to dance the night away.

Sunday, December 4. JW Marriott Phuket Resort and Spa presents The Brunch of your life "A bounty of sophisticated tastes from the JWM kitchens and Bars for the entire family to enjoy right on Mai Khao Beach" Mai Khao beach. This event is sponsored by PGTV and the *Phuket Gazette*.

November 26. Salsa Night

After the overwhelming success of our popular "Salsa Night" events, once again we are delighted to invite you to Royal Phuket Marina for another breathtaking Salsa Night! Dance the Cha-Cha, Bachata, Samba and Rumba to the sounds of DJs. Upon request from our customers, a Snack Buffet is also available. Entrance: Free. Dress: Colorful. From 8:30pm to 1:00am at Les Angeles, Royal Phuket Marina. Contact Murat at 081-7973364, muratc@royalphuketmarina.com or visit royalphuketmarina.com.

November 27 and December 4. Double Triathlon Festival 2011

The Laguna Phuket Triathlon on November 27 and Ironman 70.3

Asia-Pacific Championship on December 4 will see hundreds of athletes from around the world arrive for a week-long Tri-Fest of training and social events with top triathlon professionals, in the lush tropical surroundings of the beachfront at Laguna Phuket. The LPT has a 1.8km swim; 55km bike ride and 12km run. The Ironman 70.3 Asia-Pacific Championship has a 1.9km swim; 90.1 km bike ride and 21.1km run. Laguna Phuket is using the events to raise funds for its community project providing survival swimming lessons for local youngsters. online: lagunaphuket.com and ironmanphuket.com This event is sponsored by PGTV and the *Phuket Gazette*. Contact Robin at 076-362300, robinw@lagunaphuket.com or visit lagunaphuket.com.

order. Leading brand guru David Keen, who heads up Quo Global, will speak on the brand evolution of the island and what is needed to sustain growth. And respected marketing communications expert David Johnson of Delivering Asia will look at the challenges and solutions to keeping on top of media and the island's image in the current volatile marketplace. Registration starts at 4:30pm at the Anantara Resort, Mai Khao beach with the session running from 5 to 6pm. Networking and drinks will follow. Attendance is open to the public for 100 baht and includes drinks. Contact Sheree Tanpensuk at 02-2541041 ext 212, sheree@amchamthailand.com or visit amchamthailand.com.

November 30. Quiz Nights

Join our Wednesday once a month of Quiz Nights at SKIPPERS Res-

taurant in Royal Phuket Marina. This event will continue in 2012 on January 25, February 29, March 28, April 25, May 30 and June 20. The events runs from 7:30 to 10pm. Happy Hour prices and prizes! Reservations at 076-360890, pahay@netvigator.com.

December 1. Wine Dinner

Discover a truly remarkable dining experience, featuring five courses of signature Thai cuisine, perfectly paired with impeccable Thai wines, all award-winning wines from Hua Hin Hills vineyard, Monsoon Valley. The sounds of Thai music will surely delight you throughout the evening. The wine dinner commences at 6:30 to 11pm. Priced at THB 2,000++ per person at Ruen Thai restaurant, Dusit Thani Laguna Contact Tanyarat at 076-362999 ext 7303 or 7626, dtlplfb@dusit.com or dusit.com/dusit-thani/dusit-thani-laguna-phuket.html.

December 2 CRICKET Deli Viceroy's vs PCG

The Phuket Cricket Group (PCG) will play the Deli Viceroy's in two T20 over games starting from 9am to 4pm at the Alan Cooke Ground Phuket. The *Phuket Gazette* is proud to sponsored the Alan Cooke Ground Phuket (ACG). Contact Alan at 081-8934200, alan@acgphuket.com or visit acgphuket.com.

December 2, 9 and 16 . Navrang Mahal Curry Fridays

We present CURRY FRIDAYS at Navrang Mahal India Restaurant from 7 to 11pm in Karon Sea Sands Resort & Spa. Here is your chance to enjoy an authentic and lavish Indian Curry Buffet every Fridays. ALL YOU CAN EAT for only 449 baht nett! Draught Beer by the glass: just 50 baht nett. Special discount on beverages. Reservations at 076-286464 ext 4, sm@karonseasand.com or visit karonseasand.com.

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 27 and December 18 – Chalong
December 4 – Patong
December 11 – Laguna
Starts 10am.

For more info contact Woody at T:076-290468

November 30. BRAND PHUKET: Inside Out the Destination Icon

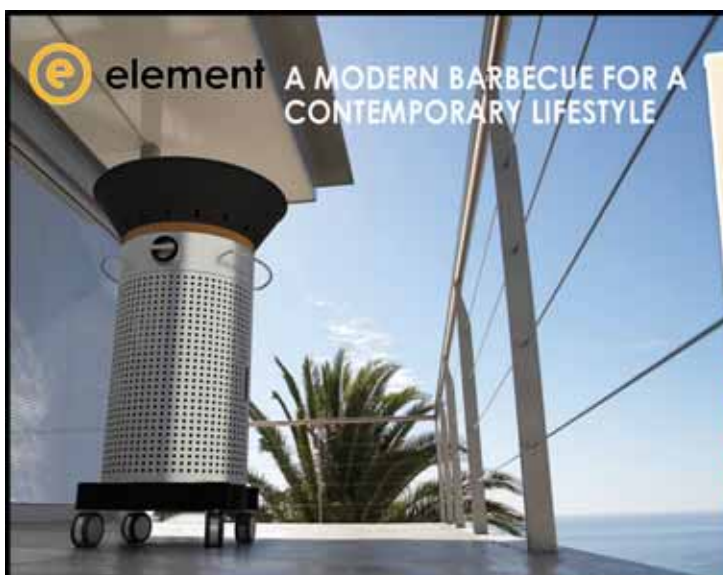
This AMCHAM Greater Phuket event is a "must attend" for those in the hospitality, travel, property and hotel sectors. As Phuket makes the transition into a mass tourism and hotel market, what is the future of the island's brand? Our speakers will review some of the impacts that have changed Phuket over the past few years, including the global financial crisis, domestic political turmoil and the advent of the new economic

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EVERYONE'S A WINNER: The Phuket International Women's Club (PIWC) annual fundraiser was held recently to help provide scholarships for students (below). The main prize, two return tickets to any destination in the world flown by Qatar Airways, was won by Mark Cameron, seen here receiving his voucher from Vice-President of the PIWC, Carole Dux.



BABIES KNOW BEST: Babies Best International Nursery and Pre-School in Karon held its grand opening recently.



GIVE 'EM MORE: Holiday Inn Mai Khao Beach and British International School Phuket in conjunction with Vachira Hospital donated EMs (Effective Micro-organisms) in liquid and solid form to help clean up the Bangkok floodwater.



IT'S A START: HeadStart International School representatives handed over donations at The Phuket Gazette offices for flood victims in Bangkok. (From left) Surang Promsak (HeadStart staff manager), Ajarn Anong Tanwattananon (Thai principle), Kongkuan Prachakrich (Parent's committee member), Roger Talbot (Parent's committee leader), Seubsak Sahaworaphan (PG's IT Manager), Wipa Putkaew (PG's Accounting Manager).



MINI GOLFERS: Guy Quail and Wannida Parat enjoying one of the 18 holes at the new Phuket Adventure Golf that opened in Bang Tao recently.



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YOUR Phuket



Happy landings

THE Phuket Airpark received a very special guest last week when a Pilatus PC-12 flew in non-stop from Bhutan.

Swiss-made, the 12-seater aircraft, powered by a single turbo prop, proved that large, high speed private aircraft do not always require great length to land.

Despite its weight of five tons and a cruising speed of 320mph, the ship touched down gracefully on the Airpark's 500-meter grass runway, screamed a burst of reverse thrust, and was taxiing to the tarmac after less than 400 meters had slipped beneath it.

The US\$4-million dollar airplane and its owner will depart the Airpark for Singapore next week.

Photos by Mark Branson



IT'S PLANELY BEAUTIFUL TO SEE: The Pilatus PC-12 is powered by a single Pratt & Whitney Canada PT6 turboprop engine.



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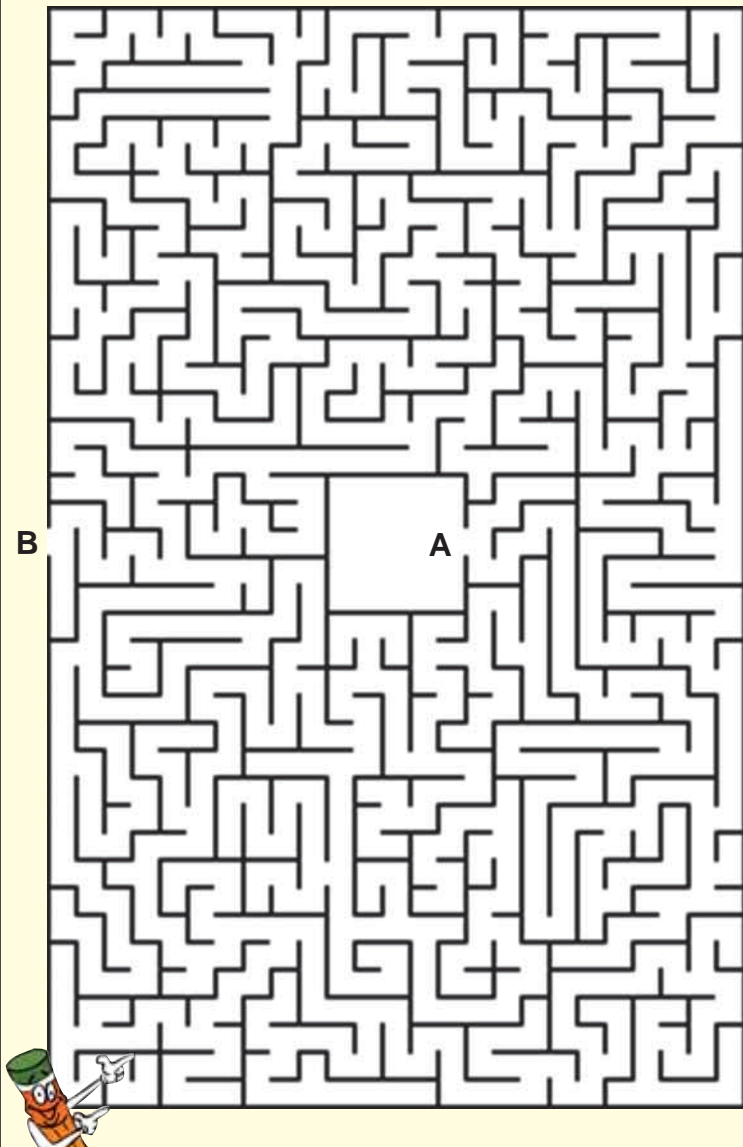
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Project Owner : L.H.Muang Mai Co., Ltd. Managing Director : Khun Pitaya Tantipiriyakij Registered Capital : 900 Million Baht (Fully Paid) 88 Land and Houses Phuket, Location : West Chao fa Rd. Chalong sub-district, Amphur Muang, Phuket, Title Deed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



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

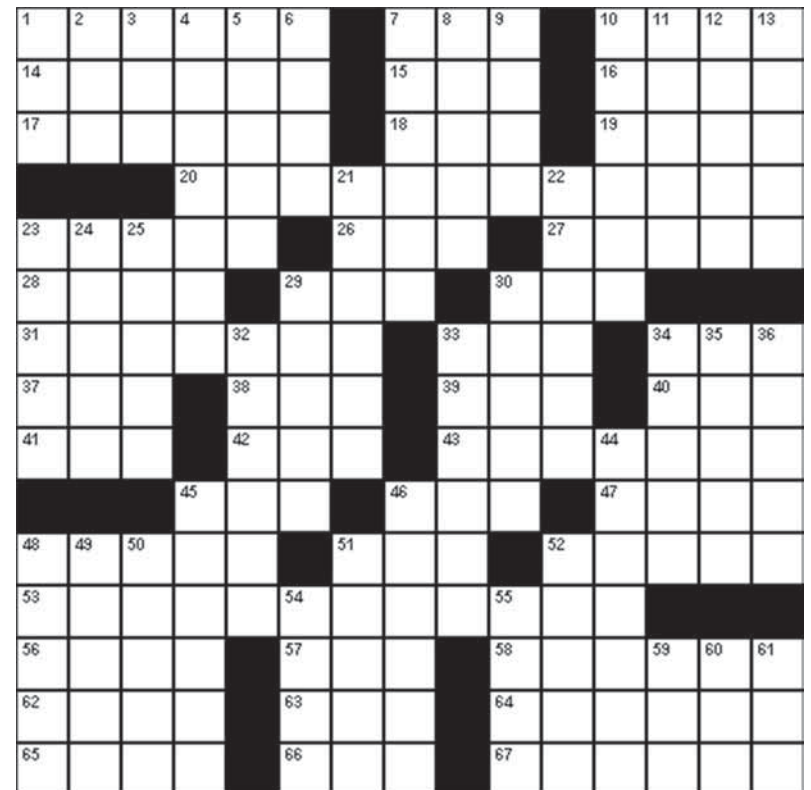


Across

1. Lama pacos
7. Lotion letters
10. Ink spot
14. Book of prayers
15. Mai —
16. — kleine Nachtmusik
17. Each
18. Apr. addressee
19. Pulitzer winner James
20. Largest ocean
23. Must
26. Capp and Capone
27. Harbor towns
28. Against
29. Sault — Marie
30. Marsh
31. Nuclear-fission apparatus
33. Amusement
34. NFL scores
37. Big bang cause
38. Altdorf's canton
39. Candle count
40. Intelligence
41. Hot time in Paris
42. VCR button
43. Mexican dish
45. B & B
46. College sr.'s test
47. This, in Tijuana
48. Room
51. My —, Vietnam
52. Camera setting
53. Unsalted cracker
56. — boy!
57. Backward tidal movement
58. Grunts
62. Adult male deer
63. Song syllable
64. Sea nymph
65. Bring on board
66. Crone
67. Places of contest

Down

1. Doc bloc
2. Back talk
3. Trident-shaped letter
4. Sterile
5. Chocolate source
6. Actor Baldwin
7. Smother
8. Seine spot
9. Money-related: Abbr.
10. Lighthouse
11. Hybrid beast
12. — a time
13. Ages between 13 and 19
21. Medical
22. Kitchen utensil
23. Poker Flat chronicler
24. Concerning
25. Declare
29. Philosopher Kierkegaard



30. Musical composition
32. Lathe operator
33. Cloth
34. Intertwine
35. As before
36. Condescend
44. Bring back
45. Glacial epoch
46. A talking politician?
48. Swagger
49. Page of music
50. Essential oil
51. Seventh sign of the zodiac
52. More delicate
54. Playwright Henley
55. Annapolis sch.
59. Cartoon Chihuahua
60. Acapulco aunt
61. Radical 60s org.

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Provided by BestCrosswords.com
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Puzzle solutions on page 41

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): The world of work holds some unseen challenges for those born under the sign of Sagittarius this week. Tuesday and Wednesday are days when you could be faced with having to make immediate decisions, but the stars suggest that an earth sign colleague will provide useful insight. Those celebrating a birthday this week can look forward to financial gains this year. The number four brings good fortune this weekend.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Capricorns' interest in moving on from an unsatisfactory work situation is highlighted this week. Another earth sign may have the right connections to help – Wednesday and Thursday are auspicious days to talk to those in high places. Where romance is concerned, you are advised to play it by ear. Jumping to conclusions is forecast to lead to wrong moves being made. Your lucky number this week is eight.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Aquarians are advised to slow down and concentrate on one thing at a time this week. The stars suggest that your ten-

dency to rush around will only result in too many unfinished projects. This is also highlighted to cause disagreements in a romantic relationship. Your chances of meeting old friends who you never expected to see again are strong at the end of month. Number six can be lucky.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Pisceans may have to accept that less than perfect is good enough for the time being. In the world of work there are signs that you will have to wait until December for satisfactory conclusions. Where family and friends are concerned, plans clash this weekend and it may be best to give in to a fire sign in order to keep the peace. Your lucky number is two on weekend.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Arians are likely to prefer their own company for much of this week. Spending time alone should enable you to reflect on what needs changing in your life. The stars advise that taking distance from a romance that is going sour is the best option. As December commences, your mind should be clearer and there are signs that at least one goal will be dropped. The number four brings good fortune this weekend.



TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Those born under the sign of Taurus who feel they have been stuck in a rut at work have an opportunity to climb out this week. Your creative juices should be flowing strongly as December commences – an influential air sign is forecast to be impressed. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, your dream of a relationship with another earth sign could come true. Number seven can bring good fortune.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): A water sign friend could be upset by your words or actions early next week. Geminis who are feeling frustrated by lack of progress should avoid taking this out on others. Those who recently experienced a romantic disappointment could have their spirits lifted by an earth sign's flirtation. Finances are well starred, with emphasis on replacing a necessary item costing less than you thought. Number five can be lucky this weekend.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): People are forecast to look to Cancerians for inspiration and motivation this week. Your creative energy is running high as November draws to a close and others would like to learn from you. However, the stars advise not giving away too many tips as another water sign is ready to profit from your expertise. Affairs of the heart become better starred during December. Number one looks lucky this weekend.

LEO (July 24-August 22): The stars suggest that you should be prepared to take no for an answer this week. A surprise rejection or refusal is forecast to give some Leos cause for concern, but there are hints that this situation could turn around yet again in the near future. In the meantime, a more relaxed mood encourages you to believe that anything is possible. Number three has good luck written on it this weekend.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): The world of work is forecast to be unsettled during the last days of November. Another earth sign seems intent on playing a game of hide and seek. In the realm of romance, there are

signs that an air sign is ready to take advantage of your good nature. Virgoans should make it clear how far their generosity will go. The number nine can bring good luck this week.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): The stars indicate that many Librans will finally be ready to listen to advice this week. Those who have been trying fruitlessly to solve a problem should see that asking for help brings positive results. Another air sign is worth listening to this weekend. In the realm of romance, you could be taken aback when a fire sign reveals what it will take to win their heart. Your lucky number this week is five.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Those born under the sign of Scorpio who have chalked up success this month are ready to celebrate. Your social outlook sparkles, with emphasis on reconciliation with another water sign who you fell out with recently. Where romance is concerned, the astral atmosphere is a little cloudy – the stars advise that you should look before you leap into romance with a fire sign. The number six can bring good fortune this weekend.

PROPERTY Gazette

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

Thalang turns on the waterworks

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

THE Phuket Provincial Office is spending 40 million baht on extending local government water mains from Baan Pon, just south of Thalang Town, to Baan Mak Prok School, located near the eastern end of the runway at Phuket Airport.

The project will allow local communities in the north of Phuket to start hooking up their local water networks to the mains and use government water supply in their homes in Srisoonthorn, Thepkasattri and Mai Khao sub-districts.

Connecting with the local water mains network from Ban Jo water treatment plant – which treats water from Bang Neaw Dun reservoir, Phuket's second largest water source – the new pipes will be laid alongside the

southbound lane of Thepkasattri Road from the 16km road marker to the 30km marker.

Pornthep Bunyaluek, an engineer at Phuket office of the Royal Irrigation Project, said the project is aimed at resolving recurring water shortages suffered by residents in the north.

Once this extension is complete, his office will look into extending the water mains further north to Phuket International Conference and Exhibition Center (ICEC) and the Phuket International Airport expansion areas in the future, said Mr Pornthep.

The budget, approved but not yet arrived, is expected in February, said Mr Pornthep.

However, once the funding has been transferred, the work is expected to take only 90 days to complete, said Phuket Provin-



WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE: Bang Wad can help produce 43,000 cubic meters of tap water a day.

cial Waterworks Authority Manager Pisak Chonlayutsaid.

"This project is not under public tender, so the Provincial Waterworks Authority will do work themselves," he said.

"People living in the areas affected by the expansion will be served clear tap water, not water for agriculture, by next June," he said.

Bang Jo water treatment facility currently produces 12,000 cubic meters of tap water a day,

serving Kamala, Cherno Talay, Srisoonthorn, some parts of Pa Khlok and some parts of Rassada, said Mr Pisak.

Although the facilities at Phuket's primary water reserve at Bang Wad can produce 43,000 cubic meters of tap water a day – serving Phuket Town, Chalong, Rawai, Kata, Karon, Kathu and Patong – plans are afoot to upgrade the water treatment facilities at Bang Jo.

"As a long-term solution to

Phuket's water shortages, the Phuket Waterworks Authority plan to eventually set up water treatment facilities at the future Klong Krata reservoir in Chalong," Mr Pisak added.

"In fiscal year 2013, we want to boost to water treatment at Bang Jo by 7,200 cubic meters a day. We also want a facility to be installed at the Klong Kata reservoir that can treat up to 12,000 cubic meters of water day," Mr Pisak said.

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PROPERTY

Taming the savage condohotel beast

NEARLY two decades ago, in 1993, Laguna Phuket started residential sales for their Allamanda condominium. Asia was a rising star, the baht surged in appreciation and foreign investment into Thailand property was still in its early days.

Though residential-led hospitality, or condo-hotels, was hardly new on the scene, here the book was blank on how, why or what the future of the product would be. Over the years, the plunge into various realms of alternative ownership has proved to be a rocky road for the property market.

Initially Banyan Tree operated Allamanda as a low cost entry point into the destination resort of Laguna. Positioning it below the Sheraton Grande (now Angsana), Dusit and Laguna Beach Resort. Blending the management culture of a luxury and mid-scale offering is never an easy task and this proved equally cumbersome.

Later two more Allamandas came on board over the year, known as 2 and 3. Legally these are each individual condominium juristic persons and the only binding entity was the namesake.

Timeshare or what we now of-



ten refer to as gentrified vacation ownership kicked off in 1998, with the then Allamanda Vacation Club (now Laguna Holiday Club) taking inventory in the condo blocks and selling time based stays.

After the 1997 Asian contagion, selling one week timeshare units was deemed to be far easier compared to unit sales and looked to be the way forward to spur the pace of sales in the project. However, as Asia's second property wave took off in the early part of the last decade, product demands, especially those seeking large town homes and villas, changed the marketplace in a dramatic fashion. Instead of one and two bedroom units, buyers wanted those scarce pool villas and more space.

As market sentiment flourished, Laguna took the opportunity to develop a purpose built vacation ownership complex; the Laguna Holiday Club. Tension between unit owners and management, and a better alignment of business interests dictated the move. Traditional

hotels and on-the-spot-resort-sales make strange bedfellows so going from a shared room into a separate space made sense.

Being an observer of the property market, it puzzled me during those boom years why waterfront duplex units and condos along the golf course failed to experience the same rise in capital appreciation as the larger marketplace. A prime location near the beach with complete infrastructure and life in an integrated resort. If it were boxing, Allamanda was fighting below its weight.

It's known within the industry about the fracturing of relationships between the various Allamandas, the developer and owners. Eventually this came to a head with part of the complex becoming the Best Western Allamanda. One portion elected not to operate as a hotel.

Enter hospitality veteran and long time Phuket resident, Robert de Graaf with an impressive resume and whose Albatross Travel Agency and dining outlet have been mainstays in the community. Under his watch things are clearly on the upswing. With a bit of care and navigation of murky waters needed by a technocrat, the rental opera-



SHARE THE WEAR: A stylish Allamanda living room.

tion has a new lease on life. A recently staged upgrading of units is ongoing and improvements to the food and beverage operation have lifted up the entire atmosphere. Robert has worked tirelessly and with passion which is exactly what has been needed.

As for the ugly beast of condo-hotels, communal resort living and the powder keg of political infighting is hardly specific to Phuket. Just visit a coop in any world class destination. Annual owner meetings often mimic Gadaffi's last days of power in Libya. Ever since Caine and Abel when you put one person

in close proximity with another, there is bound to be trouble.

I had coffee recently with Robert, and it's nice to see things moving forward in the right direction.

As I write this, the word on the grapevine is that perhaps interests may be aligning among the various components of the project and that a uniform property offering may be in the works. For property owners the timing could not be better with the island gearing up for a terrific high season. Allamanda continues to show great promise going forward and a united condo clearly remains the ultimate solution.



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In brief...

CBRE promotes Six Senses Vietnam

PERHAPS a sign of the times but as real estate in Phuket continues its relatively flat trading regime, CBRE Phuket is now promoting hospitality led residences at Six Senses Con Dao in Vietnam.

Fish where the fish are, and perhaps product and destination fatigue are weighing in to the current marketplace.

A few years ago the leading Thai brokerage sold a number of properties at Cambodia's Koh Rong island, so perhaps the strategy makes sense.

Something new, and the vision for investors to get high appreciation in a developing market.

While the same could have been said a decade ago for Phuket, the current stream of resale listings headed into high season looks to a very crowded field of play.

Laguna Phuket, which is at the upper echelon, also appear to have a current fixation on Vietnam, so only time will tell if things are indeed better on the other side.

Tiger tamed, Thai to smile

IN A nutshell the fledging venture between Tiger Airways and Thai Airways International has been binned.

But in steps Thai Smile Air. We won't comment on the name but the upstart is expected to take to the air by mid 2012.

Tertiary domestic routes will come into service first and then regional destinations.

As for Nok Air, one could argue the airline which Thai has a reported 39% stake is underutilized but never mind, let's go ahead and start yet another carrier.

While Thai is bucking the LCC trend with Smile as it is looking at premium light - and not the budget space, so business class seats will be available.

We do assume someone has actually thought out the new plan better than the ill fated Tiger's tale.

Patong condos on show in Singapore

A RECENT Singapore road show by Jones Lang LaSalle for Patong's The Privilege Residences was termed a success.

Using the upscale Hilton Hotel, two reservations were made and a number of site visits arranged by the team.

Speaking to the JLL team, key drivers of demand for the property were the security of freehold condominium ownership and guaranteed returns.

The property firm expects to take other Thailand projects to the Singapore market given the upswing in interest from the Privilege event.

- Bill Barnett



Eden's Oasis is now complete

DEVELOPERS of the Eden Thailand property development near Karon Beach recently announced that the 11 newly completed units of Phase Two of their Eden Oasis project are now for sale.

Eden Oasis includes seven one-bedroom condominiums and four two-bedroom, two-level duplexes ranging in price from 4.9 million baht to 8.2mn baht.

Eden Oasis is nestled on the hillside with panoramic views overlooking the Mövenpick Resort & Spa and the bay of Karon. Surrounded by tropical jungle-covered mountains, Eden offers classic, open-plan architecture blended in a modern-style resort setting.

The initial 14 units from Phase One of the project sold out in just 45 days in 2006 but the developers recognize how much the real estate buying market has changed since the global financial crisis.

"We're very aware of the fact that the majority of new buyers are no longer interested in buying property off-plan in Phuket," says Ted Hulbush, president of Eden Equity Partners, the developers of Eden Oasis.

"Consequently, we waited to have a finished product to show potential buyers before we announced the opening of sales for these 11 units. Now Eden Oasis buyers have the opportunity to move into their new homes very quickly," he added.

Inspired by the sparkling bay views and rich mountain vistas, the resort interior was designed for luxurious modern living by well-known hotel and resort designer Vincent Chye Tan. A brown and cream color scheme form the basis of his interiors and are consistently applied throughout.

Furniture, fabrics and fixtures, such as the European-style kitchen, along with the lighting, are all designed to enhance the modern aesthetic.

The private aspect of each guest room is contrasted by a balcony, with optional Jacuzzi tub, that offers views over the tropical forest, abundant mountains and ocean while bathing.

The condominium and duplex units come complete with air conditioning, hot and cold water, satellite TV, telephone, wireless internet, patio doors leading to the private balcony, a beautiful Western-style kitchen, and en-suite bathroom with shower and some units with Jacuzzis.

Furniture packages are also available.

Eden Oasis offers a wide range of facilities and services such as full security, shared swimming pool, panoramic roof deck and bar with barbecue.

Fitness center memberships are also available.

For further details visit eden-oasis.com.



EAST OF EDEN: Eden Oasis offers a wide range of facilities and services such as full security, shared swimming pool, panoramic roof deck and bar with barbecue.

Koh Kaew tackles flood erosion

THE Koh Kaew Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) is spending 3.4 million baht on reinforcing the banks of the Koh Kaew Canal to prevent flood erosion from eating into the adjacent road.

The work is being conducted where the canal runs alongside Nanai Road, behind the Isuzu showroom on Thepkasattri Road.

"The rain, runoff from tin mine lagoons and wastewater from nearby villages all flow through this canal and enter the sea behind Boat Lagoon," explained Civil Technician Reukchai Srikhao.

"Having so much water flow through the canal over a long period of time can easily erode the banks," he added.

Mr Reukchai said construction began on October 1 and is scheduled for completion by December 29.

"We are reinforcing the banks along this 100-meter section first because this area is affected the most. We cannot do more sections right now because we have a limited budget," he said.

"We have excavated the land along the banks and will install retaining walls along the canal. This will prevent erosion from damaging the road that runs alongside the canal.

"It will also stop the canal itself from becoming overgrown with weeds, which can impede the flow of water exiting through the canal," Mr Reukchai added.

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Construction commences Q2 2010 and Completion during Q2 2012

Blume blurs living lines



GRACEFUL VIEW: A rattan furniture set from Blume Living with Hong Kong's Discovery Bay as a backdrop.



Grace Carrey from Hong Kong.



A private villa in Rawai bedecked with the very functional furniture.

Decor

By Neil Quail

WHEN Ralph Lauren began his distressed fashion concept, Grace Carrey was part of the research and development team based in Hong Kong that sourced materials and processes for the Italian fashion icon.

Years later, having built up considerable R&D knowledge of Asian textile and manufacturing industries, Grace struck out on her own to bring Phuket a range of furniture that can adorn a home both inside and out.

Grace's company, Blume Living, has a keen following from Hong Kong residents with properties in Phuket who buy her designs and have them shipped here to decorate their holiday homes.

Buying a Junk to live on in Hong Kong posed Grace the dilemma of how to decorate such a restricted space internally and exploit exposed deck areas onboard.

The idea of using outdoor furniture was her solution. Durable, lightweight and strong, the rattan designs also complemented the vessel's wooden construction.

Now, Grace's home doubles as a showroom for people to visit and see a working model of her furniture designs.

"My strength is in interpreting a design concept into a language that factories can understand and ensure nothing is lost in translation.

"Many of our designs use the concept of what we call 'blurring the line between indoor and outdoor living. So our furniture is suitable for outdoor use, but doesn't look out of place when put indoors.

"In addition, when you tie indoor and outdoor furniture using colors or the same material, you bring your outdoor space inside."

There are two standard design types available from Blume; high density polyethylene (HDPE) used for both the rattan look with a sturdy aluminum frame, and a teak wood effect with stainless steel frame which offers a sleek contemporary look, popular in the European market and therefore suitable for design projects here in Phuket.

"My design last year was all about making the material look natural, and I used rosewood and bamboo effects in keeping with that concept. This year I am playing on the fact that the rattan is synthetic, so I am using colours to highlight this. By combining a few colours in a single chair the finished products give a very fresh 'Bistro' look which can be customized with other colour combinations to suit different themes"

Rosewood is the most popular finish in Grace's catalogue with a texture and color that are strikingly similar to the real material.

"I have come up with some very unique finishes that nobody has. The first time a rosewood piece went through customs, the officer was so convinced that it was real wood, he held the shipment back until we literally set fire to a piece of furniture to show him it was not real wood.

"My bamboo finish is especially designed for the Phuket market. I believe, it matches very well with the natural ropes or bamboo material being used indoors"

Blume Living furniture already complements many Phuket residences including those in Layan Gardens, Anchan Villas, Laguna Villas and many other private villas.

Blume Living is situated on the ByPass Road. For more information visit blume-living.com or contact grace@blume-living.com

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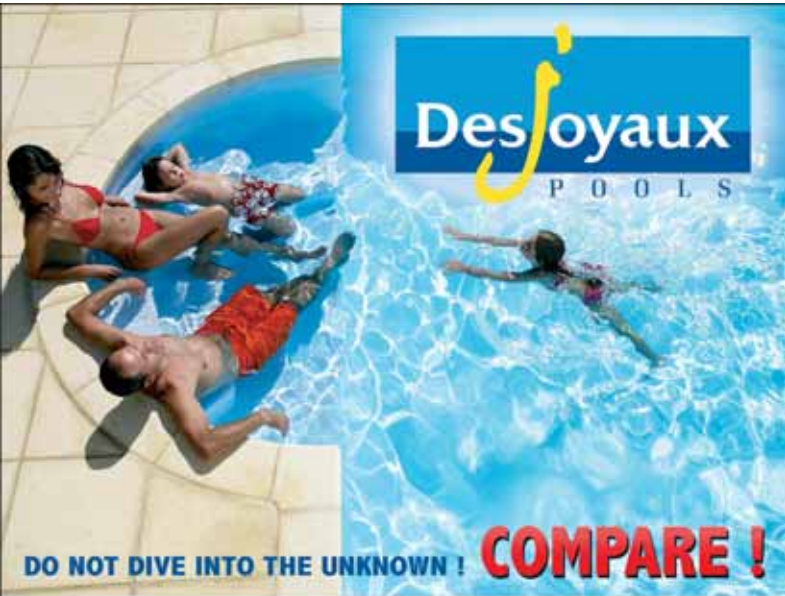
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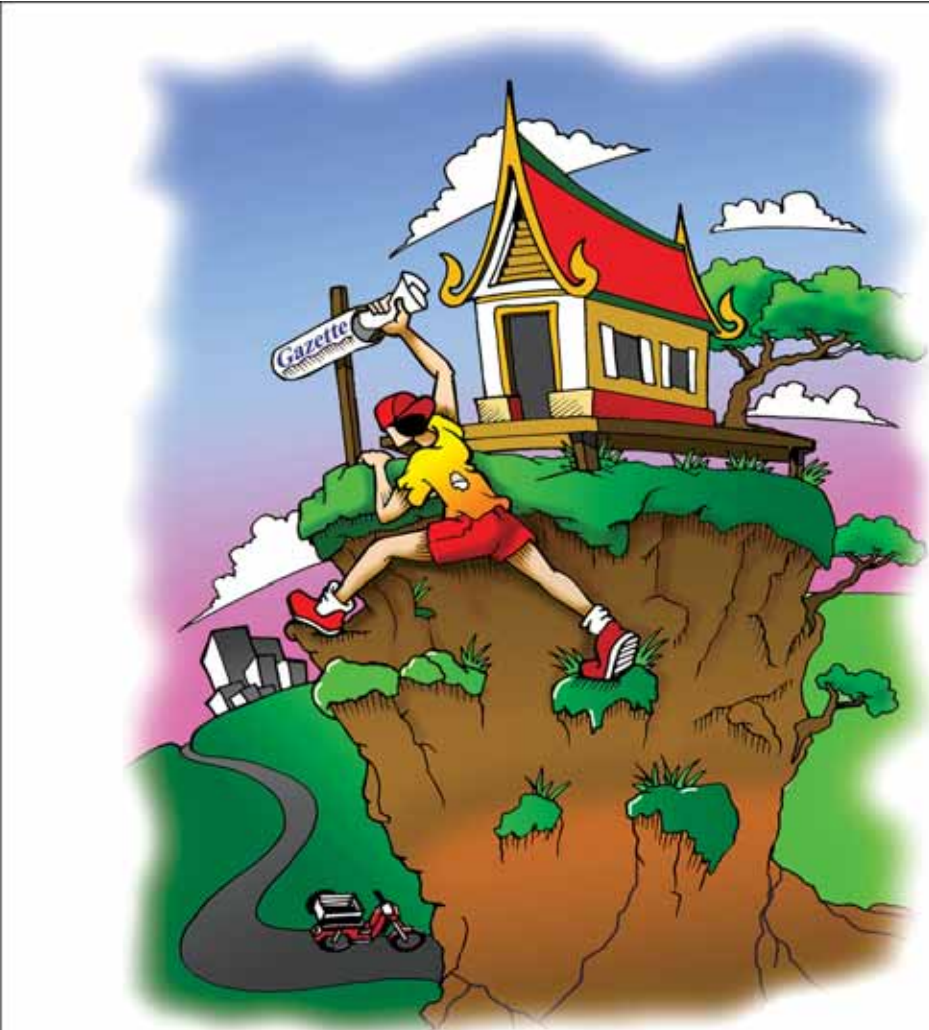
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Contact Yupin Sidler at Tel: 081-817 4805, 080- 890 5187.
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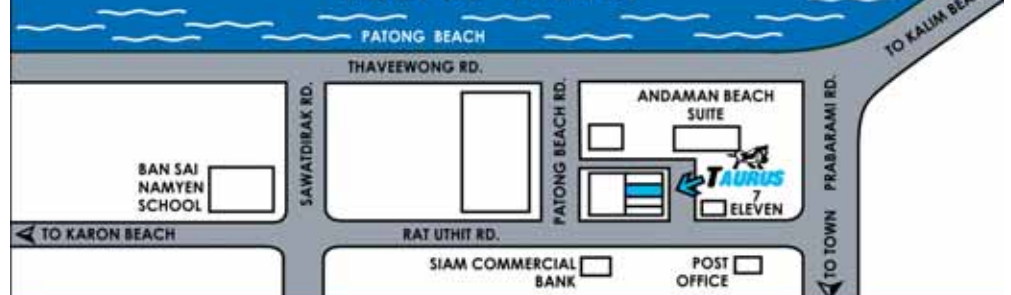
For appointment or more details, contact the project director **Khun Montha** at **081 343 0777** (Thai, English & German)
Email: thesunrisevillas@yahoo.com

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SEAVIEW LAND FOR SALE

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APT / CONDO 1 OR 2 BEDROOMS

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furnished, in the Chalong-Rawai area. 15,000 baht per month. Email: kris_letke man@hotmail.com

Holiday Homes & Villa Rentals

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195sqm, free WiFi, near pool, sauna, gym, huge terrace, modern kitchen. Avail. 3/12-10/12 and 30/12 onwards. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

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Household Items

TEAK TABLE WITH 4 CHAIRS

Table 200x100 or 150x100 with 4 comfortable chairs. All in nice condition. 8,000 baht. Tel: 076-319846, 089-729 1113. Email: richard_melen@hotmail.com

RECLINING CHAIR AND FOOTRES

As-new condition, tan leather. Was 3,800 baht; will accept a fair offers. Email: julianburgess@myway.com

ELBA OVEN

Built-in oven with grill and fan. White. Very little used. 5,000 baht. Tel: 076-319846, 089-729 1113 (English). Email: richard_melen@hotmail.com

LARGE FRIDGE/ FREEZER

100% working order, excellent condition. Absolute bargain at 6,000 baht. Genuinely interested enquires only please. Tel: 081-846 6267 (English). Email: pauljlees@gmail.com

CAR SEAT

Cool kids basko car seat for newborn up to 13kg. Only 1,000baht. Tel: 083-392 6850. Email: jaa-1983@hotmail.com

Household Services

PHUKET HOME MAINTENANCE

Renovations, house repairs, painters, tilers, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, construction. Fluent English-speaking boss. Free quotes given. Contact Rin. Tel: 084-193 5124. Email: phukethome maintenance@yahoo.com

Classified Advertisements

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

_____ (heading)

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

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

Deadline for Property Gazette page: Friday 3 pm.

Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.

Live in Town?
Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at

iTree Complete Printing Service

Tesco Lotus
Phuket Town



Simply write out your ad, pay for it and leave it with
Khun Nan. Tel: 076-255425.

GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work because they're PAID!
Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published
simultaneously and **FREE** in the **Gazette Online!**

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Looking for land to buy?

See more classified ads at www.phuketgazette.net

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.ta@gmail.com.

We regret that only short-listed candidates will be notified.

GYM/STAFF

Female gym staff required for gym and fitness in Karon. Previous experience in fitness training. Must be able to speak English. Tel: 081-891 9461.

3D MAX RENDER

Experienced for international company based in BKK. Please email English resume to stefano.gonella.com@gmsil.com

EVENT & CATERING

Co-ordinator required. The successful applicant should have experience in the field. Must speak English and be familiar with the high-end quality catering, including weddings, parties and boat catering. The applicant must be highly proficient, organized and punctual. Good rates of pay, commission and accommodation offered. Applications to be submitted to phuketgolfer@gmail.com

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

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTOR

Thai national, able to speak English, driver's license. For more details. Tel: 076-304117. Fax: 076-304118. Please send CV to kasi-su@hotmail.com

GRASS CUTTING & CLEARING

looking for a crew of people to regularly cut & clear the grass in an empty property. Tel: 084-877 3566 (English). Email: sherin.peace@gmail.com

SALES MANAGER AND SECRETARY

Sunrise Ocean Villas located at Ao Por is looking for motivated staff: female, 23-35 years old. Must speak English, with good computer skills. Salary, bonus and commission. Tel: 081-343 0777 Email: montha_phuket@yahoo.com

WORK FROM HOME

Siam Real Estate require an English speaking person to contact property owners by phone/email for listings. Can work from home, hours to suit. Must have good phone manner and be computer literate. Training given. Good commission per listing. Reply by email only. Tel: 076-288908. Email: jobs@siamrealestate.com For further details, please see our website at www.siamrealestate.com

STAFF WANTED - BLISS HOTEL

We are looking for reception and kitchen staff for Bliss Boutique hotel in Kata Beach. Interested? Give us a call for the details. Tel: 085-619 4963 (Thai), 080-520 3612 (English). Email: arjan@affiliate-it.nl

CONSTRUCTION PAINTER

Currently hiring professional construction paint and finish workers. Open to skilled foreigners and locals now. Tel: 081-924 9935. Email: inzentive@gmail.com

SERVICE STAFF WANTED

Friendship Beach Waterfront Resort. Wanted: Service staff for restaurant and bar. Must have some experience and some English. Salary and service charge. Please call for appointment. Tel: 087-419 0239 (Thai), 089-728 5304 (English).

ATSUMI ADMINISTRATOR NEEDED

Atsumi Healing is seeking a full time Thai national office administrator, 9-6pm, 6 days per week. Must have BA & excellent written and verbal English skills. Tel: 081-272 0571. Email info@atsumihealing.com, starting salary 15,000 baht.

INSPIRED | Asia

Inspired Event Travel is a full service Conference, Incentive and Destination Management Company operating in the Asia Pacific division.

The company is currently looking for the person to become a key member of the team.

EVENT SALES MANAGER

In this position is based in our Phuket office in Cherg Talay. The successful candidate will be actively selling our services to operations looking to hold conferences, incentives and events in Phuket and elsewhere.

As well as making follow up sales calls to previous clients to secure repeat business, you will cold call companies and hotels to introduce and sell a variety of event management services, including conferences, catering and general corporate events and weddings. You will arrange and attend client meetings and site inspections and work towards targets whilst growing the client base. This role will also see you actively involved in the execution of the client's events on site.

The ideal candidate for this role must have previous business-to-business sales experience, ideally in events or the hotel industry. You must have the ability to sell and build strong relationships as well as having proven ability to plan and organise to meet client's needs. Fluent in both spoken and written English is required for this position.

Interested applicants, please send your CV or contact *Varissara (Jah)*

Inspired Event Travel Asia Co. Ltd.

125/4 Moo. 5 Srisoonthorn Road, Chengtalay District, Thalang, Phuket 83110, Thailand
Tel: +66 (0) 763 26048 Email: jah@inspiredeventtravel.com

www.inspiredeventtravel.com

Create a more rewarding career with Anantara Vacation Club

Guest Service Representative Positions (Bangkok based)

Anantara Vacation Club is a new and exciting Shared Ownership Company developed by Minor International PCL, one of the largest hospitality companies in the Asia Pacific region.

We are now seeking to fill Guest Service Representative positions, working at assigned locations to generate qualified tours. All positions will be based in Bangkok, commencing immediately.

Applicants are required to have previous successful experience in similar positions within the Shared Ownership (timeshare) industry. Our associates represent Anantara in a courteous and enthusiastic manner at all times, and are organised, highly focused and work well in a 5 star environment. Applicants should possess these work ethics and share our commitment to succeed.

Excellent remuneration and benefits packages are available for the right people, along with rapid career advancement opportunities.

For more information, please contact Khun Renu Saelow, Assistant HR Manager, at email renu_sa@anantaraclub.com or tel. 089 727 2525

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Phi Phi Island Village
Beach Resort & Spa
Krabi

- **Sales Manager**
 - Minimum of 2 years experience in a hospitality related role.
 - Excellent command of English and Thai, both written and oral.
- **Reservations Agent**
 - Excellent command of English and Thai, both written and oral.

Please call at 075-628900-99 or send CV to Udom@ppisland.com

EXPLORE



RAIMON LAND
A NEW CAREER WITH THAILAND'S AWARD-WINNING DEVELOPER

Leverage your wealth of experience in the shared ownership industry and join Raimon Land, two-time winner of Thailand's "Best Developer" award, to penetrate the country's fast-emerging Private Residence Club market. Listed on the Stock Exchange of Thailand since 1994, Raimon Land (www.raimonland.com) is an award-winning leader in premier real estate development with a sound track record of successful property development. Over the past seven years, Raimon Land has completed seven new properties and a current portfolio of four ongoing projects with a total sales value of THB 28 billion with a number of additional planned projects on the horizon.

Join our team of experienced real estate professionals as we look to fulfill the following position:

PRIVATE RESIDENCE CLUB SALES EXECUTIVE

Interested applicants please send your resume to careers@raimonland.com

PATONG HOLLYWOOD CO., LTD.

1. Administrator	Salary 15,000	5 positions
2. Cashier	Salary 10,000	10 positions
3. Waitress	Salary 5,000	10 positions
4. Bartender	Salary 8,000	4 positions
5. Photographer	Salary 10,000	2 positions

TELEPHONE: 076-294216, 080-1460067

SALES MANAGER & SALES EXECUTIVE



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

Send resume to ajapply@yahoo.com

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

VS Asia Co., Ltd.

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 of design
- ▶ Team work and cooperating with related departments

QUALIFICATIONS:

- ▶ Male/Female, Thai National Only
- ▶ Fluent German Language in reading + writing
- ▶ Good knowledge of Computer (Windows or Macintosh)
- ▶ 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 Moo 3, Palai 2, Chaofa Rd., Chalong, Muang, Phuket 83130 THAILAND
Tel: +66 (0) 7638 0600 Fax: +66 (0) 7638 0605
Email: info@vsdma.com

LIMITLESS DISCOVERY AWAITS

Le Méridien Phuket Beach Resort, a member of Starwood Hotels and Resorts, invites candidates for the following positions:

- Assistant Front Office Manager
- Sous Chef (Cold Kitchen)
- HR & Training Coordinator
- Spa Therapist
- Housekeeping Attendant
- Commis (F&B service)
- Cook Helper
- Steward

Send resume with recent photo to: manit.pimparien@lemeridien.com

LE MERIDIEN PHUKET BEACH RESORT
29 Soi Karon Nui, Karon, Muang Phuket 83100, Thailand
T +66 76 370 100 F +66 76 340 479
lemeridien.com/phuketbeachresort

DISCOVERY
CULTURED
CHIC

LODGE MANAGER NEEDED

Small and fine Tree House Resort in Khao Sok (Surat Thani province) is looking for a smart, single and enthusiastic Thai female, with good English skills to run the place. Starting salary 15,000 baht, + 3% of the net revenue generated by tours. The Resort also provides a room as well as 3 meals a day. Tel: 087-271 9145 (English & Thai). Email: eric_lim_bos@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.khaosok-hotels.com

PROMOTION STAFF

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

TWINS

We are 8-month-old baby twins who wants a nanny as fast as possible. We live in Kamala for 4 months. It's important that our nanny can speak a little English, or even better some Swedish! Hugs from us! Our phone number: 080-717 5609. Email: jan.falch@telia.com

MOUNTAIN BIKE TOUR LEADER

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

2 YACHT HOSTESSES

Qualifications

- Good command of spoken English
- Pleasant personality and positive attitude
- Flexible working hours
- Good problem-solving skills
- Sense of responsibility
- Good health
- Nice appearance and good personality
- Height 160cm
- Must have experience in 5-star hospitality industry.
- Any on-boat experience would be an advantage
- Must be able to swim

Office located in Pa Khlok. For more info. Tel: 081-537 0033. Please send CV to lek_2000@hotmail.com

Moreton Bay Co., Ltd 222/7 Moo 8, Pa Khlok, Thalung, Phuket 83310

OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR

(Kata Beach)
Urgently Required

- Good command of English
- Experienced in property management
- Knowledge of property maintenance
- Operate Excel, Word, emails and internet, reservations
- Enthusiastic, service-minded, hard working, flexible
- Own car with license
- Knowledge of accounting

Tel: 076-527633, 087-881 0003. Please apply in person or send email to: hr@phuketvillasandhomes.com Please visit website at: www.phuketvillasandhomes.com

OFFICE / ADMIN MANAGER

Assistant required for busy marine service company based in Yacht Haven Marina for secretarial, bookkeeping and company support tasks. Accuracy, initiative, good teamwork and the ability to manage multiple tasks are necessary. Written and spoken English skills are required. Salary will depend on experience and training. Email: rogerg@seamarineservices.com

IN HOUSE SALES COMPANY

Now recruiting trainees, Sales Managers, Sales Consultants, Marketing Assistants (IPC). Candidates must speak conversational English, be enthusiastic and of smart appearance. Full training and work permit provided. Excellent earnings potential. Tel: 076-341421. Email: rose@ezystays.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

FINNISH STAFF

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

CLINIC OFFICE MANAGER

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

DETOX WELLNESS MANAGER

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

TECHWORX ARE RECRUITING

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

CHEF/COOK/WAITRESS

Required for new cafe in Rawai. Only those experienced in farang style food with good English who really want to work need apply. Very good conditions and pay. Tel: 082-047 5394 (English). Email: china.fnq@hotmail.com

Employment Wanted

FOR TOURIST ACTIVITY

Italian intensive and specific group courses. Contact Ms Bai. Tel: 090-071 6846.

ITALIAN LADY TEACHER

Lessons 300 baht per hour. Or in exchange for English or Thai lessons. Tel: 090-071 6846.

DESIGN JOB WANTED

Female, age 21, German & Thai, graduated in Italy seeking a job in Phuket. Email: gabriele-w@live.com

NATIVE TEACHER OF CHINESE

Provides private lesson in Phuket. Contact Ms Sara. Tel: 086-276 4443.

Articles For Sale

BOX MACHINE FOR SALE

Like new for commercial use. Only 30,000 baht. Tel: 082-535 5482.

REFRIGERATOR LIKE NEW 4.9

Panasonic refrigerator used for 5 months. No weird smells or spots. Clean! Unused since May. Measures 4.9 cu ft. Buyer must pick up. Light blue & gray. Email for photos. 4,000 baht. Paid about 5,900. Tel: 087-888 9089 (English). Email: jaisabai@gmail.com

CARRYBOY ROOF RACK

Roof rack with all attachments for roof rails. Size: 1m x 1m (approx). Roof bars: 1.2m long (approx). Great condition. 2,000 baht. Tel: 087-563 6248 (English). Email: marksimon.allen@gmail.com

PIZZA WAGON 260

For sale. Tel: 081-370 9661 (English).

ARAI HELMET

RX7 Corsair Kenny Roberts replica, brand-new, never worn. Size XL. 15,000 baht. Tel: 081-367 2916.

Audio/Video Equipment

BOSE SURROUND SOUND SYSTEM

Leaving Thailand - must sell Bose Lifestyle 50.5.1 surround sound system. Tiny jewel speakers, great sound! 18,000 baht. Tel: 081-396 4545. Email: sally.eisen@gmail.com

Bar & Restaurant Equipment

ASCASO COFFEE MACHINE

Ascaso coffee machine and grinder for sale. Only 1 month old with yearly warranty still valid. Purchased from Bon Cafe. Excellent condition. Accessories included. Paid 37,000 sell 30,000. First to see will buy. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-725 0771. Email: meccalatte@hotmail.com

Bulletins

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

For Phuket info (English) call 081-7372246, 081-8954763 or email: phuketaa@yahoo.com
 Thai Speaking Meeting
 Mission Hospital - Phuket Town
 Tues 7 PM
 English Speaking Meetings
 Mission Hospital - Phuket Town
 Wed and Sun 7 PM
 Bangkok Hospital - Phuket Town
 Fri 7 PM
 Patong Hospital - Patong
 Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun 7 PM
 Green Man Pub - Chalong
 Tue, Thu, Sat 1 PM
 Stereo Lab Restaurant - Surin Beachfront
 Mon and Thur 9:30 AM
 Bhavana Treatment - Cape Panwa
 Sun 9:30 AM
 Scandinavian Meeting - Karon
 Tue and Sat 7 PM (Nov-April)
 Tel: 086-9440460 Swe, 085-4647450 Swe

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Is here for you, Swedish or Scandinavian speaking.

Advent service, Sun Nov 27, 11.00 am at Centara Karon Resort, 9th floor

Weekday Mass, Wed, Nov 23, Dec 7, 14 and 28, 18.30pm

Movie Night, Mon Dec 19, 18.30pm

For details, see website or call 087-467 6782.

www.svenskakyrkan.se/thailand

ENGLISH CHRISTIAN EVENTS

Find English-speaking Christian events in Phuket. Email: jmakivirta@gmail.com Please see our website at: www.phuketchristian.com

PHUKET YACHT CLUB

The PYC encourages children's sailing programs. We are seeking qualified and experienced sailing instructors with enthusiasm and time to help on weekends. Tel: 086-120 0752. Contact for more information. Email: phuketyachtclub@gmail.com

SPONSOR A CHILD

The Phuket International Women's Club is a volunteer organization raising funds for educational scholarships. We rely on the goodwill of donors and sponsors - small and large. If you would like to put something back into the community in which you live, contact us to find out more about giving a prize or being a sponsor. Please contact to K. Carol (Tel: 087-417 8860) or K. Sue (Tel: 087-277 6948). Email: info@phuketiwc.com

Business Opportunities

MASSAGE/BIKE SHOP

Saiyuan Rd, Rawai, 6 motor-bikes, good income, take over lease. Please contact for more information. Tel: 083-641 9327.

BAR FOR SALE/RENT

12 years old, profitable prime location. 5 years on lease. Dream purchase for expat. 3.5 million baht. Rent: 20,000 baht per month. Email: kevphuket@hotmail.co.uk

FOR SALE BY NEGOTIATION

Traditional Thai massage business includes beauty salon and separate bar. Close to Central Patong. Tel: 084-625 8405.

BEVERAGE AND FOOD WHOLESALE

Historic firm in beverage and food supplier business with import-export license. 20 million baht year's revenue, included in assets two 480sqm units, freehold titles. Tel: 081-089 4964. Email: janco2002@hotmail.com

RESTAURANT FOR RENT/KARON

Very new, 120sqm. Airon, flat-screen TV, bathroom, terrace. Good area, includes all dining and cooking equipment. Price: 290,000 baht. 19,000 rent per month. Must see. Call Andrew. Tel: 083-280 0087.

11 UNITS APT-HOUSES FOR SALE

Off Nanai Road; newly renovated; secure income with little work, long term rentals; Chanote title; sale by owner; detailed sales folder available. Only baht 7.9 million baht. Tel: 087-265 0652 (English). Email: gisbert1@gmx.net

SILVER JEWELRY SHOP

Complete silver jewelry shop. Busy location. 990,000 baht. Tel: 084-441 3871. Email: sawasdee-khrap@hotmail.com

WANTED KITCHEN FOR RENT

Well-equipped kitchen for rent in guesthouse and bar. Must be able to cook farang food. Rent negotiable. Tel: 089-587 8335 (English). Email: g.austin56@hotmail.co.uk

PROFITABLE LAUNDRY BUSINESS

Busy laundry turning over 700,000 to 900,000 baht per year. Two staff, 9 appliances, with regular customer base, and growing. Situated in 2-bedroom house in Patong with full accommodation included. Excellent buy at 590,000 baht or near offer. Tel: 087-267 9280 (English), 081-077 2989 (Thai). Email: philsk@ihug.co.nz

BAR FOR RENT

No key money, small kitchen, 2 rooms, 1 bathroom, pool, TV, table, etc. 1 year: 420,000 baht. 2 years: 800,000 baht.

- Resto for rent

Kitchen, 1 room, 1 toilet, terrace. 1 year: 180,000 baht. 2 years: 330,000 baht.

- Possible Bar+Resto

One: 560,000 baht. Two: 1.070 million baht.

Contract: 3 years more

Patong, Nanai Road. Tel: 082-810 3414. Email: jennipat@hotmail.fr

BAR FOR SALE

In Soi Crocodile. 3.2 million baht. Tel: 086-905 3109. Email: sodabar.2008@yahoo.com

BUSINESS IN KRABI

Includes house/office for rent. 220sqm, fully furnished. Please contact for more information. Email: globevolution@gmail.com

350,000 BAHT SEMESTRAL RENT



Hotel bar pool. For sale/lease/rent. No key money. Cable TV, WiFi, garden. Prime location. 100m from the Rawai Pier. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com Website: www.rawaitan.com

PHUKET GUESTHOUSE

for sale. Restaurant (22 seats), bar, 5 rooms. Lease 2+3 years. Rent: 37,000 baht per month. No key money. Well maintained. Price: 900,000 baht. Tel: 080-361 5356. Email: pellevik.torsson@hotmail.com

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Trip To Malaysia	Day	Oct.'11	Nov.'11	Dec.'11	Free pick up around island
	Wed.	5, 12, 19, 26	2, 9, 16, 23, 30	7, 14, 21	
	Sun.	2, 9, 16, 23, 30	13, 20, 27	11, 18, 25	

WE ARE FULLY QUALIFIED LAWYERS AND NOTARIES
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 Tel: 076-263475, 076-264476. Fax: 076-374563 Mobile: 081-8929960

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Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

CHALONG

- **Julapan Stationery** (Chao Fa East Rd) Tel: 076-282254
- **KL Mart** (Patak Rd, Chalong Circle) Tel: 076-280400
- **Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe** (Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chaofa East Rd) Tel: 076-282403

PATONG

- **Taurus Travel** (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: 076-344521-2
- **Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe** (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: 076-290468
- **Deli Supermarket** (Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd) Tel: 076-342275

PHUKET CITY

- **Earth Language Training Centre School** (Phang Nga Rd) Tel: 076-232398
- **Sin & Lee** (Thalang Rd) Tel: 076-258369
- **iTree complete printing service** (Tesco Lotus Phuket Town) bank zone Tel: 076-255425

CHERNG TALAY

- **Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe** (main entrance road to Laguna Phuket) Tel: 076-325586
- **Chaba Supermarket** (at the Laguna gateway)

RAWAI

- **The Network property office** (Saiyuan Rd) Tel: 076-613173

KARON

- **EuroStyle Tailors** (Luang Por Chuan Rd) Tel: 076-396911

Phuket Magic

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Notice

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Call for missing person

In accordance with the Act on Missing Persons § 12, the following person is hereby summoned:

Soren Baisgaard, born on 10.02.1959 and whose last known address is: Korterupvej 8
2730 Herlev, Denmark

reported as missing on 5.12.1999 in Phuket, Thailand, where he left the Hotel Holiday Inn, Phuket

to a hearing in Glostrup Court, meeting room 1, Station Park 27, 2600 Glostrup, Denmark

Tuesday, 13 March 2012, 10:00 a.m.

At the hearing, a claim will be asserted that Søren Baisgaard is deemed to have died on 05.12.1999.

We encourage all who can provide information in the case, to report this information as soon as possible to the court, which can be done by letter to the court at the above address or by e-mail to skifte.glostrup@domstol.dk, but in both cases with clear reference to case BS 70A-2966/2011.

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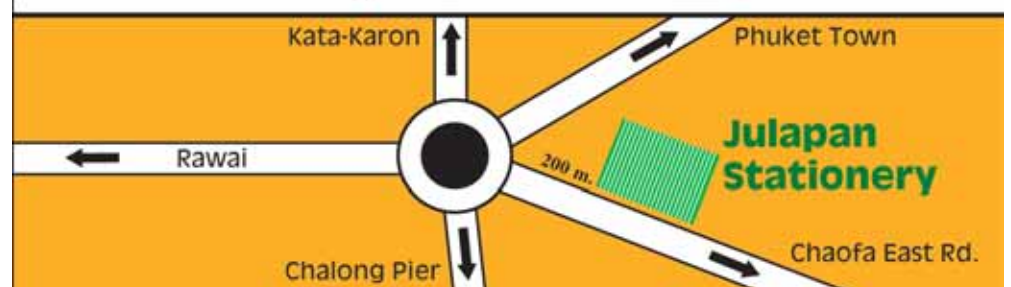
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SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES

Crossword puzzle:

1	A	L	P	A	C	A	7	S	P	F	10	B	L	O	T
14	M	I	S	S	A	L	15	T	A	I	16	E	I	N	E
17	A	P	I	E	C	E	18	I	R	S	19	A	G	E	E
20	P	A	C	I	F	I	C	O	C	E	A	N			
23	H	A	S	T	O	26	A	L	S	27	P	O	R	T	S
28	A	N	T	I	29	S	T	E	30	F	E	N			
31	R	E	A	C	T	O	32	R	33	F	U	N	34	T	D
37	T	N	T	U	R	I	38	A	G	E	40	W	I	T	
41	E	T	E	42	R	E	C	43	B	U	R	R	I	T	O
45	I	N	N	46	G	R	E	47	E	S	T	O			
48	S	P	A	C	E	51	L	A	I	52	F	S	T	O	P
53	W	A	T	E	R	54	B	I	S	C	55	U	I	T	
56	A	T	T	A	57	E	B	B	58	S	N	O	R	T	S
62	S	T	A	G	63	T	R	A	64	N	E	R	E	I	D
65	H	I	R	E	66	H	A	G	67	A	R	E	N	A	S

Sport

Phuket Dinghy Series booms sailing success

By Neil Quail

Following on from two previous Phuket Dinghy Series race events, twenty-six Optimists and five Lasers competed in the series decider held on November 19 and 20.

Overall positions in the event were all to sail for, given that plenty of points were available from the six races were scheduled over the two days.

Phuket Dinghy Series Event Manager Commander Pornprom Sakultern of the Royal Thai Navy, outlined the sailing area, courses and discussed tactics in the pre-race briefing.

This was a welcome feature of the series which provided a unique opportunity for inexperienced sailors to learn more about competitive sailing and further develop their sailing skills.

A light onshore breeze welcomed competitors on day one of Series III, but more testing conditions awaited the sailors where the course was set offshore.

Current series leader and 2010 champ, Anapat Ngarmdee from Sattahip knew Akapoj Kankaew representing the Phuket Youth Sailing Club was breathing down his neck and any mistake would cost him a second title.

Anapat broke from a con-



Participants in the Phuket Dinghy series after their race briefing by Commander Pornprom Sakultern (center) of the Royal Thai Navy.

gested start line and held the lead until the end. A second win followed, but Akapoj kept his rival within reach with two seconds.

In the last race of the day, Akapoj took the line in first closing the gap on Anapat who finished fifth to set up an enthralling day two.

Anapat's slip in the last race of day one seemed to be a motivator and he stepped up a gear, taking first in all three races on day two and the Series III title. Akapoj posted a third and two seconds to finish second overall with

Terrapong Tokratoak in third.

Close racing in Laser Class saw places swapped throughout the weekend with Jittawat Boonrat finally coming out on top posting four wins out of six to take the Series III title. Inconsistency let young Chut D a w r u a n g down but after a tough battle Chut took second in Series III from Marco Garambois in third.

The 2011 Phuket Dinghy Series saw 39 boats compete overall. Eighteen races in three different locations, pre-regatta training and



Commander and master

25th Phuket's Kings Cup Regatta www.kingscup.com 3rd - 10th December 2011 PHUKET DINGHY SERIES 2011		
Overall	Optimist Class	Laser Class
1st	Anapat Ngarmdee (18)	Trirat Manthong (32)
2nd	Akapoj Kankeaw (35)	Jittawat Boonrat (34)
3rd	Teerapong Tokratoak (47)	Chut Dawruang (40)

Phuket Dinghy Series 2011 results table



POSITIVE SAILING: Optimist Class competitors racing off Cape Panwa.

post-event debriefs gave participants a unique experience that has become the signature of the Phuket Dinghy Series.

Winners of Series III were presented with trophies by Vice Admiral Taratorn Kajitsuwan, Commander Third Naval Area Command. The overall series winners will receive their trophies at the Royal Awards of the Phuket King's Cup Regatta on December 10 at Kata Beach Resort & Spa.

The Phuket Dinghy Series was established by the Phuket King's

Cup Regatta in 2010 to promote and encourage sailing in Thailand by involving young people in the sport. The 2011 Series took place over three weekends in successive months (September 17-18, October 15-16 and November 19-20) and was supported by the Yacht Racing Association of Thailand, the Royal Thai Navy and the Province of Phuket.

For more information visit kingscup.com. The Phuket Gazette and PGTV sponsor the 2011 Kings Cup Regatta.

Laguna Phuket Triathlon exceeds 1000

ENTRIES for the Laguna Phuket Triathlon (LPT) being held on November 27 have raced beyond the 1,000 mark for the first time since the inaugural event in 1994.

This record number of participants is a confirmation of Phuket's reputation as one of the most popular triathlon destinations in Asia.

Sunday morning will see a total of 1,078 athletes from 41 countries jostle for position at the start line with 985 individuals and 31 relay teams all vying to complete the "Race of Legends".

The "Race of Legends" title is a tribute to the triathletes who have contested the past 17 Laguna Phuket Triathlon events. With a professional field that includes Alberto Cassadei, Edith Niederfriniger, Frederick Croneberg and Katje Rabe, the 2011 event continues to inspire these exceptional athletes to compete.

Massimo Cigana from Italy defends his 2010 title and hopes 2011 will be his third LPT victory having also won in 2007. Cigana also hopes to beat the course record of 02:24:56 set in 2009 by Olympic gold medalist Jan Frodeno of Germany.

The professional women's contest encourages particular attention this year. Defending champion Belinda Granger from Australia faces off against returning 2009 champion Radka Vodickova of the Czech Republic.

Granger finished as runner-up to Vodickova in that race two years ago, so an exciting encounter is on the cards.

LPT is also renowned for the achievements made by the hundreds of amateur triathlon enthusiasts who assemble for sporting comradery and their own personal challenges.

Among the 985 entries Hong Kong leads

the field with 260 while Thailand has 217 entrants, reflecting the nation's growing enthusiasm for this sport.

Victor Kirstein of Denmark is the youngest competitor in the male line-up at 18 years old while at the other end of the age spectrum is 74 year-old Wilf Deck of Australia.

In the female category, 18 year-old Lauren Smith of Australia ought to be impressed by fellow triathlete Lenore McLaughlin of the USA who will show her athleticism at 62 years young.

Australian Brian Hardaker, 62, returns to compete in his 17th LPT.

Phuket Gazette readers will be keeping an eye on the progress of Tim Haddon, director of golf at Laguna Phuket Golf Club - who have followed Tim on a six-month fitness regime during which he has struggled



COUNTDOWN: Participants are keen for LPT 18.

through injuries, and shed 13 kilos in a bid to compete in his first-ever triathlon.

The Phuket Gazette sponsors the Laguna Phuket Triathlon and wishes all competitors the very best for the 2011 event.

- By Neil Quail

Leopards tamed by Tigers

PHUKET'S youth development team (the Leopards) faced league newcomers Thanyapura Tigers in the Island Furniture League at the Alan Cooke Ground on Sunday.

It was a match the youngsters should have won, but inexperience and wayward bowling eventually cost them the points.

Batting first, the Leopards showed good form through the order. TP Suttirapha (28) and PM Suriya (17) putt on an opening partnership of 50 runs, supported by WJ Legngoo (33), SK Jutamart (20) and PA Mathong (29).

The Tigers were also guilty of missing line and length and gave away 46 wides and six no balls which bumped the Leopards' score to 195 all out in the 38th over.

Chasing a big total clearly unsettled the Tigers' top order and it wasn't long before they were down five wickets with just 59 runs on the board.

A lone stand by Ryan Dunn who scored 80 not out sealed the Leopards' fate in the 29th over. However, the Leopards will regret dropping Dunn when he was on 64 and the 38 extras given away.



SPOT THE BALL: Ryan Dunn just avoids lbw. Photo: Neil Quail

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Australia defiant in South Africa

SOUTH AFRICA: Eighteen-year-old Pat Cummins capped a man of the match performance by hitting the winning runs to secure a two wicket victory for Australia over South Africa in the final test match of the series.

Playing in his first test match for Australia, the youngster from Sydney had figures of 7-117 over both innings and chipped in with the bat to help his team record the highest successful run chase at the BIDVest Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg.

Since South Africa's return from sporting seclusion which ended twenty years ago, they have not won a test series at home against the Australians.

The Proteas had provided a perfect platform to alter the record books following their first test, eight wicket demolition of Australia in Cape Town, but failed to capitalize in the second test.

All out for 266 in the first innings, South Africa managed to restrict Australia to 296 in reply. A second innings total of 339 looked defendable and with the early dis-

missal of Australian openers, Shane Watson and Phil Hughes to Vernon Philander, a home win was on the cards.

After bringing the score to 141, Usman Khawaja, captain Michael Clarke and former captain Ricky Ponting returned to the pavilion with only 24 more runs added to the board.

A sixth wicket partnership between Mike Hussey and Brad Haddin yielded 50 runs, before Philander trapped Hussey lbw.

A venomous last session from South Africa's bowling attack was fended off by Haddin and Mitchell Johnson to bring victory to within 23 runs before Haddin edged a caught behind.

Enter the second youngest player to be capped for Australia at test level – the youngest was Ian Craig in 1953 aged 16 who also holds the record as his country's youngest captain and youngest to make a double-century. The remaining runs were clicked off with Johnson finishing unbeaten on 40 not out and Cummins knocking two boundaries for 13 and a memorable Australian victory.



MEN OF THE MOMENT: Patrick Cummins and Mitchell Johnson salute the Wanderers' crowd after defeating South Africa in Johannesburg. Photo: Alexander Joe AFP

Fletcher pulls the strings for United draw

DARREN Fletcher's 59th minute goal could be enough to help Manchester United qualify for the knock out stages of the Champions League after a 2-2 draw with Portuguese side Benfica at Old Trafford.

An own goal from Phil Jones after only four minutes had put United on the back foot before Dimitar Berbatov equalized for the home side on the half hour mark.

However, Pablo Aimar put the pressure back on United when he scored from close range in the 60th minute after a weak clearance from David de Gea.

Berbatov did have a chance to win the game for United on 88 minutes, but his volley rocketed over the cross-bar.

The result ensured Benfica's qualification, but United now need another draw when they face FC Basel on December 7 in Switzerland.

There is a chance that United could still finish first in the group, but this would mean beating the Swiss side by a greater margin than that of Benfica's result against struggling Otelul Galatai from Romania on the same date.

United's long serving manager Sir Alex Ferguson is in no doubt that his side will qualify for the next round in December.

"It will be a hard game in Basel. But when the chips are down I have every confidence in the team. Benfica should win at home

against Galati, but we need to win in style," said the Scot.

A second place finish could mean a round 16 early encounter with the competition's big boys such as Barcelona, Bayern Munich or Real Madrid.

"It makes it a bit harder of course, but look at it a different way the bigger game may suit us in a way," Ferguson added.

Other results from November 22 included: Real Madrid 6 – 2 Dinamo Zagreb. Napoli 2 – 1 Manchester City. Bayern Munich 3 – 1 Villa Real. Otelul Galatai 2 – 3 FC Basel. CSKA Moscow 0 – 2 Lille.

The next round of games are scheduled for December 6 and 7.



IN THE HUNT: Fletcher's goal keeps United in touch for Euro glory. Photo: Gordon Flood

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Paris beckons Beckham after LA Galaxy success

DAVID Beckham was credited with an assist during LA Galaxy's 1-0 win over Houston Dynamo in the MLS Cup final played at the Home Depot Center in LA.

Beckham and Republic of Ireland skipper Robbie Keane combined to set up Landon Donovan for the one and only goal in last Sunday's final in front of a crowd of over 30,000.

In the 71st minute of the game Beckham passed to Keane who fed Donovan to score the winner.

This was Galaxy's first title since 2005 and Beckham's first silverware since joining the US outfit from real Madrid in 2007.

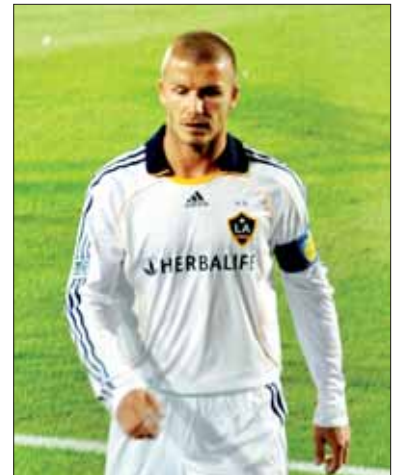
His contract runs out at the end of December, but he will travel with the club on their tour of Indonesia, the Philippines and Australia, which starts this week.

The former Manchester United midfielder, who won six Premier League titles with the "Red Devils", has been linked to move to French side Paris Saint Germain.

"I'm not in a rush to decide what happens. We go on tour next weekend. We're going to enjoy that, enjoy this week, because we worked so hard to get to this point."

"People were talking about if we didn't win it was going to be a disappointment and an unsuccessful five years. It's quietened a few people, which is always nice," Beckham said.

Former Spurs striker Keane had helped the Republic of Ireland book a place at the Euro 2012 finals with a two-legged play-off victory over Estonia last week, but admitted he was



LA STAR: Beckham may be on the way back to Europe. Photo: Raj Patel

struggling in the final stages of Sunday's match.

"It was a very tiring towards the end, but we won and that's the main thing," said Keane.

Three Phuket athletes bring home gold



SHUTTLE SERVICE: Thailand's 2011 SEA Games mens badminton squad in Jakarta. Photos: Pond BAT

THREE athletes from Phuket earned gold medals at the 26th Southeast Asian (SEA) Games in Indonesia.

Nitchaon Jindapol earned a gold medal with Thailand womens badminton team, who made hosts Indonesia settle for silver in the final bout.

Maneepong Jongjitt also gave Phuket badminton a name, earning a bronze medal with Thailand's mens' team.

Maneepong, with doubles partner Isara Bodin, advanced from the round of 16 after defeating Cambodia's Chin Depthuthichea and Vann Chanpisey, before losing in the quarter finals to

Indonesia's Kido Markis and Setiawan Hendra.

Also winning a gold medal for Phuket was Tantipong Phetchaiya in the Hammer Throw competition. Tantipong set a new SEA Games record with his throw of 61.46 meters.

The games began earlier this month and concluded on Tuesday following two weeks of spirited sports competition held among 11 nations.

This year's hosts were triumphant in tallying up the most medals, with a total of 476 medals in all. Thailand came in second this time with 329, fol-

lowed by Vietnam (288), Malaysia (190) and Singapore (160). While Thailand's mens football team failed to make the finals of which defending champs Malaysia defended their title Thailand's men and women dominated volleyball, futsal and 3-a-side Sepak Takraw, among others.

Thailand's main medal source came from success in athletics with 14 golds, followed by nine golds in weightlifting, eight in swimming, seven each in taekwondo and boxing. Judo and canoeing both returned five golds with four coming from sailing.

NO	COUNTRY				SUM
1	INA	182	151	143	476
2	THA	109	100	120	329
3	VIE	96	92	100	288
4	MAS	59	50	81	190
5	SIN	42	45	73	160
6	PHI	36	56	77	169
7	MYA	16	27	37	80
8	LAO	9	12	36	57
9	CAM	4	11	24	39
10	TLS	1	1	6	8



Thailand SEA Games women's badminton squad show their medals.

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Sport

Southern sides surge to top

By Steven Layne

SOUTHERN Thai football is charging ahead with Krabi FC and Pattalung FC each prevailing at the top of their respective groups in the Thai Premier League (TPL) 2011 Division Two AIS League promotion playoffs.

The playoffs, which began in October and are set to conclude in December, divide 12 finalists into two groups of six. Upon conclusion, only the top two of each group will be promoted up to replace the bottom four relegated teams of TPL Division One.

From a total of 77 teams competing in the TPL Division Two AIS League, the final cut of 12 include the respective champions and runners-up from each of the five regional leagues (South, Bangkok, North, Isarn, and Central-Eastern) in addition to the two best-performing third-place finishers.

In sealing their playoff berths, Krabi was throned 2011 Southern champions – the same prestige FC Phuket won last year leading up to their promotion – while Pattalung had to be content as runners-up.

Clear of the halfway mark after six of 10 scheduled fixtures, both southern sides look promising in their campaigns.

Pattalung Power Prevails

Persisting on top of group A, the Pattalung Swiftlets now have 13 points from four wins, a draw and a loss. They are closely trailed by the Central and Eastern Regional champs, Ratchaburi

FC (12 points). In third place of the group is Loei City (8 points), followed by Phitsanulok FC (7 points), Phichit FC (6 points) and Kasetsart University (4 points).

In their opening match on October 15 against Bangkok regional champs, Kasetsart University, Pattalung were victorious after scoring the match's sole goal.

Pattalung earned six more points in their next two home fixtures against the third-place finisher from the Northern regional league, Pichit FC (October 22), and Isarn region runners-up, Loei City (October 30), winning 2 – 0 and 3 – 1, respectively.

The Swiftlets suffered their first loss of the playoffs in an away-match on November 6 against Central and Eastern regional champs, Ratchaburi FC, with a final score line of 0 – 2. Pattalung redeemed that loss the following week on November 12 beating Northern region champs, Phitsanulok FC, two goals to nil. In the away leg at Phitsanulok on November 19, Pattalung managed a 1 – 1 draw.

Krabi Conquering Campaign

With 14 points from four wins and two draws the currently undefeated Krabi Andaman Eagles are on top of Group B, trailed by Rayong FC (11 points) and Nakhon Ratchasima FC (10 points). Lagging at the bottom of the group are Roi Et United (6 points), North Bangkok College (5 points) and the Lamphun Warriors (3 points).

In their opening and away match on October 16, the South-



Top left: Pattalung striker takes mark. Bottom left, right: Krabi (blue) contests Korat (orange). Photos: Football Siam

ern region champions earned a point from a goalless stalemate against Central and Eastern region runners-up, Rayong FC. Then in a home fixture on October 23, Krabi edged Isarn regional champs Roi Et United 1 – 0.

Their third match, an away-game against third-place finishers from the Isarn regional league, Nakhon Ratchasima FC, earned the Eagles three more points following a single-goal victory. Krabi drew Bangkok regional runners-up North Krungthep FC 1 – 1 on November 5 and eight days later shut out the Northern regional runners-up, Lamphun Warriors, 3 – 0.

If that weren't convincing enough, Krabi delivered three more

goals and points to the distaste of Warriors fans with a 3 – 1 result at Lamphun on November 20.

If Pattalung and Krabi can maintain one of the top two seats of their groups and thus be promoted to Division One, there's a good probability they will meet two more southern teams, FC Phuket (5th) and Songkhla FC (4th), who are struggling to climb into the top three, and thus promotion spots up to the Sponsor Thai Premier League.

And so the stage looks set for a four-team Southern Derby in Division One next season. In any case, keep checking the *Phuket Gazette* for the latest Southern Thailand football updates.

KRABI FIXTURES	
Nov 27	VS N. Krungthep FC (away)
Dec 4	VS Nakhon Ratchasima FC (home)
Dec 10	VS Roi Et Utd (away)
Dec 17	VS N. Krungthep FC (home)
PATTALUNG FIXTURES	
Nov 26	VS Ratchaburi FC (home)
Dec 3	VS Loei City (away)
Dec 11	VS Pichit FC (away)
Dec 18	VS Kasetsart U (home)

Phuket to battle Warlords in Saraburi

FC PHUKET return to action this Saturday evening with an away match against ninth-placed Saraburi FC.

Set for a 6pm kickoff at the Saraburi Provincial Administration Organization stadium, the match follows a 41-day hiatus from league play – a relief period that allowed several footballers,

including Phuket's Sarach Yooyen, to compete in the 26th Southeast Asian Games in Indonesia as well as give players and coaching staff who were affected by flooding an opportunity to tend to their homes and families.

It is for this exact reason that Phuket Coach Sompong Wattana will not be heading the team this

weekend. In his place will be Assistant Coach Apichart Mosika. Apichart, a 57-year-old native of Nakhon Sri Thammarat, started training the team on November 18.

Club Secretary Soranun Sanae explained, "Coach Sompong's house in Bangkok has flooded and he needs time to take care of his house, asking his friend, coach Apichart, to help." In 2010, Apichart was head coach for Division Two side Rayong FC, and this year has worked on the coaching staff for PTT Rayong in Division One.

Mr Apichart told the *Gazette*, "Coach Sompong has prepared the team very well. I will help the team to improve their cooperation with each other."

Mr Apichart was confident about Saturday's match. "I have some inside info about Saraburi and quite sure we will win," he said.

In their last meeting with Saraburi on May 8 at Surakul Stadium, the Warlords beat Phuket 2



BACK: Kone Adama has returned from the Ivory Coast to train in Phuket.

– 0, the Southern Sea Kirin's first home loss this season.

Phuket's last league match on October 16 was a 1 – 0 home win over Customs United. Phuket have not lost in their last seven league games and are especially confident after beating the Thailand U23 National Side 2 – 1 in a

friendly match on November 3.

Fifth-placed Phuket have four away and four home games remaining this season. With 42 points, they trail third-placed – the final promotion seat – Chula United by 14 points.

– Pimwara Choksakulpan and Steven Layne

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