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HM celebrates 84th birthday

PHUKET joins the nation in wishing His Majesty The King Bhumibol Adulyadej a happy, healthy 84th birthday on Monday, December 5.

His Majesty's health is gradually improving, Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra said after her visit to Siriraj Hospital in Bangkok last week.

Late last month His Majesty had a fever occurring at irregular intervals and pain in his lower abdomen, the Royal Household Bureau reported.

While PM Yingluck invites all Thais to join in the Seventh Cycle birthday celebrations, HM the King has humbly asked celebrations be kept simple due to the ongoing flood crisis.

On his birthday, His Majesty is expected to grant a public audience at the Chakri Throne Hall in the Grand Palace at 10:30am.

The Royal Guards from the Royal Thai Armed Forces will pledge an oath of loyalty on the same day, PM Yingluck said.

The premier said that as part

of the birthday celebrations, King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck had allowed Thailand to borrow a Buddha relic from Bhutan so that Thai people could pay homage.

The longest reigning monarch in the world, HM the King so far has lived to see 27 Thai PMs take power in his 65 years on the throne.

He is deeply loved by Thais and is known for his commitment to projects that directly help common people – farmers, fishermen, laborers – through his many charities.

He is the only Thai monarch to hold a patent, one of which he achieved in 1993 for an ingenious wastewater system, "Chai Pattana".

HM the King was born on December 5, 1927, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA. He acceded to the Throne at age 18 on June 9, 1946.

He is also known as King Rama IX, the literal translation of his name means "Strength of the Land

with Incomparable Power".

An accomplished jazz musician and sportsman, HM the King had his first ski lesson in 1935 and excelled, as he also did at water sports and badminton.

And in homage to HM the King's love of sailing, the 25th annual King's Cup Regatta will take place from December 3-10.

More than 2,000 sailors and 100 yachts are expected to take part this year.

The banks are joining in the celebrations, with the Bank of Thailand unveiling a commemorative 100-baht banknote.

A total of 9.9 million special 100-baht bills have been printed for distribution to the public.

The back of the banknotes feature depictions of some of His Majesty's well-known activities in such fields as water-resource development and management, science and technology, and his remarkable musical talent.

A special feature – a first for a Thai banknote – is a horizontal bright gold bar that appears to move



His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej poses for photos after planting two 'Sri Trang' trees near the royal monument of HRH Prince of Songkhla at Siriraj Hospital earlier this year. Photo: The Nation

up and down the denomination numerals when the note is tilted.

The special bills can be bought with a hard-paper cover for 200 baht each, or with a hard-paper cover and a bag at 500 baht.

A portion of revenue will go to the Chaipattana Foundation, a sustainable development charity established by His Majesty.

Reservations for the banknotes can be made at branches of commercial banks, the Government

Savings Bank, the Government Housing Bank, the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives and the Islamic Bank of Thailand.

All of the notes will be distributed on December 2.

The *Phuket Gazette* wishes HM the King a very happy birthday.

For more on festivities for HM the King's birthday, see page 6.

B50,000 reward for currency booth robber

POLICE are offering a 50,000-baht reward for information leading to the arrest of the man who robbed a Siam Commercial Bank money exchange booth near Karon Circle on Saturday night, November 19.

Chalong Police Superintendent Kittapad Dej-intorrasorn also released a composite sketch of the wanted man, drawn from descriptions provided by witnesses, in the hope that it will assist in his capture.

The robber threatened two staff members at knife point. He forced Amnard Ponpramun, 27, to gag and bind his female workmate Wilaiwan Khao-ong, 22, with

tape, then forcing him to open the safe.

The pair were closing up the booth at 8pm when the robbery occurred.

"We were opening the door to leave when a man pushed his way inside. He held a knife to my right waist," Mr Amnard said.

"He taped Wilaiwan's hands behind her back. He taped her ankles and mouth before forcing me with the knife to open the safe and hand over the money," he added.

Col Kittapad said the robber escaped with mixed currencies, including US dollars and euros, with a combined value of 1,752,500 baht.

He described the unidentified thief as a dark-skinned Thai man, about 180 centimeters tall, 20-25 years old who spoke in Southern Thai during the robbery.

"I have split my team into four groups to search for him. The sketch was compiled from CCTV camera images and descriptions from witnesses, so this should easily lead us to the robber," Col Kittapad said.

"Anyone who sees a man matching the description of the suspect is urged to call us on 085-300 0060," said Col Kittapad.

– Warisa Temram



Chalong Police Superintendent Kittapad Dej-intorrasorn holds up the sketch of the robber.

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This Week

Finally seeing the light



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Up and coming



The article that tells you who the movers and shakers are. **Page 14**

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Cigana wins a third historic victory at the 2011 Laguna Phuket Triathlon. **Page 48**

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Officials move to lift landslide warning

By Warisa Temram

IN A sign that the worst of the 2011 monsoon season may be over, Phuket authorities are preparing paperwork to revoke a landslide disaster warning for a section of the bypass road in Rassada.

The warning was put in place for a section of the bypass road northbound following heavy rains in October that caused a landslide.

The slide forced the evacuation of several businesses and raised fears of a greater disaster that could render the road impassable.

During a meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall on Monday, Chaiwat Taepee, the Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) at the Phuket Provincial Office, said the recent change in weather had dried out the soil in the area sufficiently to warrant lifting the warning.

Mr Chaiwat said Rassada Municipality officials had informed the Muang District Office that the danger had passed in the area, located behind the Adisak Trading Company and adjacent businesses on the bypass road.

However, the warning can be officially lifted only after the re-



The landslide forced Phuket officials to order the area to be evacuated for fear of another landslide. Photo: Warisa Temram

quest has been approved by the governor, who was represented at the meeting by Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) Phuket office chief San Jantharawong and representatives of the Phuket Provincial Public Works and Town Planning Office.

Mr Chaiwat said he expects such approval to come "soon".

As for measures to shore up exposed soil in risk area to prevent a recurrence during the next rainy season, Mr Chaiwat said the owner of the land in question must present a written plan to Rassada

Municipality seeking assistance in order to ensure the safety of local residents.

Such a plan could only be approved with permission of the both Adisak Trading company and the owner of the hillside land behind the Adisak plot.

A local resident who is also an environmental engineer told the *Gazette* soon after the slide that hillside excavation for landfill had altered natural watercourses. It had also exposed soil and greatly compromised slope stability in the area.

Travel expo draws thousands

THOUSANDS of visitors turned out for the opening day of the Andaman Travel Trade 2011 last Friday.

The bustling two-day event, which aimed to link tour operators with businesses throughout the six Thai provinces along the Andaman coast, was held at the Convention Hall at Phuket Rajabhat University.

At this year's event were 302 business operators from 28 countries and 160 operators from Phuket, Phang Nga, Ranong, Krabi, Trang and Satun.

"Most of the Andaman operators are very happy with this event. They have had a chance to exchange business cards with foreign tourism operators," said Phuket Tourist Association President Somboon Jirayus.

"This will give the foreign op-



Delegates had the chance to learn about all six Andaman provinces. Photo: Pimwara Choksakulpan

erators a wider selection [of facilities and travel opportunities that] they can offer to customers. We expect that their customers will extend the length of their stays because of this."

TAT Deputy Governor for International Marketing Juthaporn Rerngronasa, who chaired the opening, had in the run up to the event highlighted Brazil as an expanding market for inbound tourism.

In person at the show confirming Ms Juthaporn's assertion was Leonardo Capistrano, a representative from PMG Capital Marketing in Sao Paolo.

"This is my first time to Thailand. It is very nice to have this event. I can now get in touch with local hotels, local suppliers and local service providers.

"We expect to see more new hotels being represented at this event, such as hotels from the northern part of the island or different islands in this area, not just hotels from Patong," he said.

— Pimwara Choksakulpan

Russian tourist dies at Kata

A RUSSIAN tourist died after being pulled from the water at Kata Beach last Sunday. Lt Tianchai Duangsuwan of the Chalong Police named the victim as Uriu Varnakov, age 57.

Uten Singsom, head of the Phuket Lifeguard Club, told the *Gazette* that a tourist spotted Mr Varnakov floating face down in thigh-deep water in front of the Club Med resort at about 10am.

"Some jet-ski operators nearby saw [this] and rushed to bring him back to shore," Mr Uten said.

"Club Med nurses, another lifeguard and I tried hard to save his life. We gave him CPR for about 30 minutes before an ambulance arrived and rushed him to Patong Hospital," he added.



Lifeguards, nurses and a Royal Thai Navy sea rescue officer work to keep Uriu Varnakov alive.

Mr Varnakov was pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital.

Mr Uten said there had been no reports of people hearing Mr Varnakov shouting or signalling for help, although there were about 20 people in the water around him.

"Also, there were no strong currents or rip tides," he said

— Atchaa Khamlo



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95 Rohingya disappear into Army hands

POLICE in Kuraburi, Phang Nga province, have confirmed that 95 ethnic Rohingya who last Thursday morning landed on Koh Phra Thong, about 110km north of Phuket, have been handed over the Royal Thai Army.

However, all attempts by the *Gazette* to confirm with the Army the refugees' current whereabouts have failed.

"We received a call from villagers on the island saying that a boat full of Rohingya people had landed on the shore there, but by the time I got there the Army was already there," said Lt Col Akekachai Pueakmanee, Deputy Superintendent of Kuraburi Police Station.

"The Army had already assembled all 95 of them at the Tung Laong Pier on the mainland," he added.

Lt Col Akekachai did not specify how many of the refugees were men, women or children.

"An Army officer told us that all Rohingya of the 'captured' will be taken to the 2nd Infantry Battalion, 25th Military unit, Rattanakongson Camp, in Ratchakud District, Ranong province," he said.

— *Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai*

Pheu Thai to tackle local land corruption

By Warisa Temram

PHEU Thai Party spokesman and party list MP Prompong Nopparit has vowed to raise specific instances of alleged land encroachment in Phuket with Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra.

Mr Prompong, currently vice president of the parliamentary anti-corruption committee, which includes Phuket Democrat MP Raywat Areerob, was in Phuket last Saturday to hear complaints about encroachment and corrupt government officials.

At a public meeting at Phuket Rajabhat University, Mr Prompong heard in person complaints of encroachment in Phuket, Phang Nga, Surat Thani and even on Koh Yao Noi in Phang Nga Bay.

Also at the meeting to hear the complaints were Department of Special Investigation (DSI) forest land specialist Lt Col Prawut Wongsrinin and Phuket National Resource and Environment Chief Chaipadung Promsawat.

Top among the complaints was that Chanote title deeds had been



Prompong Nopparit (right) receives a formal complaint from Anucha Ardhan of the Kuku mangrove forest conservation group. Photo: Warisa Temram

issued for national forest land, and that despite complaints having been lodged, such title deeds had yet to be revoked.

"The problem in each area seems to be the same. Land encroachment has been conducted through the illegal issuance of Chanote title deeds and nothing has been done by the relevant govern-

ment offices," Mr Prompong said.

"Although local residents have petitioned the government to reclaim its land, and in some cases government officers have inspected and found said encroachment to be illegal, Chanote titles [for these areas] still have not been revoked," he added.

Mr Prompong cited complaints

of encroachment at Baan Kuku in Phuket's Rassada subdistrict, specifically on 50 rai of the Chee Lao mangrove forest beside the Tha Jeen canal, which separates Koh Sireh from Phuket.

He added that he had received complaints of 1,284 rai of mangrove forest being encroached on near the Santi Pattana community in Tambon Bangsawan, Prasaeng District, Surat Thani, and of a Chanote title covering 59.2 rai being issued for state land near Tai Muang in Phuket's neighboring province of Phang Nga.

"There are a lot of 'influential people' who use nominees to own national park land, and I call this robbery.

"I will present all these problems at the party meeting, to related ministers and to Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra," Mr Prompong said.

"I will pass on the suggestion that the government office that is to revoke illegally issued Chanote [titles] must be different from the department that issues them," he added.

Phuket gets dedicated 'rape case' officer

PHUKET now has a female police officer dedicated to handling rape and sexual assault cases: Capt Nucharee Longkaew

Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pekad Tantipong confirmed the news last Friday at the quarterly meeting of Phuket's honorary consuls and top officials on the island.

Maj Gen Pekad confirmed that Capt Nucharee, stationed at Phuket City Police Station, is on call to handle cases involving allegations of rape and sexual assault.

The news was much welcomed by British honorary consul Martin Carpenter and Australian honorary consul Larry Cunningham, who have both long championed a police "sex crime" unit being established on Phuket.

Mr Carpenter asked Maj Gen Pekad specifically how Capt Nucharee would be involved in handling reports of sex crimes.

Maj Gen Pekad replied, "She has the authority to go to any police station in Phuket to investigate sex crime cases, such as sexual assault in Patong.

"She will help with the handling of sex offense cases involving female tourists," he said.

Mr Cunningham praised the move, saying, "I would like to thank the commander for having an officer dedicated to these cases, especially considering the number of sexual assault cases in Patong.



Capt Nucharee Longkaew

"Also, in many incidents the victim of a sexual assault has to go home [to her home country] because there is no one she is comfortable talking to here," he said.

"So, hopefully, they will now feel comfortable talking to an officer who is going to push their cases, and the terrible men committing the crimes might think twice before they try to do it to anyone else," he added.

— *Atchaa Khamlo*

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Tsunami Wall ready for remembrance

THE addition of a new section to the Tsunami Wall of Remembrance in Mai Khao has been completed in time for the upcoming memorial ceremony on December 26.

The original wall bore images of all the countries whose nationals had died in the 2004 tsunami.

However, planning permission to allow the construction of the new police building near the site meant that a new perimeter wall intersected the memorial wall.

The obstructed section listing three countries would have been unapproachable to those wishing to pay their respects.

"The extension to the Wall of Remembrance has been finished," said Sakchai Limcharoen, Superintendent at Tah Chat Chai Police Station.

"The work included inscribing the names Argen-

tina, the Czech Republic and Egypt to the wall. Everything is now ready for the Remembrance of Tsunami Victims ceremony on December 26," he said.

The work involved removing the section of memorial wall isolated within the newly constructed police compound and rebuilding it at the other end of the existing memorial wall.

Mai Khao Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) acting president Raywat Sombatthong said that Provincial Police Region 8 was in charge of the work on building the new part of the wall. Hence, responsibility for the new section falls to Provincial Police Region 8.

Mai Khao *OrBorTor* was not involved in construction of the new section, he said.

— *Chutharat Plerin*



At "Into the Sea", the signature restaurant at the Evason Phuket & Bon Island, chef Lluís Cantons's Modern Logical Cuisine showcases his latest innovation in the form of new, creative interpretations of a cuisine that has both visual and textural appeal. The taste and focus on fresh wholesome and local ingredients are paramount.

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Phuket best for wearing helmets

A RECENT study has rated Phuket as the top province in Thailand for motorbike riders and passengers wearing helmets.

"Since we launched our '100 per cent helmet' campaign in 2010, Phuket has been chosen as a model province for motorcycle riders wearing helmets. We are the top province for wearing helmets," said Phuket Public Health Office (PPHO) Deputy Director Wiwat Seetamanotch.

Bangkok ranked second and Loei province third in the study, he added.

"In the past few months we have made more than 30,000 random stops and found that the number of people wearing helmets is continually increasing," he said.

The number of riders wearing helmets has risen from 30 per cent before the campaign to 90 per cent today, claimed Dr Wiwat.

The study also found that nearly 70 per cent of passengers wore helmets, he said, but added that the study found people were less inclined to wear helmets at night.



Phuket Townies were the 'best' for wearing helmets in all of Phuket.

Phuket City had the greatest percentage of people wearing helmets, followed by Kata and Patong.

"Thalang has the fewest people wearing helmets because Thalang is out of town. People leaving work from rubber plantations or farms don't wear helmets on the short trip home," Dr Wiwat said.

"We will continue to focus on teenagers to make them realize the importance of wearing helmets," he added.

— W Temram / C Plerin

Marine Office allows 70 more rental jet-skis

THE Phuket Marine Office will allow amnesty to jet-ski operators so that they can register 70 jet-skis found operating illegally.

The move is aimed at ensuring all rental jet-skis in Phuket are covered by first-class insurance, Phuket Marine Office Chief Phuripat Theerakulpisut told the quarterly meeting of Phuket's honorary consuls last Friday.

"Since we started managing jet-ski rental operations in 2007, 219 jet-skis have been registered. However, we have found 70 jet-skis that are unregistered," Chief Phuripat told the consuls.

The Marine Office is not planning legal action against the offending jet-ski operators, but has instead asked them to cooperate with his office, he said.

"Also, the jet-skis will be registered for particular zones, which means that jet-skis being rented out in Patong cannot be used in other areas," he added.

Previously, jet-skis had to be registered with the Marine Office under the category of cruiser and



Jet-skis for rent on Patong Beach. But are they registered and insured?

sports boat. "Under that system, there had been many problems with jet-ski insurance claims. So now we have created a category especially for jet-ski rental businesses. This system has been specifically designed for Phuket," explained Chief Phuripat.

Phuket Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Pekad Tantipong said that police had so far received about 40 reports of foreigners

damaging jet-skis. "So I would like tourists who have a disagreement with a jet-ski operator to go to the police. That will make it fair for both sides," he said.

Jet-ski insurance scams have long tarnished Phuket's reputation among tourists, with pressure from consuls and ambassadors placing Phuket's top officials squarely in the spotlight.

— Atchaa Khamlo

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Bust reveals dope 'brick' hidden in woman's shorts

POLICE acting on a tip-off arrested two people for possession and intent to sell marijuana last week. One of the arrested was a woman who had a "brick" of marijuana stuffed into her shorts. The other was a man who was already wanted for dope charges.

After receiving the tip-off that "someone" was selling drugs at a block of rented rooms on Chao Fa East Road, Chalong Police set up a team of officers and staged a stakeout on November 21, explained Investigating officer Maj Jaran Bangprasert.

While the officers were keeping the building under surveillance, they noticed 22-year-old Namtip Da-arboot sitting on a motorbike near a local karaoke bar, at about 10:30pm.

Considering the length of time she was waiting and how she was behaving, officers decided to introduce themselves and asked to search her.

To their surprise, officers found Namtip with a "brick" of dried marijuana, sealed and wrapped in brown paper, tucked into her shorts.

The officers arrested her for possession with intent to sell a Class 5 drug and seized the brick, which measured 5x16x4 centimeters, as evidence.

While police were discovering the brick in her pants, they no-



Maj Jaran Bangprasert (standing, center) and fellow police officers with seated suspects Namtip (left) and Sombong — and the 'brick'.

ticed a man lurking around the karaoke bar.

Believing the man was acting suspiciously, they stopped him and identified him as Sombong Naoprai, 28.

Sombong already had a warrant issued for his arrest on charges of possession of a Class 5 drug, specifically marijuana, with intent to sell.

The warrant, issued on February 24, noted that Sombong was arrested near the same karaoke bar where he was arrested again on November 21.

Sombong is now in custody and will face due legal process, Maj Jaran said.

— Warisa Temram

Spike thief arrested – again

By Atchaa Khamlo

POLICE early Tuesday morning arrested yet again one of six women charged in October with luring foreign tourists to hotel rooms, where they were drugged and subsequently robbed.

Suspect Suchada Yusuk, 29, was arrested on Soi Bangla at 3:30am.

“We had an investigation team tailing her. When she started acting suspiciously while walking along Soi Bangla, the officers stopped and searched her,” said Maj Thammasan Boonsong.

Officers found in her bag five Alprazolam pills, eight Atarax pills and a small plastic bottle containing a green-colored liquid mixture of the drugs – the same concoction used in the October arrests – and another similar bottle, but empty.

“When we brought her in for questioning, she confessed that she used [Alprazolam] to drug foreigners to sleep. She put the mix in their drinks and then she stole their belongings,” Maj Thammasan said.

“She always chose foreigners

on Soi Bangla [as her victims],” he added.

“We are not sure if she had already robbed someone as one of the bottles was empty. We are still investigating that aspect,” Maj Thammasan said.

Suchada was presented in court on Tuesday to face a fresh charge of illegal possession of a prescription drug, he added.

Suchada’s arrest came while she was out on bail after being arrested on October 31 with the five other women and charged with illegal possession of a prescription drug.

She was to present herself to Phuket Provincial Court on December 8.

Maj Thammasan explained that Suchada, who formally changed her first name from Wanpen about five months ago, was released on bail because she is a suspect in another robbery case in which foreigners were victimized.

Her alleged accomplice in that case, Jaruni Kanpol, is still at large.

Police hoped that releasing Suchada on bail would help lead them to Jaruni, said Maj Thammasan.



Suchada Yusuk at Patong Police Station – again. Inset: Suchada said she used Alprazolam pills to make the ‘knockout drops’. Photos: Atchaa Khamlo

Suchada and Jaruni are suspected of using the same knockout drops to drug tourists and then rob them, he added.

Officers are also keeping tabs on the other women arrested in the October 31 bust.

“I have heard that some of them left Phuket, but we have seen some of the others still in Patong and we are keeping our eyes on them to make sure they don’t do

it again,” he said.

None of the women are now working in bars, he noted.

“Even though some of them worked in bars on Soi Bangla, we did not reveal which bars they worked at. We would like to protect the reputation of those bars, especially since the tourists were not drugged on the premises,” he added.

Phuket Provincial Court on

November 2 found the five other women guilty of illegal possession of a prescription drug, Maj Thammasan said.

Three were listed as: Kemporn Poosedin, 45, from Maha Sarakham; Saeng Nuansri, 47, from Phuket; and Wanida Yusuk, 36, from Yasothon. Each were ordered to pay fines of 10,000 baht.

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

As all five confessed to the charges, the court halved their fines, the *Gazette* was told.

All five have already paid their fines, the court confirmed.

Kemporn, Saeng and Wanida all appeared in court on Monday to faces charges of theft. They are scheduled to appear again on December 8.

Although the three women were remanded to Phuket Provincial Prison and later released on bail, Maj Thammasan explained that theft charges were filed against only these three women because victims had come forward and identified them in their complaints.



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The King's birthday events

PHUKET will join celebrations around the world honoring the 84th birthday of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej on December 5, also marked in Thailand as Father's Day.

Celebrations have been planned across the nation to honor HM the King and his great fatherly devotion to all Thai people.

Everyone is welcome to join the festivities to honor HM the King.

Here are just some of the events scheduled to be held in Phuket:

Patong (at Loma Park)

December 5

3pm: Parade from Sea Pearl intersection to Loma Park, celebration of HM the King show

4pm: Arrival of the Phuket Governor, opening ceremony, Royal Anthem

5pm: Opening of football game by the Phuket Governor

Phuket City (at Saphan Hin)

December 2 – December 5

4pm to midnight: There will be daily concerts. Entry to the event is free and will showcase not only music from Thailand, but also artists from around the world. There will also be video presentations about HM the King every half hour.

December 2

7pm – 7:30pm: Opening of Phuket World Musiq Festival, Phuket Symphony by Nakhon Phuket Youth Orchestra

December 3

5:30pm – 7pm: Stage performance by Phuket Rajabhat University

December 4

7:15pm – 8pm: Stage performance by Kajonkiet Suksa School

December 5



Thais around the world on December 5 will honor HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's fatherly devotion to his people.

5pm – 7:45pm: Stage performance by students, Nakhon Phuket Youth Orchestra, Candellight celebration, Thai National Artist Naowarat Pongpaiboon will lead "Father of Love" celebrations

Kata Beach

December 3 – 5

6pm – 11pm: Kata Walking Street (on Kata Road) with concerts from popular Thai artists Paowalee (from the movie *Poompuang*); Yong Chernyim (famous Thai comedian); Bank, lead

singer from Thai rock group Clash, Ford Sobchai (Thai jazz singer); and Au Tannatorn.

Nightly performances of traditional Southern Thai *Nang Talung* shadow puppet plays as well as traditional Rong Ngeng, Pong Rang and Manora dances. There will be an exhibition honoring HM the King and a batik exhibition.

December 5

Karon Municipality Office

6pm – 11pm: Candellight ceremony, concert by Ford Sobchai with the music composed by HM the King, fireworks show.

Rawai (Lan Pra Prom Park and Phromthep Cape)

December 2

10am – 10:30am: Phuket Governor opens the ceremony, sea creature release

10:30am – midday: Beach cleanup at Rawai and Nai Harn Beaches

6pm: Stage performances by students

7pm: Opening ceremony to be officiated by Phuket MP Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr, Candellight ceremony, fireworks show

Cherng Talay (at Cherng Talay Municipality football field)

December 3

8:30am: Football match for adults aged 40 or older

December 4

8:30am: Football match for children aged 10 – 12

December 5

8:30am: Football match for adults aged 40 or older

Kathu (at Kathu Municipality)

December 5

6am: Alms offerings to monks

4:30pm – 9pm: Performances on stage by Phuket students; and Best Father Award

7pm: Candellight ceremony

Wichit (at Sri Phuwanat Park)

December 2

5pm: Performance and 'Father of the Year Award'

5:30pm: Military band show from Srinagarindra the Princess Mother School Phuket

6:05pm: Stage performances by Phuket students

7:30pm: Candellight ceremony, Royal Anthem, fireworks show

Rassada (at Rassada Municipality)

December 5

7am: Alms offerings to monks

Thepkrasattri (at Thepkrasattri Municipality)

December 2

6pm: Opening ceremony

7:10pm: Candellight ceremony, fireworks show, 'Father of the Year Award', stage performances

Inmates hope for amnesty

PHUKET prisoners on November 24 helped clean up Wat Charoen Samanakit, located behind Phuket Provincial Hall, in order to make merit for HM The King Bhumibol Adulyadej ahead of his 84th birthday on December 5.

"The 40 prisoners working today are among the 200 plus people asking for amnesty. I have already filed their names to request amnesty from HM the King. If nothing goes wrong, the approvals should be announced before December 5," said Phuket Prison Director Rapin Nichanon.

The efforts were part of a Ministry of Justice national project, from November 21 to December 5, to clean flood-affected areas and to help flood victims, Mr Rapin explained.

"If any community needs our help, please call us at 076-212104," he said.

Pracha survives, despite attacks and high waters

JUSTICE Minister Pracha Promnok has survived a censure debate in the House of Representatives after coming under heavy attack from the opposition Democrat Party for his handling of the flood crisis.

Mr Pracha won with a 273-188 majority vote, a tally that surprised few analysts, given that the coalition government controls 300 of the 500 seats in the lower house.

The justice minister was the sole target of the censure motion due to his role as head of the Flood Relief Operations Center (FROC).

The opposition accused him of running FROC based purely on nepotism. Democrat heavyweight Jurin Laksanawisit led the

attack, accusing Mr Pracha of grave failure to properly manage floodwater, human resources, money and flood-relief supplies, thus causing great damage to the country.

Mr Pracha posed a threat of further damage should he continue to serve as head of FROC, Mr Jurin alleged.

Mr Jurin also accused the justice minister of allowing politicians to interfere in officials' work, in violation of Articles 265 and 266 of the Constitution.

Defending himself, Mr Pracha said the procurement of flood-relief supplies was done before FROC was established. He had evidence to back up his claim, he said.

Besides, Mr Pracha alleged, the Abhisit

government had procured relief supplies at higher prices than the Yingluck government had done.

The opposition also attacked Mr Pracha for his alleged role in the now-abandoned plan to bring former prime minister and Pheu Thai Party patron Thaksin Shinawatra back to Thailand by securing a Royal Pardon for him.

Mr Thaksin currently lives in exile to escape a two-year jail sentence after his 2008 conviction, which he claims was politically motivated.

Around 30,000 prisoners are expected to be released from jail to coincide with HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 84th birthday.



Justice Minister Pracha Promnok survived the censure motion. Photo: The Nation

Debate rages on Article 112

AROUND THE nation

THE debate over Thailand's controversial *lese majeste* law, which bans criticism of the monarchy, reached fever pitch after a 61-year-old man with cancer was recently sentenced to 20 years in jail for sending text messages deemed offensive to Her Majesty the Queen.

Last week the country's Information and Technology Minister Anudith Nakornthap also warned Facebook users they could be prosecuted for clicking "Like" on posts that insult the royal family.

On November 23, the Bangkok Criminal Court found Ampon Tangnoppakul guilty on four counts of violating Article 112 of the Criminal Code, which legally enshrines *lese majeste*, as well as the Computer Crimes Act.

The retired truck driver, whose family claims he loves His Majesty the King, was sentenced to four consecutive four-year sentences, totalling 20 years in jail.

In May 2010, Mr Ampon allegedly sent four text messages from



Text messages coming from your phone that break the *lese majeste* law can put you behind bars. Photo: OlyBrius

his cellphone to the personal secretary of Abhisit Vejjajiva, who was prime minister at the time.

The content of the messages, which cannot be repeated without breaking the *lese majeste* law, were deemed as disparaging to Her Majesty the Queen.

Mr Ampon denied sending the messages. He claimed that he was

not in possession of the cellphone at the time and did not even know how to send text messages.

Benjamin Zawacki, Thailand researcher for human rights watchdog Amnesty International, condemned the verdict.

"Thailand has every right to have a (*lese majeste*) law, but its current form and usage place the

country in contravention of its international legal obligations," Mr Zawacki told The Associated Press.

"Repression remains the order of the day in Thailand on freedom of expression, and Amphon is a political prisoner," he proclaimed.

Two days after the conviction, Information and Technology Minister Anudith Nakornthap said

Facebook users could violate Article 112 by sharing or "liking" material posted on the popular site.

Mr Anudith recently told the media that the government had asked Facebook to remove more than 10,000 pages deemed offensive to the monarchy.

"We have informed Facebook and sought their assistance in deleting content which is offensive to our monarchy," he said.

One opposition Democrat MP, Mallika Boonmeetrakool, suggested that sites such as Facebook and YouTube be banned altogether to ensure Thais are not exposed to "offensive material", a highly controversial move given the popularity of social networking in Thailand.

However, on November 29 Abhisit Vejjajiva posted on his Facebook wall that the "Democratic party does not have a policy to turn off Facebook or Youtube [in Thailand]." A clear sign that the Democratic Party doesn't fully support Maillika's proposal of banning social networking sites.

Article 112 mandates jail sentences of three to 15 years for anyone who insults the Thai King, Queen or heir to the throne, currently Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn.

'Flood crocs' cause panic

AS FLOODWATERS recede in Bangkok and surrounding areas, hard-pressed residents are having to deal with a new menace: crocodiles and highly poisonous snakes.

The Thai Fisheries Department has dispatched special teams to deal with the reptiles, which escaped in their hundreds from farms across Central Thailand and are now menacing the population.

Twenty-three-year-old Anchalee Wannawet told the Associated Press she saw a meter-long crocodile with its jaws wide open sitting next to an out-house one morning.

"I ran away, and it ran into there," she said, pointing towards the reedy swamp behind the construction site where she works in the northern

Bangkok district of Sai Mai.

"I haven't dared to go to the bathroom since. I'm peeing in a can."

There are approximately 3,000 crocodile farms in Thailand. The creatures are bred for their meat, bones and skin, which is used to make luxury bags and other accessories.


The Fisheries Department is also fielding as many as 10 phone calls per day about snakes. Most of them concern pythons, though some are about very dangerous snakes like cobras and pit vipers.

This year's devastating floods have killed more than 600 people and brought Thailand's industrial centers to their knees.



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Corrupting the land title chase

WHILE the Andaman Travel Trade 2011 expo was winding to a close at Phuket Rajabhat University last Saturday, tucked away in a small conference room in the Science and Technology faculty building on the same campus was none other than Pheu Thai Spokesman and party list MP Prompong Nopparit, who was holding a public hearing to receive complaints about government officials' inaction against the illegal issuance of land title deeds and encroachment by developers on government land.

Lucky it was that the Andaman Travel Trade delegates did not walk through the wrong door. It would be difficult to reconcile within the same brain the mixed messages of "Come enjoy your holiday in beautiful Phuket" with "We're so tired of government officials taking no action on the illegal issuance of land title deeds and encroachment that we're going to tell our prime minister."

Highlighted by Mr Prompong was that, according to statistics, over the past two years 10 million rai of forest land across the country had been destroyed through "acquisition".

Also noteworthy was the fact that no mention was made of the problem of foreigners "owning" land – well, "controlling" actually – through the use of nominees.

What screamed out as nonsense from the proceedings, however, was how officials were to "annul" or "revoke" so-called "illegally issued" Chanote title deeds. Using the term "improperly issued" would go a long way toward a clearer understanding of the problem.

To annul or revoke a document would substantiate that the holder at some point in time had some rights conferred by the document. But the land titles in question – even if issued by a government authority on the presumption that the information provided to them was true – were never valid.

The authorities will need to mark their records accordingly, but they certainly would not be annulling or revoking any rights the holder claimed to have had. They never had any in the first place.

Consider a person who claims to own a stolen car because the registration book was ratified by the Land Transportation Department. Once the true owner steps forward with evidence showing that he or she is the actual owner of the car, there would be no question as to the lack of rights of the person who thought he or she owned the car actually had.

Then last Saturday there was the odd assertion that the government officials who were to "revoke" the illegally issued Chanote titles be different from those who issued them – that is, Land Department officials. It's odd because we already have them. They're called the Royal Thai Police.

The last time the *Gazette* checked, fraud, deception and providing government officers with false information were all criminal charges.



Using enough protection?

There is a lot of complaining on the *Phuket Gazette's* forum about people not wearing helmets.

These people just don't understand that the little bucket helmets that people wear are really not nearly enough protection.

Yes, it's better to wear a bucket around your head than nothing (maybe) and of course it's better than keeping your helmet in your motorbike's basket, but really people need to be wearing high quality closed faced helmets. But even in those cases, people need to remember what a professional motorcycle racer once said, "helmets can save your heads, but not your legs."

Most serious motorbike accidents, especially those that happen at high speeds, result in life changing injuries such as paraplegia or traumatic amputation. Drive slower, drive smart – drive safer.

Stewart Fletcher
Phuket Town

Not enough parties in Phuket

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket gears up for first World Musiq Festival, November 23*

What Phuket urgently needs is to have Full Moon Parties, as done on Koh Pha-ngan, because every month thousands of tourists leave Phuket for a few days to go to the Pha-ngan Full Moon Parties.

At Nai Harn, the beach and the lagoon are available all year round. There are no local residents nearby and the police can easily control the event through the two access roads to the beach and the island.

Whistle-Blower
Gazette Forum

Letters to the Editor

Hilux lover

Re: *Gazette online, Evoque SUV ideal for 'new age' business folk in Phuket, November 23*

Fantastic, what a vehicle, though no mention of after sales services. Nothing like riding in comfort until you have to get spare parts shipped halfway around the world, not to mention the most "highly" trained Land Rover technicians, which Phuket is so well known for. Thanks, but I will stick with my Hilux. At least mechanics in 195 countries can fix it with their eyes closed.

Toolbox
Gazette Forum

Boulder threat

Re: *Gazette online, Patong resort moves to stave off 'boulder rain', November 23*

I hope the resort is not still accepting guests. The size of those boulders poses a risk to both life and limb and the resort needs to be closed until the problem has been solved. The owners can sue those responsible for damages and loss of business.

Terry
Gazette Forum

Calling to support Grumpy Old Men

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket's 'Grumpy Old Men' on mercy mission for flood victims, November 22*

The Rawai-Nai Harn Dragonboat Club had a fund-raising night in aid of Phuket's Grumpy Old Men (GOMs).

Please support the GOM fund as much as you can; these guys are going all out to make sure everything goes to the right place.

The floods are receding, but it is now that the true relief work starts. Disease is going to be a huge threat, so cleaning items and medicine will be useful, as well as kids' stuff.

Stuart
Gazette Forum

I scream only when there's no ice cream!

The ice cream cones of Phuket are rapidly disappearing from the 7-Elevens. They seem like endangered animals that are growing more and more scarce as high season sets in.

Two weeks ago, I could walk into any 7-Eleven in Chalong or Rawai and find a quintet of ice cream cone flavors. There was the chocolate with a thick fudge disc on top, the fudge-filled one with a frozen chocolate whip cream topping, black forest cherry, the vanilla with wispy white frozen whip cream – and then there was the base strawberry.

Last week the fudge disk cone, by far the best, became extinct.

But I didn't panic because the chocolate whip cream one was a fine second choice.

However, this past Sunday I was horror stricken. I visited multiple 7-Elevens in Rawai as well as the mini Tesco and their ice cream bins were in disarray, only the dreadful strawberry was left – shiver.

Trevor Green
Rawai

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Tourists neglecting to help stop crime

FIRST PERSON

I WANT foreign tourists who are victims of crimes in Phuket to co-operate with us when we investigate their cases, but they always rush back to their home countries after getting their stolen belongings back. This makes it impossible for police to press charges against the thieves as there isn't enough evidence to secure a conviction. Eventually the suspects will be released and return to the streets to take part in more crime.

Police request that tourists stay in Phuket for questioning, but usually they refuse, because they just want to return home. This is why police have not been able to remove thieves from Patong. On top of this, the tourists sometimes complain to the police when they don't get their things back quickly.

Many times police officers do catch the thieves with the stolen goods, but their victims don't want to become involved, so they avoid helping the police. Without victims we can not subject suspects to the full legal process. We are always arresting the same individuals. Mostly the thieves are lady boys working in Soi Bangla. We receive a report of a tourist being robbed once every week or two.

Another issue is that some tourists think that it's easy to find drugs



Major Thammasan Boonsong, 34, is the Investigating Chief for Patong Police and is familiar with crime cases involving tourists. He has been on the force for 12 years. Here he passes on a few suggestions to tourists on how to stay out of trouble and help the police.

in Patong and then are tricked into buying fake drugs. For example, they buy fake marijuana made from the leaves of local plants such as *Muntingia calabura* Linn and *Streblus asper* Lour. Occasionally the foreigners get angry with the "drug" dealers, because they were tricked, and become violent. The dealers then simply report the foreigner's violent behavior to the police, because the tourist is not likely to be honest about the reason for his aggression. In the end the tourist only loses his money.

In reality, the idea that drugs are easy to come by in Patong is untrue. Our drug suppression team is constantly arresting drug dealers and seizing their contraband.

Now when it comes to tourists fighting with taxi and tuk tuk drivers, it nearly always involves drunken tourists and starts with something small, such as the fare for a ride or damage done to a vehicle.

Instead of resorting to violence, the tourist should wait for the police. The police will attempt to negotiate a solution. If they don't wait, with one party being drunk and the other not willing to give in, a fight will ensue. Other taxi drivers in the vicinity see this going on and step into assist their friend. Invariably this appears to onlookers as a mob of taxi drivers beating a tourist. Most of these altercations occur from 2-3am and nearly always with a drunk tourist.

A good example is when a drunken tourist is playing with a tuk-tuk or taxi and the vehicle ends up getting damaged. The driver asks for compensation, but the drunk tourist cannot speak coherently and the situation escalates into a violent confrontation. In circumstances such as this the tourist should just wait for the arrival of the police, so that they can peacefully negotiate a settlement.

Junta allowed to play

I WAS thrilled to watch the 26th SEA Games on TV. Watching my Thai friends excitedly support their fellow countrymen and women, in boxing, volleyball, weightlifting, penkat silat, football and other sports, was absolutely marvelous.

But one question I had for my Thai friends went unanswered. How did they feel about watching – and competing against – athletes from Myanmar?

Here is a country that remains under a brutal dictatorship, and there is no doubt that the athletes who competed in the games did so at the sole discretion of the ruling military elite in their home country.

I have to admit that my own question left me floundering for an answer. I was happy to see the people of Myanmar finally competing in international sports. These are athletes – this is what they dream of doing – and at the SEA Games they got the chance to do it – that's part of the definition of freedom. But I certainly had no desire to send a message to the Myanmar junta that everything was okay, that the sins of the past had all been forgotten and that I was willing to ignore the current and ongoing oppression in the country.

The same goes for Myanmar opening its doors to tourism. Do they actually think tourists are naive enough to believe that the income generated by tourism will actually be distributed among those who really earned it and need it?

But as soon as I think this, I ask myself, how do we entice the junta to step up and start develop-



Myanmar, host of next year's SEA Games, receives the Games' flag from Indonesia. Photo: Siam Sports

Island View

By Damian Evans

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

ing their country for a brighter, more prosperous and more equitable future?

There's no point in threatening them with sanctions, as only the downtrodden will suffer further. And neighboring countries, including Thailand, are already engaged in so much trade with Myanmar that the point is nigh moot anyway.

Are fun and games, at an international level, the way to go? Is this how we lure a despot into progress?

Or have the military junta, by holding steadfastly onto their power through violence and intimidation, simply won?

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

A rat with a view

We have been coming to Phuket for many years, but never before have we seen rats inside a shopping mall. We went to lunch at the Big C Food Court Chicken Corner and while we were eating there was a rat running along the tops of the walls and watching us eat.

Needless to say, I quickly lost my appetite.

The rat was just watching us from above, as if it was on its own private balcony. All the nice people around us did not seem to bother him. The whole food court area was like a mad house, and the food will never tempt us back.

Irene
Kata

Rujikarn Nontachote, Big C Phuket Department Store, Plaza Manger, replies:

This is the first time we have received a complaint about rats. Thank you for informing us. Our food court has proper waste management and is closed for very thorough cleaning every week.

Every week, Public Health officers inspect the standard of

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

hygiene at our food court.

Now that we have received this complaint, we will focus even more on cleanliness. We welcome your complaints and value every comment.

Construction times and the good times

Are there any noise regulations set in place for construction sites in Phuket? There is a construction project happening behind our apartment and they work from 7am to 10pm, seven days a week. Some nights they go past midnight.

Ron Wale
Patong

Chalerm Rakmark, Operations Chief of the Department of Public Works and Town & Country Planning, Phuket Office, replies:

According to the law, construction cannot be conducted during the middle of the night. The law clarifies that working hours are from between 7am to 10pm.

Any work done after 10pm is illegal.

Construction work continuing seven days a week and on holidays is permissible, because the law does not prohibit it.

However, if you can't stand the noise from the construction site, you can file a complaint with the local police and they can help you negotiate with the construction company.

Dark side of the road

When the new four lane road [Paklok Road] was built, there were lights put in on both sides of the road. On one side of the road the lights have never been turned on. It is quite dangerous at night for local people and *farangs* that live out there. I would like to know



Paklok Road has working street lights on only one side of the road.

why the lights have never been turned on.

Tom Notaro
Pak Lok

Wattana Donubon, Department of Highways, Maintenance Supervisor, replies:

Originally there was an issue with the high voltage electricity that was running through the power lines, which burnt out the street lights on both sides of Paklok Road. Villagers couldn't live with the street lights out, so they closed the road with a strike. We prom-

ised to get the lights fixed on only one side of the road. We know that it's not enough for four lanes of traffic, but we are waiting for the lighting company we hired to build the street lights to take responsibility for the other side of the road.

Because the problem happened while the lights were still insured we have claimed compensation for the damages. We've also asked them to repair the street lights soon, but the company hasn't responded to our request. Now we have to keep waiting. On top of this, the electrical wires were stolen from the dark side of the road."

Boats to show at PIMEX 2012 valued at B1.8bn / US\$50mn

BOATS that have confirmed to be displayed at the Phuket International Boat Show 2012 (PIMEX) have a combined value of over US\$ 50 million – about 1.5 billion baht.

To be held at the Royal Phuket Marina from March 29 to April 1 2012, this ninth edition of PIMEX is organized by Informa Yacht Group.

PIMEX brings leading boat brands, yachting products and marine leisure services together in one place.

"PIMEX's in-water display is the largest in Asia and is a big attraction for international buyers who want to see boats in the marine environment," said PIMEX Show Director Andy Dowden.

Continued growth in the regional marine leisure market has seen more owners choose to port their boats in Phuket. The four international-standard marinas are operating at high occupancy year round.

The increase in boats berthed in Phuket is in part due to the diversity of international buyers and the growth of the domestic Thai buyer market.

"We are seeing an increasing trend amongst wealthy Thai customers towards owning a luxury boat, and a growth of interest from international buyers from Russia, China and the Middle East," said Jariya Sungtong, Sales and Marketing Manager, Windy Boats Asia, a 2012 exhibitor.

Further noting the growth of international and domestic buyer markets, Martin Holmes, General Manager of exhibitor Lee Marine, agreed:

"There are more and more people coming to the island and wanting to get into boating. We are seeing more overseas customers, particularly from Russia. But there is also growth in the number of Thai nationals purchasing yachts."

Dewa Phuket wins 7 awards

DEWA Phuket, the boutique resort at Nai Yang beach, bagged seven awards at the '2011 – 2013 Hospitality Asia Platinum Awards', or HAPA.

The HAPA Southeast Asian regional ceremony, which took place November 17 and 18 in Singapore, welcomed hospitality sector representatives from Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, and the Philippines.

Created by World Asia Publications in 2002, HAPA recognizes and rewards the *crème de la crème* of the hospitality industry at all levels. As first time entrants in a field with over 100 nominees, Dewa Phuket was delighted to win four Platinum awards: HAPA Sig-

nature Serviced Residences (best 10 in Asia), HAPA Signature Family & Recreational Resort (best 10 in Asia), HAPA Best Front Office (best 10 in Asia) and HAPA Best Concierge (best 10 in Asia).

As for its three Gold awards, the Dewa Phuket won HAPA Signature Boutique Hotel/Resort (best 10 in Asia), HAPA Hospitality Entrepreneur of the Year (best 5 in Asia) and HAPA Luxury Resort (best 10 in Asia).

Situated next to the Sirinath National Park on the northwest coast of Phuket, Dewa Phuket offers both pool villas and suite rooms. For more information visit W: dewaphuketresort.com

– *Phuket Gazette*



Tri-Asia founder Lars Ydmark (back right) poses with Dewa Phuket's management and staff to celebrate the prestigious HAPA awards.

Wage hikes postponed to April 1

THE Cabinet on Monday approved the postponement until April 1 of the controversial 300 baht daily minimum wage hike in Phuket, Bangkok, and five other provinces.

The decision to postpone from the initial target of January 1 was made in light of the recent flooding, which has dealt a body blow to the manufacturing sector in much of the country.

With an expected recovery period of three to six months, the delay will help minimize the burden on flood-affected businesses, the cabinet was told.

The wage increase will be piloted in Phuket, Bangkok, Samut Prakan, Nakhon Pathom, Nonthaburi, Pathum Thani and Samut Sakhon, said Labor Minister Phadornchai Sasomsap, who proposed the delay.

With the exception of Phuket, all of the pilot provinces have been heavily affected by the floods.

The wage rise in Phuket, which currently has highest daily mini-

mum wage nationwide at 221 baht, represents an increase of 35.7 per cent.

For Bangkok and its five neighboring provinces, all with a minimum wage of 215 baht per day, the increase will equate to a 39.5 per cent increase.

As for the remaining 70 provinces, the increase rate of 39.5 per cent would be applied in 2012, the cabinet confirmed.

Based on this rate, the minimum wage will vary across the country. For example the rate in Chachoengsao and Saraburi, 266 baht in Ayutthaya, 257 baht in Krabi, 256 baht in Nakhon Ratchasima and Prachin Buri, and 254 baht in Lop Buri.

A universal increase to 300 baht, as promised by the Pheu Thai Party as a pillar of its successful election campaign platform, would be applied across the board starting on January 1, 2013.

According to the conditions

discussed in the cabinet meeting, all provinces will have an equal daily minimum wage of 300 baht throughout 2014 and 2015.

However, the committee on

minimum wages would have the ability to reconsider wage rates during the final two years.

– *Krunghthep Turakij and the Nation*



INCENTIVE: Minimum wage earners in Phuket's fishing industry like the men above look forward to a 36 percent rise in wages after April 1.

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Korean tour operators to partner with Phuket

KOREAN honorary consul Tossaporn Thepabutr recently warned local officials to prepare for an influx of Korean tourism operators coming to set up shop in Phuket.

"More Korean company owners are looking at moving their operations to Phuket because of the floods in Bangkok. Phuket is considered as much safer," he said.

"Many Korean businesses will join Thai operators to form partnerships," he added.

Mr Tossaporn said that the number of Korean families moving to Phuket to live and work was continually increasing.

"They have to find schools for their children, among other things," he noted.

"So I would like government officers to work with private organizations to help make Phuket more convenient and safer for these new arrivals," he said.

Mr Tossaporn added that Thai Airways is currently operating direct flights between Phuket and South Korea and that Bangkok Airways will launch direct Phuket-Korea flights next year.

"The other three Korean airlines will also launch direct flights from Korea [to Phuket] at about the beginning of next year," he added.

In September, Korean tourists coming to Phuket numbered 15,849 – the third most numerous national group behind Chinese and Australians. – *Atchaa Khamlo*

Finally seeing the light

A brief history and look into the future of digital media marketing in Phuket

By Steven Layne

COMMUTERS in Phuket have witnessed a gradual upgrade in roadside scenery over the last few years. Advertising and media communications are steadily evolving, and as such, many will have noticed traditional print billboards gradually being replaced with animated, digital versions at various traffic junctions across the island.

Indeed, the emergence of Light Emitting Diode (LED) technology represents a sign of the times – a flicker of hope that the island may finally be ready to escape from the commercial 'Dark Age' characterized by the billboard clutter along roadsides.

While traffic in cities like Las Vegas, Tokyo, Hong Kong and Bangkok has been long accustomed to the sight of LED-powered marketing, Phuket's first roadside-digital billboard was erected only about two years ago at the Yee Teng Complex intersection in Phuket Town.

This new-media advertising benchmark was the initiative of Chaluckkamol Fuengchan, Managing Director of software development firm Boonsoong Technology Co Ltd.

Miss Chaluckkamol, who also heads media consultancy Phebe5 Co Ltd, talked exclusively with the *Phuket Gazette* about the various challenges and opportunities she has observed in implementing media innovation in Phuket.

"My primary goal was to bring something new to Phuket that would help push the island forward. As we had experienced much success with LED billboards in Bangkok already, I saw a lot of potential for LED media in the Phuket market," she said.

Miss Chaluckkamol soon learned that Phuket was a world away from Bangkok.

"Since installing that initial LED billboard, several new players have emerged with LED signs in Phuket Town and Patong," she said.

In spite of the rising trend, she doesn't think that LED advertising is ready to boom in Phuket.

"Most companies in Phuket are not so open to new technology.



Chaluckkamol Fuengchan installed Phuket's first LED billboard (inset).

Unlike in Bangkok, local companies have limited advertising budgets, some none at all. Since the local economy is dependent on the tourism sector and dictated by seasonal revenue, cash flow is not steady year round.

"This makes it difficult for a media business to prosper, because you have to deal with a lot of short-term contracts. Moreover, this business requires knowhow for installing and maintaining the technology, in addition to designing and programming the interactive content, which calls for more time and capital than traditional media," she continues.

"Most companies here still prefer to use traditional print billboards

and posters because they are cheaper and easier to put up. Anyone can make a sign and place it along any road here," she adds.

When asked about the increased risk of traffic accidents posed by animated roadside media, Miss Chaluckkamol pointed out that her LED billboards are placed at traffic junctions, and thus target stopped traffic.

"We've not had any reports or complaints of accidents caused as a result of our LED billboards," she said.

"When stopped at a light for 100 seconds or more, people are more likely to pay attention without causing danger to other drivers. This is not the case with roadside media



TOUCH ME: Interactive media stations can target very specific groups.

that targets moving traffic.

"In our initial research at the Yee Teng complex intersection, 59 per cent of drivers that we surveyed had paid attention [to the LED billboard], and were able to retain what they'd seen," she said.

Miss Chaluckkamol went on to outline various advantages of digital media, such as flexibility and strategic targeting.

"It's pretty simple to make instant changes to a message remotely from an iPad. Timing and location are other key factors to consider. For example, our LED billboard at the Yee Teng complex junction runs spot loops between 5.30am to 10.30pm and is ideal for targeting commuters heading to the market and work in the morning.

In contrast, loops at the Weerapong – Hongsyok junction run from 6am to midnight. This location is more advantageous for targeting evening commuters such as those heading to Phuket Town's entertainment zone," she said.

As for the future of LED media in Phuket, Miss Chaluckkamol said she has had to adjust her strategy.

"After realizing that selling spot ads on billboards cannot sustain itself as a stand-alone [business], I've had to diversify my approach," she said.

She went on to share details about plans to launch an even newer marketing medium to Phuket's business-to-consumer markets. Shifting focus from outdoor to indoor markets, she reveals her latest product, soon to be launched in Phuket.

"Interactive media stations can effectively target specific markets. With the latest technology, this device can scan one's facial shape to determine if a user is male or female, for example, and then display tailored content," she said.

She explained that she is currently working out contract details with Central Festival and the Phuket International Airport.

"In addition to business-to-consumer functions, this kind of device is also ideal at government and education institutions to perform regular functions such as scanning and printing documents," she added.

Kings Cup Regatta to generate B600mn

THIS year's Kings Cup Regatta is expected to rake in 600 million baht for the island.

Presiding over a press conference to promote this year's event, Phuket Governor Tri Aukaradacha last week said that preparations are exceeding that of last year's edition.

Noting that last year's affair generated about 550 million baht in revenue, he said he expected the amount to increase in this year's version, which will draw more than 1,000 competitors from 35 countries aboard more than 170 boats. In all, more than 10,000 participants – sailors and spectators – are expected to participate in the event, which will once again be held from December 3 to 10 off Kata and Karon beaches on Phuket's west coast.

Leading up to the event, Karon Deputy Mayor Sompeng Darbpetch said that Karon municipality will be organizing a street fair at Kata beach from November 30 to December 5. The fair will stretch 600 meters from the area from in front of the Kata-Karon Municipality office to Club Med Hotel.

In addition to stage performances, there will be 40 booths selling local products in addition to 50 booths selling One Tambon One Product (OTOP) products from across Thailand, Mr Sompeng said.

Now entering its 25th year, this year's race will be in celebration HM King Bhumibhol's auspicious 7th cycle birthday, when the revered monarch turns 84 years of age.

For more information about the Regatta itself, see page 46.

Sansiri on the up

SANSIRI Plc President Srettha Thavisin has bought another 85 million shares of the company expecting the share price to rise on the company's strong potential.

Mr Srettha said the current share price was below fundamentals given continuing growth. Despite the floods, the company's financial position is nearly intact. Due to backlogs worth 33 billion baht, of which 14 billion baht will be realized next year, the company stands to reap huge earnings.

Following the transaction, his personal holdings, combined with

those of TS Star Co Ltd, total 1.4 billion shares, or 20.08 per cent of paid-up capital.

"I completed this big-lot transaction out of confidence in the potential of the company and the management team. We're looking forward to buying more shares," he said.

Sansiri expects revenue this year to reach 19 billion baht, with 6 billion baht to be generated by three condominium projects in the fourth quarter. Next year, it plans to expand with more projects in Phuket, Hua Hin and Khao Yai.

– The Nation



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Need for speed

FROM time to time, I get messages from people who have looked at the Phuket Internet Speed Reporting site (PhuketInternetSpeed.com) and wonder why we're measuring international download speeds, using one specific test (DSLReports) to one destination, Los Angeles. Here's a typical comment:

Woody, why should I care how fast this test runs to Los Angeles? I'm happy. My torrents download fast, and video streams without any problems. When I run the test my Internet Service Provider recommends, or the test on one of the Thai web sites, I get speeds very close to what I'm paying for – 8 to 10 Mbps download, and 1 to 2 Mbps upload. What's wrong with just taking my Internet Service Provider's word for it?

First and foremost, there's absolutely nothing wrong with running one of the other tests. Just be aware of the fact that the speed you'll see is more indicative of the speed to Bangkok than the speed overseas. Even if the test site says you're going to New York or Berlin or Singapore, the speed you see on the meter has a higher correlation with your domestic speed than your international speed. That isn't necessarily bad. Let me explain.

The test we're using now, at dslreports.com/speedtest?flash=1, is specifically designed so it can't be cached inside Thailand. Caching is a technique for copying data from overseas and storing it here in Thailand, so the Internet Service Provider doesn't have to pay for a lot of overseas access.

Look at it this way: if you and 100 other people inside Thailand are watching the F1 finals, live, over an internet connection, it makes no sense at all for TOT or CAT or True or 3BB to grab 101 copies of the live broadcast and hook each one up to a single customer. It makes a



Live Wire
By Woody Leonhard

lot more sense for the ISP to cache the broadcast here in Thailand – copy it onto a computer in Bangkok, say, and then dole out the signal domestically. There's a tiny fraction of a second delay in the broadcast when it goes through a cache, but you would never notice the difference. And your ISP only has to pay a fraction of the cost, because they're only using the expensive international data pipes to handle one live stream.

The tests that the ISPs recommend have another shortcoming: instead of measuring one steady stream of data, they can send out and retrieve two or more data streams simultaneously.

There's a reason why your Internet Service Provider wants you to believe the speed tests provided at speedtest1.totbb.net, bangkok.speedtest.thaivisa.com, speedtest.3bb.co.th or speedtest.trueinternet.co.th.

They're all based on the OOKLA speed test engine, and they all show lightning-fast speeds to Bangkok – even if you can't even get a page in Europe or North America to open.

So why are international data speeds necessarily superior to domestic speeds? The short answer is they aren't.

Some people spend almost all of their time using web sites that are located inside Thailand. Many more people spend much of their time on Google sites (including YouTube and Gmail), Microsoft (Hotmail), Facebook, Yahoo and others. Even though those sites aren't located inside

Thailand, they're hooked up through dedicated high speed connections.

If you look at the detail in the official Internet connection spaghetti chart at is.gd/rFboLy, you will find that Microsoft has direct, dedicated connections from Bangkok to the US, Singapore, and Hong Kong. Google goes direct to Singapore and Malaysia. Facebook connects straight to Singapore. Akamai, which is the largest independent web host in the world, has a direct connection from Bangkok to Hong Kong. Yahoo/Softbank also have dedicated connections to their own servers.

The net result: if you spend most of your time on Facebook, YouTube, Google, Yahoo and/or Hotmail, you're more constrained by domestic speeds than international speeds.

Similarly, if you download torrents (or use other file-sharing software), the source of the torrents may be located inside Thailand or outside Thailand, or possibly a little of both. Torrents typically get downloaded in 10 or more separate data streams, so you may be constrained by domestic speeds, or international speeds, or an unpredictable and irreproducible combination of both.

Why do we track international download speeds on the speed reporting site? The first reason, obviously, is that many people in Phuket spend a large part of their time working with internet servers located outside of Thailand. But there's more to it than that.

The speed of a single download data stream gives a more-or-less replicable benchmark for measuring how well our internet's running. By keeping track of how fast things are running day-to-day, we can spot real screw-ups, and warn people about them. For example, two weeks ago in my Live Wire column I traced the demise of TOT's Fiber 2U Optic service, and pinpointed a major drop in international speeds at the beginning of October. If it



AIN'T BROKE, DON'T FIX: Some are happy with the speeds they're getting. Photo: Internet and tacos

weren't for all of the speed reports prior to that collapse, and the many reports since, there's no way we could've isolated the problem.

The information's there on the site for anyone to see. TOT may well bring its Fiber 2U service back to the levels we saw earlier this year. If they do, the numbers on the site will start rising again. If they don't, potential customers can take a look at the speeds and decide if the service is right for them.

What to do if you're happy with the speeds you're getting? There's an old saying in the computer industry that I take as gospel: Ain't broke, don't fix. You may be spending most of your time using domestic connections, or one-hop-

shy of domestic connections, and not even realize it. Good on ya.

But whatever you do, please keep reporting your speeds on the speed reporting site. That way we can keep track of how things should be working, and blow the whistle if something starts heading south. Crowd-sourced speed reporting really works, if you'll pitch in and help a little bit.

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

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Wave goodbye to Wave

GOOGLE has announced that it is dropping seven more products in an effort to simplify its range of services. The out-of-season "spring clean" brings an end to services including Google Wave, Knol and Google Gears and is the third time that the US firm has announced a cull of several of its products at the same time after they had failed to take off.

Google announced the move in its official blog. "We're in the process of shutting a number of products which haven't had the impact we'd hoped for, integrating others as features into our broader product efforts, and ending several which have shown us a different path forward," said Urs Holzle, Google's vice president of operations.

The seven latest products earmarked for the chop are as follows: Google Wave – an attempt to combine email and instant messaging for real-time collaboration; Google Bookmarks List – a service which allowed users to share bookmarks with friends; Google Friends Connect – allowed webmasters to add social features to their sites by embedding a snippet of code; Google Gears – much-hyped effort to maintain web browser functionality when working offline; Google Search Timeline – a graph of historical query results; Knol – a Wikipedia-style project, which aimed to improve web content; Renewable Energy Cheaper than Coal – a project which aimed to find ways to improve solar power.

Google had previously an-



nounced its plans to kill off some of the projects on the list and has now given details about when the switch-offs will occur.

Some experts think that Google is streamlining in order to concentrate on its Facebook rival Google+ which gained 10 million users within the first 16 days after its private launch, and 40 million within the first 100 days, making it the fastest-growing social network in the history of the web.

– *Phuket Gazette*

Are structured notes bad deals?

IF YOU are not familiar with structured notes, they are usually dressed up to look like a very good deal, offering either exposure to risky markets with minimized downside or fixed-coupon rates higher than one can get in traditional fixed-income assets.

They usually have the name of a big bank to increase the feeling of safety, and also quite common is some form of a "guarantee".

Unfortunately, there have been no advances in economic theory that only a select, elite few financial advisers are aware of. There is in fact still no such thing as a free lunch, yet people love to fool themselves into believing that they can get the upside of the stock or gold markets without facing the downside risk.

In my opinion almost the entire structured-note market is nothing more than a response for people's desire for something for nothing.

Why would a bank take your money, invest it into the stock market, then pay you back all of your capital if things go bad? Despite what one may think after the recent debacle of the subprime crisis, banks are not in

Retirement Years

By David Mayes

the business of losing money.

If one reads the fine print on most capital guarantees, they are misleading to say the least. Usually the protection is limited to only minor downside moves. If things really go bad, the hit is always taken by the purchaser of the notes – that's you.

A different way they sometimes structure them is to simply move the money into zero coupon bonds once a certain loss is taken, which locks the money up for many years and it's something any investor could do on his own anyway. It is old fashioned smoke and mirrors.

If things go great, the issuers of structured notes really make a fortune. They have used your money to make a gamble which, when it pays off, they take the lion's share of.

Often you will see a note tied to a few stock market indexes, with a fixed coupon of something like 12%. This sounds great when

banks are only paying 3% on a pound sterling one-year deposit. Yet if these indexes rise dramatically, you still only see your 12%. If the markets crash, well, go re-read the above paragraph on who suffers the loss – you.

The only time when notes make sense in terms of risk/reward based on probabilities are when they are tied to an index which has been beaten down recently and they have many observation dates per year to be called in on (this greatly increases the chances of you getting a better return than the indexes provided over a short period of time).

One still needs to consider the credit rating of the bank behind the note as well.

The basic financial premise that one cannot get a return without taking a risk is something one cannot get around.

One may be able to find investments that yield a higher expected return for a certain level of risk but only to a certain extent.

If you want to limit your downside risk you can quantify maximum losses in an asset and have a stop



NO FREE LUNCHES: The structured note market is a response to people hoping to get money for nothing. Photo: Gavin Schaefer

loss, or diversify, but you cannot quadruple the return on a fixed deposit and have a "real" capital guarantee at the same time.

Of course people always want to believe in the things they want, and many banks have no ethical qualms

about selling people that dream.

David Mayes MBA resides in Phuket and provides wealth management services to expats around the globe, specializing in UK pension transfers. He can be reached at david.m@faramond.com.



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Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club



Robert C. Hauck

INNOVATIVE hospitality and sports group, Thanyapura recently announced the appointment of Robert C. Hauck as Group President of its unrivaled hotel and sport facilities. The appointment has been effective since September 1, 2011.

As a highly respected hotelier, Mr Hauck has developed a reputation for visionary leadership and has

achieved wide recognition for distinguished performances in hotel management, sales and marketing during his 23-year career on four continents. He is also an enthusiastic triathlete and sportsman.

"I am absolutely thrilled to be joining such an innovative project as Thanyapura, with its world-class facilities and hotels," Mr Hauck said.

"Thanyapura offers a remarkable range of international calibre venues and integrated activities to both the leisure and corporate markets, bringing something totally new to the region and certainly something unique to the travel and hospitality industry. It is a huge and exciting challenge to take this project forward. Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club is a premium training facility that has already attracted strong interest from around

the world among professional and amateur athletes, as well as professional and national teams. I look forward to promoting all of Thanyapura's exceptional resources to their many target markets. Thanyapura is not only an unparalleled facility in Thailand, but also in Asia and the world," he added.

Prior to his most recent role as General Manager at the award winning Raffles Grand Hotel d'Angkor in Cambodia, Mr Hauck held man-

agement positions at renowned luxury hotels across the Asia Pacific, including Shangri-La's Far Eastern Plaza Hotel in Taipei, The Island Shangri-La in Hong Kong, Mandarin Oriental in Kuala Lumpur and Pudong Shangri-La in Shanghai.

Thanyapura offers an unsurpassed portfolio of diverse resources centered on a 23-hectare campus in Phuket. Its prized facilities include the Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club (tlc) a world-class sports and fitness facility for elite athletes and amateur enthusiasts.

Thanyapura's on site services INCLUDE restaurants, bars, a cooking school, day spa, fully equipped kids' and teens' club, A visual arts studio and a performing arts center.

It also home to the Thanyapura Mind Centre for the cultivation of mental and emotional balance, the Phuket International Academy Day School (PIADS), a 38-room Thanyapura Retreat, a 77-room Thanyapura Resort. Also in its portfolio is the five-star Thanyamundra Organic Resort, the first and only certified organic farm in southern Thailand, situated adjacent to Khao Sok National Park.



Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club features 'plexicushion' tennis courts.

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Mercure Patong



Narongveth Samargasevi has over 15 years of experience in the hospitality industry.

NARONGVETH Samargasevi has been appointed as the Executive Assistant Manager of Mercure Patong Phuket and Mercure Krabi Deevana, which recently opened in October.

The appointment, effective October 2011, was endorsed by Veerarat Limprasutr, General Manager of both Mercure Patong Phuket and Mercure Krabi Deevana.

Mr Narongveth graduated with a degree in Hotel Management from Hotel Institute Montrux in Switzerland, and has since accumulated over 15 years of hotel industry experience at various international hotels.

He has worked with the Buntharika Villa, Phuket; Sofitel Seamreap, Cambodia; Novotel

Rayong; Sofitel Khon Kaen and the Amari Group.

Prior to joining Mercure Patong Phuket and Mercure Krabi Deevana, he was Resort Manager at Pool Villa resort.

"I'm so happy to take this position and with my experience of more than 15 years in the hospitality industry I will do my best to maintain the Mercure standard for our guests," he said.



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Hairy Healer's feelin' Phuket

Meet the clairvoyant and Reiki healer in Phuket to give the island a helping hand, or two

By Fraser Morton

GLOBETROTTING British clairvoyant and Reiki healer John Campbell is turning his attention to someplace new – Phuket.

The bearded 49-year-old, once dubbed the “Hairy Healer”, towers at six-foot five inches yet he is softly spoken and exudes a calming tell-me-your-secrets aura.

He has always been a clairvoyant, as he believes everyone is on some level, but picked it up professionally 15 years ago. He’s been a Reiki healer for the past 9 years.

Hoping he can pass on some of his healing powers to Phuket people John has now made the island his home.

We wouldn’t bet against him. He is renowned for making people burst into tears – before he’s even uttered a word.

He said this mostly happened when he was performing clairvoyant shows in the Algarve, Portugal. And also by local men who were having relationship “issues”.

Author of two books – *Attune yourself to Reiki* and *The Dream Key* – John is also a sought after TV personality in Australia, his second home.

He is the first to admit he’s lived an unorthodox life.

He left Tyneside, England, in 1985 at age 22, working as an electrician in a shipyard, and bound for Australia in search of travel and adventure.

But after a horrific motorcycle accident left him with a crushed foot, doctors told John he would never walk again.

Hellbent on finding a way to help him walk, he turned his attention to alternative therapies.

“I lost my trade overnight. I couldn’t even climb a ladder anymore. It was a very sad time for me,” he said.

After being introduced to Reiki, John started to see improvements. After six years was back to full health.

His path set, he began his career as a clairvoyant and Reiki healer.

Today, about 70 per cent of his Reiki sessions are done online, but he also wants to teach in person in Phuket.

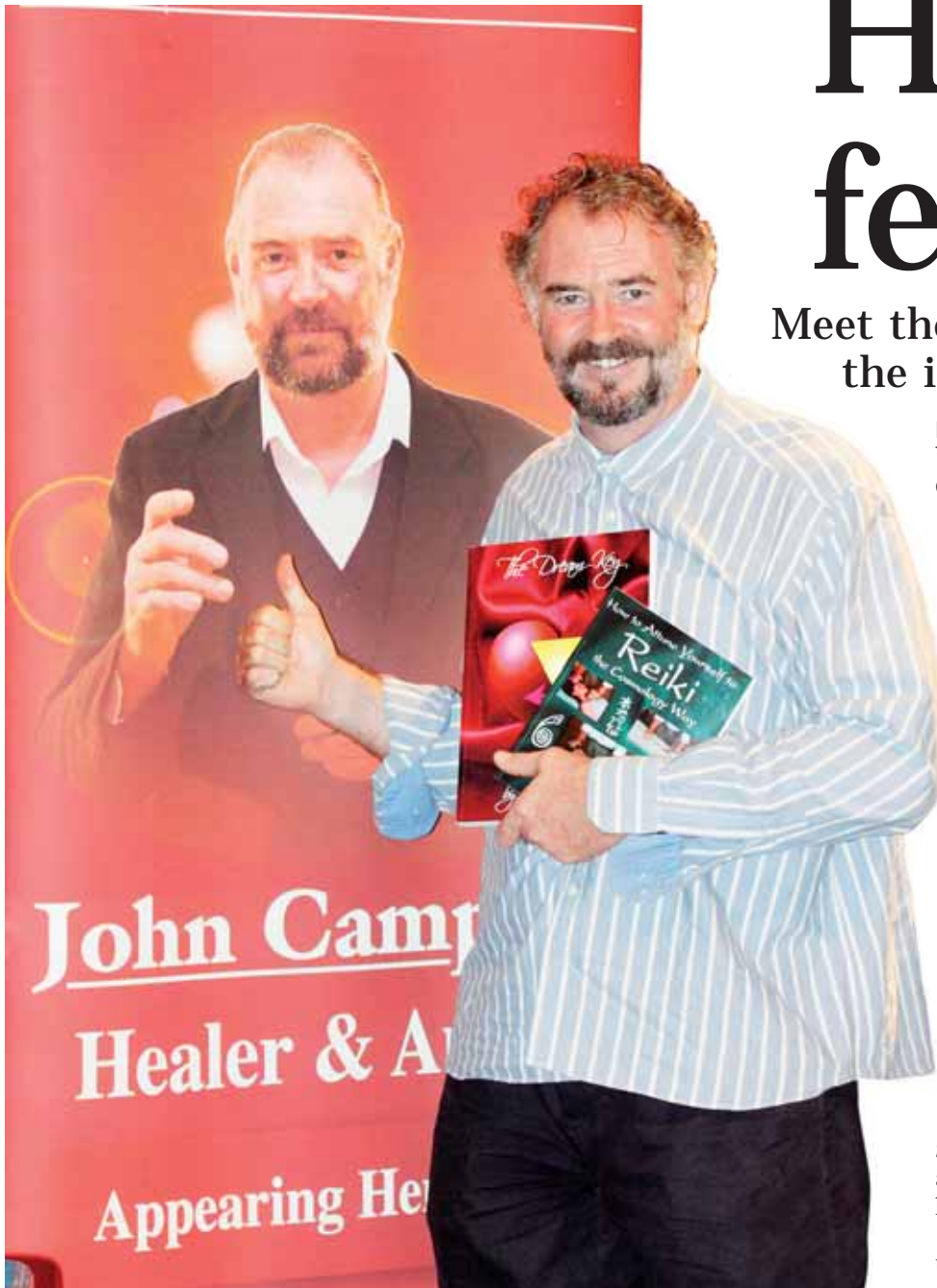
John is full of surprises. He’s an honorary Aboriginal elder in his former home city Adelaide. His healing powers have helped young offenders, cancer patients and a diverse range of people from many backgrounds all over the world.

He once “sensed” one of his female clients would come into a six figure sum of money.

A few weeks later he received a bizarre phone call from an anonymous and hysterical woman screaming down the line.

“I told her to calm down and phone back. She did, and it turned out it was my client. Her brother had just won £ 3.7 million on the lottery. He gave her half a million...she then started screaming again,” he said.

Let’s hope he can bring Phuket people such good fortune.



THE HEAL DEAL: John Campbell gives himself the thumbs up on a quick visit to the Phuket Gazette office. Photo: Suchart Changate

See johnjcampbell.com to find out more.

Executive Chef Puwin has heart

By Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai

Mr Puwin Chunesiri, new executive chef of the Sawaddi Patong Resort, has traveled the globe gaining experience in the culinary arts.

Chef Puwin’s career started at age 16 with no experience in cooking but plenty of passion.

“I always found the art of cooking fascinating. I was born and raised in a Chinese-Hainanese family, and cooking is what we are known for.

I grew up seeing family members that were good at cooking and I wanted to carry on my family’s heritage,” said Chef Puwin.

“My passion for cooking led me to apply for a job at Narai Hotel in Bangkok when I was 16 years old. Back then, in 1969, there were no cooking schools in Thailand. If you wanted to learn about cooking, you had to learn it from a big hotel,” he said.

“There were not many five-star

hotels in Bangkok back then either, but the Narai Hotel was one of the few. I first worked as a trainee chef and learnt much during my time there. I have to thank the executive chef at that time who give me such a valuable opportunity,” he added.

Chef Puwin worked in many departments of the hotel, gaining a lot of experience.

“From trainee chef, I was promoted to Coffee Cook with my main responsibility to prepare all the hot beverages for the coffee breaks for the conferences held at the hotel,” said Chef Puwin.

“After doing that for two years, I moved to the Cold Kitchen section, where I learnt all about salads. I didn’t know much about vegetables and herbs from western countries because we only had local vegetables in the market. Carrots, beetroots and rosemary were things I had never even seen until I started working there,” he added.

“I worked for the Narai Hotel for 7 years and experienced all parts of the kitchen – cold, hot, and bakery – before moving to work in Pattaya. Then I was contracted to a hotel in Saudi Arabia. I decided to go, because I wanted to experience

another country,” he said.

After that one great door opened, there were many other paths available to Chef Puwin.

“I worked in Saudi Arabia for two years then returned to Bangkok before being contacted by a hotel in Japan. From Japan, I eventually came back to work in Thailand,” explained Chef Puwin.

“At this point I was a Sous Chef. I felt it was time for me to give something back, so I offered to teach cooking at some career training centers. I had had so many experiences that I wanted to share with others interested in the culinary arts,” said Chef Puwin.

Although proud of all the things he did in his life, there was one experience he will never forget. He was the first Thai Chef to prepare a meal for Michael Jackson. The hotel he worked for in Bangkok had a Chef Exchange Program, and he was in Malaysia when Michael Jackson held a world tour concert there.

Cooking may seem like just the food preparation for some, but Chef Puwin sees it differently. “For me, cooking is more like art. Being a chef back in 1970 taught me one important thing: we didn’t add



Chef Puwin at work at Sawaddi Patong.

MSG or other artificial ingredients back then. The food tasted good, because we added one special ingredient: heart,” said Chef Puwin.

“It’s like eating the food my mother prepared. She prepared all the meals with heart, making sure everything she added was good and healthy. I feel the same way when I prepare food. Besides all the fresh ingredients and high quality products I use, I always make sure that I prepare every dish as if I were cooking for my own family. I guess you can call it as ‘food from the heart’,” he explained.

“Hygienic, fresh ingredients are also another key to my cooking. My signature dish is fusion seafood. I have added the taste of Thai food and twisted it with some western ingredients. My salmon steak is the most exceptional dish,” he beams.

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Organic fashion is cool

By Abby McMillan

MOST people know that organic food is good for our health and great for the environment. This idea is spreading quickly from our pantries to our closets as more consumers become aware of the benefits of organic fashion.

Major labels are now offering organic lines and top designers are hitting the runways with eco-friendly fibers. By participating in this "green" movement, you can look cool and feel cooler, because natural and organic fibers are made to work with your body's largest organ, your skin.

Organic cotton and other natural materials such as silk and wool aren't processed with skin-irritating chemicals, providing your body with a healthy alternative to mass-produced synthetic products.

Organic clothing is also a perfect choice for tropical locations. "It's much more comfortable in this climate," says an employee of Balance Naturally, a new health store in Nai Harn that sports a line of organic clothes, reusable bags and all-natural beaded jewelry.

"Our pores are able to breathe more when wearing clothing that is free from harsh dyes and pesticides," she added.

These materials listen to your body's needs, and thus are a great choice for outdoor shopping trips or weekend getaways.

You can layer the fabrics in the evenings when the weather cools off, slip on a pair of airy hemp sandals, or choose wedge espadrilles if a heel is what you're after. Leather, cork and twine all

make fabulous footwear companions to really own the look.

Organic cotton is often dyed using pigments from plants such as mangosteen, pomegranate and indigo. The look is soft and often pastel, great for casual weekends and cool nights by the coast.

Wrap up in a naturally dyed scarf for a unique bohemian style or take along a reusable bag to the market. Pair outfits made from natural fibers with jewelry possessing strong tribal tones. Glass beads, stone, hemp and wood are ideal.

Find pieces that draw from the earth or that contain a historical element. A multi-strand beaded necklace with hemp and

wood closure perfectly complements a cotton dress or pashmina scarf. The look is rich and luxurious but still retains a connection to nature and

keeps your style grounded.

A recycled paper journal, hand-stitched wallet or crocheted vest can provide an organic update to any favorite outfit. Go natural with color choices to enhance the free-flowing vibe but don't forget to accent your look with a statement piece such as a hippie headband or a cute double-knuckle cocktail ring.

Starting off with just a few local pieces in your wardrobe can add a breath of fresh air to an overly synthesized closet. Don't think you have to make drastic changes just to embrace this trend. Start small, and don't be afraid to see where this green revolution takes you. Who knows, wearing these peaceful garments might just prompt your attitude to follow suit.



FLASHBACK: Natural material scarves add an instant 'Boho' feel.



Handmade wallets or recycled paper diaries make great presents.



Hemp sandals add that final hippy touch.



MOTHER EARTH: Multi-strand beads over organic cotton keeps you looking and feeling cool in the heat. Photos: Abby McMillan



COOL BEADS: Choose jewelry with strong tribal ties to own the look.

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Tortured Hemingway

PAUL Hendrickson, a veteran journalist at the Washington Post, has written books on people involved in the Vietnam war and the civil rights movement. His first book, *Seminarian*, is a favorite of mine because I was a Catholic seminarian too and emphasize with his insights about the long-term effects such rigorous training has on character.

His latest book is *Hemingway's Boat* (Alfred A Knopf, New York, 2011, 530pp). Hendrickson uses the famous writer's 38-foot fishing boat, *Pilar*, as a scaffolding to erect a sympathetic narrative about Ernest's tortured life. The subtitle is "Everything He Loved in Life, and Lost, 1934-1961" and the cover photo is of a mid-thirties Hemingway at sea, bare-chested, rod and reel in hand, grinning off to the side.

For all many dreary academic tomes on Ernest Hemingway, Hendrickson's point is that the writer's great joy was fishing, especially for marlin, and this often brought out the best in him. Hendrickson sums up his purpose in the prologue:

"Ernest Hemingway has been examined by so many scholars and memoirists and respected biographers and hangers-on and pretenders and doctoral students desperate for a dissertation topic that I feel some-

times we have lost all sense of who the man really was. It's as if each new Hemingway book by each new Hemingway "expert" wishes to contradict the last, which is one reason why I have been determined to try to anchor a Hemingway narrative, to ground it, in something that once existed in the world that still exists in its way just as he had once existed in the world. Indeed, I hoped to find

people who were once on that boat, who had had their own deep relationship with her, and tell their stories, too. And I have found them, both the living and the dead."

He devotes entire chapters to two: Arnold Samuelson and Walter Houk.

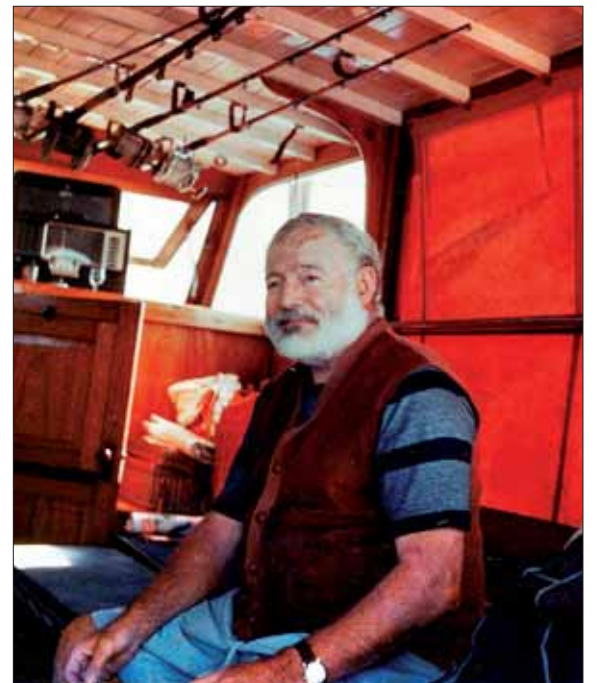
In 1934, just out of college and infatuated with Hemingway, Samuelson turns up at Hemingway's door in Key West and winds up spending a year crewing on his new boat in Key West and Cuba. At his death five decades later, an eccentric loner in a small Texas town, Samuelson left behind an admiring memoir of his year with Hemingway and Hendrickson eagerly plumbs it for a portrait of the man in his prime.

A young American diplomat in Havana in 1951, Walter Houk was the fiancée of Hemingway's secretary Nita Jensen. Hemingway hosted their wedding and

showed them much kindness. Hendrickson came across articles that Houk had written for specialist journals and interviewed him many times at his retirement home in California. Here is Houk on Hemingway:

"It was a hugely positive experience to be around him, for those several years in the fifties, getting to go out on his boat and all the rest. . . He wanted to help us out with our lives. The vultures have long ago gathered around the Hemingway corpse and rendered their judgment. But their judgment's wrong; at least it's incomplete. I don't think the terrible vile side defines him; It was a facet of his character. He was a great man with great faults. We should not allow the faults to overshadow the accomplishments . . . He's Gulliver surrounded by Lilliputians. He threatens all the little academics sitting at their computers. Somehow or other you've got to try to help rescue him from all that."

Hendrickson mentions that Houk had often urged him "to try to help rescue Hemingway from his seemingly set-in-stone image of immortal writer and immortal bitch of a human being".



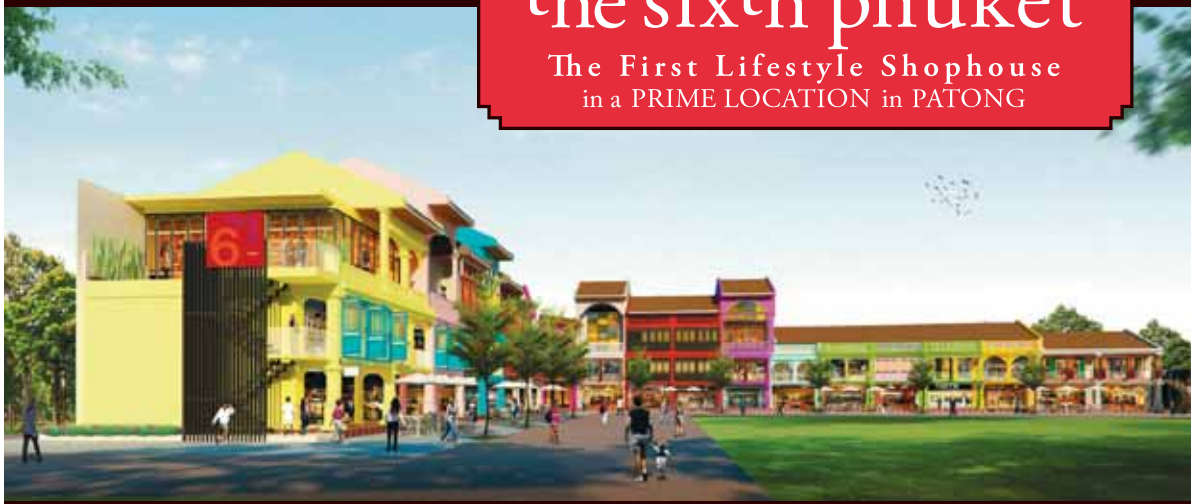
Ernest Hemingway aboard his boat "Pilar" in 1950.

To some extent he succeeds. But he also uses *Pilar* and "the fisherman" as an excuse, amid gaudy rhetorical flourishes, to wander down many an exotic pathway. He often makes a fool of himself as much as the academic pedants whom he mocks.

Meandering, self-indulgent and much too long, *Hemingway's Boat* still, from time to time, brings forth the real man behind the myth: the fishing captain happy at the helm of the flying bridge of *Pilar*. And for that we should be grateful.

the sixth phuket

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Film

Puss in Boots 3D at SFX cinemas

Studio: DreamWorks Animation

Director: Chris Miller

Screenwriter: Tom Wheeler

Starring: Antonio Banderas, Salma Hayek, Zach Galifianakis, Billy Bob Thornton, Amy Sedaris

Genre: Adventure, Animation, Comedy, Fantasy

FROM the Shrek movies comes the popular Puss in Boots character voiced by Antonio Banderas with the addition of Kitty Softpaws (Selma Hayek) and Humpty Alexander Dumpty (Zack Galifianakis) who are trying to avoid Jack (Billy Bob Thornton) and Jill (Amy Sedaris).

The usual funny scenes and lines with cat references are there, but there are also many dramatic, fast and entertaining sequences which are enhanced by the 3D. Like the Shrek movies various fairy tales are sourced such as "Jack and the Beanstalk"

This is a movie that kids and adults can enjoy and as a stand alone movie could be close to being good as the first two "Shrek" movies. The plot is pretty simple yet enjoyable to watch.

The voice acting is very good and the character Kitty Softpaws adds to the feline theme. Puss in Boots really is the character that carries this movie.

On a negative note though the story just didn't seem developed enough and thus the whole thing comes off as more of an eye candy with it's fluid CGI and



The notorious fighter and lover, Puss in Boots becomes a hero.

action. But overall the positive outweigh the negative and to sum it up, it's a good family flick just not a great one. Sad to know that I didn't even know Puss in Boots was a real fairy tale and not just some character that popped up in the "Shrek" series.

It's a mixture of action, sad flashbacks, cuteness (seeing Puss as a kitten is adorable!) and giving him a stand alone film is an interesting idea.

The movie is fun and often hilarious. The cat jokes are clever, with some impressive scenes. The 3D is great and the scale is large but it loses some momentum in the second half and is a bit too predictable in the end.

Although the film is pretty enjoyable it could have been a lot better – maybe they are saving that for a sequel.

Nitaya Yangyeun

NITAYA Yangyeun wears many hats and as a DJ, TV presenter, singer, dramatist and a popular master of ceremonies her days start early and leave little time to relax.

Starting at 7:30am, Nitaya or "Nok" as she is known to her friends, broadcasts at her own station, 108 Mazz FM. During the hour of 1-2 pm, she then hosts another radio program on 106.5FM which reaches the four provinces of Phuket, Pang Nga, Krabi and Surat Thani. In the afternoon Nok switches media to feature on a TV show at the government NBT channel 11 which is aired daily from 4-6.30pm.

In addition to this hectic daily routine she is also managing director of her own advertising and public relations company titled Niya Media. Still, she admits that her first love is that of being a radio DJ.

"I like the immediacy of a real-time radio broadcast - my programs are hardly ever pre-recorded. You have to have your wits about you and be able to respond quickly to changing situations - angry phone-in, bad lines for example. I feel my character comes through more on the radio and listeners can judge me for who I am. TV work though is tightly scripted and you just play along. That is not to say that I don't like TV work. I quite enjoy our Monday health spot on channel 11, where viewers can discuss their

THAI
gallery
By Nanthapa Pengkasem

health problems with our guest speakers."

Nok has been working as a DJ for over 12 years. Her morning program is a mixture of music and talk show, which also features local events and national news. She acknowledges that listeners' participation makes up the bulk of the show. "And that's where the fun begins," she says mischievously.

Her love of spoken words began as early as primary school. Mentored by her literature teacher who recognised her talent and coached her incessantly, the young Nitaya scooped up scores of prizes at national reading competitions. Reflecting on this period, she reveals that although she excelled academically, it was the speech trainings that made her feel special.

Having studied liberal arts at the prestigious Thammasart University in Bangkok, Nok then returned to her native Phuket to start a career in radio in 1998. A few years later she founded 108 Mazz FM and Niya Media.

A career as a singer began five

years ago when she joined a local band, the Andaman Indy, as one of their singers. The group has produced two albums of jazz-pop style music and won many national acclaims.

Nok is also a highly sought-after master of ceremonies and she is often seen hosting both private and official events. She is cutting down this workload a little now to "make way for a new generation of MCs".

As a public speaker, Nok looks after her vocal health although she admits that she often has a cold. When there's time left in the working day, she swims and bikes. But she stresses that her radio work is relaxing and there is hardly any need to have other recreations. So passionate is she about the radio shows that she finds herself missing her listeners during days when she is not on-air.

"Being a radio DJ is enjoyable because it's not always about me projecting my ideas or thoughts. I have always been fascinated by the notion that people choose to phone-in and talk to a stranger like myself instead of their friends and families. They seem to feel much better after having aired their grievance and their angers and frustrations markedly subside."

"Other jobs may come and go, but radio disc jockey will always be my livelihood," says this attractive and articulate Phuket star.



About Thai Gallery

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

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The Legend of Dark Fiber

By Marc Mulloy

DARK Fiber is every telecom executive's nightmare. "When the internet works, fiber optic cables light up but when it is down or is unused it is known as 'dark fiber' and that's not good news," says Gary Crause. He's an ex-telecoms expert whose office, at the entrance of Boat Lagoon, is next to Telecom company 3BB where rolls of dark cable are stored. But that is not the dark fiber of our story.

Gary is also known as Dr Fugly and he has a dark secret – he creates disco music in his spare time with Boy@Heart and BB Queen, known collectively as Dark Fiber and our story is about them and their lair which is called Legend Music.

Gary Crause, his wife Debbie and their son Blaze relocated to Phuket two years ago from Johannesburg, South Africa, bringing with them the Legend Music name which encompasses the studio, publishing company and record label.

The Dark Fiber project started just over a year ago when local songstress Bonnie Anderson came in to make a blues record.

At about that time Donna Summer (Yes, the real Donna Summer) booked the studio for rehearsals, which prompted Gary to write some songs for her on the off chance she would ask for some.

"Bonnie's blues recordings did not really gel nor did some jazz stuff we did but I really loved Bonnie's voice so we called her in to sing a disco song called *I Love To Dance* on the demo that we would present to Donna Summer," said Gary.

Although Donna Summer did not come into the studio in person her entire entourage arrived in an articulated lorry. They stripped down the studio and replaced it with their own equipment including lighting and two huge consoles. Twelve hours later they all left and went on to play at The Amanpuri with The Pointer Sisters.

"Meanwhile I had been working with an Estonian DJ called Triim laying down disco tracks. She wanted to record *House Of The Rising Sun* with Bonnie and when Triim left the island we found we had two disco songs on our hands," said Gary.

At about this time, songwriter and sound engineer Rob Cooke noticed the Legend Music sign and walked in through the door guitar in hand. Up until this point the band project was called BB Queen and Dr Fugly but obviously with the addition of Rob they needed a new name for both the band and for Rob who became Boy@Heart.

Dark Fiber was a name Gary had wanted to use for a long time as a song title. Rob and Gary both come from a telecoms background and were familiar with the negative telecoms' dark fiber which but Bonnie also thought the name sounded cool and mysterious.

Together the trio recorded an album called *Fibrate*, on Legend's own label, which they define as Indie Disco music. It is available on iTunes and ReverbNation where it currently holds the number one spot for Phuket.

Gary believes that most music is downloaded nowadays and has focused on this emerging global market. Even the album's

artwork is specifically designed for PCs and MP3 players, and in keeping with the digital trend some music is available in two formats; a long version and a radio edit (available for free download).

Through social media Dark Fiber now has a massive international presence and is, for example, very popular in Gary's old stomping ground of South Africa.

However, they often need to put their own music project on hold while they deal with paying clients such as Pat Savage, who recently released *Wind and Fire*, touted as being "the best biker record ever made,"

The six-piece Torgney Sandgren blues band from Sweden also recorded a live album at the studio before last year's Phuket International Blues Festival.

Another success story is that of 13-year-old PIA student, Teisha Jones, who came in to Legend to record some cover versions, but had some half-songs of her own she was working on. She left with five original songs on a demo and an AR contact in Australia, where she now lives with her family.

Gary is pleased with the amount of talented musicians on the island, many of whom can be called in at a moment's notice, such as when he recently recorded the anthem *Shine A Loving Light* to aid Japanese tsunami victims.

The studio is not only about recording music, however. When Phuket-based filmmaker Shane Magnier needed a song for the soundtrack of his recent film *Perfect Day*, he turned to Gary. The film, featuring Irish actors Patrick Bergin (*Patriot Games*) and Pat Kinevane (*King Arthur*) also needed



FIBRATE: Are you getting enough dark fiber?

some of the dialogue overdubbed Legend was again chosen for that and other post production work.

Another famous actor Liev Shreiver (*Wolverine*, *Salt*) booked the studio while here on holiday, to do sports voice overs for HBO. "This was very interesting as we used a plug-in called Source-Connect that enabled us to record simultaneously here in Phuket and in New York where the director was," says Gary.

But back to Dark Fiber and future projects. Gary tells us they are now working on a Dark Fiber Christmas single and a Dark Fiber version of *Shine A Loving Light*. They may they even leave their lair to bring Dark Fiber into the light by performing live and that is good news.

Legend Music is at Boat Lagoon Marina, Thepkasatri Road, Koh Kaew. T: 084 304 2587. More information can be found at W:legendmusic.net and darkfibermusic.com.

Christmas! Markets

Saturday, 10th Dec
Da Vinci's Restaurant, Nai Harn
3pm – 6pm

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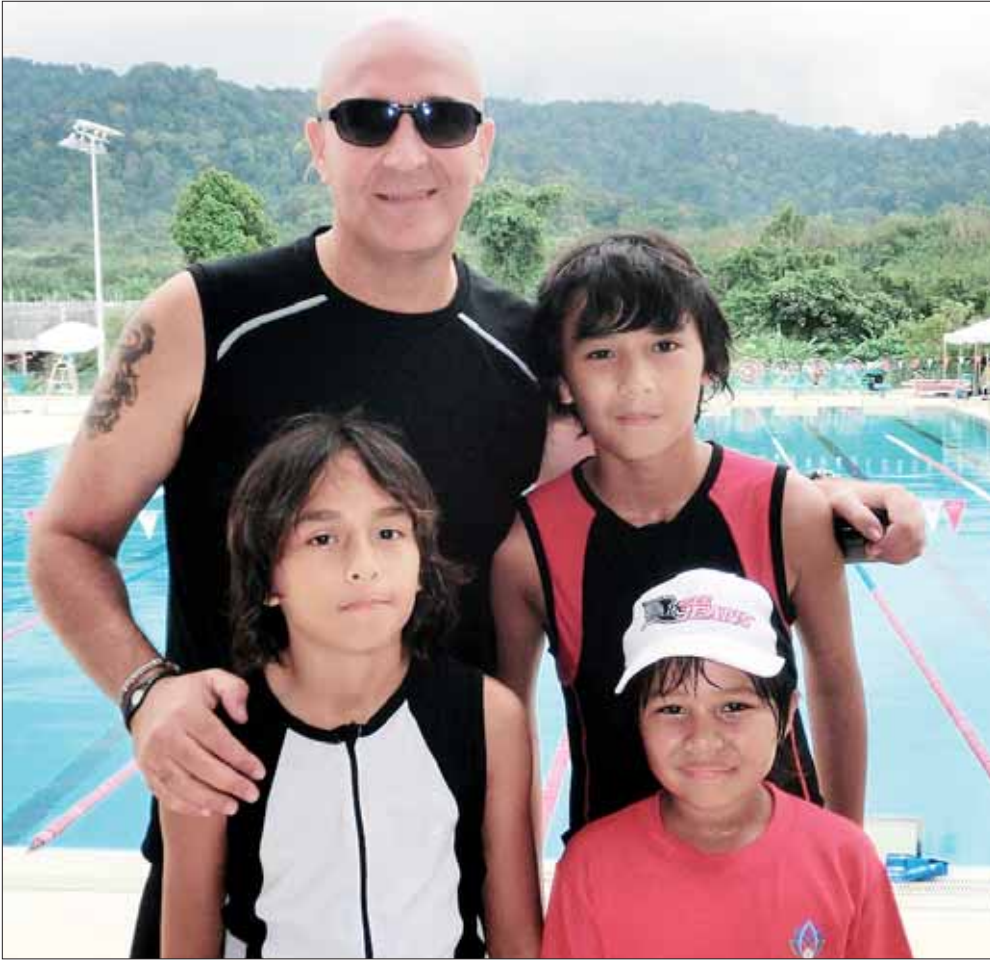
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Phuket Dads: same, same but different

To commemorate Father's Day the *Phuket Gazette* talks to two fathers who moved to Phuket for the sakes of their children



COACH FOR LIFE: Peter plays an active role in the training of Ben, Sam and Dan.

PETER Grimes moved his family to Phuket for various reasons but one of the more important ones was to be able to spend more time with his kids.

"Sports is something we all enjoy and we initially started with some basic football coaching; training with the 3 boys for their upcoming Iron Kids races seemed an ideal way of continuing to get away on our own for some quality boys time" together, whilst getting them prepared for the race.

The two elder boys and I have jogged together on and off for the last 2 or 3 years. We started preparing for their triathlons a couple of months back. As they do quite a

lot of sports and fitness at PIA, where they go to school, we had to schedule training around that. Honestly I am not entirely sure how good our training programme is, but we have had great fun doing it together and really enjoy a bit of inter-family competition.

The rewards are numerous. I love that I now have time to get involved in their school and sport activities and, hopefully can play some part in helping them improve and enjoy their sport more. It's not really about winning per se, but it's important to me that irrespective of their individual capabilities, they prepare properly and are given a chance to do their best.



PROVIDER: Working hard to send money back to his family and bring them to Phuket.

THONGCHAI Photiwong is a father of two. He runs a fried food sidecar outside of a 7- Eleven in Rawai. His wife, Monluedee, who he has been married to for six years, is currently living in Chiang Rai with their two children.

Thangchai explains that he moved to Phuket because he could only make 2,000 - 3,000 baht a month in Chiang Rai. Now he sends money back to his family every two weeks.

Thangchai explains that he works every-day of the week, usually from 2pm to 5am.

"I only work - everything is for the children," he said.

His daughter is five and talks to him on the phone when he calls home, while the newest member of Thongchai's family is a six-month old boy.

He hopes that both the girl and boy will attend law school.

Sometime this December Thangchai will be returning to Chiang Rai to bring his family to Phuket.

"I think they will be happy here. A family should stay together, not separate. Separate is no good," he said.

Thangchai explains he will have to work on the King's Birthday, December 5, but he will get to talk to his children on the phone.

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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

December 2 to 4. North Phuket Culinary Arts Festival 2011

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. December 2. Join us for North Phuket's Epic longest dining table at SALA Phuket Resort and Spa and Renaissance Phuket Resort & Spa. 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. December 4. JW Marriott Phuket Resort and Spa presents The Brunch of your life "A bounty of sophisticated tastes from the JW Marriott 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*. Reservations at 076-363999, events@northphuket.com or visit northphuket.com.

December 3. 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.

December 10. Christmas Markets



Due to popular demand, we will be holding two Christmas Markets this year, selling unique Christmas gifts, decorations, jewelry, homeware, etc. As well as tasty treats: mince pies, Christmas cookies, Christmas cakes, etc, and a Gingerbread House raffle. Santa's grotto, face painting and carol singers to entertain the kids. If you have something beautiful to sell, a table costs 500 baht, which is donated to charity. You keep any profit that you make on the day. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*. From 3 to 6pm, at Da Vinci's Restaurant, Nai Harn Beach.

Contact Chantal Fernandes
at 089-8742942,
chantal.fernandes@gmail.com
or visit thegoodshepherd.info.

December 3. TSLC IronKids Phuket Official Race

The official TSLC IronKids Phuket Triathlon for children from 6 to 15 years old on December 3 starting 6 to 10:30am at Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club. Swim, Bike and Run to become an IronKids Triathlete at Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club! Children can participate as individuals or as a team, in age appropriate distances. Contact at 076-336000, claire@ironkidsphuket.com or tslc@thanyapura.co.th or visit ironkidsphuket.com.

December 3. The First Cable-Wakeboarding Competition in Phuket

TEN 80 presents: TBS Cable Jam at Phuket Cable park on December 3 from 8am to 6pm at Phuket Cable Ski Park near Kathu Waterfall! Fun competition, lucky draw prizes, super deals and after-event party. Come ride at one of the most chilled-out Wake parks in South-east Asia! Contact Yok at 076-

202525, yok@the-board-shop.com or visit phuketcableski.com.

December 3 to 10. 25th Phuket King's Cup Regatta 2011

The Phuket King's Cup Regatta is Asia's largest sailing event from 8.30am to 10:30pm at Kata. 2011 is the 25th Anniversary of the event and over 100 boats and 2,000 people are expected to take part, enjoying five spectacular days of tropical racing and six nights of beachside parties. With Royal Patronage, the Regatta is organised by the Phuket King's Cup Regatta Organizing Committee under the auspices of the Royal Varuna Yacht Club, in conjunction with the Yacht Racing Association of Thailand, the Royal Thai Navy and the Province of Phuket. The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV are proud sponsors of this event. Contact Kae Wattana at 076-273380, info@kingscup.com or visit kingscup.com.

December 3. Cricket: Phuket Cricket Group vs Delhi Viceroy's

The Phuket Cricket Group will play the Delhi Viceroy's in a 40 over game starting at 9am to 4pm at the ACG Phuket. The *Phuket Gazette* is proud to partner the ACG Phuket. Contact Alan Cooke at 081-8934200, alan@acgphuket.com or visit acgphuket.com.

December 4. Ironman 70.3 Asia-Pacific Championship 2011

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: lagunaphukettriathlon.com and ironmanphuket.com This event is sponsored by PGTV and the *Phuket Gazette*. Contact Robin at 076-362300, robinw@lagunaphuket.com or lagunaphuket.com.

December 4. Cricket: Island Furniture Senior League

The Island Cricket Club will play Patong Cricket Club in a 40 over Island Furniture League match at the ACG starting at 9am to 4pm. Access is free, but facilities are restricted until the clubhouse is opened later this month. The *Phuket Gazette* is proud to partner the ACG Phuket. Contact Alan Cooke, at 081-8934200, alan@acgphuket.com or visit acgphuket.com.

December 5. HM The King's Birthday – Public Holiday

HM The King's Birthday. Also marked as Father's Day in Thailand.

December 7. Christmas Lunch on WEDNESDAY with PIWC

This year's PIWC (Phuket Inter-

national Women's Club) Christmas Lunch will be held on WEDNESDAY at Twin Palms Beach Resort. Please note the change of day from our usual Thursday. This lunch is always very popular, so early booking is advised. Tickets cost 700 baht for members and non-members. Contact Carole Dux at 085-7821332, info@phuketiwc.com or visit phuketiwc.com.

December 9, 16 and 23. 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 Friday. 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.

December 10. Constitution Day – Public Holiday

This day is a public holiday in Thailand.

December 10 to 11. Thailand precision Flying competition

Pilot and (hard working) navigator teams of two are invited to enter the "2011 Thailand Precision Flying Championships" during December 10 to 11, from 10:30am to 2pm at Eastern Airfield, Pattaya. Teams will be required to fly a prescribed course with as much accuracy as possible, and at the end of the exercise there will be a spot-landing competition which will count towards your overall score. There'll be prizes, BBQ and beer (on Saturday evening) and a breakfast-fly-out on the Sunday morning. We will provide plenty of space for airplane parking and for those who wish to camp. Contact Mike Gillam at 087-9394523, mike.gillam@hotmail.co.uk.

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*.

December 4 – Patong
December 11 – Laguna
December 18 – Chalong
Starts 10am

For more info contact Woody at T:076-290468

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JUST THE JOB: Job2Do played to packed crowds on Nai Yang Beach on November 25 at a concert co-hosted by The Beach Club and Indigo Pearl.



FORMIDABLE: At a recent Evason wine dinner were (from left) Kevin John Fawkes - Executive Chef, Somchai Chancharoensin - MD of Strategic Catering, Winemaker Michel Fonné and Frank Grassmann - Evason GM. Photo by D-IMAGEPLUS

YOUR Phuket

Mr. Peter D. Gibbons, GM of Millennium Resort Patong Phuket gives instructions to staff at the hotel's fire drill.



CLEAN LIVING: At the Nai Yang Beach clean up were (from left) Mr Kelly Lewis, GM of Indigo Pearl, Ms. Kelly Franklin and David Green.



P.I.S.T. AGAIN: The overall winner of the Phuket International Sportfishing Tournament was the team Fish Eagle.





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PARTY TIME: A group dancing at the LPT awards



YOUNG MEN: LPT winner Massimo Ciga still has the energy to dance to YMCA.



WHIT HAPPENS: MC Whit Raymond on form as always.



LPT AWARDS

PPAO President Pailoon Upatising was there to help present the prizes.
Photos by Christian Mouchet



Debbie Dionysius and Tim Hancock at the LPT awards giving ceremony.






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There is a single connection between all the quiz answers. Can you get it before the last question?

1. Which 1984 film starred Robin Williams as an Eastern Bloc concert musician who defects in New York City?
2. Who is the the Queen Consort of Spain?
3. How is the vegetable Brassica Oleracea (Gemmifera Group) better known?
4. Which alliteratively-named footballer won the 1997-98 English Premier League Golden Boot, 4 England caps, played for Norwich City (twice), Manchester United, Millwall, Aston Villa, Leicester City and Celtic?
5. Which composer, born, with the given name of Israel, in Russia 1888, wrote 'God Bless America' and There's no business like Showbusiness?
6. Which character was expected to marry Juliet in Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet?
7. Which agreement, signed in 1957, established the European Economic Community?
8. A small island in North Eastern America, whose name means 'land of many hills' was sold by the Senape Indians to Dutch traders for 60 guilders in 1626. What name did the Dutch give to their surrounding settlement?
9. Who was the Greek goddess of war, justice and wisdom?
10. Which popular poultry dish was believed to have been created at the Russian Merchants Club in the early 20th Century?

What's the connection between all of the answers?

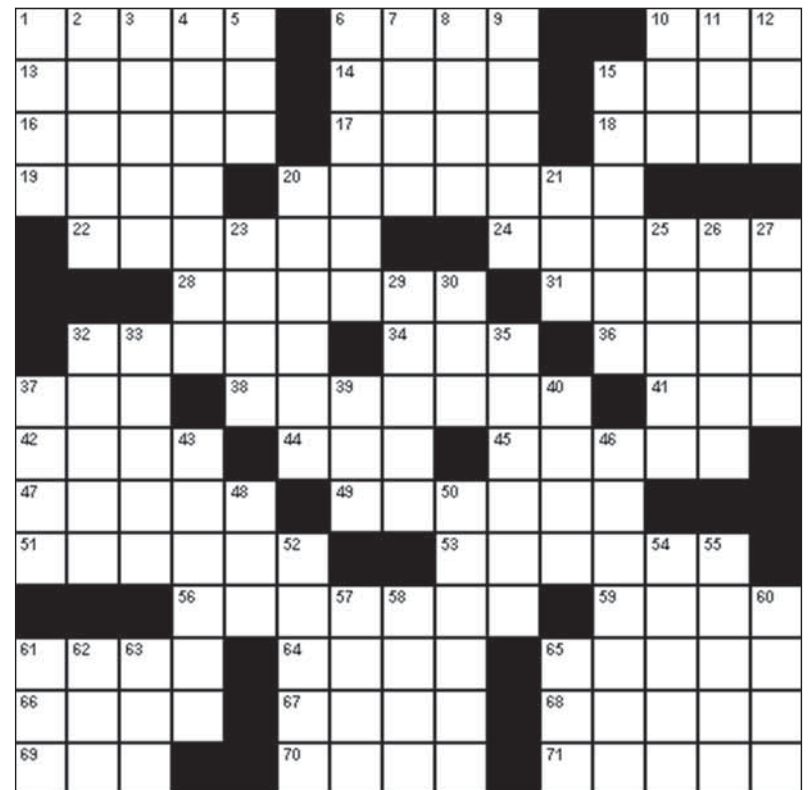
Quiz answers on page 41

Across

1. Compass point
6. "Power Lunch" network
10. "Cats" monogram
13. Cop —
14. Circle of light often seen around the head of saints
15. Asian sea
16. Simpleton
17. Lots and lots
18. Deep hollow
19. Couple
20. Not sociable
22. Least significant
24. Wrinkle
28. Buries
31. Fanatical
32. São Paulo feature
34. Biblical verb ending
36. Darn
37. Curvy letter
38. Commanded
41. "Foucault's Pendulum" author
42. Swedish auto
44. A Chaplin
45. Angry
47. Characteristic
49. Thorough view
51. Steep bank under a rampart
53. Death
56. Stroll
59. 2002 erupter
61. Autumn tool
64. Crowd noise
65. Leg joints
66. Drew on
67. Aquatic bird
68. Dirty looks
69. Heart chart, for short
70. Suffix with exist
71. Breakfast fruit

Down

1. Beach blanket?
2. Codeine source
3. Arm bones
4. Climbing shoot
5. Cut and dried grass
6. Virginal
7. Defense grp. since 1949



8. Cartel
9. Funnel-shaped
10. Capote, to friends
11. Baseball's Bando
12. Mischievous person
15. Radiant
20. Late bloomers
21. Part of ETA
23. Opposite of ecto-
25. Red as —
26. Because
27. Corm of the taro
29. Like marshes
30. Orch. section

32. Autocratic Russian rulers
33. Designer Mizrahi
35. Young cow
37. 90 degrees from norte
39. Coloring material
40. Percussive instrument
43. Tendentious
46. Person to whom property is transferred
48. Lilt syllable
50. English Channel swimmer Gertrude
52. Cleanse
54. Alloy of iron and carbon
55. Diciembre follower
57. Person, place, or thing
58. After-bath powder
60. Org.
61. Bemoan
62. Call upon
63. Beer holder
65. Airline to Amsterdam

Provided by BestCrosswords.com
Puzzle solutions on page 41

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Sagittarians are advised to remember that waste not, want not can be a useful philosophy. There are signs that you could be talked into replacing items that are still serviceable this week. Money matters are less than well-starred during the first half of December and your outgoings during the holiday season are forecast to be higher than usual. Those with a birthday in the coming days will make more realistic decisions about romance in the year ahead.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Those born under the sign of Capricorn are predicted to catch a glimpse of appealing horizons this week. There are hints that relocation will be on your agenda early next year, with focus on an attractive job possibility later this month. A flirtatious encounter with another earth sign could catch Capricorns unawares this weekend. This may cause problems if you are already spoken for. Lucky days for money matters are Friday and Saturday.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Aquarians are advised to keep life simple during the first half of December. The stars suggest that

your mental energy won't be as sharp as usual and mistakes could be easy to make. Best days for business are Monday and Tuesday as another air sign is forecast to see your point of view more readily then. In the realm of romance, a sensitive subject is best raised mid-week with a fire sign.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Ideas flow freely for those born under the sign of Pisces this week. The astral atmosphere is ready to encourage you to venture in new directions and this will bring you in contact with more like-minded people. Finances are better starred during December – a family member or close friend should finally pay back a loan and starting savings schemes is well-starred. Your lucky color this week is cinnamon brown.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Stars suggest Arians will be doing a lot of talking during the first half of December. Discussions about practical matters this week, including finances, are best scheduled on Tuesday. Personal conversations should go more smoothly. A water sign friend could help you to understand why someone you have romantic feelings for sending mixed messages. Ivory color brings good luck.



TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Technology could cause some trouble for Taureans early next week – those who realize their skills in this area are limited could start to think about seeking professional help. The stars recommend that you keep important information printed on paper to avoid being faced with bureaucratic problems. Your most sparkling days for romance are Wednesday and Thursday. Money matters become better starred as the middle of the month approaches.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): There are hints that jumping the gun could be tempting for those born under the sign of Gemini this week. In the world of work, the stars suggest that a fire sign should not be rushed. Where a relationship with a water sign is concerned, time is on your side. Geminis who were worried that a third party had come into the romantic picture should be reassured this weekend.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Communication affected by cloudy astral conditions for Cancerians during the first half of December. This is not an auspicious time to stir up unnecessary matters with bureaucracy or make mountains out of molehills at work. An earth sign romantic partner is predicted to drop heavy hints about commitment this weekend – if this comes too soon for comfort, an honest conversation will be called for. Your lucky color this week is ruby red.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Where business is concerned, some Leos will need to put their problem-solving skills to good use this week. Another fire sign is likely to throw a spanner in the works and you may be the only person who can save the situation. Don't believe everything in the realm of romance. The stars suggest that an air sign is likely to tell you what they think you want to hear, rather than the truth.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): A water sign who has intimidated you in the past loses power in the world of work. Virgoans are predicted to gain strength through this development and December should be a profitable time. The stars sug-

gest that your ability to keep a cool head when things get out of control will come in useful. If you are single and seeking, Cupid can direct you towards an air sign this weekend.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Librans should realize that they cannot delay important communication any longer by keeping their head buried in the sand. If this relates to business or work, Tuesday is the most auspicious day to achieve your goals. Where romance is concerned, there are signs that a partner will raise a subject you've been avoiding this weekend. The stars suggest that your fears of being taken for granted in this relationship are unfounded.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Those Scorpios who have fallen out with a close friend or family member are advised to let the dust settle before attempting reconciliation. In the world of work, the stars indicate that calculated risk-taking can pay off this week. Your luck in love remains moderate until the second half of December, but there are hints that reconciliation with another water sign could be possible. Wearing the color peppermint green can bring good luck.

PROPERTY Gazette

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

Two Villas multiply

SINCE launching some of Phuket's first affordable luxury pool villas in 2003, the Twovillas Group has expanded and added a flourish of trendy concepts. Twovillas is now widely recognized as a developer of vibrant communities.

In just eight years, the Twovillas team of local architects has developed over 20 residential projects, with 264 pool-villas nestled in desirable neighborhoods around Phuket with more on the way.

The majority of Twovilla properties are situated in the south of Phuket, near Naiharn beach, and on the west coast near Bangtao and Layan beaches.

The properties range from one-bedroom condominiums all the way up to five-bedroom private pool villas including:

Oriental: Seventeen spacious, strategically positioned 350sqm plots with 187sqm single story two-bedroom pool villas of contemporary tropical design featuring cedar shingles. Out-

doors there is a seven-meter long swimming pool and hardwood pool deck raised above the large garden, enclosed by a high wall.

Onyx: Twenty-eight 193-321 sqm plots featuring modern two-bedroom homes with traditional tropical appeal ranging in size from 154 to 178 sqm. The Onyx Essence open-plan-kitchen, dining and living room design features a marble swimming pool off the master bedroom enclosed in private garden.

Oxygen: Two-story open plan condominium-style duplex homes meticulously designed with contemporary couples and families in mind. Oxygen Condominiums are fully furnished with a contemporary Asian theme.

Wings: An Exclusive collection of 25 boutique pool villas inspired by the historical Sino-Portuguese architecture of Old Phuket, the Wings is a contemporary interpretation of traditional laid-back lifestyles.

TwoVillas contact: T: 076261999
E: info@twovillas.com, W: twovillas.com



OXYGEN POOL: The marble edged pool leads directly off the master bedroom.



WINGS BEDROOM: Privacy is assured in secluded indoor and outdoor living spaces.



ONYX KITCHEN: The ideal arrangement for couples and small families.

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SINGAPORE AIRLINES FIRST CLASS: Photo by Richard Moss

What Airlines do well that hotels don't



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

LET'S face it, hotel management is not exactly rocket science, irrespective of what your friendly global hotel chain may say. Meet, greet, smile, provide a bed and a meal, and of course, don't forget to ask if your guest consumed anything from the mini-bar as they check out.

It is almost like having a rela-

tive or friend stay over at your own home, except don't expect Uncle Ned to tip you or harangue about the soggy Belgian waffles on TripAdvisor.

I do love the mini-bar analogy. One of my friends constantly uses it as an example of how hotels get things wrong, like that golden, memorable moment in time as you are about to leave the hotel – and suddenly it feels like a waterboarding session with some intelligence agency.

Hotels have been around

longer than airlines. Remember Jesus, Mary, and Joseph shackled up in that rustic desert eco-lodge many moons ago?

More than a few years ago airlines somehow managed to get the upper edge on innovation. Let's take what used to be called "yield management" but today is "revenue management". Same thing, different tag.

On airplanes, the last person to book a ticket pays the most, while in hotels the late night arrival is likely to shell out the least. Airlines have long been champions of dynamic rates and religiously tracking supply and demand curves.

Hotels seem to be content with morning briefings. The only other enterprise I know who utilize this type of dawn group hug is the military and, coming from the US, I won't comment on this oxymoronic term "military intelligence".

I recently came off a plane and was reading an article about AirAsia and their innovative approaches to systems analysis and refining their business model.

Take food spoilage as one point. The airline now encourages online ticketing customers to pre-purchase meals. Since doing that usage has sharply risen, and food costs have declined.

Hotels of course have buffets, but there is the age old question of just how long can you put out quiche before it starts to look like a ripe slice of shag carpet?

There are other examples of

course, such as booking luggage or those hot seats that get premium pricing. These refinements carry little to no cost for the airlines and all cliff dive right down to the bottom line.

Taking things further are those self check-in kiosks – which again cut manpower. Smart, as most hoteliers know the two biggest operating expenses in a property are staffing and utility costs. Looking at the subject of

energy costs for airlines, demand modeling also helps them hedge on fuel, which again is aimed at reducing operating expenses.

As for hotels, yes, they remain stuck in the land of the dinosaurs. Airline people don't seem any smarter, but perhaps the margins and operating environment push them to nick and tuck where-

ever they can. Of course there is that pilot guy who landed in the river and saved all those lives – he would make a great hotel manager.

Perhaps the hotel industry needs to go to boot camp and take some lessons from our sky-bound friends.

Where else do people tip you just for smiling? And next time the desk clerk starts to interrogate you about whether or not you've been delving into the secret confines of those small sacred refrigerators, just snap back smartly "no, but did you?"

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

In brief...

Angsana opens

LAGUNA'S upgraded and renamed 409 room upscale Angsana Resort will open its doors December 1 under the management of the Banyan Tree Hospitality Group.

A reported 900 million baht renovation has been undertaken since the mid-year closure of what was the Sheraton Grande, and had been managed by Starwood.

Centara Karon Villas get upgraded

AFTER undergoing an upgrade program Centara Villas in Karon has reopened.

Given the opening last year of the nearby Centara Grand Beach Resort, the Thai hotel chain is now developing a substantial group of properties in Phuket.

Cathay brings on Premium Economy

NEVER mind DVDs but DVT (Deep Vein Thrombosis) is just another of those nasty little ills of economy class syndrome.

Now leading Hong Kong based carrier Cathay Pacific will bring on Premium Economy class by the second quarter of 2012.

Long and medium haul destinations will offer the new service where, for a bit of extra dough, you can actually stretch out your legs a bit and not have the reclining seat from the passenger in front of you smash you in the face.

While DVT still remains a reality, at least for those willing to spend a bit more without having to shell out your life savings for a business class ticket, there will now be a more comfortable way to travel.

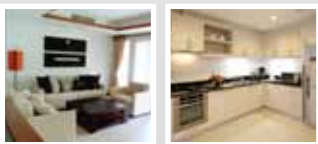
– Bill Barnett

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5 Banyan Tree Residences THB 45 M



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For more information on these and other properties, please call:

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Klong Krata reservoir project delayed by rain

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

WORK on Phuket's third major reservoir is behind schedule, but officials expect the Klong Krata project in Chalong to be completed on schedule by January next year.

Project engineer Nattakom Nookhom of the Region 15 Irrigation Office in Surat Thani said rain has put the work significantly behind schedule.

"According to the work schedule we should be near the half way mark, but actual construction is only at 39% due to intermittent rain, which continues to slow the excavation and grouting work now underway," he said.

"Anyway, we try to work as quickly as possible complete the project by scheduled completion date and I am sure we will do it in time," he said.

The construction contract is for 900 days, from August 10, 2010 to January 25, 2012.

The project, with a 449-million-baht budget from the Irrigation Department, comprises a earthen and rock dam 23 meters high and 927 meters across, a spill-way, control room and other facilities.

Upon completion, the reservoir should be able to store about 4.1 million cubic meters of water. It will also be the first Irrigation Department reservoir in Muang District. Phuket's two existing large reservoirs are located in Kathu (Bangwad Reservoir) and Thalang (Bang Neaw Dum Reservoir).



The Provincial Water Authority hopes to eventually connect all three supply sources through a network of pipes in order to improve service in the areas under its jurisdiction, a consultant hired by the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization told the *Gazette* in October.



Monsoon rains have hampered work on Phuket's third largest reservoir, which is to be located in Chalong subdistrict.

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Construction commences Q2 2010 and Completion during Q2 2012

Wattle it be, mate?



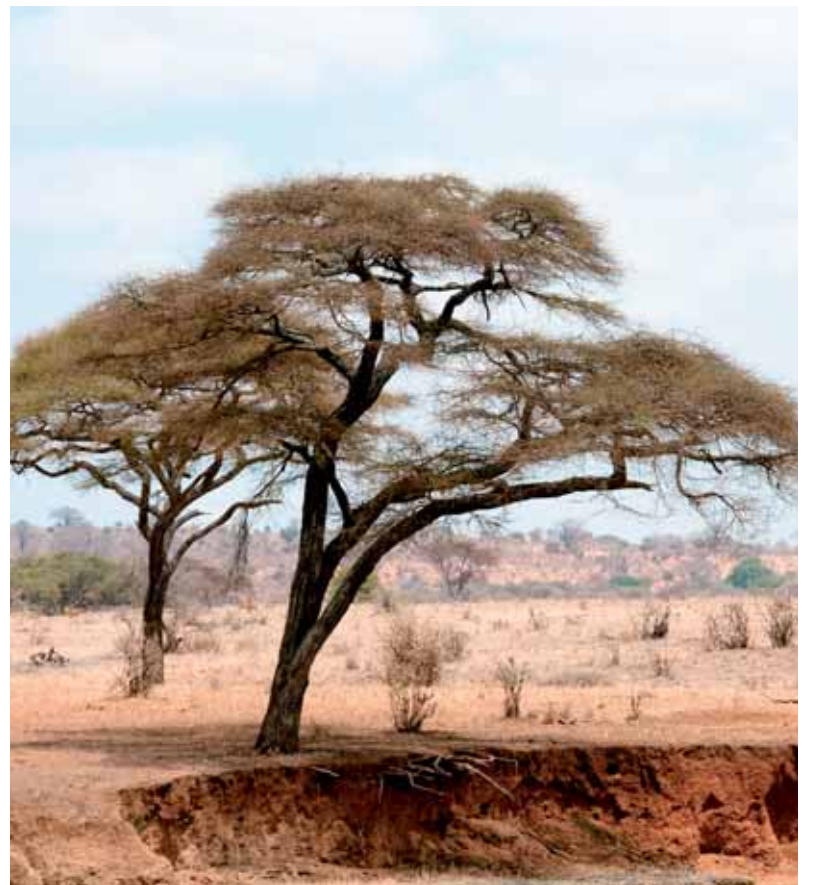
Acacia acinacea



Acacia (Kratin Narong)



Acacia mangium



Acacia Tree. Photos: Flickr



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

ASK any Australian gardener about the Acacia and they will either look puzzled, or reply: "Aw, you mean a wattle, mate".

And they should know, because these ornamental trees come mostly from Oz. To confuse things further, the Acacia used to be classified in the genus of Mimosa, and in Mediterranean regions is still referred to by this name. In Thailand it is known as *kratin-narong*.

It is a huge genus, with over 1200 species of which 900 or so are natives of Australia. "Rare Plants", a commercial web-site, sells more than fifty varieties.

Most wattles are large shrubs or small trees, so they fit nicely into our current category. But some are definitely not suitable for a Phuket garden, notably "thorn trees" of the African grasslands. Such trees

are characterized by flat-topped crowns, and spines so large and sharp they deter even the hungriest browser.

All pretty hardy, acacias are legumes, so they have the knack of producing their own nitrogen by taking it from the air and converting it to soil nitrogen, the most valuable of plant nutrients.

This means that acacias can not only survive in poor conditions, but can help improve soil quality, thus making them useful for restoring vegetation on denuded areas.

Not only are they useful, but they are also ornamental. Most varieties produce spectacular masses of small flowers densely crowded into globular heads, the

stamens more conspicuous than the tiny petals.

When on display, they provide a brilliant show of golden yellow blossom. A few have white or cream inflorescences, but the vast majority are indeed golden. Unsurprisingly, they are much in demand among florists.

Most Acacias come from sub-tropical and semi-arid regions, so they require well-drained soil. However,

Phuket's fully exposed sun may be a bit much, so planting in semi-shade is recommended. If you want to cultivate one in a pot, make sure there is sand in the mix.

Where to start? *Acacia acinacea*, more a shapely shrub than tree, has attractive arching



The Australian coat of arms features the golden wattle.

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Tip of the week: Monsoon gardening



Desert rose Adeniums

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THE last few months have seen more rain than at any comparable period in the last fifty years.

Phuket, by virtue of its topography has largely escaped flooding. But the impact on vegetation is marked.

Everywhere the soil is thoroughly saturated. Trees are making more and more leaves, and garden plants are lush and green, especially those grown primarily for their foliage.

But many shrubs are not blooming as freely as usual, namely, *oleanders* and *bougainvilleas*, as well as such potted plants as *euphorbias* (crown of thorns), *adeniums* (desert rose) and *pereskias* (wax rose).

Remember to reduce watering to a minimum, especially with potted specimens. If the mix in your



Wax rose Pereskias

containers is already moist, leave well alone.

And empty excess water from the saucer under the pot. Remember that container plants are more likely to die from sodden soil which encourages root rot than from under-watering.

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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.

TWIN VILLA IN KAMALA

For sale with rental income, very good money. 10 mins' walk to beach, fully furnished, 6 bedrooms, on 500sqm land with Chanote title. Freehold or leasehold. Price: 14.5 million baht. Call owner. Tel: 080-698 3028. Email: suchada_villas@hotmail.com

PRIVATE SALE OF HALF RAI

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

HOUSE FOR SALE IN BAAN PROMPHAN

2.5 floors, 5 mins to town, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, Good for stay! 2.85 million baht. Tel: 083-506 9155. Email: sumitra.saetan@gmail.com

LAND FOR SALE

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

PHUKET VILLA CONDO PATONG

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

HOUSE FOR SALE

Opposite Boat Lagoon, near BIS. 59.4sq wah, 2 floors, 3 bed, 4 bath, telephone, internet, pool, main road. Price: 3.6 million baht. Tel: 081-958 0373.

LAND & PROPERTY FOR SALE

6 rai sea and mountain view land for sale in Cherng Talay. Fantastic views and close to Tesco Lotus. Also BUSINESS PARK for sale on 1.7 rai near to Laguna. One large modern office 255sqm, with two three-bedroom houses set in landscaped gardens with pool. Located in Pasak on the main road near Laguna, and 20 minutes from the airport. Tel: 081-920 6976. Email: cherngtalay@gmail.com For more information visit www.cherngtalay.weebly.com

THAI-STYLE VILLA IN CHALONG

Luxurious, lakeside, Thai-style villa in Chalong. Has 8 rooms and a swimming pool. Price: 38 million baht. Tel: 081-892 8740.

3-BEDROOM HOUSE

3-bedroom house (53sq. wah) near the Heroines' Monument. 2 bathrooms, 3 aircons, telephone & internet, curtains, kitchen and full landscaping. Price: 2.95 million baht (negotiable). Contact owner. Tel: 080-520 2989. Email: pakaporns@yahoo.com

SPACIOUS MOUNTAIN VIEW VILLA

All four beds have en suites, cool pool, maid's room, classy furniture, inc 50" HD plasma TV, nine minutes reaches five schools including internationals and three golf courses, secure gated estate, 15.9 million baht negotiable. Available now! Contact Don. Tel: 076-321738, 083-967 5777 (English & Thai), 083-967 5888. Email: jenjira5@hotmail.com

NEW HOUSE SALE

1.7 million baht. Chalong, 2 bedrooms, ready to move in. Tel: 081-895 4511.

VILLA FOR SALE

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, pool, land 1 rai, Nai Harn. Price: 14.5 million baht. Contact Shanna. Tel: 088-443 8704.

850SQM PLOT, 1.5 MILLION BAHT

Nice land plot located in a quiet estate development with underground electricity and security next to Mission Hills Golf Course. For sale: 1.5 million baht. Tel: 081-343 0777.

SEAVIEW LAND FOR SALE

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

CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

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

BAAN SAIYUAN VILLA

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

PERFECT LAND FOR VILLA

3 rai, Chanote land, 2km south of Tai Muang town center. 24 minutes from Sarasin Bridge. Good road access & electricity. Very quiet, green area, close to beach. Bargain at 5 million baht total. Tel: 089-652 1951. Email: phuket.pn@gmail.com

NAI HARN POOL VILLA

on 1 rai, private, quiet, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Price: 12.5 or 8.5 million baht on half rai. Tel: 087-209 5174.

THE SUNRISE OCEAN VILLAS

After a great success of the first phase, the Sunrise Ocean Villas is now starting to build the 8 other villas of "Phase 2". The price of 17.9 million baht makes the project one of the most competitive on the island for being only 60m from the beach. Each villa has an living area of over 300sqm, has 3 spacious bedrooms, all sea views, 5 bathrooms, a 10x4m infinity pool, maid's quarter and a covered 2 car parking. The houses are specially designed to guarantee a complete privacy, with an open panoramic view of the sea.



Come visit the villas and you will be wonderfully surprised by the quality of the project as well as the quality of life you can find here.

For appointment or more details, contact the project director **Khun Montha** at **081 343 0777** (Thai, English & German) Email: thesunrisevillas@yahoo.com

www.thesunrisevillas.com

PHUKET ALLAMANDA RESIDENCES

1 deluxe condo unit (duplex house), fully furnished, set within the unique Phuket Laguna complex with balcony right over the lagoon. 3 bedrooms, roof terrace with sala, etc. For sale or long-term lease. Tel: 081-737 0365. Email: utaipan@yahoo.com

TWO PATONG CONDOS

Adjoining 30sqm studios on 7th floor facing the sea. 2.5 million baht for both. Income: 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-532 7708 (English & Thai). Email: capnarnard@gmail.com

SUPERB CONTEMPORARY VILLA

5 bedrooms. Between Boat Lagoon & BIS. 120sqm swimming pool, fully furnished. 26 million baht. Tel: 082-276 4314, 082-276 4318. Email: caronitk@hotmail.fr See our website www.phuketfinder.com

LAGUNA AREA CONDO

2 bed, LR, DR, Western kitchen, huge balcony overlooking large pool. Furnished. 7 million baht. Tel: 085-693 7147. Email: jressj@hotmail.com

SEAVIEW LAND FOR SALE

33 rai at Ao Makham. Hillside land. Easy access. 5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-895 4318 (Thai). Email: wapeebow@gmail.com

VIP ESTATE/HIGH RENTAL

income. For sale. On a private access hill with big pool. 2 villas overlooking Loch Palm Golf Course and Crystal Lake. 15 bedrooms, 1,500sqm of indoor living rental space or a total of 6 separate units. At the center of Kathu, a great location with panoramic views, quiet, mature trees, garden, privacy and security. This 4.2 rai estate. 80 million baht. Expandable, high income. Currently all units are rented on long-term lease, fully furnished. Price: 80 million baht. We are speak fluent Thai, French, English, German, Swiss. Tel: 087-269 8492. Email: noi999@gmail.com

KHOK KLOY

8.5 rai rubber forest, 1km to beach, 2km from Sarasin Bridge. 700,000 baht per rai. From owner. Tel: 083-388 8036.

**STYLE & CLASS**

This stunning Tropical Style Villa is on 800sqm land and situated in a sunny and secluded Cul de Sac Road between Chalong and Nai Harn. It is located on a private road in a small and exclusive Swiss-Thai Villa development. The building features a spacious living room and dining room, 3 large bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, European kitchen, maid, quarter, a guesthouse, basement, a double size garage and a 12m pool with sala. It is built with the highest standard, water-filter installation, 3 septic tanks, and premium standard materials like teakwood windows, terrazzo floors, sandstone walls and pillars. The water supply is secured by own well. Chanote title deed is available. **Price 18 million baht**

Contact Yupin Sidler at Tel: 081-817 4805, 080- 890 5187. Email: residler@gmail.com

**OCEAN VIEW LAND BANG TAO**

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

BEST LUXURY VILLA

In Nai Harn. Great location close to beach. 3 stunning bedrooms. All with indoor/outdoor bathrooms. This villa has the lot: pool, jacuzzi, ducted aircon, high ceilings. Best quality furniture and fittings, European kitchen, laundry, electric gate. The list is endless. 16.5 million baht. Can't find better. Tel: 082-281 3422.

MODERN POOL VILLA

Stunning 3-bedroom pool villa, 5 mins from Laguna. 600sqm plot in peaceful location. Finished to a very high specification. Must see. Selling price: 12.9 million baht. Tel: 084-994 9303. Email: phuketpoolvilla.info@gmail.com

BANGTHONG, KATHU LAND

for sale. 83sq wah, Chanote. Close to Tesco (5 minutes). Price: 2.3 million baht. Tel: 081-956 6457, 089-646 4786.

LAND SEAVIEW FOR SALE

Koh Yor, Songkhla. 3 ngan 14sq wah. 3.7 million baht. Tel: 087-399 6216

PHU-THAI RESIDENCE FOR SALE

Peaceful 4 Thai country homes for sale. No sinking fund & no common area, private pool, landscaped, parking for 2 cars, Nai Harn Beach only 5 minutes away. Starting from 9.9 million baht. Tel: 086-742 2244 (English & Thai), 084-848 7474 (English & Thai). Email: phuthairesidence@gmail.com

TOWNHOUSE NEAR LAGUNA

New, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, aircons, cable TV, internet. Sale/rent. Please contact for more information. Tel: 080-038 8546.

SEAVIEW LAND SURIN / BANG TAO

Amazing views, affordable prices, private community, ready to build, direct from owner/developer. Tel: 086-265 0157. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

Properties For Rent

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

PAKLOK HOUSE FOR RENT



3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, with full furnished with small garden. Quiet area. Tel: 081-607 8567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

NEW KATA HOME WALK TO BEACH

Gorgeous new home, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, security, 25,000/35,000 with car quiet. Avail. 10/1/2012. Tel: 053-892369, 081-472 1010 (English & Thai). Email: kahunadan@hotmail.com

B.L. APARTMENT

New in Kathu. Big rooms, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, garden, and car park. Rent: 7,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-692 3163.

KATA HILL HOUSE FOR RENT

Fully-furnished, 2-bedroom and one ground-floor room with baths, aircon, living, dining, western kitchen, garden, car park, Internet and cable TV. Price long-term 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-606 2827 (English & Thai). Email: nij017@hotmail.com

HOLIDAY POOL APT&VILLA KATA

Pool Penthouse 1, 2, 3 beds (some for Xmas/NY). Family pool villa 3 beds. All sea view. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

PATONG LUXURY APARTMENT

16,000 baht for long-term rent. Website: www.johnshoney moonsuite-phuket.ch

BOAT LAGOON TOWNHOUSE

for rent, fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, swimming pool, car park, very secure. Contact Khun So (owner). Tel: 081-344 4473, 081-862 2962.

RAWAI BEACHFRONT



House long-term rent or sale. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, pool, ADSL, cable TV, land area 1600sqm. Tel: 089-649 9939.

KATA SEAVIEW WESTERN APART



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

CONDO FOR RENT, PATONG

10th floor view of city, ocean, mountains. Corner window unit, 55sqm, hot water, aircon, safe, TV, WiFi, refrig, closets, shelves, microwave. Repainted, ready. 15,000 baht per month. Minimum 6 months. Water, electric included. Tel: 087-265 9977. Email: jimmys@loxinfo.co.th

LUXURY POOL VILLA

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

2-STOREY HOUSE FOR RENT



3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, European kitchen. Kathu area. Near Loch Palm Golf Course. Rent: 37,000 baht/month. Sale: 8.5 million baht. Tel: 081-440 0101.

HOUSE FOR RENT



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

HOUSE FOR RENT NAI HARN



2 bedrooms with common pool, near beach. Long term: 25,000 baht/month. Tel: 083-388 8036. For further details, please see our website at www.phuket qualityhouse.com

KATHU NEAR LOCH PALM

Apartment 58sqm, ADSL, cable, pool. 12,000 baht/month. Tel: 081-891 6632 (English & Thai).

VILLA IN RAWAI

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished, internet, cable TV. Available now. Tel: 083-641 9327. Email: rawaipoolvillas@hotmail.com

BEAUTIFUL KATHU APT

Cheap rent, Phuket Golf view. 2 rooms, bathroom, balcony. Long-term only. Tel: 086-742 6265.

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE

2-storey houses, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Quiet area, near Panwa Bay. For further details, please see our website at http://panwagreen.weebly.com

LONG-TERM RENT

1-2 bedroom, furnished houses, beautiful garden. Chalong area. Rent: 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 4311.

CHALONG SHOPHOUSE

Near HomePro, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, fresh paint. Rent 9,900 baht/month. Tel: 087-418 3127.

PATONG CONDO PRIVATE RENTAL

Furnished apt for rent. Gym, swimming pools, parking, WiFi, cable TV and security. 800 meters to beach. Available December. Please contact for more information. Tel: 085-069 0938 (English). Email: nnorthwo@hotmail.com

LUXURY APARTMENT IN PATONG

Fully furnished. Swimming pool. Daily and Monthly rates. Tel: 081-894 4730 (English & Thai), 081-892 5983 (Thai). Email: nanaivillaphuket@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.nanaivilla.com

CHALONG RESIDENCE SEAVIEW



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

HOUSE IN MAI KHAO

for rent on 1/2 rai land and safe area. 10 mins to airport and beach, fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, 3 aircons, sala, charming garden, ADSL, European kitchen. Tel: 081-719 7015. Email: eanfievat@voila.fr

ORCHID KATHU HEIGHTS

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

2-BEDROOM TWIN HOUSE



in Phuket Town. 20,000 baht/month.

Surface: 45sq wah (180sqm).

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

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

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

- Only minutes away from Bangkok Hospital Phuket and Central Festival

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OFFSHORE WORKER

Many expat offshore workers find it difficult to obtain finance, but there is some good news! Right now the QLD government is giving a \$10,000 Building Boost Grant to anyone who takes out a mortgage on building a new property in the boom town of Mackay, Queensland. Let our professional Australian mortgage broker get you the finance package for an investment property you need. If you already own a property or are paying tax in Australia or New Zealand, you can easily qualify. Contact Sam or Dale. Tel: 087-885 1522, 082-277 9105 (English). Email: offshorefinance@hotmail.com

ZION PROPERTY SERVICE

House repairs, renovations, construction. English, Swedish and Thai-speaking personnel. Please contact for more details. Tel: 083-394 8337 (English), 080-141 4577 (Thai). Or send email to: mattias@zionproperty.com

Property Wanted

PAUL COOPER (PHUKET PALACE)

If you are looking for formerly known Paul Cooper of the Phuket Palace resort. Email: lookingforcooper@hotmail.com

CONDO FREEHOLD

I am looking for a foreign freehold condo in Patong. Prefer proximity to Soi Bangla, beach, etc, but not too fussy. Studio to 2-beds. Suitable for rental income. Up to 2 million baht. Please send email to: doctorlaptop@iinet.net.au

Accommodation Available

2011/12 NEW YEAR'S WEEK

2-bedroom villa at Marriott's Phuket Beach Club, adjoining the JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa, from Dec 30 to Jan 6. Marriott is asking \$8,000 plus, I'm looking for \$3,000 obo. Tel: 080-696 1812 (English). Email: cgroebner@hotmail.com Visit website at www.marriott.com

PATONG STUDIO CONDO

Furnished studio. Ocean/city/mountain views, pool, balcony, kitchenette, aircon, cable, WiFi, parking. Long-term rent. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-8283 4188. For further details, please send email to: mauigreg@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

3-bedroom, 1 aircon, 2 bathroom, a living room, furnished house near Central Festival. Tel: 081-537 9878, 089-729 8472 (English & Thai). Email: suwittrai@hotmail.com

HOLIDAY RENTAL KARON BEACH

I will leave my Karon beachfront 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo from early December to early Jan. Will rent to mature parties for less than the cost of a hotel room. For more details. Tel: 088-869 5536 (English). Email: rtj1111@yahoo.com

APARTMENT FOR RENT

Apartment on 8th floor of Patong Tower, 90sqm. Fully furnished. Beach and mountain view. Tel: 076-344922, 081-978 4982 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-341870. Email: jctailor@loxinfo.co.th For further details, please see our website at www.bluewaterphuket.com/patong_apartments_ocean_mountain_view.html

LAND & HOUSE FOR RENT

4-bedroom house and a 20sqm.-showroom on 700 sqm land, main road to Cape Panwa. 15,000 baht/month. Tel: 089-486 2747, 086-568 1744. Email: sapmanee@gmail.com

KARON CLIFF BUNGALOW

Directly on Karon Beach. Amazing sea view. For further details, please see our website at www.karoncliff.com

SEAVIEW CONDO FOR RENT

2-bed/bath, furnished, western kitchen, com pool, short-long term. For more information. Tel: 087-998 2590, 087-393 5462 (English & Thai). Email: kata4rent@gmail.com

PATONG APARTMENTS

Rooms for long-term rent: 8,000 -20,000 baht per month. 800-1,500 baht per night. Tel: 076-512151, 087-275 7491. For further details, please see our website at www.brommathai house.com

400-1,000 BAHT/ DAY



Rawai pool guesthouse. Nice rooms with cable TV, aircon, fridge, WiFi. From standard to very big family rooms with two double beds. Price range from 400-1,000 baht/day. Cars and motorbikes for cheap rent. 300m to Rawai Pier. Tel: 080-328 9986. Send email to: phuket7@yahoo.com Website: www.thaidream villa.com

600-1,000 BAHT/DAY



Rawaitan bar pool guesthouse. Nice rooms with cable TV, aircon, fridge, WiFi. From standard to very big family rooms with two double beds. Prices range from 600-1,000 baht/day. Car and motorbike for cheap rent. 100m to Rawai Pier. Tel: 076-284716, 081-416 1072. Or send email to: phuket7@yahoo.com Website: www.rawaitan.com

PEAK SEASON VACANCY

Luxurious 3-bedroom penthouse available from November 25. Close to Layan Beach. Tel: 086-953 7025. Email: tonymynixon15@hotmail.com

HOMESTAY HEALTH CARE

Available from December. 15,000 - 25,000 baht per month. For further details, please see our website at www.andamanclinic.com

KARON BEACH

Karon Cliff bungalow. Seaview, beach access, steakhouse. For further details, please see our website at www.skysteak house.net

NAI HARN APARTMENTS

Luxury apartments for rent in Nai Harn beach area. Daily & monthly rates. Free wireless, cleaning service, car park, garden, pool. Tel: 087-887 7133 (English), 084-848 7474 (English & Thai). Email: kasina_navamachiti@yahoo.com

Accommodation Wanted

LOOKING FOR RENTAL

Two Frenchies are looking for 2 bungalows (or apartment) of 1 bedroom, or one with 2 bedrooms in proximity of Karon or Kamala Beach for about 3 weeks from December to January. Email: titesannonces@yahoo.fr

APT/CONDO 1 OR 2 BEDROOMS

I am looking to rent a condo with 1 or 2 bedrooms, fitness center, shared pool, security and scooter parking. I am very keen on the Royal place complex near Big C. Needed for April and March. Must be clean. Email: 1@baggies666.co.uk

PLAYPEN COT RED 3,500BAHT

give your baby comfort, and safe, sets of also come with - 3 fabric toys, Easy to set up and fold-and-carry function Rocking function let smoothly swings and safe. Tel: 076-344611, 083-392 6850. Email: jaa-1983@hotmail.com

IRON MACHINE

look for an iron machine for bed sheets. Tel: 085-789 5701 (English & Thai). Email: chanisara.guesthouse@gmail.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. Email: richard_melen@hotmail.com

Household Items

FURNITURE ON SALE

Showroom samples available at special Prices!

- Upholstery Sofa and Cushions - 19,000 baht
- Outdoor Poly Rattan Sofa with Cushions at 19,000 baht
- Lamps for floor, table and desk Prices from 1,000 baht
- Carpet sale - Rugs 2.7 X 1.5 m. starting from 14,000 baht

Please call 076-617101, 081-958 5949
Or Email to maple_winter@yahoo.com
so we can Email pictures.

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_____ (heading)

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

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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
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- 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

Campbell Kane (Thailand) Ltd.

Ultimate luxury villas developer in Phuket is seeking

Project Manager (Foreign Nationality)**Job qualifications**

University graduate, civil engineer qualify
At least 5 years experience at management level
Experience in construction field and property development

Main Job Tasks and Responsibilities

- Lead the planning and implementation of projects
- Facilitate the definition of project scope, goals and deliverables
- Define project tasks and resource requirements
- Develop full scale project plans
- Plan and schedule project timelines for contractors and designers to get works back on track
- Implement and manage project changes and interventions to achieve project outputs
- Project evaluations and assessment of results
- Manage Consultant contracts and payments
- Develop and maintain communication plan
- Manage and resolves issues that appear on the issues log
- Prepare monthly and weekly reports
- Client liaison

Contract Manager (Thai/Foreign nationality)

University graduate, preferable law and business degree holder
3 years experience in construction or property development business
Fluent written and spoken English and Thai

Main Job Tasks and Responsibilities

- Overview planning, directing and coordinating the construction project
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Email: career@lagunaphuket.com

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Female urgently needed for small restaurant. For more information contact. Tel: 076-286061, 082-270 6385 (English). Email: tkoschig2000@hotmail.com

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In this position is based in our Phuket office in Cherng Talay. The successful candidate will be actively selling our services to corporations 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.

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O Good knowledge in local accounting principles and tax exposure
O Proficiency in English communication and computer literate
O Be able to work under pressure and to meet deadlines efficiently

•Cost Controller

Requirements:
O Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy
O Prior experience in the hospitality industry is an advantage
O Proficiency in English communication and computer literate
O Be able to work under pressure and to meet deadlines efficiently

•Food & Beverage Attendant (Waiter/Waitress)

Requirements:
O Proficiency in English communication
O Good knowledge of Food & Beverage
O Customer-oriented with a service mind
O Prior experience in the hospitality industry is an advantage

•Boat Captain

Requirements:
O Prior experience in position with boat driving license type 1
O Good knowledge of position
O Maintains proficiency in ship handling
O Liable for all actions, errors and omissions aboard the vessel

•Sport & Activity Attendant

Requirements:
O High school diploma
O Experience in water sports activities
O Good command of English
O A strong work ethic and willingness independently

• Commis I or II

Requirements:
O Prior experience in position
O Proficiency in English communication
O Good knowledge of food & kitchen

•Laundry Supervisor

Requirements:
O Knowledge of cleaning procedure and chemical
O Able to deal with complaints in a claim and composed way
O Computer knowledge with basic Excel and Word

•Room Attendant / Room Attendant Supervisor

Requirements:
O Prior experience in housekeeping
O Prior experience in hospitality industry is an advantage
O Customer-oriented with a service mind

•Assistant Chief Engineer

Requirements:
O Bachelor's Degree in any related fields
O Good problem-solving, decision-making and leadership skills
O Proficiency in English communication and computer literate
O Prior experience in the hospitality industry is an advantage

•Operation Technician

Requirements:
O Prior experience in position
O Good knowledge in position
O Be able to work under pressure and to meet deadlines efficiently

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Wed and Sun 7 PM

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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

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Freelance, "Work Permitted" Photographer & Videographer/Video editor for hire. Native English speaking. Photography services: Weddings, honeymoons, events, portraits, fashion, property. Videography services: Business advertising, Weddings, and events. Company registered under Phuket Video Media Marketing Co, Ltd. Tel: 084-588 0420. Email: pvm.marketing@gmail.com Please see our website: www.dbacphotography.com

GM CURTAIN



Sells curtains, upholstery, and accessories domestically and internationally. We offer design and an outdoor service installation in all provinces around the country. We also give advice on the selection of material, equipment and all types of installation work by a well-experienced and capable team. Curtains, sofa clothes, roller blinds, wallpapers, accessories. Address: 128/124 Topland (Radsada) Prachautid Rd., Muang Phuket.
Tel: 076-610072, 081-891 8148.

Club Membership Available

GOLF MEMBERSHIP
Phuket Country Club. Lifetime golf membership for sale. 580,000 baht, includes transfer. Tel: 087-887 9506.

GOLF MEMBERSHIP FOR SALE

Laguna Golf Membership for sale. 13 years remaining on the membership. Sale price: 350,000 baht (just 2,200 baht per month!). Transfer fee 50% each for buyer and seller. Tel: 076-322095, 081-897 4180 (English). Email: khungay@me.com

LAGUNA GOLF MEMBERSHIP

Family membership, expires January 2023. A bargain at 300,000 baht. Tel: 081-396 4545 (English). Email: sally.eisen@gmail.com

BLUE CANYON MEMBERSHIP

Blue Canyon family membership for sale. 800,000 baht plus transfer fee. Tel: 081-685 9754. Email: bernardwmoran@gmail.com

Computers

ENGLISH COMPUTERMAN SHOP
Sales, service, repairs, upgrades & accessories. Tel: 076-384259, 084-625 7744 (English). Fax: 076-384385. Email: computermanphuket@gmail.com

HAND LAWN MOWER
New 1,500 baht. PC desktop Intel Core 2 duo. 18GHz HD. 160Gb Ram 1Gb 2,500 baht. Tel: 089-872 6164.

Dive Gear

BCD SEAC SUB PRO 3000

Like new BCD, less than 100 dives. Size XL, buoyancy 36. I paid 30,000 baht now only 9,900. Tel: 082-818 1021 (English). Email: pkotkatniemi@yahoo.com

Miscellaneous For Sale

3,000 DVDS
In French, but with multi-language options. Tel: 085-790 3391.

TALL CARVED WOOD STATUE

Standing naked lady. Offers around 5,000 baht. Tel: 081-396 4545. Email: sally.eisen@gmail.com

Personal Services

ENGLISH-THAI LAW & INSURANCE

Health, Travel and property Insurance. Visas. Tel: 076-384385, 084-963 9223 (English). Fax: 076-384385. Email: eburneday@gmail.com

TATTOO REMOVAL

We remove your tattoos. Tel: 083-362 4144, 080-718 1686 www.tattoo-remove.info

Personals

SINGLE EUROPEAN
seeks a pretty working lady who likes nature, animals, gardening and a cozy life at home. Email: tommy.naxby@gmail.com

Saloon Cars

MITSUBISHI LANCER GT BLACK

2 years old, with black leather, custom alloys, 23,500km. One owner from new. Reduced for quick sale: 720,000 baht. Tel: 084-839 3922. Email: info@protechdivers.com

CAMRY 30,000KM

2010 Toyota Camry Extremo, one Thai lady owner. Black on black. 30,000km, perfect condition, Patong, Phuket. 1,050,000 baht. Tel: 084-779 7591 (English), 086-217 0040 (Thai). Email: toddteal@mail.com

COROLLA AUTO 75,000 BAHT

Automatic and power steering, cool aircon, white. In good condition, runs well. Tel: 084-184 1856.

TOYOTA CAMRY 2.0G

Black, Aug 2007, 50,000km, good condition, new Michelin tyres, maintenance by Toyota service. Price: 835,000 baht. Tel: 076-288083, 081-415 4645 (English). Email: mectron.asia@jinet.com

PROTON NEO FOR SALE

2010, manual gears, Alpine DVD with GPS. 27,000km, like new. 420,000 baht. Tel: 089-971 5664.

NISSAN TEANA

First registered, April 2010. As-new, top model, travelled 20,000km, V6, 2,500cc. Price: 1.3 million baht. Tel: 087-276 0529.

GOOD AND CHEAP CAR: 59,000 BAHT

Hyundai Excel, 1994, fully serviced, many new parts. Tel: 085-472 9792 (English). Email: chrys077@hotmail.com

2010 HONDA ACCORD



2.4 I-VTEC EL Navigator (Brilliant white pearl color). Top model with black leather interior. Only 27,000km. Contact K. Fah for price. Tel: 085-684 6888.

MITSUBISHI LANCER GT BLACK

2 years old, black with black leather, custom alloys, full service history, 22,000km, one owner from new. 790,000 baht. Tel: 084-839 3922. Email: info@protechdivers.com

MERCEDES 190E LORINSER

1992, 5 gears, LPG, 17-inch wheels, CD, dark blue, new tax/insurance. 199,000 baht. Tel: 086-948 8139. Email: jefdejong@hotmail.com

OPEL VECTRA 2.0 16V

Good condition. Asking 250,000 baht. Fully maintained. Tel: 080-060 1990. Email: tdsamui@gmail.com

HONDA CITY 1.5 FOR SALE

Powerful and efficient, i-DSI engine, multifunction steering, automatic transmission. Bought new in October 06, golden blond color with beige interior, solar film, CD/MP3 player, low fuel consumption and in very good condition. Accident-free with one owner and low mileage - 65,000km. Full yearly service by Honda garage on Chao Fa. Price: 365,000 baht including 1 year premium insurance. Tel: +65-96-808337 (English & Thai), 082-633 7909 (Thai). Email: piyanatmccourt@hotmail.com

4 x 4s

CHEVROLET COLORADO 4 DOOR

Great car, 3-litre turbo diesel engine, automatic transmission, electric windows, central locking, airconditioning in the rear cab. Only 390,000 baht. Tel: 076-330598, 081-894 8588 (English), 089-973 6005 (English & Thai). Email: info@diveasia.com

HONDA CRV 2005 FOR SALE



Excellent condition. Silver, I-VTEC EL model, auto, 2.4L, cream leather interior, ABS, aircon & full electronics. Only 1 lady owner, 77,000kms. Full Honda service history. Insurance & registered until Apr 2012. Asking price 695,000 baht. Tel: 076-304617, 081-787 5723. Email: kyliebrajak@gmail.com

2003 TOYOTA SPORT RIDER



Limited ECTI D4D, auto diesel, leather. 123,680km. Sound system, TV. Price: 650,000 baht. Tel: 085-471 5043.

1992 TOYOTA HILUX

4 doors, turbo diesel, aircon, automatic, very clean and powerful. 192,000 baht. Tel: 086-949 0826. Email: mickbeck@free.fr

Motorbikes

2008 YAMAHA MAJESTY



Only 23,000km. Green book, excellent condition. Must sell. 260,000 baht. Tel: 087-893 1753.

HONDA STEED 400CC



All new: front shocks, cables and electrical, headlight 4 LEDs, green book. 365,000 baht. Email: marco.free33@gmail.com

KAWASAKI BOSS 175 CHOPPER

in good condition. 26,000km, 8 years old. 29,500 baht. Tel: 082-498 0872 (Thai). Email: shetz66@hotmail.com

1994 SUPER TENERE 750



Price: 120,000 baht. Green book. Tel: 087-895 0765.

VERY FAST YAMAHA R1

Yamaha R1 model 2008; Blue; bought new in 2009 from Yamaha BKK; Akrapovic full racing system; Power Commander. Tel: 082-270 6257 (English). Email: mz8008@gmail.com Website: http://web.me.com/maurits2000/R1

Rentals

NEW CARS FOR RENT

New Honda City/Honda Jazz. 6,000 baht per week. Monthly rate available. Includes first-class insurance and delivery service. Contact owner. Tel: 081-343 0777.

NEW FORD FIESTA

for rent. 20,000 baht per month. First-class insurance. Very nice car. Tel: 083-394 6617. Email: geta909@gmail.com

HONDA JAZZ FOR RENT

Dark blue, first-class insurance. Free delivery service. Tel: 088-819 7028.

MOTORBIKE FOR RENT 2,000 BAHT/MONTH

Honda Dream and Honda Wave, good condition. Rent for more than 3 months. Tel: 087-282 3724 (English). Email: tachibana-hiroki@hotmail.co.jp

NEW HONDA CLICK FOR RENT

You drive-we service, collect and deliver. 3,000 baht monthly on a long-term basis. Deposit waived for teaching staff. For excellent service, contact Jeab. Tel: 082-573 4826. Email: william.thow@gmail.com

1,000 BAHT/WEEK



or 3,000-5,000 baht/ month. Cheap price, motorbikes for rent or sale at Rawai Beach. 1-2 year financing plans. 10,000 baht down payment. Nouvo, Fiore, Click, Scoopy, Fino, Suzuki. Includes insurance. Tel: 080-328 9986. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com Website: www.thaidreamvilla.com

JAZZ, VIOS, VAN BEST PRICE



For rent. Short-or-long-term rent. Includes insurance. Delivery service. Tel: 081-538 8567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com Website: www.phuketcarsrent.com

NEW CITY & MARCH FOR RENT



Short or long term with insurance and delivery service. Tel: 086-690 0626, 087-417 8566. Email: bcarrent@hotmail.com

5,000 BAHT/WEEK



Or 17,000 baht/month. New cars for rent at Rawai Beach. Proton, Yaris, Aveo, Kia, with insurance and delivery. Tel: 080-328 9986. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com Website: www.thaidreamvilla.com

Others

ISUZU 6-WHEEL TRUCK

for sale. Low mileage Isuzu 6-wheel truck with 2.5 ton crane. In excellent condition, serviced by main dealer. 650,000 baht o.n.o. Please contact John. Tel: 088-441 3583 (English). Send email: antc@phuket.ksc.co.th



Wheels & Motors

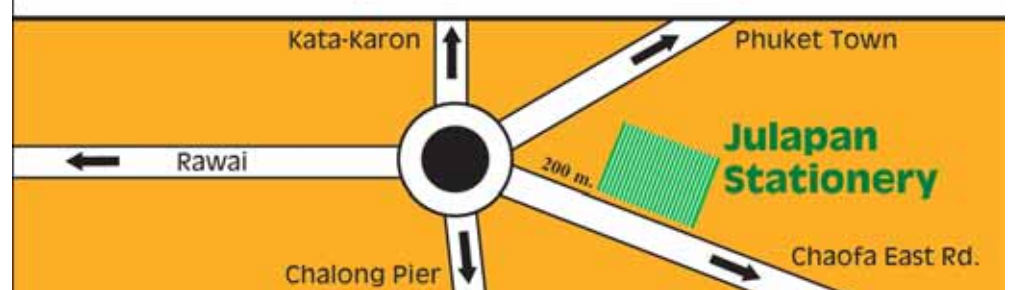
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International Marine Brokerage

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- CAT C-12 715hp
- CAT genset 17kW
- 3 electronic control stations
- 5 blade props
- Raymarine E-120 x 2
- Raymarine radar and instrumentation
- Outback Inverter charger
- Gemini tender
- Dinghy crane on foredeck
- Watermaker
- Bow & ster

► Privilege 585 (2004)
799,000 Euro

► Bluewater 41 (1978)
\$99,000 USD

► Sessa C54 (2010)
850,000 Euro

► Grand Banks 49 (1990)
395,000 Euro

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■ **Dealership Office**
The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
Contact: Martin Holmes
Tel: 076 238 803
Fax: 076 273 319
Email: info@leemarine.com

■ **Brokerage Office**
The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
Contact: Andrew de Bruin / Marcus Overman
Mobile: 081 894 1530 / 081 968 1437
Tel/Fax: 076 239 729
Email: andrew@leemarine.com

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

■ **Pattaya Office**
Ocean Marina Jomtien Beach
Contact: Mark Heath
Mobile: 081 787 9408
Tel: 038 235 061 Fax: 038 235 062
Email: mark@leemarine.com

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Marine

SEA RAY 310 DA
MOTIVATED SELLER! MAKE AN OFFER



Year: 2007/2008
This is an ideal family cruiser for those long relaxing weekends away.

- Social cockpit design
- Full cooking facility
- Two comfortable double beds
- Dry stored on an AirBerth (included in this deal)
- Full air con and an uninterrupted 220V power supply from a 4 kw generator

Length: 10.16 m / 33.40 ft
Location: Thailand

The price has just been slashed to encourage a quick sale.
Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity.

PRICE: USD 160,000

For more information, please contact: **Sergio Loiacono**
Mobile: +66 (0) 86 277 3360 E-mail: Sergio.l@simpsonmarine.com
www.simpsonmarine.com
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LIVE ABOARD-WORLD CRUISING-OR JUST GO FISHING-A MOST SPACIOUS YACHT
NOW MOORED AT ROYAL PHUKET MARINA + ITS OWN PRIVATE MOORING AT AO YON BEACH

LARGE MASTER CABIN + 2 QUEEN GUEST CABINS + CREW QUARTERS
MAIN DECK-INSIDE & OUTSIDE DINING, LARGE SALON, GALLEY, PANTRY & CLOAKROOM
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TWIN 350 HP CATERPILLARS-2 GENERATORS-BOW THRUSTER-NAIAD STABILIZERS-RADAR
WATERMAKE-AIRCON-SURROUND SOUND

+ ALL THE OTHER BITS YOU NEED FOR SUCH A FINE MOTOR YACHT

BARGAIN 850,000 EUROS.
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RXT X 255 JET-SKI



Seadoo rxt x 255 jet-ski for sale. One of the most powerful jet-skis ever built. 255Hp. 50 hours only. Selling for 360,000 baht, including trailer. Tel: 085-917 7155. Email: poloyaux@gmail.com

FISHING BOAT FOR SALE



15.8m, 165Hp Hino engine, 12+2 persons reg. Price: 1.6 million baht (neg). Tel: 086-944 5238 (Thai), 085-477 9535 (English).
Email: Pkthai1@gmail.com

BAVARIA 38 2010
As new. All furling sails. Offers on 122,500 euros. Website: www.boatshedphuket.com

NEW RIB FOR SALE
5.6m RIB, new galvanized trailer, new hypalon tubes, with ski tow bar. Never used, 550,000 baht. Tel: 080-595 4247 (English). Email: brad_urq@hotmail.com

DIVE-DINER CRUISE BOAT
Diving-Diner cruise. 24m steel boat, 2x350Hp cummins, 2 genset 50 & 16 KVA. Ready to operate. Price 6.2 million baht neg. Tel: 084017 4175 (English). Email: phil@alphasuper yachts.com

KING'S CUP 3-10.12.

BIG-A Swan 55 is sailing the King's Cup and offering a 7-10 day package. Bungalow with 1 ABF for all the races, lunch, water, transfer, Euro 100 per person per day. Can sleep 2. One person for free. Tel: 076-383080, 086-940 1860, Fax: 076-381934. Email: bigasail@samart.co.th Website at: www.bigasailing.com

Boat Wanted

LOOKING FOR BOAT IN PHUKET
Going to Bali. Compensation in money or one week free in villa in Bali. Tel: 081-079 1347.

29 ft brand new Speed Boat for sale

Year: 2009 Length: 9 m/29ft Location: Phuket Boat Lagoon
PRICE: 2 MILLION BAHT

Boat Specification:

- Fiberglass hull
- Teak wood interior and deck
- 1 Yamaha 250 HP 4 str. 85 h
- Electric toilet and sink
- Shower on swim platform
- Electric fridge

Please Contact Mobile: +66 (0) 87 818 2098

BOATSHEDPHUKET.COM
International yacht brokers buying or selling. We can help. Contact Alan Giles. Website: www.boatshedphuket.com

REGAL 2665 2006
Well maintained. LOA: 29' 2". Volvo 320Hp. 38 knots. 2 million baht. Website: www.boatshedphuket.com

SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES

Crossword puzzle:

COFFEE
break

1	S	2	O	3	U	4	T	5	H	6	C	7	N	8	B	9	C	10	T	11	S	12	E																																									
13	A	P	L	E	A	14	H	A	L	O	15	A	R	A	L	16	N	I	N	N	Y	17	A	T	O	N	18	G	U	L	F																																	
19	D	U	A	D	20	A	S	O	C	I	21	A	L	22	M	E	R	E	S	23	T	24	C	R	E	A	S	E	25	26	27																																	
28	29	I	N	T	E	R	S	30	31	R	A	B	I	D	32	T	I	L	D	E	33	34	E	T	H	35	M	E	N	D	36	37	E	S	S	38	O	R	D	E	R	E	D	39	40	41	E	C	O															
42	S	A	A	B	43	44	S	Y	D	45	I	R	A	T	E	46	47	T	R	A	I	T	48	49	E	Y	E	F	U	L	50	51	E	S	C	A	R	P	52	53	D	E	M	I	S	E	54	55	56	S	A	U	N	T	E	R	57	58	59	E	T	N	A	60
61	R	A	K	E	62	63	64	R	O	A	R	65	K	N	E	E	S	66	U	S	E	D	67	G	U	L	L	68	L	E	E	R	S	69	E	K	G	70	E	N	C	E	71	M	E	L	O	N																

Impossibly Possible Quiz answers:

1. MOSCOW On The Hudson
2. SOPHIA
3. BRUSSELS Sprout
4. Dion DUBLIN
5. Irving BERLIN
6. PARIS
7. Treaty of ROME
8. New AMSTERDAM
9. ATHENA
10. Chicken KIEV

NEPTUNIAN 33 1972
Pretty center cockpit ketch. 1,699,950 baht. Website: www.boatshedphuket.com

BOAT FOR SALE
Almost completed. Fiberglass 36-ft power catamaran. Perfect dive or tour vessel. Email: Pkthai1@gmail.com

Aircraft For Sale

1999 ROBIN 2160i

I would like to sell my Robin aircraft or trade it for a 4-seat Cessna or Piper (based in Hua Hin). The Robin: TTA 300hrs. SMOH 60hrs. This is a well-equipped, two-seat aerobatic aircraft. Has the Christen inverted oil system. Excellent inside and outside. King KMA24 audio panel, KX155 nav/com, KI203 vor, KY197A comm, KN64A dme, KR87 adf, KT76A transponder, CSPA400 i-com, FP5 fuel computer, CHT, OAT, Pitot heat. Price: 4 million baht. Please contact Thomas. Email: thos_w@hotmail.com

EUROFOX 'HS-FOX'



COM Becker; Transponder C Becker; GPS Moving Map; Intercom 2 seats; Electric Attitude Indicator; Electric Heading Indicator. Engine: Rotax 912S, 80 hrs. Airframe: 80 hrs. Exterior: new aircraft; Interior: new aircraft. For sale at 1.9 million baht. Email: fly@nokaviation.com

1995 PIPER MALIBU JETPROP DLX

S/N: 4636005. HS-RGR. SNEW Airframe 1,410hrs. Engine 501hrs. Engine trend monitoring, Garmin MX20 moving map, 6 seats. Price: 35 million baht. Contact Dana Whorton, Minor Corporation Public Company Limited. Tel: 081-937 1443. Please contact for more information at email: dana_wt@minornet.com

CESSNA 172P

With full IFR for 3 million baht. Everything on the aircraft is new, including Garmin Aera 500. Interior and exterior was redone in 2010. The engine has 700hours with TBO at 2,000. Dual nav/dual com, EGT, transponder, etc. Registration: HS-SEX. Cost: 2.8 million baht. Location: Best Ocean Airpark (near Bangkok). Email sonny@salientgroup.net.

ZENAIR CH701 FOR SALE

Zenair with loaded cockpit, including Dynon Flight Instrument system. Beautiful STOL aircraft. 100 horsepower. Beautiful flying machine. Cruise about 70 kts. Stall about 25 kts. Take off distance about 50 meters. All metal. Looking for a share partner (however, new regulations on 5-year permit in Thailand make this difficult). Call Suchard. Tel: 081-810 4510. www.phuketflying.com

HAVE A PASSION FOR AVIATION?

If you have an aircraft for sale or an interest in aviation and wish to learn how to fly or buy an aircraft or arrange a private flight, etc, please contact Pat. Email: pat@aeropromgr.com For further details, please see our newsletter at www.aeropromgr.com/newsletter

CESSNA 177RG



Good cross-country plane (cruising speed 135 knots). Registration: HS ASP. Aircraft serial number: 1263. Manufactured 1977. Blue seal overhauled engine, November 2006 (80hrs). Overhauled propeller (80 hrs). Airframe: 2,780 hrs. Reason of sale: Formerly a 1/3rd partner who does not fly anymore. However, now the law has changed.... Price: 925,000 baht. Tel: 081-843 4026. For more details send email to: beric@chanon.co.th

BEECHCRAFT MUSKETEER 19A



Bright yellow 4-person airplane. Airframe S/N: MB291. Airframe time since new: 11,254hrs. Engine: Lycoming O-320-E2C (150HP). Engine S/N: L-18667-27A. Engine time since new: 8,551hrs. Engine time since overhaul: 974hrs. Prop: Sensenich 74 DM6-0-58. Prop time since overhaul: 676hrs. Price: 1.5 million baht. Tel: 085-048 5555. Email rujai69@hotmail.com

TRIKE - FLASH 1

Weight-shift Ultralight with Rotax 447. 150 hours. 10 years old. Flying in the past 6 months. Hangered at Eastern Airpark in Pattaya. Price: 200,000 baht. Contact: Alistair for more information at email: ads@trawet.net

1976 CESSNA 150M



S/N: 15079362. REGISTRATION: HS-TCS.

CONTINENTAL ENGINE O200A WITH 750 HRS SMOH (JULY 2008). PROP: MCCAULEY 1A102/OCM6948.

A WELL EQUIPPED AIRCRAFT. EXCELLENT INTERIOR AND NEW PAINT.

AVIONICS:

KX 155 NAVCOM
KN 62A DME
ARC R546E ADF
ATC NARCO AT 150 TRANSPONDER MODE C

ELT DM 8.1

PRICE: 1.4 MILLION BAHT (US\$45,000)

LOCATION: BANGKOK



Email: thos_w@hotmail.com

Rockwell Commander 114 HS-AWS



Built: 1976

Registration: HS-AWS
(in Thailand for the last 6 years)
Previous Registrations:
N4798W - USA
N479GE - USA
IECCE - Italy
G-BVNL - UK



Lycoming IO-540-T4B5D (1,300 hours, 700 hours to TBO). Prop: B3D32C419/B2NHA-5. Overhauled Feb 2011 (7 years to TBO). C of A Due 11th November 2011. New 5-year Permit. 100 hour check completed 19 Feb 2011.

Specs:

Horsepower: 260
Top Speed: 166 kts
Cruise Speed: 157 kts
Stall Speed (dirty): 55 kts
Rate Of Climb: 1088 fpm
Ceiling: 17,400 ft

Gross Weight: 3140 lbs
Empty Weight: 2094 lbs
Fuel Capacity: 68.00 gal Usable
Range: 700 nm
Fuel Av Gas 100LL
1 crew plus 3 passengers

Radio and Navigation Configuration: Fully IFR equipped. 2 Garmin GNS430 VHF/COMM/NAV/GPS/TERRAIN. Garmin GI-106A VOR/LOC/GS/GPS CDI. King KN64 DME. Garmin GTX 320/327 Transponder with Mode C via Ameri-King AK350-30 Height Encoder. Garmin GMA 340 Audio Panel. Bendix King KR-87 ADF. Sandel SN 3308 EHSI. Century II B Autopilot Dual Axis and S-Tec Altitude Hold. WX-500 Stormscope.

Price: 3.75 million baht. Located at Thai Flying Club, Bang Phra.

Contact Tony Scragg at 081-906 3250, or email tony_scragg@hotmail.com



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Mobile: 081-810 4510



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simultaneously - and FREE - in the Gazette Online!

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Sport

Speed suicide shocks UK football

THE world of football was thrown into shock on Monday following the news of Gary Speed's death.

The Welsh national team manager was found hanged in his home in an apparent suicide, according to police.

Tributes for Speed have flooded football websites, eulogizing him as an insightful and intelligent gentleman of the game.

Indeed, the online book of condolence set-up by the Football Association of Wales's

crashed due to the weight of traffic.

All of his past clubs have been in discussions with the Premier League organizers in order to arrange a memorial in honor of Speed.

Everton, who he supported as a boy and with whom he served as a player from 1996-98, have invited former teammates to attend their match against Stoke this weekend.

Gary Speed's family, through a statement read out by his friend and agent

Hayden Evans, said: "We would sincerely like to thank all the people that have sent messages of condolence and tributes in what is a very difficult time. We have been overwhelmed by the support and it really has helped."

While questions have already been raised over the nature of Speed's death, most of the initial reaction has concentrated on celebrating his life and what he gave to football, both as a player and a manager.



Gary Speed, Welsh National team manager on the sidelines. Photo: John Candy



Kimi Raikkonen. Photo: biso

Kimi back on track

AFTER signing a two year deal with Renault, former F1 champion Kimi Raikkonen will be back on the starting grid March next year.

"My hunger for F1 has recently become overwhelming," said Raikkonen. "It was an easy choice to return with Lotus Renault GP." Raikkonen also added that he felt his time in the World Rally Championships had been very useful, improving his overall capabilities.

Prior to the announcement of Raikkonen's return to F1, confusion surrounded the status of current Renault driver, Robert Kubica, who stated that due to an accident – coincidentally while rallying – he would not be returning to the team for the 2012 F1 GP season.

However, Kubica's manager Daniele Morelli, said he had not given up hope of racing in the 2012

season, and would only miss testing in February. Kubica later conceded he would not be fit and had informed Renault accordingly.

Renault chairman Gerard Lopez said "Kimi's decision to come back to Formula 1 with us is the first step of several announcements which should turn us into an even more serious contender in the future."

Mr Lopez went on to add "we are all looking forward to working with a world champion."



Raikkonen got a personal best fifth-place finish in the WRC. Photo: roquai

Punting on Ponting

RICKY "Punter" Ponting, former captain of the Australian Cricket team has welcomed changes designed to get the Aussies back to the number one spot.

"It's terrific, it's the way the game should have gone a long, long time ago. We've got quality people in and around the team, and already we're starting to see just a slightly different feel and a few different results ... Australian cricket is definitely on the right track."

Ponting's future as a first class test player is a bone of contention. Despite this speculation, Michael Clarke continues to demand his inclusion in the Australian team, especially after his 62 match winning innings against the Proteas.

"I've made it clear that Ricky Ponting has been a large part of the last bit of success we've had



Ricky "Punter" Ponting at the SCG. Photo: privatemusings

in Sri Lanka and here [South Africa], and I'd love to see that continue," Clarke said.

As the highest test run scorer for Australia of all time, and over 26,000 international runs to his name, no-one could say that "little Ricky" is not worth a punt.

PREMIER LEAGUE TABLE			
SUNDAY, 27 NOVEMBER 2011 17:54 UK			
TEAM	P	GD	PTS
Man City	13	31	35
Man Utd	13	17	30
Tottenham	13	10	28
Newcastle	13	7	26
Chelsea	13	11	25
Liverpool	13	5	23
Arsenal	13	3	23
Aston Villa	13	-1	16
Everton	13	-1	16
Norwich	13	-2	16
QPR	13	-10	15
Stoke	13	-10	15
Swansea	13	-4	14
West Brom	13	-8	14
Fulham	13	-1	12
Sunderland	13	0	11
Wolves	13	-10	11
Bolton	13	-12	9
Wigan	13	-12	9

Magpies flying high, but Chelsea's got the blues

PREMIERSHIP action for the weekend ahead looks to be a dull affair, with the notable exception of Newcastle at home to Chelsea.

Chelsea, coming off the back of a 2 - 0 home defeat in the Carling Cup at the hands of Liverpool are in desperate need of a win.

The pressure is mounting on their Portuguese manager, André Villas-Boas who looked completely deflated post-match when compared to Kenny Dalglish, who was in a jubilant mood after a third win in a row against the Blues.

Chelsea's season is on the verge of disintegration, making

their tie with Valencia in the Champions League next Tuesday even more critical.

Should they falter, Villas-Boas' tenure as manager may come to an abrupt end.

That said, many pundits have observed that the Chelsea squad is in need of a major overhaul which may give him a stay of execution even if the results go against his side.

Villas-Boas insisted that he has the backing of owner, Roman Abramovich, despite this latest loss.

Newcastle's season, on the other hand, is going well, drawing at Old Trafford recently. A

match which manager, Alan Pardew described as "Geordie heroics".

The result sees them currently in fourth spot, although they are nine points adrift of leaders, Manchester City.

Pardew has revitalized the Magpies with his methodical approaches on the training pitch. By paying particular attention to his defensive unit, it is his belief that by covering opposing players and defender positioning, rather than the "gung-ho" attitudes of the past Newcastle teams, these tactics will bear the fruit of European football next season.



Villas-Boas, Chelsea manager, but for how long? Photo: privatemusings

PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES	
Saturday, 3 December 2011	19:45
Newcastle vs Chelsea	
Saturday, 3 December 2011	22:00
Blackburn vs Swansea	
Man City vs Norwich	
QPR vs West Brom	
Tottenham vs Bolton	
Wigan vs Arsenal	
Sunday, 4 December 2011	00:30
Aston Villa vs Man Utd	
Sunday, 4 December 2011	22:00
Everton vs Stoke	
Sunday, 4 December 2011	23:00
Wolverhampton vs Sunderland	
Tuesday, 6 December 2011	03:00
Fulham vs Liverpool	

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Tri Tim: Mission accomplished

By Neil Quail

AT AROUND noon last Sunday, Tim Haddon with his son Thomas, crossed the Laguna Phuket Triathlon finish line and was engulfed by a rapturous and emotional welcome from dedicated Tri Tim supporters.

Witnessing the scene, one couldn't help but feel a sense of pride. For here is a father and a husband who has suffered two heart attacks, lives with type II diabetes and has achieved a goal that many thought impossible.

The goal that Tim and Darren Hancock, general manager of Royal Phuket Marina gym, set wasn't just to finish the LPT, but to drastically improve one life in the hope that others may be inspired to change their lives, no matter how negative their situation seems.

Speaking to the *Gazette* on Monday at RPM's Les Angers restaurant, both Tim and Darren were understandably elated, but even with the success of their journey so far there was an air of "this isn't finished – this is just the start".

"I really can't believe the race is over. I have done what I had set out to do. It was the best weekend of my life," said Tim.

"However, it wasn't just about the race. Finishing the LPT was a vindication of the time and effort invested in the lead up to it. It was all these hours of training that have improved my health and now constitute a lifestyle change. Importantly, that change has become sustainable which was always the focus" added Tim.

Darren explained that the process of extracting Tim from his sedentary lifestyle was difficult, but once he understood how and why diet and exercise pieced together, a dedicated student appeared.

"He really didn't comprehend why he was training. At the start, he would put in the hours hoping for results to come out of nowhere.

I knew he had to be educated about exercise and life," said Darren.

Tim agreed that he didn't know what he was doing at the start, but now admits he can be heard discussing diets and training techniques – even offering exercise advice to people.

There were those that didn't believe Tim could finish a triathlon nor understood why he chose to put himself under such pressure both physically and mentally by publicizing his progress.

Darren explained that these pressures also played on his mind at the beginning.

"It wasn't that I knew Tim could do it – he needed to do it, and that became part of his self-drive. He needed to change his life before his life stopped," said Darren.

"I spoke to Debbie Dionysius before we began the Tri Tim project I was concerned that the whole of Phuket following his training may have had an adverse effect," said Darren.

Tim was quick to interject at this point with his reasoning as to why having his preparations made public knowledge helped in a way.

"Fear is a wonderful motivator. Fear of failing got me up in the morning and drove me to keep my training schedule. Knowing I had people supporting me was fantastic, but that fear of those that doubted I could succeed being proved right was also a powerful incentive," Tim said.

Thousands have participated in the LPT over its 18 year history and many don't get to enjoy the scenic aspect of the course. But Tim's race was different. After all the hours of training and as the big day was beckoned, Tim's mind set was to enjoy the experience.

"I had no idea where I'd be in terms of my preparation, but on the eve of the race I thought to myself, 'it doesn't get better than

this' and I wanted to get out on the start line," Tim remembers.

"The swim course was fine, despite looking up a few times and feeling the markers weren't getting closer. I loved the bike course. I didn't stop once and was talking to people during the ride," Tim said through a big grin.

The strategy and timing was perfect. Darren indicated the last rest phase and from there Tim jogged home joined by his son for the last stretch while Darren peeled off to let his charge enjoy the celebrations.

"Watching Tim cross the line with his son was an amazing feeling," Darren said.

Tim completed the LPT in just over five and a half hours, but he is certain that can be improved.

"I could have gone harder, but there was no point in murdering myself. I just enjoyed the encouragement people shouted out to me. I finished second last in my age group so you can be as bad as I am, but cross the finish line and celebrate. It's a fantastic community. Who wouldn't want to be involved in that everyday," enthused Tim.

So what's next for Tri Tim and Darren Hancock? Tim suggested that come February, Darren will be out trawling for his next victim for change by triathlon.

For Tim, the triathlon bug has well and truly got hold.

"I really want to get out there again soon. If I could join a team and do the swim course for the Ironman 70.3 (December 4), I'd get on that ferry and do it all again. I really want to be part of the Ironman event," said Tim.

Tim's life has completely changed for the good and he can call himself a triathlete. He may not be where he dreams of being now that his aspirations have grown, but he never dreamed of being where he is today.

Final words from Triathlete Tim. "I'll tell you right here that next year I'm going to break the five hour mark – and you can quote me on that."



TRIATHLETE TIM: Laguna's director of golf, Tim Haddon salutes supporters during his LPT bike ride.

Village lounge in Lizard defeat



PACEY: Neil Culpan fires another quick delivery.

THE Island Furniture League's third match of the season saw The Village and a rejuvenated Liquid Lounge Lizards (LLL) side battle for honors at the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG) last Sunday.

Losing the toss was an ominous start for LLL and after being put into bat they soon stared to lose wickets.

The Village bowling attack of Mark Whetton and Justin White combined for the early dismissals of Dave Langley (2), Steven Hill (1) and Alf Hodges (5) which offered a dismal LLL scoresheet of 3 wickets down for just 27 runs.

LLL Captain, Ian Lenton and Neil Thacker breathed life back into the middle order and put on a 48 run partnership.

Lenton (21) was caught and bowled by Martin Foster which heralded another brief collapse when Tom Gordon bowled Thacker (20) and then Chris Green for a duck. At 6 for 78 runs, LLL were in danger of being all out before 20 overs had been bowled.

An impressive 39 Neil Culpan ensured LLL reached 30 overs and a helping 15 from Turnbull, but they both fell to Gordon's bowling and the innings ended with LLL scoring 152 off 30.3 overs. Tom Gordon's 4 wickets for 20 runs was the highlight of the Village's bowling figures with Martin Fos-

ter taking 2 for 21 runs and Mark Whetton taking 2 for 39 runs.

The Village innings began sharply with Kevin Quilty (42) and Martin Platts (5) who put on an opening stand of 40 runs before Platts was caught at first slip.

Former Singapore Cricket Club player, Justin White came to the crease, and with Quilty they put on a match winning 72 run partnership off just 56 balls.

Quilty's hour-long efforts eventually came to an end with the score on 112, bowled by Culpan.

Martin Foster (20 not out) supported White for the final run chase into the 23rd over for a commanding 8 wicket victory.

Culpan and Johnson each took a wicket for 20 and 25 runs respectively.

Man of the match was Justin White with Culpan second and Gordon taking third.

The ACG hosts the Delhi Viceroy's (an expat team from India) on December 2 who will take on a Phuket select team in two T20 games.

On Saturday, the touring side play Phuket in a 40 over match.

The Island Furniture League will resume on Sunday with the Island Cricket Club taking on defending champions Patong. Matches are scheduled for a 9am start.

– Neil Quail



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Legends reign at LPT



PRO MEN: (from left) Alberto Cassadei, Massimo Cigana and Romain Guillaume. Photo Christian Mouchet

By Neil Quail

ITALIAN Massimo Cigana successfully defended his 2010 Laguna Phuket Triathlon (LPT) title on Sunday making him the first man to win three times at the "Race of Legends".

A native of Venice, Cigana sauntered across the finish line in a time of 02:32:51 which was 2 minutes and 35 seconds faster than his 2010 winning time, but 1 minute and 5 seconds slower than his winning time in 2007.

Coming out of the water in 11th place and nearly three and half minutes behind the leaders, Cigana showed his strength in the saddle and ripped past the field to start his run over

six minutes ahead of the chasing athletes.

The gap on Cigana was closed by only two minutes by the time he crossed the line after the 12km run for his history making third title.

Speaking to the *Phuket Gazette*, a very composed Cigana expressed satisfaction with his race.

"My bike split time (01:18:46) was good and that's where I needed to make the difference. My ankle injury didn't flare up on the run, so I'm very happy to have won my third title," he said.

Alberto Cassadei was in first place after the 1.8km swim which he completed in 24 minutes and 21 seconds. However, he dropped into second after Cigana powered



PRO WOMEN: (from left) Belinda Granger, Radka Vodickova and Katja Rabe. Photo: Christian Mouchet

past him on the bike course and held the runners-up place finishing four minutes behind his compatriot in a time of 02:36:56.

Romain Guillaume from France pushed Cassadei all the way to the line, but couldn't close the gap, taking third in all three disciplines and third overall 12 seconds behind the Italian in a time of 02:37:0.

Radka Vodickova of the Czech Republic would win her second title in a time of 02:54:18 ahead of Belinda Granger of Australia who finished in third with a time of 02:59:17.

Granger also hoped to achieve another victory to become a three-time champion having won in 2010 and 2008. Vodickova,

the 2009 LPT champion and a member of her Czech Olympic team, found Granger keeping pace during the swim early stages of the bike course before pulling away to finish three minutes ahead at the finish.

Amateur Cindi Bannick of the USA had a race to remember, snatching fourth place and top amateur position in the women's field with a time of 3:00:15 - just one second ahead of Italian professional Edith Niederfriniger.

Jaray Jearani of Phuket, the first Thai to compete at both the Ironman 70.3 and Ironman World Championships, finished 28th in a time of 2:59:38. Nampetch Porntharukchairoen was the first Thai female to finish in a time of 3:57:37.

Phuket's Ironman 70.3 brings in the champs

CURRENT Ironman 70.3 World Champion Melissa Rollison will participate in the Ironman 70.3 Asia-Pacific Championship at Laguna Phuket on December 4 - in addition to a stellar line-up of elite professional triathletes heading to the island.

Rollison, of Australia, completed her first Ironman 70.3-distance race in September 2010 and in just 12 months, has gone on to claim three 70.3 series titles, as well as the prestigious World Championship trophy.

A former steeplechase runner, Rollison took up cycling to maintain her fitness during bouts of running-related injuries. This inevitably led to her first triathlon.

Rollison finished third in last year's inaugural Asia-Pacific

Championship race, but her World Championship title-win in September in Las Vegas proves she is a force to be reckoned with.

She is set to face off against reigning champion Caroline Steffen of Switzerland who has confirmed she will be coming back to Phuket to defend her 2010 title. More than 950 athletes, including 31 pros and nine relay teams, are now registered for the Ironman 70.3 Asia-Pacific Championship.

Other international pros that will compete for top honors include 2011 Laguna Phuket Triathlon champions Massimo Cigana of Italy and Australia's Belinda Granger; 2011 Ironman 70.3 world champion runner-up Chris Lieto; 10-time Ironman New Zealand Champion Cameron Brown; 2011

Ironman 70.3 winner and talented up-and-comer Paul Matthews; and 2010 ITU Long Distance World Champion Silvain Sudrie.

Professional athletes will compete for a slice of the US\$75,000 prize purse, as well as 30 qualifying slots for the 2012 Ford

Ironman World Championship in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii and 45 slots for the 2012 Marine Corps Ironman 70.3 World Championship in Las Vegas.

The Asia-Pacific Championship at Laguna is one of only a small number of worldwide Ironman

70.3 triathlons offering 2012 Kona and Las Vegas slots for winners of age group categories. Laguna Triathlon Director, Debbie Dionysius, says, "We're thrilled to have such a star-studded line-up at this year's Ironman 70.3 Asia-Pacific Championship. - *Phuket Gazette*



ROLLING IN: World champion Melissa Rollison will compete on Phuket.

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Hong Kong rivals vie for King's Cup top honors

THE 25th Phuket King's Cup Regatta, with racing to get underway on HM The King's birthday on December 5, has drawn a top-flight contingent of King's Cup stalwarts contending the IRC class, all vying for the accolade King's Cup champion for 2011.

Arch rivals Frank Pong and Neil Pryde, both from their home port of Hong Kong, will face off – Pong aboard his Custom 76 *Jelik III* and Pryde on his Welbourne Custom 52 *HiFi*.

Pong will be looking for pay-back from two years ago when Pryde won the regatta on *HiFi*, ahead of Pong in second place racing on *Jelik II* – both on the same boats they are racing on this year.

Fellow Hong Kong racer Sam Chan also returns on his TP52 *FreeFire*, looking to improve on his third-place overall finish last year.

Missing from the starting lineup, however, is defending champion Ray Roberts and his *Evolution* Racing crew.

The Phuket King's Cup Regatta this year has drawn a record fleet

of boats and more than 1,000 sailors from around the world to compete at Kata Beach in Asia's largest regatta.

With strong representation from ASEAN and a growing number of sailors from China taking part, more than 35 nationalities will race in a diverse fleet of craft, from Olympic classes to kiteboards to the super-high tech "grand prix" racing boats.

Famed for being Asia's largest big boat regatta, the King's Cup was founded in 1987 with a mixed fleet of dinghies, boards and keelboats. Over the years, the regatta has grown to become the jewel in the crown of the Asia yachting circuit, welcoming the best-of-the-best from around Asia and beyond to compete annually in Phuket.

"The Regatta" began as a special tribute to His Majesty the King's Fifth Cycle, or 60th birthday," said Kevin Whitcraft, President of the Organizing Committee of the Phuket King's Cup Regatta.

"It has grown to become the

most popular and most hotly contested sailing event in Asia. Phuket King's Cup competitors enjoy champagne sailing conditions, the beautiful Andaman Sea backdrop, a series of exciting race locations and the famous beachfront parties."

2011 expects to see up to 50 dinghies take to the start line on December 3 for a three-day series. Joining them on December 5 will be more than 100 keelboats and multihulls, plus for the very first time 20 kiteboards. The total sailing fleet is expected to be over 170 water-going vessels.

The dinghies will race over three days, from December 3-5, and the keelboats, multihulls and kiteboards will race over five days on December 5-7, 9 and 10, with the Thursday being a reserve day.

In 2009, dinghies were re-introduced to the regatta lineup after a hiatus. This led the Organizing Committee to create the Phuket Dinghy Series in 2010 – a three-event series preceding the Phuket King's Cup Regatta. The Dinghy Series has grown from strength-



HIKING OUT: Neil Pryde's HiFi sailing to victory in 2009. Photo: Guy Nowell

to-strength, and resulted in a dinghy classes within the King's Cup Regatta fleet itself.

For the first time in the Cup's history, the organizers, together with the Kiteboard Tour Asia, have introduced a Kiteboard Class this year. An invitation-only class for 20 kiteboarders, the regatta welcomes pros from the world tour as well as several regional champions, including two-time Asian Champion Narapichit "Yo" Pudla from Thailand.

"Our Quarter Centenary year sees the widest diversity in terms

of registered vessels taking part in the Regatta," explained Whitcraft. "2011 will comprise catamarans, keelboats, kiteboards, dinghies and international racing boats all competing for honors across racing and cruising categories.

"It is a testament to the extraordinary appeal of this classic race that we see such a broad mix of entrants for the Phuket King's Cup. The regatta also connects people from across the world, with representatives from every continent taking part," he added.

– *Phuket Gazette*

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Magico Massimo

By Neil Quail

THE Laguna Phuket Triathlon (LPT) enjoyed a record breaking weekend with its greatest ever number of entrants also witness to Massimo Cigana from Italy becoming the first man to win the event three times.

Cigana's victory sealed his stature as an athletic icon in Phuket's "Race of Legends" having first won the LPT in 2007 and then successfully defended his 2010 title last Sunday.

With cycling being Cigana's strongest discipline, the 55km bike course over Nai Thon hills was where his experience and skill ultimately made the difference.

"I have had a foot injury for a while which even prevented me from walking properly. I knew I had to put time between me and the strong runners in the field on the bike course if I was to win," Cigana told the *Gazette*.

This he did, making up the three minutes he lost to fellow countryman Alberto Cassadei on the swim from Laguna Beach and across the freshwater lagoon.

"The conditions were perfect. This is my kind of weather. I'm very happy to be the first to win the Laguna Phuket Triathlon three times and of course I hope to come back next year to try for a fourth title," he added.

Cigana spent a few days recovering on Phi Phi Island and will tackle the longer Ironman 70.3 event on December 4.

"The Ironman 70.3 will be much more difficult. There are a number of very strong competitors so I'm aiming for a top 10 finish. I'll be pleased with that result," he added.

The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV are sponsors of the LPT. Turn to page 45 for a full report on the Laguna Phuket Triathlon.



BELLISSIMO: Massimo Cigana crossing the line to add the 2011 title to his 2010 and 2007 wins. Photo: Christian Mouchet

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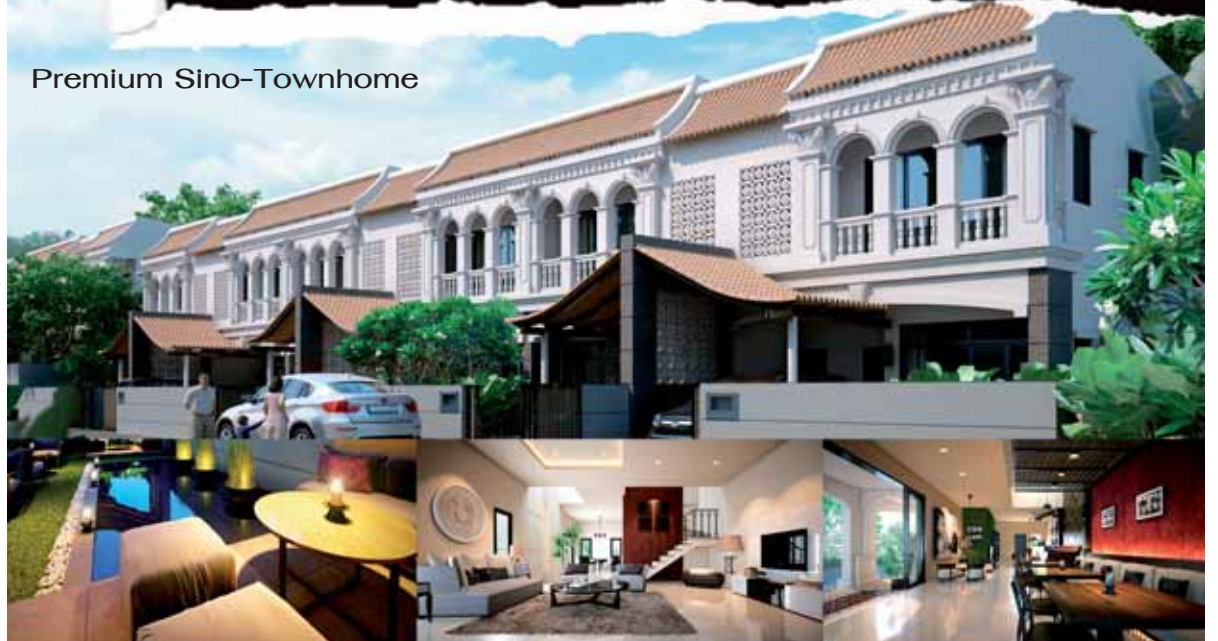
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