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Phuket Provincial Land Chief Sithichai Promachati

Saving Nai Yang beach

PHUKET Provincial Land Chief Sithichai Promachati expressed his concern at the lack of progress and general decline in efforts to prevent land encroachment during a Phuket Provincial Government Land Encroachment Solution Committee meeting on December 6.

"I would like to bring the Nai Yang beach encroachment issue to the attention of this meeting because it has become so prevalent that during a recent visit, I could barely see the beach," he said.

Chief Sithichai went onto request that the committee support his intention to maintain a clear area from the road to Nai Yang beach.

"I will authorize the use of law enforcement against those who encroach into this protected area. But, I can't do it all myself. I would ask you all to act together to bring back public properties," Chief Sithichai added.

Russian speedboat victim left stranded

A RUSSIAN tourist suffered multiple breaks to his leg and a fractured pelvis when his leg was sliced open by a parasail speedboat off Kata Beach last Friday.

Nikolai Nefedov, 52, now faces escalating medical bills that have jeopardized his scheduled return home.

Mr Nefedov, and witnesses, said he was snorkeling with friends in shallow waters when he was run over by a parasail speedboat used to tow thrill-seeking tourists.

The Russian tried to dive under to avoid being hit, but was struck in the leg by the propeller, sustaining multiple broken bones and deep lacerations.

The driver of the speedboat stopped and ferried him ashore, before promptly fleeing the scene.

"All I could remember was that the number of the speedboat was N18," he told the *Gazette* from his room at Vachira Phuket Hospital on Wednesday.

Mr Nefedov, who does not speak English, was sharing the room at the government-run hospital with 30 other patients. He was transferred to the facility after learning that his treatment at the privately-run Phuket Interna-



Nikolai Nefedov is recovering in the Phuket International Hospital after being hit by a speedboat.

tional Hospital would not be covered by his insurance provider, the Russian arm of international underwriter ERV.

Despite the severity of his injuries, Mr Nikolai was cleared to

leave the hospital on Thursday to catch his return flight to Russia – but only after his bill was paid.

Mr Nefedov had hoped his tour company and travel insurance provider would come to his rescue,

but as this edition went to print time was fast running out.

An officer with the Vachira Phuket International Department told the *Gazette* on Wednesday, "The doctors have cleared him to fly out tomorrow, but only if he flies lying down the whole way and is accompanied by medical staff."

"His left leg is broken in many places and his pelvis is broken as well," she said.

"The treatment cost the insurance company has to pay is already more than 100,000 baht," she said.

"I would like his relatives to force the insurance company to manage all the necessary documents for his departure so he can leave for his hometown by tomorrow," she said on Wednesday.

Mr Nefedov's wife, who was traveling with him, was not at the hospital when the *Gazette* visited.

Writing from Ekaterinburg in Russia, his concerned daughter Ilya sent an email to the *Gazette* on Monday that read in part: "After reading the article and its comments, we would like to ask you to trace the development of the incident in order to avoid similar accidents."

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Vice Gov asks Patong to 'be nice' to tourists

PHUKET Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosutthirak has called on the people of Patong to not "take advantage" of tourists during this year's Patong Carnival, the annual festival that marks the start of high season for tourism in Phuket.

"I want everyone to be good hosts and welcome the tourists. Be goodwill ambassadors. I don't want anyone taking unfair advantage of our visitors," he said at a public press conference on Soi Bangla last week to announce the week of fun activities.

Vice Governor Somkiet also called for

progress in resolving long-standing problems facing the beach resort town.

"Services offered in Patong should have standard prices, too. I believe this would improve the image of Patong and the overall image of Phuket," he added.

Patong Mayor Pian Keesin explained that more than two million baht is being spent on the December 15 Patong Carnival Parade, the traditional opening event for the carnival.

"The theme for this year's carnival is 'Beautiful flower of the Andaman - Colorful Phuket Island'. The whole parade will

be decorated with flowers. People taking part will be dressed as flowers, dancing along with the music," Mayor Pian said.

"The whole parade and the route it takes will be illuminated by a colorful lighting system," he said.

Mayor Pian said that Patong Municipality has allocated seven million baht and ThaiBev five million baht for this year's event. Additional support is from carnival co-sponsors Quiksilver, Kasikorn Bank, Krung Thai Bank and Ocean Plaza Bangla.

– *Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai*



This year's theme for the Patong carnival is "Beautiful flower of the Andaman".

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Phuket News



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Phuket HIV/Aids rate 'highest in the South'

By Warisa Temram

PHUKET has the highest incidence of HIV/AIDS in Southern Thailand and the third-highest per-capita rate of infection in the country, Phuket Public Health Office Chief Sak Tanchaikul announced on December 1 – World AIDS Day.

"This year the slogan is 'Getting to Zero'," said Dr Sak.

He pointed out that the top 10 provinces in Thailand for contracting the disease were, respectively, Phayao, Chanthaburi, Phuket, Samut Prakarn, Kanjanaburi, Singburi, Ranong, Srisaket, Ayudhaya and Bangkok.

"The Health Office and other government departments are holding activities to educate people about AIDS and other sex-communicable diseases – and about condom usage," said Dr Sak.

Officials conducted public-awareness activities at three popular locations in and around Phuket Town, he said. Patong Municipality held activities on Soi Bangla, at the Jungceylon shopping complex and other places around Patong. Municipal officers



Health Chief Sak lays down the facts about Phuket and HIV/AIDS.

handed out condoms and leaflets to educate people – Thais and foreigners – so they realize how important safe sex is, said Dr Sak.

The health chief pointed out that, at least according to statistics, the incidence of AIDS was on the decline in Phuket, though he added that the most at-risk group were

people 25 to 39 years old.

"According to a report compiled from data from government and private agencies, from 1989 to November 30 this year 7,393 people in Phuket have been reported as having HIV.

"Of those, 1,936 people have died," he said.

Thai Army provide boat for deported Rohingya

THE 95 Rohingya migrants detained by elements of the 2nd Infantry Battalion after landing on Koh Phra Thong, Phang Nga, on November 24, have been deported in a boat provided by the Royal Thai Army, the *Phuket Gazette* has been told.

After they being detained by the military, the migrants were mustered on the Tung Laong Pier, before being transported to the 25th Military Unit facility, Rattanakul District, Ranong province.

On November 25, all 95 Rohingya were escorted back to the Andaman coast.

A military source involved in the deportation told the *Gazette*, "As

per standard procedure, we kept them for only one night and then we escorted them back to the Andaman Coast the next day.

"We felt bad for this group but there was nothing much we could do. However, we provided them with enough food and water to last for 10 days.

"We also gave them 60 baht each. I realize it's not much, but it was the best we could do," he said.

"As is usual in these circumstances, after landing the Rohingya damaged the boat they had travelled in to prevent being repatriated," said the source.

"We are aware of the practice of migrants [damaging] the boat on arrival. So this time we donated

a boat with a motor so they could continue their journey," he said.

"We also provided enough gasoline for them to reach their destination," he said, though declining to name where the Rohingya said their intended destination was.

The Rohingya were towed out to sea and released "on the water", said the source.

He added that the migrants were not returned to Myanmar territorial waters because "they are not welcome there".

He said could not divulge any more information, such as whether or not the Rohingya were released on the open ocean or escorted elsewhere. "It is a matter of national security," he said.

Total lunar eclipse to mark Constitution Day

THE second lunar eclipse visible from Phuket this year will be on the night of the Constitution Day public holiday, December 10.

The partial eclipse begins at 7:45pm when the Moon reaches the umbra, Earth's inner dark shadow. Totality will be achieved by 9:06pm as the entire Moon is covered by the Earth's shadow.

The eclipse will reach its zenith at 9:31pm, with the Moon starting to move out of shadow at 9:57pm.

The total eclipse will last 51 minutes.

From start to finish, the partial and total eclipse phases will take

3 hours 32 minutes, with the final penumbra ending at 12:30am.

Phuket's Sky Club, is holding an event at Phuket Rajabhat University for people interested in observing the phenomenon.

"We will gather at Piromrat Circle [in front of the administration building] from 6pm. The event is open to all. We have telescopes for everybody to use," said physics lecturer Asst Prof Dr Sakchai Phetchuai.

Phuket City Police Deputy Superintendent Jumroon Playdoun confirmed to the *Gazette* that alcohol can be sold on December 10.



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Phuket Prison population to plummet 10%

PHUKET: More than 200 inmates at Phuket Provincial Prison will soon be back on the streets following the Royal Pardon decreed by His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej on the occasion of his 84th birthday on December 5.

Phuket Provincial Prison Director Rapin Nichanon said prison officials were still reviewing the paperwork and could not give an exact figure on how many inmates would be released by the pardon. However, he was sure that the final figure would exceed 200.

The mass pardon could not have come at a better time for the prison facility. The current Phuket Prison population is at an all-time high of about 1,700 inmates, he said.

This is far more than double its design capacity of 700.

A release of 200 prisoners would represent an 11.7 per cent drop in the prison population.

The first batch of 143 pardoned inmates will walk out of the 109-year-old facility between 8am and 9am on Thursday, said chief Rapin.

No appeal in Fanelli case

By C. Plerin and S. Fein

THE Phuket Public Prosecutor's Office will not file an appeal over the sentence handed down in the case of convicted murderer Ronald Fanelli, the *Gazette* has learned.

Fanelli, a former US Navy officer, was on November 1 convicted of the June 2010 stabbing murder of Wanphen Pienjai, a hostess at the Sweethearts Bar in Kata.

Fanelli was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment on charges of premeditated murder and an additional six months for trying to conceal Ms Pienjai's body.

Given his confession, the Court halved the sentence to 10 years and three months, as is customary in the Thai judicial system.

The prosecution and defense teams were both given until December 1 to appeal. Despite earlier indications that the prosecution would appeal for a stiffer sentence, Phuket Deputy Public Prosecutor Permgiat Bunsung said that the decision had been made to let the sentence stand.

Mr Permgiat, who prosecuted the case, said he has been informed by Fanelli's lawyer that



MAIN: Murdered bar hostess Wanphen Pienjai with her son.
INSET: Ronald Fanelli at the police press conference in July last year.
Photo: Atchaa Khamlo.

she would not appeal the guilty verdict.

The case file has now been forwarded to Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha for final approval, he said.

"If he approves our decision not to appeal, the case will be closed and Fanelli will serve the 10 year, three month sentence.

"If he does not approve, the case will be forwarded to the At-

torney General's Office in Bangkok for a final ruling," he said.

"The decision now rests with the governor, who is not subject to any deadline," he said.

Mr Permgiat explained that the Public Prosecutor must have the governor's approval in every case that the prosecutors do not want to appeal, no matter how trivial the case may be.

If Governor Tri approves, Fanelli will serve the 10 years, 3 months, minus time already served. This works out to a release date in mid-October 2020.

The *Gazette* has thus far been unable to reach Fanelli's lawyer to get a comment on whether Mr Fanelli would seek a transfer from the overcrowded Phuket Prison to another facility in Thailand, or to try and seek deportation to serve out his sentence in the US.

Transfer out of Phuket Prison would likely be welcomed by Fanelli. During a brief interview shortly before the ruling, he told the *Gazette* that he had survived an attempt on his life as he slept in his overcrowded dormitory.

During the interview he said he was getting "more and more used to" prison life with each passing day, but that he had a lot of "head-aches", mostly from other foreign inmates.

Asked about the overcrowding problem, he said he had respect for the wardens who had to do their best to deal with every convict assigned to the facility by the Court.

"They don't know what the solution is. Nobody does," he said.

Marine Office to set up water safety center

THE Phuket Marine Department office will step up inspections at piers and marinas on the island to boost tourist safety during the upcoming New Year holiday period.

Phuripat Theerakulpisut, chief of the Marine Department Region 5 office, said his agency expects a large influx of tourists over the upcoming holiday period and will also open a water safety center at his agency's office in Wichit.

The inspections will include popular ferry piers, such as those at Chalong Bay, Rassada Harbor, Klong Thajeen, Ao Por, Bangrong and the Boat Lagoon, he said.

Officers will be looking for violations of safety regulations and ways to improve transport efficiency to outlying islands such as Koh Phi Phi in Krabi.



Phuripat Theerakulpisut, chief of the Marine Department Region 5

This effort will be coupled with a multimedia public relations effort aimed at having vessel operators fully cooperate with officials in inspections, which are made to ensure all vessels are seaworthy, properly licensed and equipped with the correct safety equipment.

No file on hit and run speedboat

Continued from page 1

It is not only the fault of the speedboat driver, but the city authorities as well who cannot for some reasons set up some conditions or restrictions for jet-skis and speedboats near the beaches.

"The [issue] is not to punish the [speedboat] driver, but to prevent such accidents from happening again, so that all people – including tourists – can relax without having to worry about their health."

As such, any legal action against the speedboat operator will have to begin with a criminal complaint filed on behalf of Mr Nefedov, who will hardly be in

condition any time soon to make the trip to Chalong Police Station to file the complaint himself. Daughter Ilya also expressed concern about where her mother would stay after missing her return flight to stay at the hospital by her husband's side.

To see if there had been any progress in apprehending the operator of "Speedboat N18" or asking him to help pay the Russian's mounting medical bills, the *Gazette* visited Chalong Police Station, which has jurisdiction over Kata Beach.

A check of the incident report book for December 2 revealed no report of an accident at Kata Beach that day.



Nikoli Nefedov displays his heavily bandaged lower leg after his recent surgery.

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Teens arrested for stabbing, robbing

By Atchaa Khamlo

AUSTRIAN tourist Rupert Wilhelmstatter is recovering from a punctured lung and other injuries sustained in a brutal robbery attack by four knife-wielding youths in Patong on Tuesday.

Mr Wilhelmstatter, in his early 50s, was returning by motorbike to his hotel in Patong at 1:45pm when the attack occurred. He was returning from Paradise Beach, at the southern end of Patong Bay.

The gang members, on two motorbikes, approached the Austrian with one bike on each side.

The youngest gang member, aged 13, kicked out at Mr Wilhelmstatter's motorbike, causing him to crash. Mr Wilhelmstatter fought back from the ground, but was stabbed and suffered a punctured lung. The gang then robbed him of 200 baht before making their getaway.

Mr Wilhelmstatter was taken to Patong Hospital for emergency



Patong Police chief Arayapan Pukbuakao questions the teens, who can cannot be named as they are minors. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

treatment, then transferred to the better-equipped Bangkok Hospital in Phuket Town. A source at the privately-run facility confirmed Mr Wilhelmstatter is in the intensive care unit, but declined to give further details.

Police investigating the incident did not need to travel far to make the first arrests. At an address on Ratchapatanusorn Road, just around the corner from Patong Police Station, they arrested two youths aged 13 and 14 at about 5:30pm.

A search of the premises revealed a sheathed knife and one motorbike, both items suspected of being used in the robbery. After eyewitnesses to the attack identified the two boys, the teens were taken to Patong Police Station.

The information obtained during questioning led to the arrest of a third youth, aged 15, at a house on Thaweewong Road, where police recovered the other motorbike believed to have been used in the attack.

A fourth member of the gang, the one believed to have stabbed Mr Wilhelmstatter, remains at large.

Subsequent questioning of the gang members revealed they had been involved in at least two other recent robberies using similar methods.

A 13-year-old member of the gang confessed that on November 30 he and four others robbed a tourist near Tri Trang Beach on



An image taken by cell phone at the scene of the attack shows the slash that punctured the tourist's lung.

Muen Ngeron Road, not far from the location of Tuesday's attack. At about 5:30pm that day, he and an older boy struck an unidentified foreign man with a wooden club, forcing him off his motorbike. They then threatened him with a knife, robbing him of 200 baht before speeding off.

The boy also confessed that on the afternoon of December 3 he and four others drove motorbikes to Paradise Beach where they at-

tacked two tourists aboard a single motorbike. They robbed the pair at knife-point, getting away with a camera, a smart phone and 7,000 baht in cash.

The 13-year-old admitted to kicking or hitting the tourists to force them from their motorbikes, but denied stabbing Mr Wilhelmstatter.

The youths spent the 200 baht taken from Mr Wilhelmstatter to buy snacks, he said.

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Yacht Haven Marina is home to many high-end yachts, as it has berthing capacity of up to 80 meters long.

Yacht Haven staff praised for averting marina blaze

HEROIC action by staff at the Yacht Haven Marina has been praised for minimizing the damage to surrounding vessels by towing a 70-foot power boat on fire safely out to deeper water on Tuesday night.

No injuries were reported.

Australian yachtsman Mark Ainscough who witnessed the events recounted, "It was opening night for the new owners of the Haven Restaurant, that overlooks Yacht Haven Marina... We

had not been seated long when another boat owner explained there was a boat on fire on D Jetty.

"Ten minutes later we saw a huge tower of flames and black smoke. It appeared to be getting out of control and looked like it would spread to neighboring boats at any moment. We were all getting ready to throw the lines and get out, as fire can travel fast along floating timber jetties.

"We then noticed that the ball of flames was moving. A team of very brave people in dinghies managed to attach tow lines to the burning boat and were courageously towing the boat out of the marina while others were spraying the engulfed vessel from fire fighting pumps.

"They successfully towed the boat out to clear water where it was no longer a danger to the marina. It is a credit to the marina managers Nick and Zara and their team that no one was hurt," he said.

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The Phuket blood bank is calling for foreigners with Rh-negative blood.

Urgent call for foreign blood

THE Phuket Regional Blood Center is urgently calling for blood donations from foreigners to restock supplies of blood types common among foreigners.

"We are asking for Rh-negative blood because this is the tourism high season. Many foreigners come to Phuket at this time of year, and each year many of them are involved in accidents. They will need this blood," said Pornthip Rattajak, acting director of the center.

Specifically, the Phuket Blood Bank is looking for donations of blood types: O-negative, A-negative and AB-negative.

"To boost the number of donations by foreigners, the Phuket Immigration Office will host a special blood donation drive on December 7.

Donations will be accepted from 9am to 3pm.

Land grab in spotlight

Government Spokesman Prompong returns to inspect mangrove encroachment

PHEU Thai Party spokesman and party list MP Prompong Nopparit, who is also the vice president of the parliamentary anti-corruption committee, returned to Phuket last Saturday to inspect alleged encroachment on a protected mangrove forest in Rassada.

The inspection visit follows Mr Prompong heading a public meeting at Phuket Rajabhat University on November 26.

At the meeting, Mr Prompong vowed to bring to Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra's attention the serious cases of encroachment on government land, notably cases that officials have failed to act on.

At the mangrove forest site in Rassada, Mr Prompong was shown a large sign posted at the site highlighting the areas claimed to be owned by a person who was identified only as a "local politician".

To indicate the lack of action by officials over the years, underneath the map on the sign are the words "5 Governments, 4 Governors, 3 District Chiefs, 1 Land Office Chief".

"The local villagers reported this case to the Administrative



Local environmental activist Anucha Ardhan points out to Pheu Thai Party spokesman Prompong Nopparit the extent of the alleged encroachment.

Court in Nakhon Sri Thammarat, but there has still been no action," said Mr Prompong.

"I believe this case involves many departments and the investigation process will take a long time, but it is a good thing that local villagers are working together in order to have public land reclaimed," he said.

Anucha Ardhan, vice president

of Baan Kuku Mangrove Forest Conservation Group, has long asserted that the land in question was declared protected national forest in 1978. But in 2007 "some people" arrived and fenced off a more than 50 rai, posting signs saying: "Private Property, Do not enter."

The claim was made using a title deed naming a "local politician" as

the owner of the land since 1978, he said.

Frustrated by years of fighting for officials to reclaim the land, the villagers petitioned Her Majesty Queen Sirikit, who bestowed protection for much of the forest by deeming it protected under Royal Patronage.

However, today more than 29 rai of the forest remains fenced off as if it were private property, which Mr Anucha says has been cleared in the center, away from view from the fence.

"I have learnt from the local villagers that the land in this area cannot be legally owned by anyone," said Mr Prompong.

"The Land Office cannot issue a deed to anyone for land in national protected forests. Which means the document that the 'local politician' has was illegally issued," he added.

"I will address the issue at the Pheu Thai Party meeting and we will try to find the best solution to this problem. The illegal actions have to stop and I will not let those who break the law get away without any penalty," he added.

— *Phuket Gazette*

Police ramp up student road safety

OFFICERS at Kathu Police Station on Tuesday stepped up their campaign to have students at Kathu Witthaya School use the pedestrian bridge instead of risking life and limb by crossing the busy road in front of the school.

Tung Tong Police Superintendent Col Kraitong Chantongbai told the *Gazette* that nearly every day he receives reports of students being involved in accidents or narrowly escaping serious injuries while crossing the road.

"Ever since I moved to Tung Thong Police Station, I have continually received reports about students involved in accidents



Tung Tong Police Superintendent Col Kraitong Chantongbai

while crossing the road under the bridge.

"We would like the students to use the bridge. It's much safer, especially when the school finishes and many people come to pick up the students," he said.

The campaign is a collaborative effort by Tung Tong Police, Kathu Municipality and Kathu Witthaya School, Col Kraitong explained.

Aekachai Nulong, a teacher at Kathu Witthaya, said, "We have a new main gate at the school that is only about 10 meters from the pedestrian bridge."

"Also, we will have two teachers on duty standing at the new gate to make sure students use the bridge instead of crossing the road," he said.

Col Kraitong said Kathu Municipality has been requested to repaint and add a roof to the bridge to encourage students to use it.

Unidentified foreigner's body heading for the grave soon

THE body of the foreign man found floating in the sea south of Phuket last month will be buried at the Mai Khao Cemetery if it remains unidentified, the *Gazette* has been told.

The corpse is currently being held at Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town.

"The hospital has already con-

tacted me and said that if no relatives claim the body within the next few days, the Kusoldham Rescue Foundation volunteers will bury him at the Mai Khao Cemetery," said Chalong Duty Officer Nitikorn Rawang.

"If relatives show up after that, they will have to contact the foundation to claim the body," he said.



At "Into the Sea", the signature restaurant at the Evason Phuket & Bon Island, chef Luis 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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Tenured professor dies in tragic snorkeling incident

UNIVERSITY of Massachusetts political science Associate Professor Jalal Alamgir, 41, has died after being pulled from the water while snorkeling at Yanui Beach last Saturday.

"Jalal Alamgir was a most gentle, perceptive, sensitive colleague and friend," the *Boston Globe* reported University of Massachusetts Winston Langley as saying in a statement.

"He was a devoted and creative teacher, who made the discipline of international relations not only understandable to students, but also pertinent to their daily concerns."

"He kept questions of social justice foremost in his scholarly and teaching contributions, and endeavored to make the third world, and Asia in particular, accessible and relevant not only to world politics but also to US policy," he said.

Prof Alamgir, a native of Bangladesh, received tenure at the



Snorkling is a popular activity along Yanui Beach on Phuket's west coast.

University last year. He earned a doctorate from Brown University in 2000 and studied democratization, the interaction between economic globalization and representational politics, international relations, South Asian politics, and

constructivism, Mr Langley said in the statement.

He was also a fellow at the South Asia Initiative at Harvard University, and extensively researched issues including political justice in Bangladesh and Pakistan

and the representation of values in Indian foreign policy.

Jula Nontree, chief lifeguard for Kata, Karon, Nai Harn and Patong Beaches, told the *Gazette* he was notified of the incident at 2:50pm.

"When I arrived, lifeguards at Yanui Beach were already performing CPR on the man," he said.

"The lifeguards first saw him when he was being pulled from the water by two male tourists. They [the tourists] said they found the man floating face down while he was snorkeling," Mr Jula said.

An ambulance from the Phuket Tourist Rescue Center, based near Chalong Pier, arrived about 20 minutes later and rushed Prof Alamgir to Phuket International Hospital.

"I went with him in the ambulance. We continued CPR all the way to the hospital, but he did not regain consciousness [in the ambulance] and I could not detect a pulse from him without us continuing CPR," said Mr Jula.

Booze is 'critical' to Phuket: Poll

MORE than 57% of respondents to a *Phuket Gazette* poll said reasonably-priced alcohol is either "important" or even "critical" to Phuket as an international tourist destination.

The poll was launched in the wake of Phuket suffering a shortage of alcoholic beverages brought on after floods disrupted production facilities and operations of major producers and distributors of alcoholic drinks in Thailand.

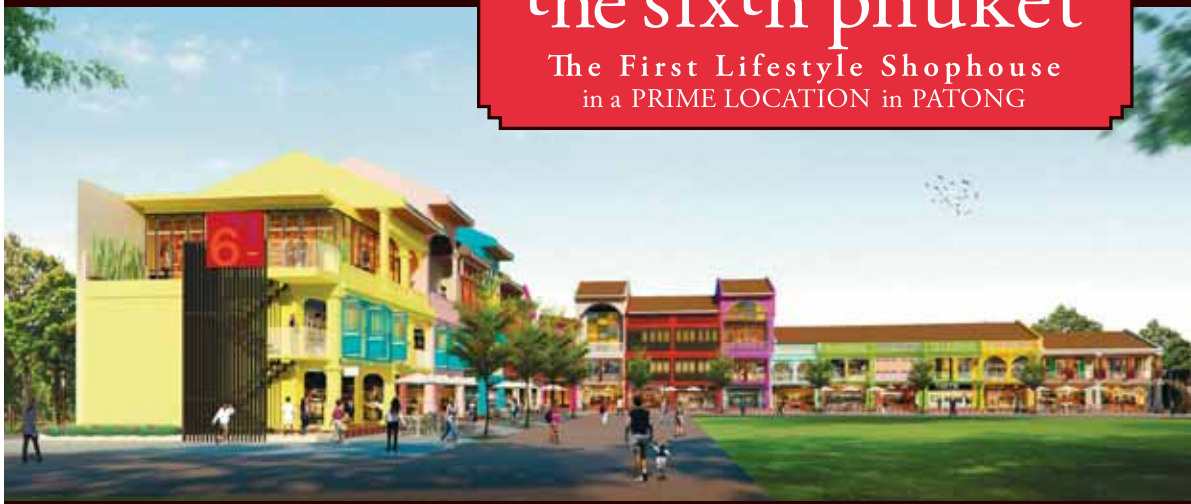
Of the respondents, 28% voted reasonably priced alcohol was "critical", while 29.4% voted it as "important".

More than 25% said reasonably priced alcohol was not important as alcohol was only an add-on for people living in or on holiday in Phuket, and 17% said it was not important at all as many people enjoy Phuket without alcohol.

While 62% of both tourists and local foreign residents voted affordable booze as critical or important to Phuket, only 29% of Thai nationals who took part in the poll believed likewise.

the sixth phuket

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Soratham Jinda explains to the crowd that the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization last year spent 10 million baht on providing support to Phuket's disabled people.

Officials get rolling with Disabled People's Day

THE Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) held an event last Friday to mark International Day for Persons with Disabilities, observed by the United Nations and countries around the world on December 3.

"The day aims to promote a better understanding of disability issues with a focus on the rights of persons with disabilities and the gains to be derived from the integration of persons with disabilities into every aspect of the political, social, economic and cultural life of their communities," said Phuket Provincial Chief Administrative Officer Chaiwat Taepee.

To mark the occasion at the Phuket Rajabhat University grand hall yesterday, local government officers arranged a variety of activities, including exhibitions to educate people about disabled persons as well as providing assistance in law,

careers, education and a mini-job fair.

Also available for disabled persons, their families, friends and visitors were free haircuts, a lucky draw and free food and drink for the entire day.

"Under our 'Phuket Care' program, we provide care for disabled persons and patients who have chronic diseases at their homes so they can have a better life, and we educate their families about how to take care of their loved ones correctly," he said.

"In 2011, we spent more than 10 million baht through the project on providing support for 450 patients in Phuket and providing devices that these patients can use," he added.

"We believe it is very important to look after these patients and give them opportunities," Mr Soratham said.

— Chutharat Plerin

The United States criticises recent *lese majeste* rulings

THE United States says it is “troubled” by recent court rulings in Thailand, claiming sentences handed down to Thai citizens for *lese majeste* – insulting the monarchy – were at odds with the fundamental right to freedom of expression.

The unusual statement criticising the US’s closest regional ally comes in the wake of a 20-year sentence handed down to 61-year-old grandfather Ampon Tangnoppakul on November 23.

Mr Ampon, was convicted under Article 112 of sending four text messages disparaging of Her Majesty the Queen to the cellphone of a secretary to former premier Abhisit Vejjajiva in May last year.

State Department spokeswoman for East Asia, Darragh Paradiso, said the United States had the utmost respect for the Thai monarchy, but added that the US was “troubled by recent prosecutions and court decisions that are not consistent with inter-

national standards of freedom of expression.”

In a recent statement, New York-based rights watchdog Human Rights Watch condemned the verdict, calling the severity of the sentence “shocking”.

The verdict “illustrates the misuse by successive Thai governments of laws intended to protect the monarchy,” the group said.

“The new government seems to be responding to questions about its loyalty to the monarchy by filing countless *lese*

majeste charges,” said Brad Adams, Asia director at Human Rights Watch.

The current Pheu Thai Party-led government, affiliated with exiled former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, has vowed to crack down hard on *lese majeste*. Mr Thaksin’s critics have long accused him of being insufficiently loyal to the monarchy, leading analysts to suspect the new government is attempting to burnish its royalist credentials.

Bangkok dry by New Year

THE floods that have devastated huge swathes of Central Thailand in recent months are receding, with Bangkok expected to be completely dry by the end of the year.

Weera Wongsangnuk, head of the Flood Relief Operations Center (FROC)’s water drainage panel, said the crisis was nearly over, as there were fewer and fewer flooded areas.

Water in the northern and eastern parts of the capital was limited to designated flood-retention fields, he said.

Mr Weera admitted that the situation in western Bangkok remained worrying. The bowl-shaped area would take longer than east-



ern Bangkok to dry, while canals linking the area with the Tha Chin River still had high water levels.

Officials would try to dry the area by December 15, or by year’s end at the latest, while the FROC would continue to hold weekly meetings to assess the water situation in affected provinces, he added.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Min-



Students of flooded Sethakit Village School in Bangkok on their morning walk to school. Photo: The Nation

ister and Commerce Minister Kittirat Na Ranong last week said more than 90% of factories shut down by the floods would resume operations by the end of December.

Several of the country’s largest industrial parks have been inundated, forcing the closure of facilities run by blue-chip firms including Toyota, Honda and Canon.

The World Bank has estimated that value of the damage at US\$45 billion, with recovery and reconstruction costing US\$25 billion.

Convicts receive a second chance

HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej pardoned 26,000 convicts in a traditional gesture marking his 84th birthday on December 5.

Former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra’s name was notably not on the list of those being pardoned. Mr Thaksin lives in Dubai to escape a two-year jail sentence he received in 2008 for abuse of power in a land deal with his wife.

The government is believed to have considered drafting pardon criteria that would have benefited Mr Thaksin, but backed down after a strong outcry from the political opposition.

The royal decree was drawn up by the current government and based on one issued last year.

In a statement published in the *Royal Gazette*, His Majesty said the convicts should be given a second chance.



An inmate who hoped for a pardon.

This year’s pardons differ significantly from last year’s by including inmates convicted on drug charges with sentences that are for eight years or less.

The first batch of 12,000 inmates were set to be released on Thursday, while the rest will be freed gradually.

See page 2 for the number of inmates at Phuket Provincial Prison who received Royal Pardons. - Ed.



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Rein in the beach cowboys

GIVEN the events that have occurred in Phuket in recent weeks, it is difficult to ascertain which is the greater maritime threat: natural phenomena such as the rough monsoon season seas that claim the lives of scores of overconfident swimmers every year – or what ensues when winds subside, seas calm and seasonal beach business operators return to the water with the same reckless abandon we are accustomed to seeing on our roads.

In the latest catastrophe, the holiday of Russian tourist Nikolai Nefedov (see News pages) came to a horrific end last Friday afternoon, when he was struck off Kata Beach by the propeller of a speedboat used to tow thrill-seeking tourists parasailing.

The incident re-exposed long-standing problems with the actions of the many cowboys who operate beach businesses on the island with little or no regulation, and about the same allotment of common sense.

Mr Nefedov was reportedly a strong swimmer who attempted to dive to subsurface safety. While this may have saved his life, it did not spare him from having his leg broken and partially severed.

The fact that he was among a group of swimmers in shallow water clearly indicates that the speedboat failed to even use a spotter while underway and the boat operator was reportedly alone at the time of the incident. Even worse, he was reluctant to stop and assist the Russian aboard.

Then, after dropping his victim on the beach, he promptly and predictably fled the scene.

Writing from Russia, Mr Nefedov's daughter Ilya contacted the Gazette asking us "to trace the development of the incident in order to avoid similar accidents" in the future. The wording of the request suggests a level of disbelief that such a tragedy could happen in a world-class tourist destination.

Sadly, this was not a case of breached safety protocols or a multiple breakdowns of redundant systems. In fact, the lack of clear markings as to where vessels can approach shore on most popular beaches, coupled with an almost complete lack of oversight and enforcement, makes it difficult to believe that such tragedies do not occur far more often than they do.

It is very important that the authorities find and charge with negligence the operator of the speedboat that struck Mr Nefedov – without requiring Mr Nefedov to leave his hospital bed to travel to Chalong Police Station to file a complaint in person.

Once the police have received the complaint, they need to set up moorings clearly delineating designated swim zones and then fine violators, as is quite sensibly the case at virtually every other beach tourism destination in the world.



Poor security or lax drills

I read with interest the account provided by cashiers of the Siam Commercial Bank's money exchange booth in Karon that was robbed recently.

Having previously worked for a security firm in the United Kingdom, delivering high value cargoes to secure locations, including the equivalent of banking booths and ATMs over here, could I be forgiven for being slightly skeptical as to the facts concerning this incident.

I would have thought that any facility capable of holding a substantial amount of cash, might reasonably be expected to be fitted with some form of alarm system. Even more basic than that, a secure entry system preventing nefarious individuals from gaining access to either the secure area or the employees.

For all I know both employees are completely innocent of any criminal activity, however, as a cynic I can't help but hypothesize the possible involvement of an insider, as it's not a totally unheard of occurrence at banking sub-stations and isolated high-value facilities.

That said and done, it really doesn't matter how good your security measures are if, at the end of the day, the staff are just going to open the door without checking cameras or door viewers and just amble out, straight into waiting trouble.

Martin H.
Karon

Helmets in a basket

Re: Gazette online – Phuket best for wearing helmets, November 25

This is real nonsense. Helmets are still mostly worn when checks are imminent. As soon as the risk drops, the helmets are going back into the basket. Or look around at times when there are no police on

Letters to the Editor

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duty, like early morning. Not even half of the people wear helmets.

What about pillion riders? The number [of people] is even worse. This statistic is made up for the authorities to look good. Nothing more, nothing less.

Michael
Gazette Forum

The real price of my excellent seafood

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Special Report: Slavery on the high seas, December 2

I admit I have an addiction to seafood, my favored food, and I admit to searching high and low for the best quality at the lowest price. I never thought about why my quality seafood was so cheap; I just enjoyed getting top quality at the lowest price. I'm spending about 100-150 baht for a good quality seafood meal. For me, I thought I had found gold, but I never thought about how it could be so cheap.

J
Phuket Forum

Speeding through the 'death bend'

Re: Gazette online - Officials confirm safety plan for Phuket 'death bend' December 2.

In my modest opinion the problem with this curve is that it is a curve. Locals can drive their vehicles fast in a straight line, but cornering has not been mastered, especially after a bit of rain. With the new poles installed yesterday,

the single lane left is so terribly narrow that people are slamming on their brakes and coming doing 30kmh! Another accident waiting to happen.

Gazette Forum
Simon

Tourists aren't here to stop crime

Re: Tourists neglecting to help stop crime, December 3

I felt a little uncomfortable reading your First Person article quoting Maj Thammasan Boontong. I mean no disrespect to the good officer, but the idea that visitors to the island have the time and financial support to hang around until a case possibly goes to court is a non-starter in many circumstances. Flights home arranged, children back to school and parents back to work make staying for an extended holiday impossible. Why can't statements made at the time stand up in court?

Moving on: "Most thieves are lady boys working on Soi Bangla." Whilst I have no evidence to disagree with this statement, I do find it hard to believe that they are largely responsible for all tourist woes in Patong.

The fighting with tuk-tuk drivers also had me raising an eyebrow. I would be the first to admit that drunken tourists are a problem for the community. However, the tone of the article placed the fault solely on the tourists. Not a mention that occasionally, in a rare moment, you might find a tuk-tuk driver at fault. As far as the holiday druggies are concerned – they get what they deserve. As I said before, I mean no slur to the Patong Police, they have a difficult job to do, but reporting both sides of the issue would go a long way to restoring tourist confidence.

Frank Dove
Patong

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Drawing a strong line against encroachment

FIRST PERSON

I CAN clearly see the major land issues facing Phuket. The biggest problem that Phuket has to deal with is encroachment on public land. The solution is justice.

The thing about the issue is that you have the right to the property or you don't. If you don't have the right you must leave the land. On the other hand, if you have the right to the land you must legally prove it.

If everyone followed the law there wouldn't be any problems. The law covers the responsibilities of each department. I believe if every department in Phuket were to use their power according to the law then everything would be as it should.

The protection of public land must be taken care of by several departments, not just one. Different public lands fall under the jurisdiction and responsibility of different departments, however most types of public land are covered by laws overseen by the Phuket Provincial Land Office.

For example, some public land is taken care of by the district chief or local administration office (*OrBorTor*). But the way the law dealing with the land is used is controlled by the Phuket Provincial Land Office, which means we



Sithichai Promacha, Phuket Provincial Land Office Chief, is from Ratchaburi and has a masters degree in law from Ramkhamhang University. He is 54 years old. He stepped up to his new position in Phuket on October 10 this year, but was the Thalang land office chief for nine years. Here he talks to the *Gazette* about the issue of land encroachment.

help them deal with land regulations. It is true that the power belongs to them, but the procedures for exercising that power are ours.

Due to the landslides that occurred during the rainy season in Phuket this year Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha ordered government departments to become

'I can not accept one person taking the land that belongs to all Thai people.'

stricter when dealing with construction permits. I would say that is the responsibility of city planning and not the Phuket Provincial Land Office. We only issue land title deeds. We have nothing to do with the construction of buildings.

What concerns us are the people's rights to land. This is complicated in Thailand because we judge who owns the land according to rights, not the category of land it is. In many other coun-

tries if the government marks an area to be a nature reserve, people can't get the land for personal use or to build on.

In Thailand, if you claim to have the right to a piece of land before the land is announced as a nature reserve, then we have to check who actually owns the land.

Following the law is my priority at work. Whoever has the rights [to the land] is the right one [in a dispute].

As Chief of the Phuket Provincial Land Office I will clear out the [Phuket land] problems as justly as I can.

I cannot accept one person taking the land that belongs to all Thai people. That is really unacceptable.

If you are confident you have the rights to your land, then please come and see me.

If you don't have the rights to the land, then you are subject to the law.

A natural failing at sustainability



'Tent caterpillars' making themselves at home. By: Marc Mulloy

THE caterpillars are back! The tell-tale signs of small black droppings at the base of two trees in my garden tells me that up above there are dozens of small black hairy caterpillars chomping their way through the leaves all the while spinning a fine web to keep the rain off. This time last year there were literally millions of these 'tent caterpillars' on the same trees. For some reason last year there were so many at the same time that my trees were stripped completely bare. Then the caterpillars started slowly starving to death and falling to the ground. Not enough leaves for so many caterpillars – nature is can be so cruel.

Phuket is said to have only two seasons; dry and wet, but after six years living here, I now know from the subtle changes outside that there are many mini in-between seasons. We are in one now. There are thunder storms; the wind has changed direction; the mornings are significantly cooler and the grass is growing faster. Flowers have started blooming,

Island View

By Marc Mulloy

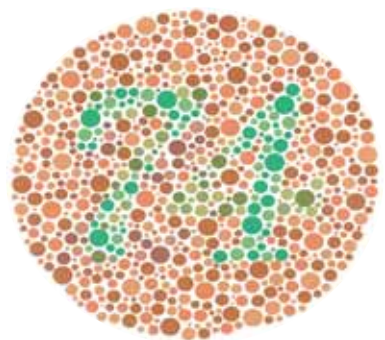
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migratory birds have started arriving and everything is so green – nature can be so beautiful.

Meanwhile elsewhere on Phuket traffic jams are getting worse and the speeding white vans are back. Large tour buses drive slowly in the fast lane and the sounds of ambulance sirens are constant. Prices go up, smiles fade and everyone is trying to make a buck. High season is here again and noise, hustle and hassle has returned as everyone tries to get a piece of the action.

When I think back to the caterpillars that came into my garden last year in such large numbers that led to their doom I can't help feeling that unless we urgently consider how to organize sustainable development in Phuket it will be ruined soon – nature can be such a good teacher.

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



Here is an Ishihara color test. Do you see the number?

Driving blind -- color blind

Can a color-blind person get a Thai licence to drive a motorcycle?

Roscoe
Phuket

An officer at the Driving License Section of the Phuket Land Transport Office replies:

By law people who suffer color blindness are not permitted to hold a driver's license.

However, occasionally color

blindness can be caused by temporary factors, such as a lack of sleep.

If you are unsure about your condition, you should have a color perception examination. These can be done at the Phuket Land Transport Office before 9am Monday to Friday.

For more information call our office at 076-214930 ext 102 or visit our website at phuketdir.com/pktransport/

Motorbike import for personal use

I want to import my 150 cc motorbike from my home country into Thailand.

What documents are required and what department do I need to contact?

What are the steps I need to take?

Andy

A Ministry of Commerce, Department of Foreign Trade officer replies:

A person may import only one motorbike into Thailand for personal use.

To import a motorbike into Thailand, solely for personal use, you must meet all of the following criteria:

- If you are a foreigner, you must have been living in Thailand for more than one year with either a B or O Non-Immigrant Visa.

- You must have owned the motorbike for more than one year and six months in your home country. This will be determined by the registered date of ownership and the date of the motorcycles arrival in Thailand.

- You must have had a drivers license issued by your home country for the entire period that you were using the motorbike in that country.

You must have the following documents prepared:

- Original passport and photocopy of every page with your verified signature.

- Original ownership documents for the motorbike and a photocopy with your verified signature.

- If you are working in Thailand, you must have your work permit and a photocopy of every page with your verified signature.

- If you have a retirement visa, you must have documents issued from your home country that verifies your income.

- A lease agreement or a docu-

- A bank guarantee statement, which is less than three months old.

- photos of every view of the motorbike.

- photos of you with the motorbike.

Please come and visit us in person, as you will have to fill out the application form, which cannot be downloaded from our website.

After you have submitted the proper documents to us, please do not ship your motorbike to Thailand, because we cannot estimate how long it will take to process your request. We only have a few officers who take care of this process and submit the request to the Ministry of Commerce.

If the motorbike arrives before your request has been approved you will have to pay a parking fee starting on the day of its arrival in Thailand.

You can call us at 02-5474771 ext 8644, visit our website dft.go.th/en or visit our office at 100 Nonthaburi 1, Bangkasor, Muang, Nonthaburi 11000.

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

ment that verifies your address in Thailand.

- If you are married to a Thai person you must properly prepare your spouses identification card and his/her house registration. You must have copies of these documents with verified signatures.

Major retailers ink MoU to cease issuing plastic bags

REPRESENTATIVES from five major retailers on the island – Tesco Lotus, Central group, Big C, 7-11 and Phuket Grocery – were among signatories that on Monday inked commitment to stop issuing plastic bags to customers after February 27.

In honor of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej turning 84 years old on December 5, reps from more than 40 private and public organizations in Phuket, comprising retailers, government departments, schools and hospitals, signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) stipulating obligation to cease issuing plastic bags at the end of a 84-day countdown that started from the date of signing.

In line with the “Green Phuket” government policy to lower energy consumption and reduce trash and pollution on the island, the MoU is the product of the “84 years, 840,000 cloth bags in 84 days” project. Cloth bags are now being issued free of charge at the Phuket energy office.

For more details, contact the office by calling 076 210 179.

—Warisa Temram



Phuket Gov Tri Aukaradacha (center) shows off the MoU.



GETTING IT TOGETHER: Members of the Koh Yao Speedboat club at a press conference last week announced plans for standardized hiring rates and queueing. Seated from left to right include Club President Damras “Tony” Plookmaidee, Opas Jitnawi, Prajuab Karnriab and Wirote Massri.

Speedboat operator club to set industry standards

By A Khamlo and A Buajoom

THE island’s speedboat transport and tour sector is set to reach a benchmark this month with the establishment of a 24-hour boating queue and issuing of standardized fares at various piers across Phuket.

To immediately affect piers at Ao Chalong, Koh Sireh, Bang Roang and Boat Lagoon, the unprecedented initiative is being spearheaded by the recently formed Koh Yao Speedboat Club.

Club President Damras “Tony” Plookmaidee told the *Phuket Gazette* that the move aims to set a standard in Phuket’s fragmented sea transport and touring industry.

“Informal queues and pricing agreements have been attempted here before, but they were always unsuccessful because operators would change their prices anyway. This time is different because we’re making it official,” he said.

Tony noted that standardiza-

tion will also help local operators to regain an edge against growing competition from ‘foreign-backed’ companies.

He said that cheaper rental terms being offered by nominee speedboat companies, which he declined to name on record, have made it difficult for local operators to compete.

“Many local speedboat rental companies, especially those that are financed by Chinese, Korean and Russian [investors], have cut the typical hire rates in half.

“At the same time, we can’t reduce our prices as we have expenses to cover and debts to pay off,” he said.

He noted that cut-throat tactics

have increasingly affected business over the past several years and have resulted in a 20 per cent drop in customers.



“With invaluable local expertise, local operators can offer safety and loyalty to tourists”

— Damras “Tony” Plookmaidee

He went on to explain that the co-op does not entail the pooling of finances.

“Operators will still maintain their financial independence. A formal boating queue will ensure

that each operator gets a fair share of [new] business. However, operators will still have the rights to their existing customer base,” he said.

As for proposed hiring rates, club member Opas Jitnawi noted that on offer are three sizes of speedboats with one, two and three engines.

“The rates differ with each route depending on the destination and speedboat size. For example a single engine speedboat carrying no more than 12 passengers to Phang Nga will cost 13,000 baht per day [round trip].

“A larger vessel with two engines that can take up to 25 passengers is 18,000 baht. The largest class of boat with three engines, capable of seating 40 can be hired for 27,000 baht.

“The routes go from Phuket to various destinations such as Phang Nga, Koh Yao, Koh Phi Phi, Koh Similan and Koh Racha.

“Our boats will pick up passengers at Bang Rong Pier in Pa Klok, the Boat Lagoon Marina, Jianwanit Pier in Koh Sireh and Chalong Pier,” Opas explained.

Meanwhile, Tony said that the exact pricing and queuing details will be confirmed and finalized after December 10.

“We will be holding a meeting on December 10 in which speedboat operators from all over Phuket will be participating – not just our club,” he said.

“For this meeting, we’ve also invited the Director of the [Natural] Resources Department to consult with.

“We want to keep the opportunity open for local operators to be part of this movement,” he said, noting that most ‘local’ speedboat operators had left behind careers in fishery and rubber farming.

If you are interested in speedboat hire from the Koh Yao Speedboat Club, contact Tony on 084-4455991.

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Marketing pros call for clarity in 'Brand Phuket'

By Steven Layne

THE Greater Phuket chapter of the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) last Wednesday held constructive discussions about the evolution, direction and future of "Brand Phuket".

This year's fourth AMCHAM meeting, held at the Anantara Resort in Mai Khao, featured talks about the island's brand fueled by inspirational presentations from marketing communications expert David Johnson and brand guru David Keen.

Also in attendance were dozens of hospitality and property industry representatives, in addition to public relations, marketing and media practitioners from Phuket, Bangkok and the Asian region.

The evening's intellectual *hors d'oeuvres* were dished out by Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks, Bill Barnett, who set the stage with his signature rhetoric.

"Can Brand Phuket stand out from Brand Thailand – are the two intrinsically involved, or is Brand Phuket its own vehicle?" he asked.

"There's lots of controversy that Phuket is going to be run over by mass tourism, creating a difficult situation for many of us here. Though we want to welcome prosperity, at the same time this is our home..."

Following Bill's stimulating introduction, David Johnson, Managing Director of Bangkok-based consultancy Delivering Asia, proceeded with his presentation about media and communications management.

Mr Johnson stressed the importance of creating, disseminating and monitoring clear and consistent key messages, using both traditional and new media landscapes, in order to build and maintain the island's brand.

"With so many voices that all have different agendas, it's really important that we strive toward a collective marketing approach – that we are all singing from the same hymn book," he said.

Noting that the world now lives in an age of continuously evolving communications in which news – bad and good – travels instantaneously, Mr Johnson outlined some effective media management approaches.

One of his suggestions involved seeking brand partnerships with respected, reliable and authoritative content brands, such as National Geographic and Lonely Planet.

He pointed out effectiveness in creating engaging narration or "local stories" that feature local faces and homegrown brand ambassadors. With this approach, he argues, you can position the brand to actively target specific segments of the market.

A key point of his speech ad-

ressed the need to have a media strategy that aimed to "influence" the market by fostering reciprocal dialogues that "start or change the conversation".

He argued that the traditional strategy of employing "persuasion" – common to television, newspapers and magazines – is no longer enough because it is linear, while today's audiences require active engagement.

"In promoting destination brands, social media is one channel that cannot be ignored," he continued.

"Channels such as Facebook, Twitter and Youtube are invaluable tools for launching innovative viral campaigns that can communicate the intended key messages and create 'brand buzz', getting people to talk about Phuket with the right positioning," he said.

Building on the themes of consistency and uniformity, Quo Global CEO David Keen posed some very important questions to Phuket's players and promoters.

Declining to use the microphone, Mr Keen was heard loud and clear across the conference room in what was a thought-provoking and entertaining speech.

He questioned whether Brand Phuket should continue to be formed and dictated by market forces (demand) as has been the case since the destination emerged in the mid 1970s, or if it was now time for a change.

Mr Keen was keen to suggest that it is indeed time for Phuket to develop a unified strategy that aims to develop and drive the brand and the market – not the other way around.

After pitching various examples of effective strategies employed by other destination brands such as Bali, Pattaya and Bhutan, he went on to emphasize necessary steps that Brand Phuket must accomplish in order to prosper.

'It's better to build on what you have. Phuket is already a well known brand around the world ...'

– David Johnson



GIFTED: (From left), Phuket Gazette publisher John Magee, MD of Delivering Asia David Johnson, CEO of Quo Global and MD of C9 Hotelworks Bill Barnett at the latest AMCHAM meeting.

"First, Phuket needs to harness its attributes and culture – which do exist, even though they are mostly unknown and untold," he said.

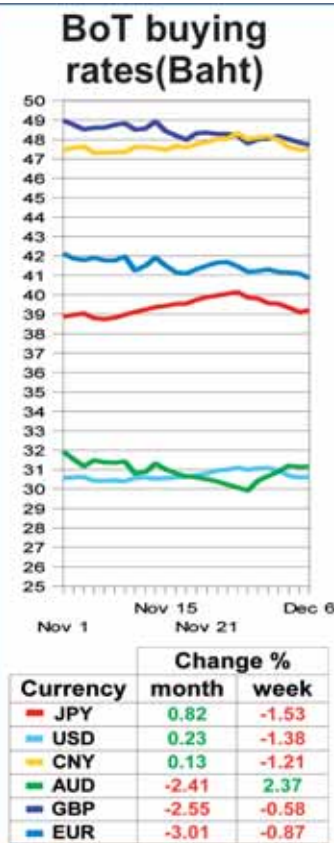
Offering various tourism and market segment figures, Mr Keen stressed, "Instead of focusing on the numbers alone, it is important to address whether the numbers are sustainable," he said.

As for market segmentation, Mr Keen argued that the upper end of the middle income bracket is one segment that particularly deserves more attention.

"We shouldn't just focus on the high-end because they spend a lot. ... the greatest opportunity in Phuket lies in the higher end of the middle income bracket as this is the widest segment and supplies the largest numbers of visitors to the island," he said.

At the core of his speech was a very simple, yet surprisingly difficult-to-answer question: What is Phuket?

Asked to 10 different islanders, such a question is likely to return 10 different answers, he said.



New Big C open



Big C Supercenter Plc last weekend held ceremonies for the grand opening of Big C Market on Thepkasattri Road, near the Rajabhat Phuket University junction.

According to a report on the Phuket Office of Commercial Affairs website, the facility was built on a 2,500 square meter plot under a construction budget of 125 million baht.

The supermarket stocks more than 15,000 items and employs a total of 90 staff. It is the 12th 'Junior Big C' in the nation, and one of only two in the Southern region. The other is located in Phang Nga province.

Big C operations in Phuket include the 'Big C Supercenter' on the Bypass Road and 'Big C Extra' attached to Jungceylon shopping mall in Patong.



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Reusing passwords is an expensive bad habit



Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

HERE'S a question I see with alarming frequency:

Woody, somebody just broke into my Hotmail account. The creep sent messages out to everybody in my Hotmail address book, saying I was in the hospital and needed money sent to me (by Western Union) immediately. What can I do about it?

You've been hacked, and there's precious little that can be done. Let me get to that part in a second. First, I want to talk about how you got hacked in the first place – and dole out some advice to people in Phuket that can keep creeps from getting into their Hotmail (or Facebook, Twitter, PayPal or bank) accounts.

There are hundreds of ways bad guys can get your password. You already know about many of them – writing down your password on a sticky note and putting it on your laptop, for example. Telling your password to your spouse or best friend, who loaned it to someone who really needed it, like, right now.

Using a patently obvious password doesn't help – if your name is Yingluck Shinawatra or Barack Obama, and your password is *yingluck* or *President*, well, you gotta expect somebody's going to figure it out. (Both Yingluck and Barack have had their Twitter accounts hacked, probably because they used simple passwords.)

Using one of a bunch of very common passwords is similarly very dumb. As explained in an InfoWorld article, the 25 most common passwords stick out like a sore thumb: password, 123456, 12345678, qwerty, abc123, monkey, 1234567, letmein, trustno1, dragon, baseball, 111111, iloveyou, master, sunshine, ashley, bailey, passw0rd, shadow, 123123,

654321, superman, qazwsx, michael, football. Use any of those and any pimply teenager in Kazbukistan with ten minutes to kill can break into your account.

There's a worse form of password abuse, though, and it can cost you a lot of money. You need to be very, very careful to keep from reusing your email password. Consider this worst-case scenario, which we saw unfold here in Thailand a couple of months ago.

Let's say my Gmail address is *woodyleonhard@gmail.com* (it is) and my Gmail password is *gotcha* (it isn't). Like you, I log on to dozens of web sites every day. I signed up for an account at a newspaper site (not this one), so I can post comments in their forums and get email updates on the news.

Let's call this newspaper site ThaiDailyPlanet.com. The site asks me to provide my email address, and a password. I give them my email address, *woodyleonhard@gmail.com*. I'm lazy (I am), so instead of using a different password, I just re-use my Gmail password, *gotcha*.

ThaiDailyPlanet.com's webmasters may be good at many things – their jobs depend on keeping the news posted and updated, and looking good – but they aren't security experts. The system that stores people's email addresses and passwords is protected very well, using the latest SQLServer technology, but the admins don't bother to encrypt user IDs and passwords before storing them. That means my user ID and password are sitting on a disk somewhere on ThaiDailyPlanet's server, and they're just plain text.

Fast forward a few months, or years and some creep in Los Angeles downloads this new hacking program that's supposed to be able to break into SQLServer databases.



AS EASY AS 123: Never re-use your email account's password for other accounts. Photo: Ron Bennetts

He doesn't have a clue how it was built, and can just barely figure out how to use the hacking program, but he goes surfing the internet, looking for SQLServer databases that don't have a specific, recent security patch installed.

Sure enough, he bumps into ThaiDailyPlanet.com, and discovers that their SQLServer database doesn't have this security patch yet. He turns the hacking program on ThaiDailyPlanet's servers, and in the course of an hour or two, downloads five thousand email addresses and passwords, including *woodyleonhard@gmail.com* and *gotcha*.

This particular creep has the self-esteem of a gutted catfish, so he goes bragging to other people on creepy forums that he's broken into this big, bad database, and made off with 5,000 email addresses and passwords. To strut his stuff, he posts the addresses and passwords on an open data web site, inviting his creepy friends to go look.

Within hours, hundreds of people have downloaded the sto-

len email addresses and passwords. Some of them have IQs above dishwasher level, so they go poking and prodding. Sure enough, dozens of them find out that they can log on to Gmail with *woodyleonhard@gmail.com* and *gotcha*.

That's only part of the story. If I used the same username and password on my PayPal account, it'll be gone in a New York minute. With a hundred monkeys pounding on keyboards, my Bank of America, Scottrade and Kasikornbank accounts could get drained the same way – if I used the same user name and password that's on my Gmail account. And of course I'd be ordering champagne and caviar on eBay, for delivery to Los Angeles. It could all happen in a few minutes, and I'd never be any the wiser.

More than that, some banking sites let you request a "forgotten" password by providing the correct email address. One of those monkeys no doubt would try the "Forgot my password" on a hundred well-known financial sites, and possibly

come up with something. With access to my mail account, they'd have all the details they need.

Bottom line: don't re-use your email account's password! And be very careful about recycling passwords in general.

Back to the original question: there's basically nothing you can do about a hacked email account. If you can still get in, you should change your password immediately, of course, but the cow's already out of the barn. It happens so often that the major mail providers (Hotmail, Gmail and Yahoo Mail) have web sites set up with advice about how to cope with the problem, but the bottom line is that there's basically nothing you can do.

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/SandwichShoppes, drop a line at Woody@KhunWoody.com, or visit his free Sunday morning computer clinics at Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.

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YOUTUBE has revamped its website putting channels at the core of the service but many members remain unconvinced.

A channel is a curated list of video clips chosen by a specific YouTube member or celebrity and Google claims the refresh "will improve your life on YouTube".

Channels from broadcasters, including the BBC and Channel 4, are also promoted.

Channels are now displayed in a central column on the site's home page thus resembling news feeds on social networks such as Facebook or Google+.

Experts say the redesign may mean people spend longer on the site, but some users have attacked the change and within 17 hours of going 'live' 6,703 members had clicked the "dislike" button compared to 2,280 who had clicked "like".

Google, who own the site, has said on a blog that the new design "focused on helping you discover a broader range of entertainment", but added there might be "further tweaks" depending on members' feedback.

It highlighted the fact that the site now offered deeper integration with Google+ and Facebook, helping members to see what their friends were sharing without leaving YouTube's site.

Google is also in the process of launching around 100 channels curated by celebrities and other well-known content providers. The firm is investing tens of millions of dollars into the project expected to launch next year.

Google said the site already attracts over 3 billion clip views per day. Company watchers believe the revamp will help make the site more "sticky", keeping people longer on their site.

Eighteen year property cycle

THE holiday season is fast approaching and some of us will soon be heading back to colder climes to enjoy the festive period with our loved ones. Many of you will remain in Asia enjoying your Christmas dinner in a tropical climate whilst for those of us jetting back to the UK we hope to be able to put aside the economic woes that are sweeping the region and enjoy a well earned break.

It has been some time since my last visit to UK shores and things have changed significantly in the past 12 months primarily due to the financial constraints that many are suffering under. Let's not forget that it is not all doom and gloom though as from every crisis that we are forced to contend comes at least one opportunity for prosperity.

So with my Santa moniker firmly undertaken I wanted to bring at least a little cheer and good news to expatriates in Phuket and beyond. What could this be you may wonder? Well when I say the UK property market many may be reluctant to agree, but if we scratch beneath the surface we can find some nuggets of joy that could prove extremely profitable in years to come.

As with all aspects of life and financial asset classes the UK property market moves

in cycles and after speaking to friends and former colleagues in the industry I have undertaken some research. We all know that the UK is witnessing steady declines in overall value and when harnessed with banks squeezing us on finances, you could be well within your rights to look at me blankly when suggesting this represents an area of opportunity. For those doubters, please stay with me and I will reveal all!

Island Investor

By Anthony Lyman

In short we are talking about using property as an investment. Let's take emotion out of the equation and focus on the income and growth opportunities that many expatriates could feast themselves on thanks to the UK property market. To highlight this let's look at the 18 year UK property cycle:

The UK goes through incredibly consistent property cycles of around 18 years, where prices climb broadly for 14 years and then decline for 4 years, before starting the cycle all over again.

If we look at recent property booms and busts:

1955 – 1973. With the war years over returning veterans and affordable mortgage rates creates higher property demand and prices rise.

1974 – 1992. With the stock market



SHORT OR LONG TERM: Buying with a view to rent may make good sense. Photo: Ben Sutherland

crash of 1973, more investors turned to property to look for returns thus creating a further property boom. With the introduction of right to buy schemes, this created a further surge and the demand for property continued to rise.

1993 – 2010. Gordon Brown enters the treasury and the UK sees consistent house price growth, however due to rising prices many people are priced out of the market. The credit crunch hits in 2008 and average house prices fall dramatically.

2011 – 2029? OK, so let's look at the UK housing market this way. As mortgage lending is at an all time low, how do you

make that all important first step up the property ladder? You rent your property. The UK rental market is currently in very high demand and this presents an opportunity. Housing prices are low and rental demand is high. This means that over the medium to long term you could potentially receive capital appreciation and an income yield of anywhere between 5-10%.

Of course this is not for the faint hearted, however a little investment could be one of the best things Santa could bring you this year.

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We are the World

PHUKET enjoyed its first ever World Musiq Festival staged in honor of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 84th Birthday Anniversary this week at Saphan Hin in front of the musical fountain.

The free festival featured musicians from all over Thailand including Lanna Cummins from the North, KoKaiNaiSon from the South, the central plains rap of Na Yong, the northeastern grandfather of Isarn World Musiq, Nga Caravan and Thai National Artist Naowarat Pongpaiboon.

International artists included *Americana* from the USA featuring Jerry Trapper on harmonica, the *Batucada* drums of Brazil, Phuket's own *Uruk Sea Gypsies*, Moroccan superstar Hassan Hakmoun and Todd Tongdee's own *Himmapan World Musiq and Dance show*.

Add to this mix some Phuket school music groups, dancers and even Phuket Provincial Administrative Organization (PPAO)

President Paiboon Upatising singing on stage and you have one of Phuket's most memorable festivals in years.

There were over 30 booths selling 'Phuket food' and nearby exhibitions on His Majesty's music.

From the festival beginning on December 2nd with the moving *Phuket Symphony of Youth* to the December 5th singing of

"Father of Love" in honor of His Majesty the audience was left with a lasting impression of how World Musiq can cross all boundaries and language barriers.

The festival was produced by the PPAO with the help of the ever energetic Todd 'Tongdee' Lavelle.

The *Phuket Gazette* was a sponsor of this great event.



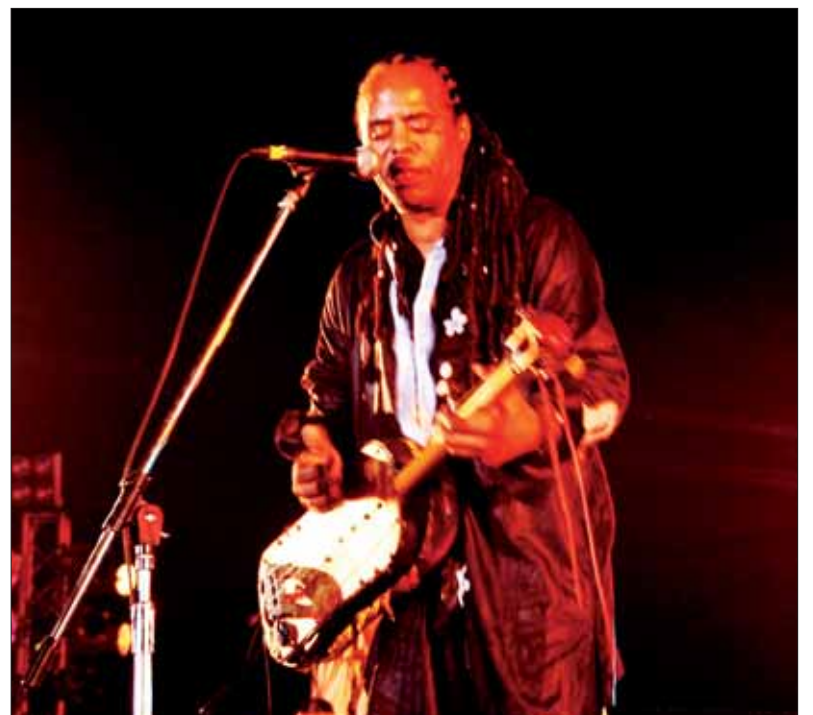
PPAO president Paiboon Upatising (center) addresses the crowd.



BORN IN THE USA: Americana during a sound check.



MUSICIANS: (from left) Surachai "Nga Caravan" Jantimathawn, Khun Ott, Todd 'Tongdee' Lavelle and Hassan Hakmoun.



Hassan Hakmoun played hypnotic Gnawa music on his *sintir lute*.



PPAO President Paiboon Upatising hands flowers to children while Todd Tongdee plays on. Photos: Marc Mulloy



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Things are cooking up in the north of Phuket

FOLLOWING on from last year's inaugural success, four luxury resorts on Mai Khao Beach situated in northern Phuket played host to the 2nd annual North Phuket Culinary Arts Festival which took place this week.

During three days over four hundred diners enjoyed the different offerings at the four different venues: The Sala Phuket Resort and Spa, The Renaissance Resort and Spa, Anantara Phuket Villas and JW Marriott Phuket and Spa.



JW Marriott Phuket Seafood Station. Photo by Phuket Best Event



Justin Maiklem – Executive Chef of Anantara ready for the Culinary Arts Festival and north Phuket's longest table (above).



MEET THE MEDIA: (from left) Kulchada Boonrawd – Marketing Communications Manager of Renaissance Phuket Resort and Spa; Veerapong Waitayawongsakul – Chief of Phuket Public Relations Office; Oscar Chitamit – Station Manager and DJ at Blue Wave fm 90.5; Jason Nuell – GM of Renaissance Phuket Resort and Spa, Pim from PGTV, Kanjana Sriboonsom – Events Manager at *Phuket Gazette* and Sasithornrat Promwichai – PR at *Phuket Index.com*



JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa GM Tony Pedroni (left) and his staff (above). Photo by Phuket Best Events



Renaissance Phuket ambassadors who made the fantastic night happen.



JW Marriott Phuket Thai food station. Photo by Phuket Best Event

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EURO CREATIONS

Suvich Prechaharn

SUVICH Prechaharn, the owner of the Thai restaurant D-Phuket, was born into a family of restaurateurs. His parents own Dairy Queen, an establishment famous for introducing court-style Thai food and a range of ice creams in the 1960s.

From a young age, Suvich helped in the family restaurant and was particularly adept at using the ice cream machine. At that time, Dairy Queen was situated inside the campus of Kasetsart University, where Suvich eventually went on to study engineering. HRH Chulabhorn, who studied at the same institution, was a regular customer. Suvich was assigned to attend the Princess who had a strict diet to follow.

"It would be inappropriate for me to claim to be the Princess' friend. Let's just say that her kindness and dedication are an endless inspiration to me," Suvich said.

Later, Suvich studied in the US and obtained an MBA in International Business Administration. He then joined the Thai Farmers Bank (TFB) as part of their "think-tank" where he was responsible for designing a radical blueprint to overhaul their banking operations. This design helped staffing increases, service efficiency, credit policy and international expansion.

His career at TFB was cut short when he was diagnosed with hepatitis B, and a brush with death made him consider life's purpose. He entered

THAI gallery

By Nanthapa Pengkasem

tered the monkhood for three months, during which time he practised Vipassana and immersed himself in Buddhism. This period would give him a new sense of purpose. No more was he the ambitious and driven businessman striving for excellence with every project he touched.

Still, the entrepreneur in him was always at work, and in the early 2000s Suvich experimented with making soft-serve ice cream as opposed to the more popular hard ice cream.

After some market research and a workshop in Italy, he started anew, this time using local fruits and herbs as the main ingredients. His proudest moment was when he came up with the unique custard apple (noina) flavour. More delectable flavours followed, as well as the creation of Bonito Ice Cream. The name pays homage to Spanish and Portuguese influences on Thai sweets (kanom) – 200 years ago.

Suvich spotted a niche in the Phuket resaturant market while holidaying on the island with his family. There was a lack of the Bangkok-style food he grew up with, and so

he opened D-Phuket in Samkong last year. The restaurant serves authentic Thai food and healthy ice cream. Panarat, Suvich's wife, manages the restaurant while he takes charge of supplying his signature ice cream to hotels and restaurants on Phuket.

Suvich designed and decorated the restaurant's interior himself which exudes the cosiness of a family kitchen, with coffee, tea, internet connection, and of course good food.

In setting up D-Phuket, Suvich was inspired by his mother who, according to him, "was a real entrepreneur, and one with a social conscience".

"My mother had respect for both her workers and customers. She created a homely space serving tasty food without caring too much about money. I want to follow her example," he said.

To ensure the authenticity of his mother's signature dishes, Suvich brought with him a 60-year-old chef who has been with the family for 40 years.

A successful businessman with a loving wife and a daughter, Suvich never loses sight of what is important to him – the observance of Buddhist spirituality.

"My philosophy in life is to be true to oneself and honest to others. People will love you for these qualities, not because you are clever or rich," says the 54-year-old proprietor.



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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Through the gun smoke of Wyatt Earp's wild life

Books

By James Eckardt

TO US youngsters of the American Baby Boom, Wyatt Earp appeared an unlikely Wild West hero.

The Life and Legend of Wyatt Earp debuted on TV in 1955 and featured a dandy in a frock coat, florid silk vest and foppish flat-brimmed hat.

The life of the frontier marshal had already been filmed in John Ford's great *My Darling Clementine* starring Henry Fonda and The Gunfight at the O.K. Corral with Burt Lancaster and Kirk Douglas. More recent incarnations of the Tombstone lawman have been played by Kevin Costner and Kurt Russell.

Jeff Guinn's book *The Last Gunfight* (Simon & Schuster, New York, 2011, 392 pp) is the latest in a long line of books and articles about October 26, 1881, the day when Wyatt, Virgil and Morgan Earp along with Doc Holliday squared off against the four cowboys of the Clanton

and McLaury clans, leaving three dead. The book's subtitle promises "The Real Story of the Shootout at the O.K. Corral".

For one thing, the shootout happened a half block away from the O.K. Corral in a vacant lot off Tombstone's main drag, Fremont Street. For another, though the Earps were lawmen and the cowboys petty rustlers, the fight was not fueled by personal

scathed and even rounded up a posse to kill three of the gang that had shot his brothers.

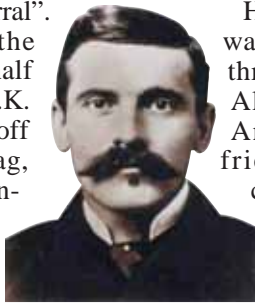
He escaped into a life of wandering that took him throughout the West, to Alaska and finally Los Angeles where he befriended such early cowboy movie stars as William S. Hart and Tom Mix. He died in 1928 at the age of 80, too soon to cash in on his fame.

The big question raised is: did he deserve all the hype?

He certainly had a checkered youth. He was arrested for being a horse thief in Oklahoma and a pimp in a floating bordello in Peoria, Illinois. He descended into alcoholism after the death of his first wife. But he stopped drinking and picked himself up as a buffalo hunter. He was tall and strong and utterly fearless when he stumbled into his first lawman's job in Wichita, Kansas.

These were the days of the long cattle drives from Texas to rail heads in Kansas. He achieved his first measure of dime novel fame further along the train line in Dodge City along with his brothers and Bat Masterson.

The Earp family were in a con-



Doc Holliday Circa 1880



Wyatt Earp Circa 1881

and political conflicts that went back for months as previous accounts have suggested. The cowboys were actually on their way out of town, but tempers were frayed. Ike and Tom Clanton had been pistol-whipped for carrying firearms that morning by Wyatt Earp, and nearly everyone was badly hungover.

The focus, of course, is on Wyatt Earp. While his two brothers were wounded in the gunfight and Morgan was later killed and Virgil crippled for life, Wyatt emerged un-



REGULATORS: Wyatt Earp (seated, second from left) and Bat Masterson (standing, right) with the Dodge Peace Commissioners. Photo: C. Fly

stant search for wealth and social respectability. It didn't help that all the brothers lived with common law wives who were former prostitutes, nor that saloons and gambling were their economic mainstays.

"None of the Earps were flawless saints, but they also were not shady characters who lucked into heroic places in Western history," the author notes.

"What they did do, Wyatt especially, was exaggerate their accomplishments and completely ignore anything in their past that reflected badly on them. In this, they were typical of men of their time and men today."

The Earps moved to the silver mining town of Tombstone, Ari-

zona, in 1881 and took up jobs in law enforcement and saloon operations. The town elite were Republicans; the surrounding ranchers were Democrats, many former Confederates. The "cowboys", as they were called, rustled cattle in nearby Mexico and occasionally robbed stagecoaches. In Tombstone they came up against the Earps.

"The cowboys might not mind living rough most of the time, but they also wanted to indulge their hedonistic tendencies.

What was the use of having ill-gotten gains if they couldn't be spent having riotous fun?" The fun ended badly: death for the cowboys, exile for the Earps and Doc Holliday.

Book briefs

The Banjax Arrest

THIS is a traditional and very strong science fiction novel.

The plot is set in the distant future with humanity having spread across many star systems and made contact with various other intelligent life forms. Humans have interbred with some of these galactic races while others have been reduced to benign subservience.

Baron Banjax is the character around which the story revolves. He is not really an aristocrat - he bought his title. But he is an immensely wealthy half-human who made his fortune from planetary waste disposal. He is retired to a strange but habitable moon which he owns, and where he rules by virtue of feudal ownership and as a leading devotee of the new faith of Bo-Go_Max.

He might have been left there forever, except for the discovery of a mass of financial and business improprieties that force the authorities to issue an arrest warrant and send in a police mission to arrest him. With these police officers is Troy Pace, whose rich and well-connected father apparently thinks the Baron's moon is just the sort of place where he can recover from a big head injury.

But going further than this with a plot description would deprive the reader of some unexpected and well-paced surprises. We have an

increasingly bizarre chief suspect half Marlon Brando, half Robert Maxwell. We have a very slippery cult leader, and a slightly sinister young stowaway. Above all perhaps, we have a moon that is progressively turning from paradise into a ball of unstable rock.

The character with whom we are supposed to identify with most is poor Troy with his head injury. However, Croman the cult leader is a fraud and a chancer, but is very strongly drawn, and has just the right degree of moral ambiguity to make one wonder who would play him best in a film adaptation. Gary Oldman or possibly John Malkovich with his English accent. But this is drifting off the subject.

This is a very good first novel, and readers will look forward to many more from its author.



Karon Beach

Phuket

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Monsoon season is here

By Marc Mulloy

WHILE Thailand is internationally recognized for its cuisine, it is not generally famous for its fine wines, but Monsoon Valley wines are trying to change that preconception.

At a Monsoon Valley wine dinner held at the Ruen Thai restaurant in the Dusit Thani, Laguna on December 1, German winemaker Kathrin Puff presented the best award winning wines from the Hua Hin Hills vineyard.

She was also here to compete in the triathlon, and jokingly claimed to be getting her electrolytes from her daily tippie.

The wines had been expertly matched with fusion Thai food to enhance the flavors of both.

The sumptuous meal designed by Executive Chef Silvano Amolini started off with Tiger prawns topped with a ginger flavored mango-chili salsa. The wine chosen was a Monsoon Valley Colombard 2011. The wine was dry with citrus notes and a good match with the plump prawns.

Next on the menu was delicious pan-roasted Tasmanian salmon sashimi with a Hoi sin sauce sabayon. This was paired with a Monsoon Valley white shiraz that resemble a rose in color, but not in taste. There were no tannins

present which made for a crisp acidic partner to the fabulous salmon.

A Shiraz 2010 was served up with sliced *magret* of duck served with sesame crusted potatoes and tangy vegetable salad drizzled with a Mekong enhanced straw mushroom sauce – divine.

The special bottle of the night was next with a rare 2008 Cuvée de Siam Rouge. This wine won a gold medal at the International Wine Challenge in Vienna, Austria and was the only bottle of the evening that used an old fashioned cork.

The wine was vinified 500-liter oak barrels and this is apparent in the complex taste.

To fully bring out the flavors our chef produced a marinated lamb chop served with a red curry sauce, chick peas and cous cous.

For those who love sweet dessert wines the 20% Monsoon Valley Muscat 2010 takes some beating and seemed very popular with Thai diners.

This wine was paired with a lemon grass parfait with rose apple compote and a sorbet made from the same wine.

Dubbed “new latitude wines” these daring wines may yet prove to be a challenge to both old and new world wines and do go rather well with Thai cuisine.



EUROPEAN FLAIR AND THAI WINE: German winemaker Kathrin Puff and Italian Executive Chef Silvano Amolini made a perfect pairing as did the food and wine they had on offer.



Pan-roasted Tasmanian salmon sashimi with a Hoi sin sauce sabayon.



Duck breast with sesame crusted potatoes and tangy vegetable salad drizzled with Mekong enhanced straw mushroom sauce.



To fully bring out the flavors of the 2008 wine chef produced a marinated lamb chop served with a red curry sauce, chick peas and cous cous.



The Muscat was paired with a lemon grass parfait with rose apple compote and a sorbet made from the same wine.

Singapore MediaCorp Artiste, Joanne Peh

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Mixed messages: Phuket short on teachers, or schools short on job ads?

LAST month the *Gazette* ran a headline that read, "Phuket schools relax rules for hiring English teachers".

The opening sentence of that story read, "The Phuket Primary Education Area Office has relaxed the requirements for foreigners to be hired as English-language teachers at government schools in Phuket."

Almost immediately after publishing the story, optimistic job seekers flooded the *Gazette's* office with questions asking which schools on Phuket were hiring and where to go about applying for vacancies.

Considering the article's content, who could have blamed them? Unfortunately, the reality of the situation is that no official change has occurred in terms of a relaxation of requirements.

In the article, Phuket Primary Education Area Office Director (PPEAO) Jian Thongnoon is quoted saying, "Ideally, we have to hire teachers specifically trained to teach in English. Just hiring native English speakers is not really worth it because these people do not have teaching skills. However, in the meantime we will have to hire teachers who just have English skills until we can find qualified teachers who have both English and English-teaching skills."

Yet it's the Teachers' Council of Thailand (*Krurusapha*) that sets requirements for foreign teachers' qualifications and their policy on this issue has remained constant since 2006:

Applicants who do not possess a degree in education, or a

In the Classroom

By Eric Haeg

degree and a license to teach "from abroad" must pass the TCT's Professional Knowledge Tests – of which there are four.

In the meanwhile, applicants' employers may request exemptions after applicants have attended the Thai Language, Culture and Ethics course and registered to take the first of the TCT's exams. Then and only then are teachers provided with a two-year provisional teaching permit.

So while it's understandable that the average reader might have taken Director Jian's comment, "we will have to hire teachers who just have English skills" as a relaxation for more basic regulations such as a university degree, that simply is not the case.

Applicants who do not hold degrees are still routinely turned away before being granted interviews. Of course teachers without degrees are working in Phuket's school, but in those cases, schools are working around the laws, not relaxing them.

Another potentially misleading statement suggested, "Schools in Phuket Town are struggling to attract native English speakers as teachers." Director Jian suggested the PPEAO needed 50 teachers and still another quote from Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) President Paiboon Upatising read, "We have been announcing that we need English



JOBSEEKERS: Numerous TEFL training course providers graduate a plethora of certified job seekers who have degrees. Photo: Courtesy of Siam Educational Experience TEFL

teachers, but there have been very few applications."

If Phuket's *OrBorJor* is struggling to attract teacher applicants, it's certainly not due to a lack of foreign teachers looking to work. Nearly every month, Phuket's numerous TEFL training course providers graduate a plethora of certified job seekers who have degrees. These teachers look on job boards, they look in the papers, they routinely ask teachers who are already employed if they know of any jobs going. Yet the overwhelming feeling amongst job seekers is that positions are full.

Rather than suggesting Phuket Town is struggling to attract teachers, it would seem Phuket's schools are struggling to communicate their vacancies.

Ajarn.com's job board only lists openings at Kajonkiet, Phuket's classified ads list only sporadic vacancies and the word-of-mouth openings have dried up since the most recent hiring push in September.

The article also went on to report that one reason for the staff shortage was that teachers were applying for early retirement. These vacancies will more than

likely be filled by Thais working under a different salary structure (a lower salary with considerable benefits reserved for Thais) or actually reserved for Thai government officials working as teachers (*kru kharajagarn*).

So while Phuket has plenty of qualified teacher applicants, it's the schools themselves that must do more to ensure they're reaching their intended audience. Until schools find the means with which to meet this end, schools will continue to go without teachers and teachers will continue to go without jobs.



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Flood worries in Bangkok

MANY foreign English teachers in Bangkok and central Thailand face an uncertain and unsettling few months because of the floodwaters, which ravaged areas such as Ayutthaya and Pathum Thani as well as Bangkok according to the ajarn.com website.

For many schools the new school term should have begun in the first week of November, but was delayed indefinitely, leaving teachers completely in the dark as to whether they'll even get paid for what is shaping up to be a long period of inactivity.

The situation is particularly distressing for those waiting to start a new job. On the ajarn Facebook page, one teacher wrote that he was due to start a teaching position at a new school on October 31st. The school contacted him to say that the floods had caused them to postpone the first day of term until the 7th of November then the 14th and so on. This teacher was lucky inasmuch as he was given lesson preparation and

worksheets to do from the comfort of his home, but that wasn't the same story for everyone. Many teachers just have to play a waiting game.

It's even worse for those not in the country. They are waiting with suitcase packed, ready to leave for the airport – only to have the school tell you "please don't come now - we're under water" This has happened to one teacher whose three-week break in the USA turned into six and he still has no idea when his school will be open for business. "I've already switched my flight back to Thailand twice. The second time as I was about to leave for the airport. It's all incredibly frustrating"

Even after all the floodwater has receded, there are going to be gigantic clean-up operations necessary to get the schools ready to re-open.

The biggest worry for many teachers of course is are they going to get paid for the downtime? Worrying times indeed.

Wreck diving in Khao Lak

Diving

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

THE descent line disappeared below us after we splashed in above the *Sea Charter*, one of the few diveable wrecks off the coast of Khao Lak.

There is a long moment between when we leave the sunny surface of the Andaman sea and the first hint of the ship's shadow blackening the blue water below us. In that moment I found myself clearing my ears again and going back over the dive briefing, reviewing all the details of the wreck that Markus Hippel, the manager at Sea Bees Khao Lak, had gone over last night.

The wreck is a cargo ship about 80 meters long lying on its starboard side with its cargo of teak wood still on board. The ship had departed with its cargo from Burma in August 2009 heading for Vietnam, but was caught in bad weather and ended up on the sandy sea floor 38 meters from the surface, not far from the recreational depth dive limit of 40 meters.



A diver lights a route to *Sea Charter*

The real question I kept asking myself as I followed the line down was: what is the wreck like now? It's the question every diver asks before the wreck appears. Even a wreck as young as this one was bound to have started to break apart and become a haven for sea life.

The night before, Markus had explained that Khao Lak wasn't known for its wreck diving, being in fact the premier jump-off location for liveaboards heading to the Similan Islands.

"People are coming to dive the Similan Islands, because it's one of the 10 best dive sites in the world," he said in a light German accent.

He went on to explain that many of the divers that booked with Sea Bees got on board with one of the two liveboard trips they offered. However, tomorrow we would be taking a day trip out in the beautiful teak hulled *Run-away* to do a little wreck diving.

The nervousness of diving with Nitrox, instead of compressed air, which I hadn't done in some time, was mostly calmed by Andrea Filippazzi, an Italian dive instructor new to the Sea Bees team, and it totally dissipated once the wreck came into view. With the wreck in front of me I knew the extra bottom time granted by the Nitrox wasn't to be taken for granted.

We swam down, past the wreck's silty hull to the vertical lying deck, with Andrea confidently leading the way. The wreck is shallow enough that there wasn't an eerie stillness to it. In fact, it was bustling with life. We dipped into the bowels of the hull, keeping our heads down to avoid the maraud of sharp oyster shells already cemented to the ship. Long beautiful timbers of teak passed



A dive photographer makes his way around the wreck. Photos: Sea Bees

below us and then we were out into the open water again.

Snagged fishing nets hung around the wreck's tower like shredded sails. Slowly we worked against the mild current towards the stern of the ship to see the enormous propeller still above the sand.

After 32 minutes of bottom time and our safety stop I was ecstatic

to have just been aboard the *Sea Charter*. A pleasant drowsiness set in after we had a delicious German style lunch. I closed my eyes and started diving the *Sea Charter* again, wondering what it would have been like to slide past the broken glass of the ship's tower window and find what mysteries lurked inside.

Dive insurance

ISSUE: I have several questions concerning the Bureau of Tourism and Guide Registration demands for me to increase the insurance premium for my dive company. Originally I was asked to increase my premium from 7,000 baht to 22,000 baht and I did that.

Now, however, I am being asked to pay a premium of 72,000 baht.

Every time I am told I have submitted everything the goalposts move.

I have the following questions:

What are the premiums based on?

Katekeow Angchoun, the underwriter for non-motors at Viriyah Insurance, Phuket Branch, replies:

The premium is based on the assessed risk of the activity and the potential costs to the insurance company.

In general, premiums for scuba diving are higher than other tourism activities because scuba diving is considered a high-risk activity.

Is there a fixed insurance company that I have to use or can I choose my own?

Piyasuda Sukcharoen replies:

You can use an insurance company of your choice. It is your responsibility to carefully check the conditions before you sign a policy.

Why are the premiums so high?

Piyasuda Sukcharoen replies:

Before, we had set insurance payouts to be a minimum of 200,000 baht in case of death, and minimum 100,000 baht in case of an accident.

This changed in March 24, 2010 to a minimum 1 million baht

in case of death, and a minimum 500,000 baht in case of an accident.

We have changed the payments because the Tourism and Guide Registration Committee agreed that 200,000 baht was not valuable enough for one life, 1 million baht is not either, but at least the committee has set a higher payout.

Is this policy consistently applied to dive operators in Thailand?

Piyasuda Sukcharoen replies:

These regulations cover all types of tourism businesses throughout Thailand, including diving.

Who are the beneficiaries of the commission on these exorbitant insurance premiums?

Katekeow Angchoun replies:

Like all commissions on insurance policies, the commission on these policies go to the insurance agent.

If divers are encouraged to have their own dive insurance, because they are responsible for their own dive, why do dive operators have to pay for client insurance?

Piyasuda Sukcharoen replies:

The Bureau of Tourism and Guide Registration, under the Department of Tourism [in Bangkok], has issued a regulation that requires all tourism businesses to register with the office.

One of the required documents is personal accident insurance for your customers and guides.

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Phuket jet-skis on the rise

PHUKET: The Phuket Marine Office has decided to take it easy on jet-ski rental operators who haven't registered their jet-skis, the quarterly meeting of Phuket's honorary consuls was told at Phuket Provincial Hall yesterday.

"Since we started managing jet-ski rental operations in 2007, we have had 219 jet-skis [for rent]. We are still trying to control the number of Phuket's honorary consuls was told at Phuket Provincial Hall yesterday. However, we have found 70 jet-skis that are unregistered," Phuket Marine Office Chief Phuripat Theerakulpisut told the consuls.

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

The 70 jet-skis are planned to be brought into the system and registered under a specially created category with the Phuket Marine Office.

"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.

The primary aim of the move is to be able to make sure that all rental jet-skis in Phuket are covered by first-class insurance, said Chief Phuripat.

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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

December 2 to 24. Christmas Eve Dinner & Salsa Party

Les Anges is delighted to invite you to our Christmas Eve and Salsa Party. Dance a Cha-cha, Bachata, Samba and Rumba to our music and enjoy your Christmas Eve on the Boardwalk of Les Anges. Reservations are recommended due to limited seating. 1,400++ baht per person. From 8 pm to 12:30 am, Les Anges restaurant in the Royal Phuket Marina. Contact Murat at 081-7973364, muratc@royalphuketmarina.com or visit royalphuketmarina.com.

December 3 to 10. The 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 marks 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 organized 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 10. Constitution Day

This day is a public holiday in Thailand.



December 16 to 18. Asia Superyacht Rendezvous Phuket

Phuket is starting to become a hub for Superyachts in South East Asia. The 11th Asia Superyacht Rendezvous, which is organized by Asia Pacific Superyachts, will be held at the award-winning Surin Hotel from 10.30am to 10pm. We are proud to announce that FeadShip, the premier of motor yacht builder, is returning as Principal Sponsor for this prestigious event. Boat International Media is the International media partner, who will bring the event worldwide exposure. Yacht Style is the national media partner, and this year we are happy to announce that the *Phuket Gazette* and *PGTV* will be our local media partners. Contact Nina Larsson at 076-296440, pr-comm@asia-superyacht-rendezvous.com or visit asia-superyacht-rendezvous.com.

December 10. Christmas Market

Due to popular demand, we will be holding two Christmas Markets this year, selling unique Christmas gifts, decorations, jewelry, homeware as well as tasty treats: mince pies, Christmas cookies, Christmas cakes, etc, and a Gingerbread House raffle. There's 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 in Nai Harn beach. Contact Chantal Fernandes at 089-8742942, chantal.fernandes@gmail.com or visit thegoodshepherd.info.

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 in 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, mikegillam@hotmail.co.uk.

December 16 Indian Feast

Royal Phuket Marina is pleased to introduce you to our new Special Friday Indian Feast. We are delighted to offer a 25 per

cent discount on the Indian Buffet and 10 per cent off the listed menu on Friday nights. This Authentic Homemade Indian Buffet will be prepared and served by our very own in-house Indian Chef, Padum Kahtri. Only 495++ baht per person. From 7 to 10pm at Les Anges, Royal Phuket Marina. Contact Murat at 081-7973364, muratc@royalphuketmarina.com or visit royalphuketmarina.com.

December 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 17 to 18. Phuket Youth Sailing Club Last Chance Regatta 2011

Open to all Dinghy Classes & Beach Cats. Skippers briefing at 09:30am with race start at 10am. Classes: Optimist Open (Born 1996 or after), racing Saturday and Sunday. Topper Open (Junior, Youth and Adults), Laser Standard Tasar Beach Cats. Entry Fee (includes BBQ) – Members: 250 baht per person. Non-members: 350 baht per person. Crew needed and boats available for charter. Special Promotion Boat Charter: free for PYSC friends. Come and join our Group of Friends for 500 baht per year. Come and join the Club's Christmas BBQ for 150 baht. Cold beers and soft drinks available. Prize giving at 4pm. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and *PGTV*. Phuket Youth Sailing Clubhouse, Ao Yon Beach. Contact Katy Gooch-Firmin at 085-2159185 phuketyouthsailing@gmail.com or visit phuketyouthsailing.org.

December 18. Phuket Yacht Club Christmas Fun Day

Christmas Bash and Fun Day Sail on Sunday, December 18 from 9am to 5pm. Food served at 1pm. Please bring a small gift with your child's name clearly labeled (Santa may arrive). Games and activities on the beach for kids. Fun race too. If sailing, contact Andrew at andrew@leemarine.net on 081-8941530. Reservation for catering purposes Donna Stephens at 081-6120075, phuketyachtclub@gmail.com or visit phuketyachtclub.info.

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SOWING THE SEEDS OF LOVE: Staff from the Banyan tree spent the day giving passersby plants in honor of HM The King's birthday.



HIGHFLYERS: A handful of the Kite Tour Asia Crew and friends unwind after a busy day sailing in the King's Cup.

MAKE MINE A DOUBLE: The Twin Shark Firefly team relax after a hard day's racing at the King's Cup.



SIXTH SENSE: (from left) Mr Athiwat Bodharojtham, CEO of Lux's Manor; Mrs Bangornrat Shinaprayoon, Director of the TAT South Region 4 Office Phuket; Mr Pattanapong Aikwanich, MD of Baan Sukhothai and Ms Sarawee Bodharojtham, GM of Lux's Manor at the soft opening of The Sixth Phuket at Patong Beach.



PHANASONIC: Miss Cheurchan Panvikan, Marketing Manager of Phanason Group (left) and Miss Chatchanee Ittinantawan, Managing Director of Phanason Group at the party called "Phanason Beyond the Home 2011"



IRONING: These IronKids compare medals after completing the IronKids race at Thanyapura on December 3.



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Mrs Sirivibha Berger; Peter Komposch GM of Dusit Thani; Michael Raelert, Ironman winner; Christophe Berger, GM of Laguna Beach Resort and Nicolas Berger



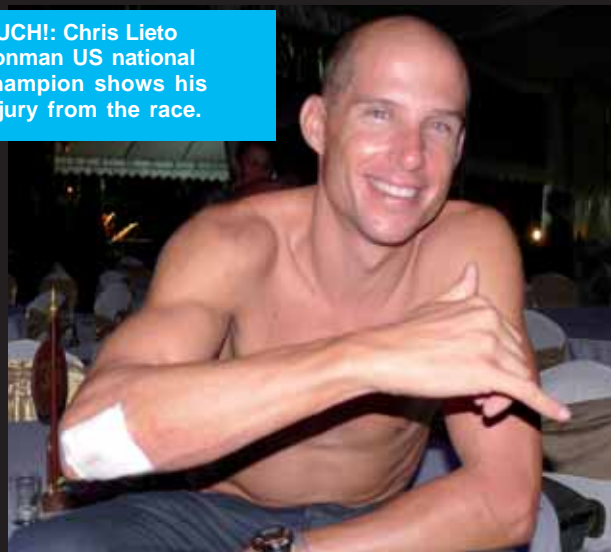
CONSOLATION PRIZE: LPT third place winner Romain Guillaume with an admirer at the Ironman awards.



OUCH!: Chris Lieto Ironman US national champion shows his injury from the race.



HIGHFLYERS TOO: Prasert Tanhansa from Thai Airways International and Debbie Dionysious from Laguna.



FAMOUS FACES: at the Ironman awards ceremony. Photo: Christian mouchet

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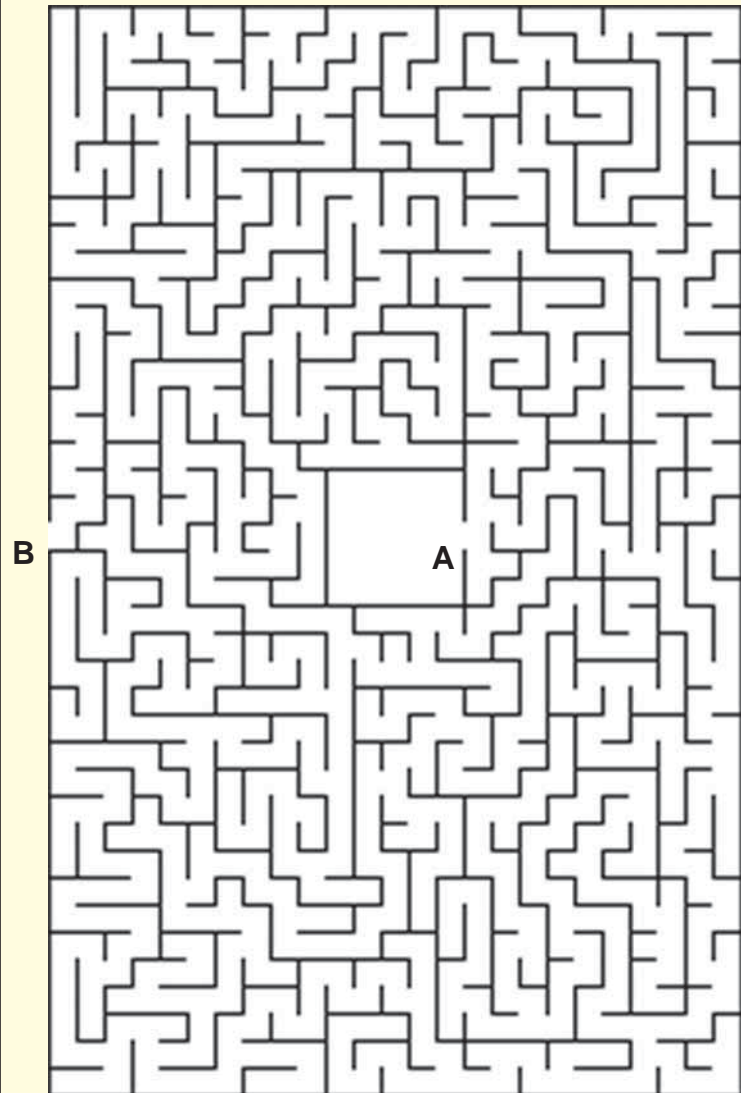
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A *Gazette* staff member completed this maze in 20 seconds. Can you beat their time? Make your way out of the maze.



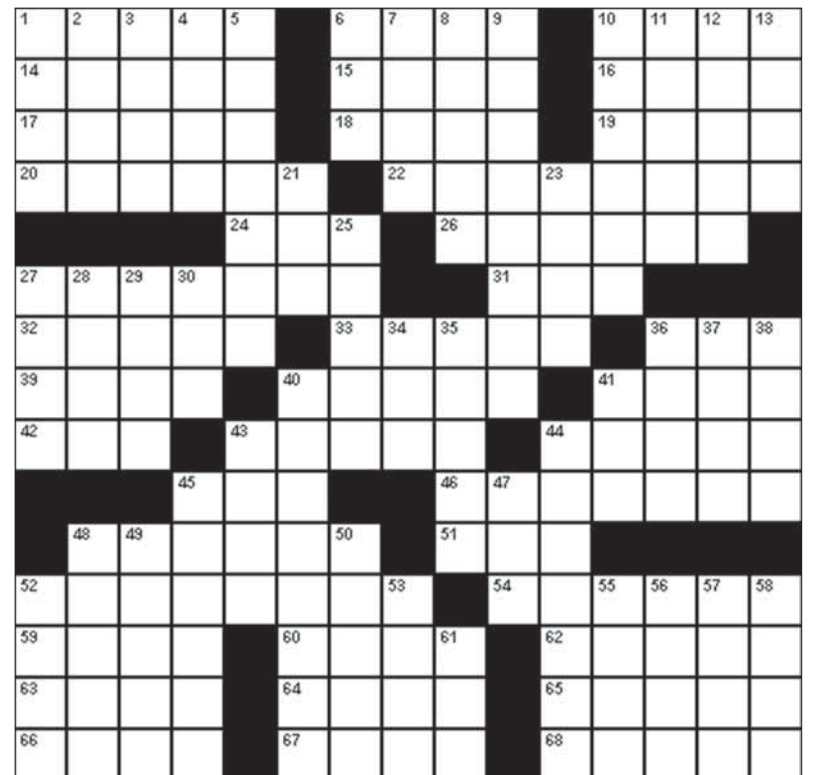
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Across

1. Foil maker
6. Norwegian king
10. Inquires
14. Flies high
15. Big rig
16. Sky color
17. Acclaim
18. Actor McGregor
19. Directed
20. Arrest
22. Duce
24. Calendar abbr.
26. Sisters' daughters
27. Traveling by bicycle
31. Sea arm
32. Dig find
33. Some Celts
36. Bear lair
39. Fit to —
40. Furze
41. Chianti, e.g.
42. O Sole —
43. Rings of a chain
44. Biscuitlike quick bread
45. Move from side to side
46. Endless
48. Sailor
51. Japanese computer giant
52. Percussion instrument
54. Prepare an exhibition
59. Baptism, e.g.
60. At that point
62. Tied
63. Baltic feeder
64. Dies —
65. Felt sore
66. Cautious
67. Sect
68. Like marshes

Down

1. Just —!
2. Bananas
3. Cry out
4. Face-to-face exam
5. Unstable
6. Sugar suffix
7. Obscene
8. At full speed
9. Capable of being conquered



10. Position of a monastic leader
11. List of candidates
12. Acclaim
13. Clairvoyant
21. Flee
23. Afternoon affairs
25. Encourage
27. Burn the midnight oil, studying
28. Abominable Snowman
29. 1963 role for Liz
30. Fail to tell the truth
34. Biblical beast boat
35. City on the Ruhr
36. "My Heart Will Go On" singer
37. Sicilian resort

38. Christmas
40. Very large
41. TV adjunct
43. Buddhist monk
44. Worldly
45. Boggy
47. Gumshoe
48. You — mouthful!
49. Aromatic compound
50. First prime minister of India
52. Black bird
53. Blue hue
55. Contest, ethnicity
56. Advil target
57. Prepared to drive
58. Christian Science founder
61. After taxes

Provided by BestCrosswords.com
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Crossword answers on page 41

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Finances become better starred this week, with hints of a bonus payment of some sort being made. Those celebrating a birthday in the days ahead are predicted to find goals easier to reach in the coming year. In the realm of romance, some Sagittarians could find themselves in the same boat as an earth sign this week – the stars indicate that this could lead to romance. Number two can be lucky.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Changes remain highlighted for many of those born under the sign of Capricorn. The stars advise keeping your eyes open for opportunities close to home, particularly where a trustworthy air sign friend or colleague is concerned. Single Capricorns could hit it off with a water sign this weekend. Those already spoken for are certain to appreciate a caring gesture made by their partner. Your lucky number this week is four.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): The stars suggest that Aquarians will get a clearer picture of a business or work related puzzle this week. Another air sign

is ready to clarify their position and you should soon be able to fit the pieces together and move forward. The remainder of December is forecast to be a busy time – you will need to juggle time to meet work responsibilities and enjoy a social life. Number three looks lucky this weekend.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Pisceans are forecast to find that the world of work is affected by cloudy astral conditions until the middle of December. Flattery won't get you far with a fire sign work colleague who is becoming more difficult to deal with. There are signs that this person's stubborn attitude has been noticed by more people than you realize and a solution is within sight. Your lucky number this week is one.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Arians who have been impatient to finalize a work project or find a new job should be satisfied with events this week. The stars indicate that your perseverance is about to pay off, but financial rewards may be less than you hoped for. A romantic partner may have ideas for the holiday period that are not your idea of fun. The number six can bring good fortune this weekend.

YOUR horoscope

By Isla Star

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Taureans will have the power to make things happen this week. The stars are ready to back your attempts to succeed with creative projects and to move on from situations that are unfulfilling. Those hoping for promotion at work should end the year on a positive note – another earth sign is forecast to make an offer around the middle of the month. The number eight brings good fortune this weekend.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Where work is concerned, those born under the sign of Gemini will have reason to see that quality is better than quantity this week. The stars suggest that single Geminis could be swept off their feet by a water sign this week. However, there are hints that this might just be a holiday romance and those hoping for something more lasting will be disappointed. Your lucky number this week is five.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): The astral outlook for Cancerians becomes sunnier this week, with emphasis on potential for putting mistakes right. Monday and Tuesday are the most auspicious days for settling financial discrepancies. A personal issue with an air sign is best discussed this weekend. In the realm of romance, an earth sign would like to see more of you, but needs some words of encouragement. Number nine can bring good fortune this week.

LEO (July 24-August 22): An easier week lies in store for those born under the sign of Leo who were on the ball from the beginning of December. If you conveniently ignored warning signs in the world of work, there may be a backlog of work to take care of. Where romance is concerned, a partner won't appreciate your need to burn the midnight oil. Your lucky number this week is three.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Virgoans should be coasting through the middle of December, with a lot to look forward to at the end of the month. Plans for a trip to distant shores during the holiday season are highlighted to

be easier to finalize than you imagined. Where romance is concerned, those who are single could be introduced to a possible partner by a fire sign friend this weekend. The number seven can bring good luck this week.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Librans are advised that this is an auspicious week for finances. Putting more pressure on someone who owes you money is forecast to bring quick results. Investments made now are well-starred, but the picture will change towards the end of December. Affairs of the heart are well starred. A budding relationship with an earth sign shows promise of turning into a rock solid romance. The number one brings good fortune this week.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Property matters fall under benevolent astral conditions this week. Those born under the sign of Scorpio who may be relocating could receive a good tip from another water sign. Love is less well-starred – it appears that your self-interest is preventing harmony in a relationship. If you are single and seeking, an air sign's flirtation is welcome this weekend. Four is your lucky number on this week.

PROPERTY Gazette

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

Four awards for Phuket developers

THE winners of the inaugural South East Asia Property Awards 2011 were announced on November 30 in Singapore. Over 300 industry leaders and guests attended the glittering Gala Dinner and presentation ceremony held at Hotel Fort Canning.

Phuket developers walked away with four awards including Real Estate Personality of the Year (South East Asia) which was won by Ho Kwon Ping, Executive Chairman of Banyan Tree Holdings; Best Shared Ownership Development (South East Asia) won by The Village Coconut Island, The Village Management Co; Best Developer (Thailand) won by Laguna Resorts and Hotels Public Company Limited and Best Villa Development (Thailand) won by Malaiwana Park Development Co Ltd.

Terry Blackburn, CEO of Ensign Media said the South East Asia region has some of the world's most innovative and in-

teresting property developments, designed by architects and built by developers whose reputations are known globally. "Amazingly, we received over 1,500 nominations and from those over 300 entries. These figures are a testament to breadth and variety of quality developments in the region and the enthusiasm to recognize the companies behind them. They are also a reflection of the growing strength of the industry in South East Asia," he said.

Ensign Media, publisher of Property Report South East Asia Magazine, launched the first ever South East Asia Property Awards to recognize the best of the region's residential real estate industry.

Nick Candy, CEO of luxury interior design and development management firm Candy & Candy said "I was delighted to participate as judge and attend the inaugural South East Asia Property Awards 2011. The level of industry par-



Ho Kwon Ping Banyan Tree Group and Christian Glanville Managing Partner Limcharoen Hughes and Glanville



Stephan Paine, Developer of Malaiwana (right).



Malaiwana (above) won best villa development at the inaugural South East Asia Property awards.

ticipation and the quality of developments that won awards illustrates the exceptionally high standards of the luxury property market in South East Asia."

The panel of judges headed up by Leong Chi Meng, Manag-

ing Director (SEA), CBRE Global Investors spent several weeks scrutinizing all entries to decide on the winning properties in order to ensure that they were all deserving of their status. BDO Advisory supervised

the entire judging procedure in order to guarantee the fairness, transparency and credibility of the South East Asia Property Awards.

For more information visit southeastasiapropertyawards.com

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Selling Noah's Ark on Craigslist

ONCE upon a time as monsoon rains swept the Earth, Noah had to be content to slip into a comfy sofa and channel surf for some forty days and forty nights.

This was before the internet, so entertainment options were sadly lacking. I'm not sure if there was a Mrs. Noah, but let's just say boredom had our Biblical superhero climbing the walls of his condo.

Roll into Bangkok circa late 2011 and many people were caught up in both a real life tragedy and media circus over the pending end of days present in Bangkok and the central plains.

Striking out the keys as I tap out the storyline, life in Phuket remains pretty normal heading into peak tourism season. Over coffee this morning my next door neighbor's property agency hailed a flow of interested buyers in for



the Laguna Phuket Triathlon and Ironman 70.3 events.

Yes, paperwork was being drawn up for a Kamala property transaction. Hark the Herald Angel's Sing, there is activity.

Banging out a few emails and making some calls, my mission was to see if indeed there was proof of life in the island's real estate sector.

Starting with the nearby Laguna Phuket and Managing Director Michael Ayling who said "we have definitely seen uplift in our property sales in the last 6 months which has coincided with a successful election and political stability being restored to Thailand."



BUOYANCY: Phuket is still keeping afloat. Photo by Ed Schipul

Adding to the insight with some hard cold stats "in the last six months we have had 19 reservations totaling a sales value of 400 million baht over the range of our products, from a wide variety of geographic markets. This is against the backdrop of what is happening on the global financial markets. We continue to see very good interest and are very hopeful for a successful high season in both our hotel and

property operations."

Incidentally this past week Laguna won two high level accolades at the South East Asia Property Awards 2011 held in Singapore with winning nods as best Thailand Developer and top gun K.P. Ho as "Real Estate Personality of the Year."

There remain mixed reports over the effect of the Bangkok floods on the market – CBRE Thailand's Prakaipeth Meechoosarn comments "over the past few weeks we have seen a number of Thais flying down to Phuket to view properties and also take out short terms rentals."

As for the trend compared to last year she added "trading conditions have improved over the same period in 2010."

There is much speculation as to whether the Bangkok situation has redirected business to Phuket, which was a similar situation during the Red Shirt political crisis. Amy Koh from Engel and Voelkers weighted in with "the impact of the floods has had a positive impact here. There has been increased interest and more importantly renewed focus on villas at the USD one million dollar level."

I hope Noah has been saving for the trade up from a condo to ocean view dream villa.

A last minute call from Mark Lightfoot of Zest Real Estate confirmed the Bangkok flight sentiment saying "Bangkok residents are increasingly looking for a second home in Phuket or what they consider to be a safe haven."

'Tis the Season to be Merry or so it seems this year. Big island events just keep getting bigger – from the two Laguna triathlon races which are bringing in a global market, to the King's Cup, and upcoming Superyacht Rendezvous.

There are countless other activities such as the North Phuket Resorts Culinary Arts Festival, World Musiq Fest and a number of upgraded resorts reopening.

Word in from Noah's is that he's headed back outdoors as the sun is shining again, and has listed that ark for sale on Craigslist. Indeed there is life after the floods here in Phuket.

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

In brief...

World class rehab center for Phuket

A NEW international rehab center for drug, alcohol and other addictions has opened in Phuket named Bhavana.

The facility has an affiliation to the Bangkok Phuket Hospital, Chulalongkorn University, Yale University in the United States and is undergoing a license process by Thailand's Ministry of Public Health for a hospital facility.

Growing demand in the Asia Pacific region has meant patients often have had to travel long distances to faraway destinations, but this is now changing.

Phuket is well suited for this new international standard product and certainly health tourism is a key growth market.

Luxury resort island development site on market

A 135 rai land parcel on Koh Lone has come into the transaction market under brokerage from CBRE Thailand.

Planned as a luxury resort the property features three individual white sand beaches and has chanote titles and current building permits.

Access to Koh Lone is just 15 minutes away by boat from Chalong Pier.

Priced at 5.5 million baht a rai, the site is expected to draw considerable interest amongst hotel developers.

Outrigger acquires Holiday Inn Surfers Paradise Hotel

THE Hawaiian hotel chain, who have an Austrasia regional office in Phuket, have acquired the management rights of the 414 room Holiday Inn Surfers Paradise.

Settlement is expected to take place over the next few months and the resort will be rebranded under the Outrigger flag.

In Australia the group now has over 1,000 rooms under management and a total of 11,200 worldwide.

Brand Phuket at the crossroads

BRAND expert David Keen of Quo Global was at the recent AMCHAM Presentation at the Anantara Resort in Mai Khao trying to define what Phuket is. As Keen pointed out Phuket remains "Fragmented; aspirational to multiple segments; many verticals; no cohesive marketing strategy; suffering from Brand Thailand mismanagement and multiple crises; individual marketing destination campaigns create complex messaging; massive growth in certain areas of the island; East-West divide and he pointedly said "No single body is taking responsibility for harnessing Brand Phuket."

– Bill Barnett



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Andaman Bay aims to remain green

ANDAMAN Bay is a multi-faceted and sophisticated ocean-front community, designed both to enjoy the natural benefits of its location and to demonstrate the real ability of such communities to care for and maintain the natural beauty of its setting. So says Jack Le Breton, Project Design Manager at the Andaman Bay, Phang Nga Resort Destination.

This community is built around a range of waterfront dining and lifestyle outlets set within a low-rise village context. It also provides enhanced public interaction with the beaches of Thai Muang.

At the same time, great care is being taken to avoid encroachment onto that coastline, with the residential design configured to avoid both light and noise pollution onto the beach. The quality of water within the environment, the responsible use of fresh water reserves and its subsequent recycling, remain an important consideration from the individual residence up to the operation of the 18-hole Golf Course.

Within the planned facilities and in addition to a range of residential and leisure options,

amenities include swimming pools, tennis and squash courts, a gymnasium and spa, sailing, golf, running and cycling paths, indoor and outdoor play areas, plus a wellness clinic to serve both the residents and the local community. A hospitality and culinary school and a marine conservatory facility for research into the health and population of local marine life including turtles, are features that will also benefit the local population.

The design places the Yacht Marina inland in a sheltered environment, both in order to protect the boats themselves and to minimize impact on the beach front.

Jack Le Breton said he welcomed comments by Mr Pichete Sathirachwan, Thailand Trade Representative, during his recent visit to the site.

Supporting the project design and noting the development is environmentally responsible and will provide employment for several thousand local people.

"The project is especially concerned about the environment, and that is the project's selling point. Having this project means

Andaman Bay is in the process of transplanting 170 existing trees to a nursery on site for later replanting throughout the destination.



LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION: Beachfront property with a golf course and marina attached.

there is good support for the tourism sector and a large investment," said Mr Pichete.

Jack Le Breton confirmed that Andaman Bay has gone to great lengths to ensure the environmental sustainability of the site. For example, they are in the process of transplanting some 170 existing trees to a nursery on site for later replanting, throughout the development with many more will follow.

Buildings across the entire project are designed at a low to medium height to blend in with the surrounding environment, and to be enhanced by the presence of mature trees.

"We also support Khun

Pichete's comments about the project's sustainable tourism potential. We believe the design will fully complement the natural beauty of the site and that it will be a 'sanctuary' in Phang Nga for owners, customers and guests to enjoy a carefully stewarded resort environment.

"Plans for the project are still in a conceptual stage, and we are in the process of obtaining necessary environmental and other approvals. As this is an ongoing requirement involving many different parties, we are at present, not in a position to give out further information.

"As we realise any approvals for the project require local con-

sultation, we have already conducted some meetings with Phang Nga authorities and local community members to ensure a mutual agreement. So far the project has received strong support from local residents," said Le Breton.

"We believe Andaman Bay will, as Khun Pichete has pointed out, be a valuable addition to Phang Nga's tourism, and a strong boost to local resources and employment. Exceptional care is being taken to ensure the project is highly complementary to the region's environment," he added.

For more information contact: Jack Le Breton on T: 0828053972

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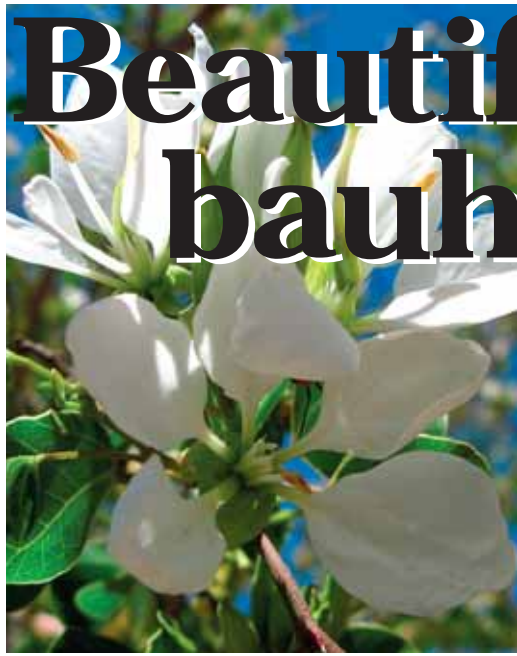
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Beautiful bauhinias

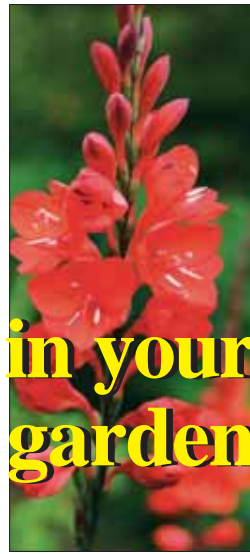
Orchid trees in your garden



Bauhinia Lunarioides blooms several times a year.



Caesalpinia produces many pods



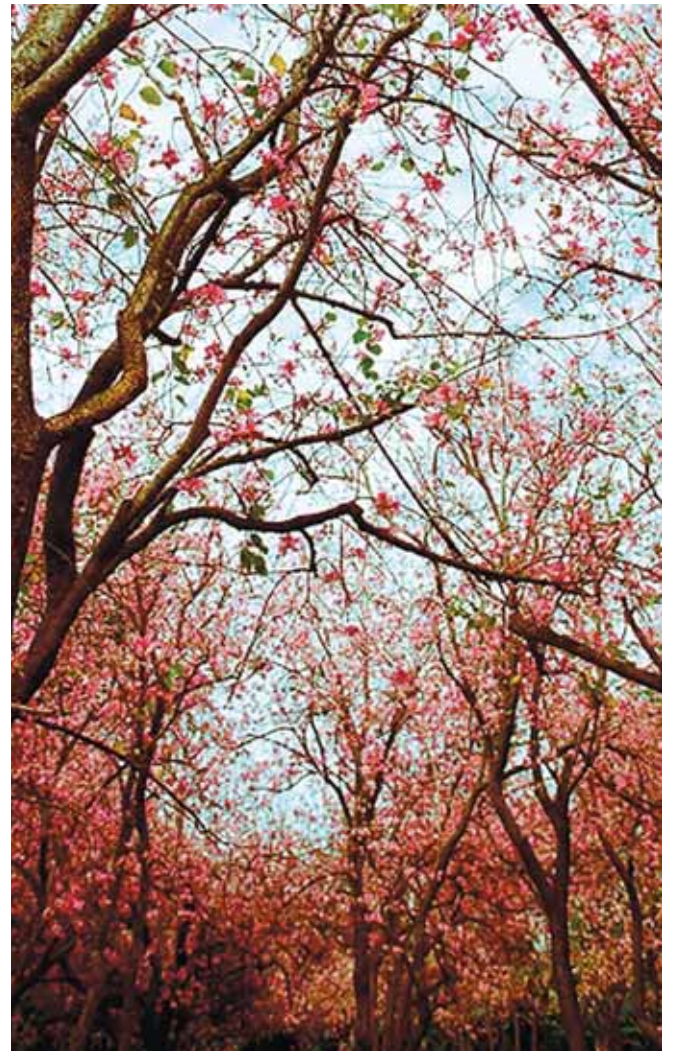
Galpinii or red bauhinia



Bauhinia Buddleia originates from Brazil.



Bauhinia forficata or butterfly bush is perfect for a patio.



Bauhinia Variegata: Photos sourced from flickr



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

I was recently asked to offer my advice about landscaping the entrance area to an up-scale estate. After studying photographs of the site area and making a long list of possible plants, I paid a visit to my favorite nursery to discuss tactics, availability and prices with the

Thai owner. She knows what she is talking about as her garden center has been responsible for planning and maintaining a number of landscape projects in southern Phuket. Anyway, among other things we were discussing flowering shrubs and trees and she expressed surprise that my list contained no *bauhinia* (orchid tree).

I knew why. One planted years before had taken ages to settle and

had finally given up the ghost. But she insisted the orchid tree was both easy to grow and quick to develop. Furthermore, on my initial visit to the resort in question, I noted a number of orchid trees in full flower along the road from Patong to Kamala. It is a real favorite elsewhere too, for example in Hawaii and many parts of California. So, despite my negative experience, the *bauhinia* definitely deserves an honorable mention in these columns.

The genus is large with well over 200 species, including both vine and dwarf varieties. Most are confined to the tropics. The most spectacular and desirable small tree is *blakeana* (Hong Kong orchid tree), so named because it is the floral emblem of Hong Kong. Often grown as a shrub, this cultivar possesses the unusual, heart-shaped, twin-lobed leaf which characterizes the entire genus – grey green in this case. However, the real attraction resides in the large, scented, paper-thin, five-petalled, purple, magenta or maroon flowers. They do indeed resemble orchids and are profusely borne on terminal sprays, or in the leaf axils. And they are large – maybe five inches across. If allowed to grow into a

mature tree, *blakeana* can reach twenty feet, but is not likely to aspire to such heights in Phuket. This variety, unlike many of the cultivars, is reliably evergreen and can be pruned to encourage a denser and more shapely form. But it is sterile and needs to be propagated from cuttings.

Bauhinia forficata is a somewhat smaller tree and shares the common name of butterfly bush with the *buddleia*. Native to Brazil, it has a short trunk, spreading canopy and smaller orchid-like flowers that vary from white to pale pink. A good choice for a patio, it is cold-hardier than *blakeana*, but that means it is not as good in consistently hot climates such as ours. *Galpinii* is sometimes referred to as the red bauhinia, since it has brick-red or orange flowers that look as spectacular as any *bougainvillea*. However, like the *bougainvillea*, it is thorny and sprawls somewhat, so it is better against a wall, especially if trained as an espalier. *Lunarioides* is

smaller with tiny round leaves and white flowers that bloom several times during the year.

The most frequently planted *bauhinia* is *variegata*: indeed this was the aforementioned variety growing at the side of the mountain road north from Patong. It is often cultivated as a many-stemmed shrub, but if staked and pruned, becomes an attractive tree up to thirty feet in height.

Downsides? Not many it would seem. Best cultivated in slightly acid soil and full sun; it dislikes salt-laden wind. Moreover, as a legume (*caesalpinia*), all *bauhinias* produce masses of messy pods after blooming. Trim them off to improve appearance and speed up new growth. Ideally, *bauhinias* like a cool spell (which they are unlikely to get here), but they are both easy-going and flamboyant. Not a bad combination.

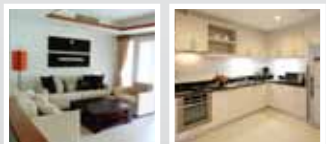
If you have a question or a garden that you would like featured, you can email me anytime at: drpaccampbell@gmail.com

LAGUNA

PROPERTY RESALE

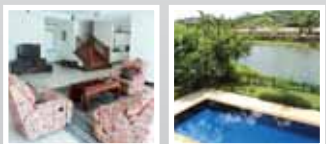
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Tip of the week

Local use of chemical controls

THERE is an increasing and disturbing trend in Phuket and it concerns the use of herbicides.

Drive along any road and you will see the evidence - ugly and unsightly patches of dead or dying vegetation.

Chemical controls are definitely not recommended and certainly not for use in gardens where you grow fruit or vegetables. Beyond the risks they pose to health and the wider environment, cheap ones are often non-selective.

When these herbicides are

sprayed indiscriminately to control weeds or undergrowth in larger areas, they will damage or kill all desirable plants in the vicinity, including native wild flowers. Worse, their effects will persist in the soil for long periods.

If you must use them, consult the label to ensure that they are appropriately selective – whether they work on narrow-leaved, grass-like plants or on broad leaved ones. Better still, don't use them. Hoe or hand weeds out instead.



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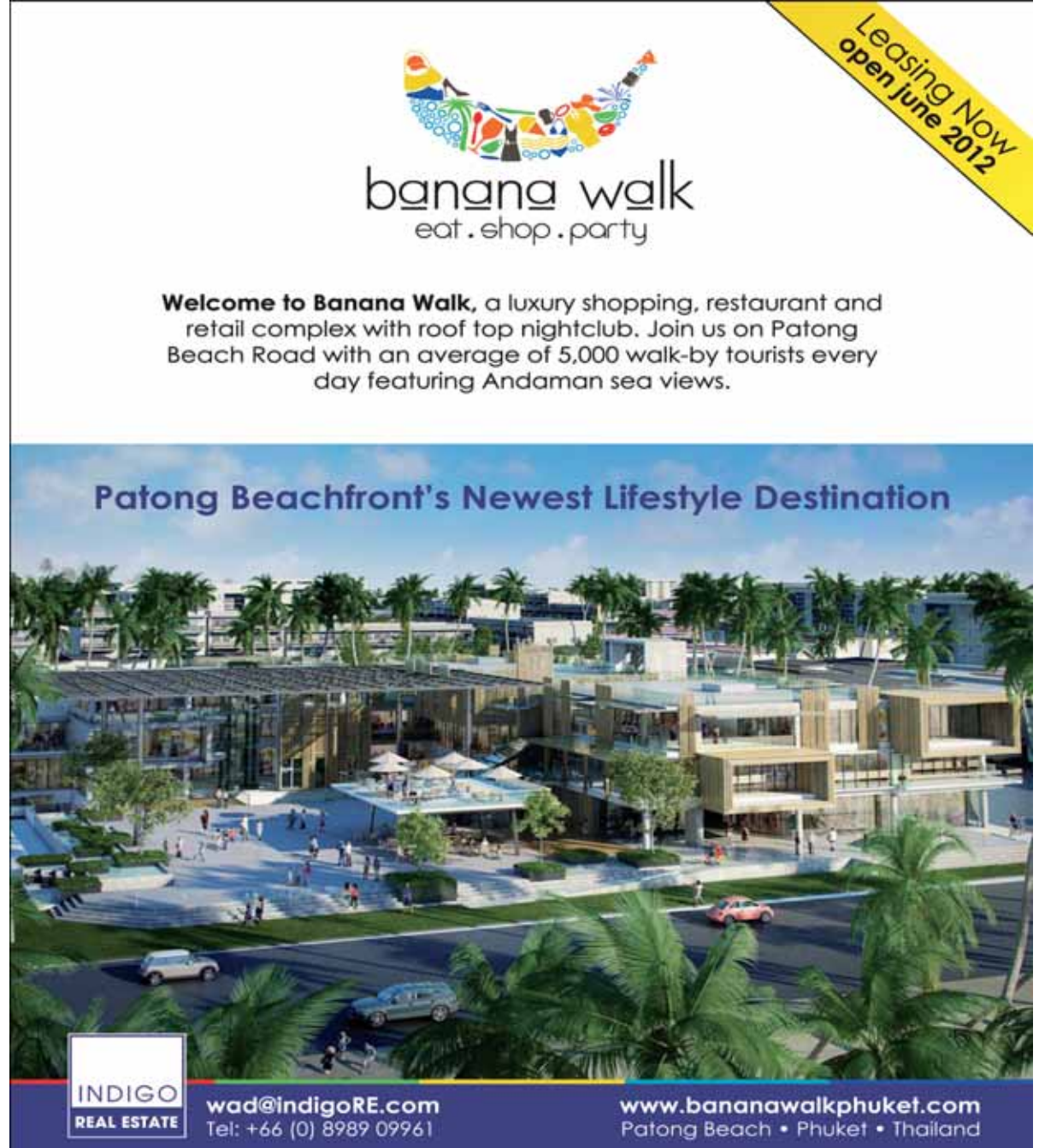
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Christmas! Markets

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

Saturday, 17th Dec
Canal Village, Laguna
3pm – 6pm

Selling everything from Christmas decorations, cards, handmade gifts, unique home ware, jewelry and much more...
Tasty festive treats including mince pies, Christmas cakes and cookies
Gingerbread house raffle, Santa's Grotto, face painting, carol singers

If you make, bake or create beautiful gifts, you can hire a table to sell your goods.
Each table costs Baht 500 which will be donated to the charity www.thegoodshepherd.info
You keep all profit from sales made on the day.

For more information please contact: chantal.fernandes@gmail.com

LAGUNA PHUKET **DA VINCI** **Call: 089 874 2942** **Phuket Gazette** **91.5FM**

Properties For Sale

VILLA FOR SALE



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

AMAZING VALUE LUXURY VILLA



In Thalang, close to PIA/Thanyapura and new Tesco Lotus. 5 bed, 4 bath, 17m pool, 1,890sqm land. Owner wants quick sale hence below market price of 23 million baht. Excellent investment. Tel: 076-338320, 081-272 7556, 086-694 3033. Fax: 076-338320. Email: thegardenkptphuket@uk2.net For details please see our website: www.thegardenkptphuket.com/

CHALONG HOUSE

New 2-bedroom house for sale. Detached, close to sea, large walled garden. Price: 2.2 million baht. Tel: 089-817 4864.

LAND IN CHALONG

2,000sqm land, 100 meters from Chalong Beach. Reduced price to only 7.5 million baht. Tel: 084-843 3677. Email: mattias@phuketdreamliving.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuketdreamliving.com

LAND & HOUSE

In exclusive 22-house estate. Apply by calling. Tel: 083-503 7655.

PATONG TOWER CONDO

Modern, fully furnished, 65sqm, 1 bedroom, Good view, great rental returns. 5.5 million baht. Tel: 081-088 8099.

BAAN SALIL



A private community at Bang Jo. Prices from 1.79 million baht. Tel: 081-536 9252. Email: sppcnx@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.baansalil.com

LERSUANG HOUSE SURIN BEACH

3 beds, 5 baths, pool, jacuzzi, sauna, fully furnished, 700sqm of land. Tel: 081-737 1678 (English & Thai). Email: supotpac@phuket.ksc.co.th

RAWAI PRIVATE VILLAS

Comfortable and safe one-storey houses just 500m from Rawai Beach. 174sqm, 3 bedrooms, large living room with dining and kitchen area, parking, swimming pool and sala. Tel: 085-575 3300 (English), 086-574 2815 (Thai). Fax: 076-281399. Email: andrey@phuket9.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuket9.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.

LAND WITH STAFF HOUSING



For sale:
- 3.55 rai land/ Nor Sor 3 Gor
- 64 rooms staff housing
- 2 storage buildings
- Site suitable for condo project
Please contact for more details. Tel: 081-958 3421. Email: khanitha.jarukirati@cbre.co.th

OCEAN VIEW LAND BANG TAO



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

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

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.

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

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

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

BEACHFRONT CONDO

2 bedrooms on top floor. Freehold. North Patong. Price: 8.9 million baht (reduced from 9.7 million baht). Tel: 086-276 5117. For photos, please email jihshand@gmail.com

NAI HARN LUXURY CONDO



2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 111sqm. From 4.5 million baht. Must see. For further details, please see our website at www.amphaiseabreeze.com Tel: 084-993 7308.

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 AT CHERNG TALAY

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

HOUSE & FURNITURE

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

LAND SEAVIEW FOR SALE



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



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 Ham. 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



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

3-BEDROOM HOUSE

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

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: capnnard@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.

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.

PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

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

SALE 2 TOWNHOUSES

Renovated, 1 storey, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, kitchen. 1.8 million baht each. Opposite Super Cheap. Tel: 081-894 2823.

BEST LUXURY VILLA

In Nai Ham. 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.

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Properties For Rent

STUDIO FOR RENT IN CHALONG



Near Land & Houses with pool. 5 rooms, fully furnished, WiFi. Short-term/week or long-term. Tel: 081-809 2625. Email: phuketdee1@yahoo.com

STUDIO FOR RENT

in Phuket Town, fully furnished, kitchen, aircon, TV. Near Dowroong School. 5 mins to Central, Big C. Rent: 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-719 7015.

HOUSE FOR RENT IN KATHU

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, 2 aircons, kitchen, small garden, cable TV, internet. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-739 3220.

LERSUANG HOUSE SURIN BEACH

3 beds, 5 baths, pool, jacuzzi, sauna, fully furnished, 700sqm of land. Tel: 081-737 1678 (English & Thai). Email: supotpac@phuket.ksc.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.phuketqualityhouse.com

2-BEDROOM TWIN HOUSE



in Phuket Town. 20,000 baht/month. Surface: 45sq wah (180sqm).

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

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

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

- Only minutes away from Bangkok Hospital Phuket and Central Festival

- 24-hour security

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

LAND FOR RENT

2 building plots to let long term. 820sqm in Kata Noi 250 meters from the beach. Good for residence/business. Email: juntana.koliver@msn.com

PATONG LUXURY APARTMENT

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

LONG-TERM RENT

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

HOUSE CHALONG BEACH

Furnished, 3 bedrooms. Duplex long-term 12,000 baht per month, internet, cable TV, swimming pool, garden. Tel: 089-470 6104.

PATONG LUXURY APARTMENT

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

LUXURY POOL VILLA

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

30,000 BAHT MONTHLY RENT



Thai Dream Villa guesthouse. 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, furnished, kitchen, living room, laundry, garden, 2 terraces, WiFi, cable TV, 2 motorbikes. Good profit. 300m from Rawai Pier. Warranty 50,000 baht. Low key money. Available February 1. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com Website: www.thai dreamvilla.com



houseinphuket.com

Rent or buy a house on my island? Maybe I can help you. My name is Wellta

50,000 BAHT MONTHLY RENT



Hotel, bar, pool. 9 bedrooms, 9 bathrooms, furnished, kitchen, lobby, laundry, garden, WiFi, cable TV, 2 motorbikes. Good profit. 100m from Rawai Pier. Warranty 100,000 baht. Low key money. Available February 17. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com Website: www.thai dreamvilla.com

ORCHID KATHU HEIGHTS

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

CHALONG SHOPHOUSE

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

CHALONG HOUSE

Fully furnished, bed, bath, kitchen, living. Good area. 7,500 baht per month. Tel: 081-541 9734. Email: Chavej432010@hotmail.com

PATONG POOLSIDE STUDIOS

Furnished Studio with 42" TV, kitchenette, aircon., cable, WiFi, parking. L.T 24,000 per month. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English). Email: phvcondo@aol.com

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

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

SHOPHOUSE FOR LEASE OR RENT



On Thepkasattri Rd. Near Super Cheap. 150sq wah. Long-term rent: 150,000 baht per month ono. Lease 5 million baht. Tel: 089-646 4786, 081-471 9331, 081-535 1208.



4 Bedrooms Villa for Rent / Sale

Fully Finished, Wi-Fi, Cable TV, Maid, Pool Cleaner, and Gardener are included. www.PropertySeekByKMD.com (081) 895-7310

HOUSE IN KATHU

For rent or sale. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, True TV, swimming pool. 127sq wah. Tel: 081-925 1730.

SURIN BEACH: HOUSE & GARDEN

3 bedrooms, 2 toilets, fully fenced c/w large garden. Outdoor kitchen and living area. Tel: 075-664600, 086-941 0410 (English & Thai). Email: here@fastmail.fm Please see web site & link to photos at www.see.rental.here.fastmail.fm/

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.

35,000 BAHT MONTHLY RENT



Rawai pool guesthouse, 6 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, furnished, kitchen, laundry, parking covered, WiFi, cable TV, 2 motorbikes. Good profit. 300m from Rawai Pier. Warranty 50,000 baht. Low key money. Available now. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com Website: www.thaidream villa.com

HOUSE FOR LONG-TERM RENT

in Cherng Talay. Single house, 240sqm, with furniture, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, big living room and parking for 2 cars. Located at "The Valley 2", not so far from the Laguna area. Rent at 22,000 baht per month. Interested? Please call for more details or to view. Tel: 089-009 1006, 081-568 1120.

LOVELY HOMES FROM 13,000 BAHT

1 & 2 bedrooms, fully furnished, long-term, near Chalong Circle. Tel: 089-475 1200 (English & Thai). Email: info@welcome-inn.com For further details, please see our website at www.welcome-inn.com

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

RAWAI BEACHFRONT



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

KATA SEA VIEW VILLA

Top location, 3 bedrooms, Roof top with Spa, 17m pool. Immaculate. Available now long/short-term. Tel: 083-182 2170. Email: i.charles69@yahoo.com

GOOD & CHEAP HOUSE FOR RENT

Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. In Rawai, near Nai Harn Beach. Tel: 086-950 7788.

NEW KATA HOME WALK TO BEACH

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

VILLA IN RAWAI

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

NEW HOUSE FOR RENT



At Pa Khlok, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with a small garden, quiet area. Rent: 8,500 baht per month. Tel: 081-607 8567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

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Property Services

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

2 BED PENTHOUSE NEAR BANGTAO

200m from south end of Bangtao beach, full furnished, roof sala, free WiFi, pools, gym, cleaning services available upon request at lowest cost. Available now. Price from 35,000 baht per week. Email: suppmas@live.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: suwitrai@hotmail.com

SURIN BEACH: HOUSE & GARDEN

3 bedrooms, 2 toilets – fully fenced c/w large garden. Outdoor kitchen and living area. Tel: 075-664600, 086-941 0410. Email: here@fastmail.fm Website: Please see website & link to photos at see.rental.here.fastmail.fm/

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

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

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. Tel: 088-869 5536 (English). Email: rtj1111@yahoo.com

KARON CLIFF BUNGALOW

Directly on Karon Beach. Amazing sea view. Website: www.karoncliff.com

3-BED POOL VILLA SEAVIEW

Family pool villa available for X-mas + NY, on exclusive estate. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

LAND & HOUSE FOR RENT

4-bedroom house and a 20 sqm.-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

SEAVIEW CONDO FOR RENT

2-bed/bath, furnished, western kitchen, com pool, short-long term. Tel: 087-998 2590, 087-393 5462. Email: kata4rent@gmail.com

KATA BEACH

4 mins walk from the beach. Please visit website at www.southernfriedrice.com Guesthouse promotion 15% discounts. Example:

Room for 700 baht, now 595 baht (Low season).

Room for 1,200 baht, now 1,025 baht (High Season).

Room for 1,500 baht, now 1,275 baht (Peak season).

All rooms with aircon, safe, free WiFi and computers. Continental breakfast. If stay 5 nights, free airport pick-up. Food 15% off for guests. Tel: 081-894 8446. Email: sfrkata@hotmail.com

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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. Please 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. For more info email to: 1@baggies666.co.uk

Household Items

CHINESE ANTIQUE FURNITURE

Beautiful Chinese antique wedding cabinet in red lacquer for sale. Elm wood. Shanxi Province. 2 large doors with rail inside, 2 drawers below. W108 x D60 x H172cm. Approx 150 years old. Serious inquiries only please. Email: beijingmarcher@yahoo.com

FURNITURE FOR SALE

Wooden frame "L" sofa with mustard color seating fabric. 1 year old. Also selling beautiful square dark bamboo coffee table and modern glass chandelier. All in excellent condition. Please contact for price/photo. Email: beijingmarcher@yahoo.com

MISC THINGS WANTED

1) High-pressure washing (in good working condition, requiring no maintenance).

2) Vacuum cleaner for wet cleaning, preferably professional (in good working condition).

3) Easels and other equipment for art studio. Tel: 081-082 0498, 089-723 0413. Email: anyane@yandex.ru

ELBA OVEN

Built-in oven with grill and fan. White. Very little used. 5,000 baht. Email: richard_melen@hotmail.com

PLAYPEN COT RED 3,500 BAHT

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. Email: jaa-1983@hotmail.com

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Are you ready for a great career with Phuket's largest hotel, resort and property group?

Laguna Resorts & Hotels Public Company Limited is a respected and responsible developer whose interests combine hotels and real estate with the emphasis on quality and environmental protection.

To meet the group's exciting expansion plans, we are currently seeking qualified candidates to fill the positions below:

- Sales Manager
- Sales Executive (Thai & Foreigner)
- Chinese Sales Executive (Native Chinese Speaking)
- Marketing Manager
- Public Relations Manager
- Graphic Designer
- Web Developer
- Personal Assistant to SAVP – Banyan Tree Residences and Laguna Property

THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL OF THE ABOVE POSITIONS;

- Proficiency in MS Office
- Excellent command of both written and spoken English
- At least 2 years work experience in the position applied for
- A self-starter with ability to learn quickly and strong time management skills
- Must be a team player with friendly personality and positive attitude
- Sales positions must have real estate sales experience

The successful candidate will be offered attractive working conditions, and an excellent remuneration and benefits package.

If you think you are a high-caliber candidate with the right attitude, please submit your CV with photograph and expected salary to:

Human Resources Department, Laguna Resorts & Hotels Public Co., Ltd.
390/1 Moo 1, Srisoonthorn Road, Cherno Talay, Talang, Phuket 83110, Thailand
Tel: (66-76) 362300 ext. 1510 Fax: (66-76) 362300 ext. 1505
Email: career@lagunaphuket.com

LIMITLESS DISCOVERY AWAITS

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

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

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

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2 YACHT HOSTESSES

Qualifications

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

Office located in Pa Khlok. Tel: 081-537 0033. Please send CV to lek_2000@hotmail.com
Moreton Bay Co., Ltd 222/7 Moo 8, Pa Khlok, Talang, Phuket 83310

CONSTRUCTION PAINTER

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

SALES MANAGER AND SECRETARY

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

SALESPERSON

The Trends is a new development of town homes in Kamala. We are looking for on-site sales staff. Good knowledge of spoken & written English is a must. Computer & sales skills is a plus! Must be able to start soon. Call or e-mail for appointment. Tel: 087-882 2856 (English). Email: luc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com

PROMOTIONS STAFF

English-speaking. Thai wanted. Full training. Given airport and Patong locations. Basic salary plus commission. Immediate start. Please contact for more details. Tel: 087-105 4566.

SALESPERSON

NewspaperDirect Phuket Co., Ltd. is part of the international NewspaperDirect Inc. group, the world leader in digitally reproduced, same-day edition newspapers. We wish to recruit a foreign sales person at this time to source new business for the company throughout Phuket, with particular focus on newspaper subscriptions and advertising sales.

The successful applicant will have:

- very good English communication skills
- presentable appearance
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We offer a stable working environment with support from a small and dedicated team to help the successful applicant achieve the very good potential earnings.

To apply, please submit your CV to recruitment@newspaperdirect-phuket.com Please visit website: www.newspaperdirect-phuket.com or www.newspaperdirect-asia.com

NIGHT DESK CLERK AT HOTEL

Small guesthouse 7pm-2am - 6 days per week. Tel: 085-159 7400 (English), 086-902 8566 (Thai). Email: dshumny@yahoo.com

BANG TAO TROPICAL RESIDENCE

Sales Manager/Sales Executive/Secretary/Reservation. At least 2 years experience in hospitality or real estate. Tel: 076-318400. Email: hr@bangtaotropicalresidence.com

WANTED: GARDENER AND MAID
Previous experience required for hotel in Rawai. Tel: 081-797 7898.

FINNISH STAFF

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

LOOKING FOR THAI SECRETARY

Just for the person who can speak French. Full or part time. Office in Pa Khlok. Tel: 081-893 5270. Email: mrdu pouy@yahoo.fr

LES RESIDENCES KHAO LAK

Luxury villa development located within Le Meridien Khao Lak seeking highly motivated Sales Associate

Required credentials:

- College graduate
- Fluent in English and German
- Previous experience in sales, hospitality (front office manager)
- Computer proficiency in Excel, Word, Email and Reservation systems

Salary, benefits, commission, accommodation and food provided

Expats are welcome to apply. Send resume and inquiries to thita.lesres@gmail.com

SECONDARY MATHS TEACHER

ELT PHUKET PPAO ENGLISH PROGRAMME TEACHING VACANCY: We are looking to appoint a qualified, enthusiastic and experienced mathematics teacher to start at PPAO Ban Taladnua School, Phuket asap. Applicants must have a minimum of a bachelor's degree plus a TESOL/TEFL certificate. We offer: 43,000-45,000 baht per month, plus other benefits. Please email a letter of application and CV to: eltorborjor@gmail.com. Unfortunately we will not respond to non-native speaker applications.

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EXECUTIVE HEAD CHEF

Medium-size hotel in Patong is looking for an experienced Executive Chef. The successful applicant should have at least 5 years' experience, speak good English and be familiar with high-end quality catering, including weddings, parties and boat catering. The position entails the management of two hotel-size kitchens and the staff therein. The applicant should be highly motivated, organized and punctual. This position is perfect for a self-starter who enjoys being part of a dynamic and successful team. Remuneration is negotiable. Applications to be submitted to: phuketgolfer@gmail.com

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Consultants. We are looking for 2 Scandinavian sales consultants to join the Absolute team on Coconut Island. Sales experience not essential as full training is provided. You will be responsible for hosting guests around the resort and explaining the benefits of our dynamic and exciting product. If you enjoy earning money in a fun and relaxed setting then come and join the team here at Absolute. Top commissions and daily bonuses available for successful candidates. For a confidential interview please call Sales Manager. Tel: 081-979 4468. For further details, please visit website: www.mycococonutisland.com

ABC INTERNATIONAL NURSERY

in Rawai is searching for a full-time K1 teacher and a Thai teaching assistant for K2. Following the International Primary Curriculum early year program, both position for teaching and a love of children. Only applicants with a teaching qualification at degree level and fluency in English should apply. Applicants should be prepared to give a sample teaching session and present references and certificates. Tel: 082-277 9490. Please email your application to: pburacorn@yahoo.com

PART TIME (FLEXI TIME) REAL ESTATE MARKETING PROFESSIONAL

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

Want to know more?

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

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

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Worldwide Dive & Sail is one of the leading liveaboard dive operators in Southeast Asia operating vessels from the Maldives to Palau.

We are looking for dedicated long term staff to join our dynamic Phuket-based team in the following positions:

1) Chief Financial Officer.

Must have strong accounting background and leadership skills.

2) Network / IT Administrator.

Windows desktop support and Linux server admin experience essential. Additionally, exposure to both SharePoint and Joomla is desirable.

3) PHP & MYSQL Developer.

English fluency and excellent communication skills are also a must. Competitive salary and benefits.

Send CV with photo and cover to
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For further details, please see our website at
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TELEPHONE: 076-294216, 080-1460067

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Experience in construction field and property development

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- 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
- Scheduling and coordinating all types of design during the construction process
- Selecting, hiring, and high level overseeing the work done by the contractors
- Responsible for scheduling and estimating the time required to complete the project
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Campbell Kane (Thailand) Ltd.

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Email: annie@campbellkane.com, Mobile: 081-4190450-3, F: 076-529673

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INSPIRED Asia

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

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

EVENT SALES MANAGER

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.

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

www.inspiredeventtravel.com



The Racha

The Racha is Thailand's leading 5 Star beach resort located on the beautiful island of Koh Racha Yai, just 30 minutes by boat from Phuket.

We are growing and looking for the following talented individuals to join our dynamic team:

•Assistant Accounting Manager

Requirements:

- o Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy (CPA will be an advantage)
- 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

If you have what it takes and wish to join a people-oriented company that prides itself in excellence and the belief that people are our most important assets, then please submit your resume and a recent photo to our Human Resources Department as follows:



The Racha
Human Resources Department
Email: hroffice@theracha.com
Website: www.theracha.com

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Berjaya. 6 burners with oven; upright freezer-refrigerator, 4 doors + 2 doors; Tristar gas fryer, 2 baskets gas griddle; charcoal broiler. Call for prices. Tel: 084-845 4743.

TV FOR SALE BOX STYLE TCL

For sale 2 year old old box style TCL TV 1,000 baht. Tel: 085-069 0938 (English). Email: nnorthwo@hotmail.com

CARRYBOY ROOF RACK

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

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Patong Hospital - Patong
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SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES

Crossword puzzle:

1	A	L	C	O	A	6	O	L	A	V	10	A	S	K	S
14	S	O	A	R	S	15	S	E	M	I	16	B	L	U	E
17	E	C	L	A	T	18	E	W	A	N	19	B	A	D	E
20	C	O	L	L	A	R	21	D	I	C	T	A	T	O	R
24	T	U	E	25	N	I	E	C	E	S					
27	C	Y	C	L	I	N	G	31	B	A	Y				
32	R	E	L	I	C	33	G	A	E	L	S	36	D	E	N
39	A	T	E	E	40	G	O	R	S	E	41	V	I	N	O
42	M	I	O	43	L	I	N	K	S	44	S	C	O	N	E
45	W	A	G	46	E	T	E	R	N	A	L				
48	S	E	A	M	A	N	50	N	E	C					
52	C	A	S	T	A	N	E	T	53	C	U	R	A	T	E
59	R	I	T	E	60	T	H	E	N	61	L	A	C	E	D
63	O	D	E	R	64	I	R	A	E	65	A	C	H	E	D
66	W	A	R	Y	67	C	U	L	T	68	R	E	E	D	Y

Aircraft For Sale

1995 PIPER MALIBU JETPROP DLX

S/N: 4636005. HS-RGR. SNEW Airframe 1,410hrs. Engine 501hrs. Engine trend monitoring, Garmin MX20 moving map, 6 seats. Price: 35 million baht. Contact Dana Whorton, Minor Corporation Public Company Limited. Tel: 081-937 1443. Email: dana_wt@minornet.com

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HS-AWS. Year: 1976. Operated in Thailand for 6 years. **Engine:** Lycoming IO 540T4B5D. 1,300hrs and 700hrs until TBO. Garmin and King radios. Autopilot and Stormscope. **Price:** 3.75 million baht. Located at Thai Flying Club, Bang Phra. Contact **Tony Scragg** at mobile 081-906 3250, or send email to tony_scragg@hotmail.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). For more details. Email : sonny@salientgroup.net.

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- Price: 1.5 million baht
- Registration: U-B08
- Year of Manufacture: 2002
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- Engine: Rotax 912-80HP 350hrs.

Aircraft is based at Klong 15
Contacts: Tharee. Tel: 081-840 8418.



Notice from Thai Flying Club: There is a very nice Piper Cherokee airplane at the Thai Flying Club (TFC) in Bang Phra. It has fallen into disrepair. Someone took out the seats and some other parts... and then went away.

Owner Wichai Pettongkam loves this airplane and wants to get it back in the air. If you like flying and might want to be a partner in the plane, please come to the TFC to have a look, or contact **Khun Tom** (email tom@thaiflyingclub, Tel: 089-092 2711). Or talk to **Khun Wichai** directly on 081-633 7082.

Khun Wichai does not want to sell the plane, but would welcome a partner who can help to get it flying again. This could be a very good opportunity for someone to get a share in a nice airplane for a very good price. All negotiable.



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Sport

Spain retain cup

RAFAEL Nadal's 16th successive victory in the Davis Cup singles took Spain to an unbeatable 3-1 lead and retention of the trophy in an enthralling match in Seville.

The defeat left Argentina still without their name inscribed on the cup.

Nadal, the current world number two, despite breaking serve to win the opening game, seemed distracted and started very poorly in the first set. Argentina's Juan Martin Del Potro commanded the Spaniard's serve and took the next six games consecutively.

In typical aggressive fashion,

Nadal came out in the second set with all guns blazing, much to the delight of the home crowd, winning 6-4. After this turnaround, there only looked to be one winner, with Del Potro, who lost on day one in a five hour marathon to David Ferrer, rapidly tiring.

Nadal, whose opponent offered little resistance in the third, took the set 6-1. The fourth was a completely different affair with Del Potro taking 10 points in a row and finally breaking Nadal's serve to even the set at four games each.

However home advantage

played its part, and the partisan crowd ably supporting their hero, watched Nadal dig deep and attack. Taking the set to a tie-break, Nadal ran out a comfortable victor 7-0 to secure the set and match. Del Potro, after seeing another opportunity slip away, left the court in tears.

After the match Nadal confirmed that due to his hectic schedule, inclusive of his Olympic appearance, he would not be defending his Davis Cup title in 2012.

"Today is one of the most emotional days of my career," said Nadal.



King Juan Carlos celebrates with Spain's captain Albert Costa, David Ferrer and Rafael Nadal at La Cartuja stadium in Seville, Spain. Photo:AFP

PREMIER LEAGUE TABLE

MONDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2011 21:55 UK

TEAM	P	GD	PTS
Man City	14	35	38
Man Utd	14	18	33
Tottenham	13	13	31
Chelsea	14	14	28
Arsenal	14	7	26
Newcastle	14	4	26
Liverpool	14	4	23
Stoke	14	-9	18
Aston Villa	14	-2	16
Everton	13	-2	16
Norwich	14	-6	16
QPR	14	-10	16
Fulham	14	0	15
West Brom	14	-8	15
Swansea	14	-6	14
Wolves	14	-9	14
Sunderland	14	-1	11
Blackburn	14	-11	10
Bolton	14	-15	9
Wigan	14	-16	9

PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES

SATURDAY 10 DECEMBER 2011	SUNDAY 11 DECEMBER 2011
Arsenal vs Everton	Sunderland vs Blackburn
Bolton vs Aston Villa	SUNDAY 23:00
Liverpool vs QPR	11 DECEMBER 2011
Man Utd vs Wolves	Stoke vs Tottenham
Norwich vs Newcastle	MONDAY 03:00
Swansea vs Fulham	12 DECEMBER 2011
West Brom vs Wigan	Chelsea vs Man City



Newcastle defender James Perch vies with Chelsea's goalscorer, Didier Drogba, in last weekend's clash at the Sports Direct Arena. Photo: GRAHAM/AFP

Premier gifts

RAPIDLY approaching the half-way stage the Premiership could offer early seasonal opportunities.

Chelsea, and Drogba in particular, eased the pressure on their manager, André Villas-Boas by taking three points from Newcastle Utd last week. The Blues also secured a last 16 berth in the Champions league by defeating Valencia, but are set to face a dominant Manchester City on Monday evening.

Should Chelsea lose they would be 13 points adrift of the leaders, and hand a psychological boost to leaders Manchester City.

West Brom have home advantage over bottom placed Wigan, who were crushed 0-4 by Arsenal, and with limited attacking

options, Wigan manager Roberto Martinez needs to resolve his goal-scoring inabilities rapidly.

Bolton have Aston Villa coming to the Reebok Stadium which presents a chance to climb out of the relegation zone with Villa's recent poor record of one point out of a possible nine from a draw with Premiership new boys, Swansea City who have Fulham visiting.

Liverpool's 11-game unbeaten run ended on Monday evening with a 0-1 loss to Fulham made worse for the Reds by Luis Suarez making a finger-gesture at full time which will be investigated by the FA.

Suarez is already facing a racism charge which leaves Dalglish in a quandary over his star striker.

Woods wins!



Tiger Woods celebrates at the Chevron World Challenge. Photo: AFP

TIGER Woods recorded his first win in two years at the Chevron World Challenge and climbed back up to 21st in the world rankings.

Played at Sherwood Country Club in Thousand Oaks, California, Woods demonstrated he still has the killer instinct when needed.

Whilst not competing against the strongest of fields, Woods saw off fellow American Zach Johnson to lift the trophy and the take the winner's purse of US\$1.2 million.

Woods, trailing by one shot approaching the 17th green, holed a 15-foot birdie to bring the scores level. Johnson then failed in his birdie attempt on the 18th, leaving

Woods a six-foot-birdie opportunity to hole-out and secure his first win since the BMW Championship title in September 2009.

A delighted and somewhat relieved Woods said "It feels great. I've been in contention twice this year, which is not very often. I had the lead at the Masters on the back nine and had a chance at the Aussie Open, so that's my third time with a chance to win."

If a fully fit Tiger Woods, can exploit this victory and regain consistent form he enjoyed before his private life made the headlines, the 35-year old will pose a major threat for 2012.

Soccer mourns

SOCRATES, one of the greatest ever players to grace a pitch, though for Brazilians, an even greater "champion of citizenship" off it, got his dying wish.

A sublime player, with his trademark back-heel, Socrates gave more to game than most with "joga bonito" ("beautiful game") the philosophy of free-flowing attacking football.

Off the field he gave much also to his country's development from military dictatorship to a democ-

racy, starting from the changing room at Corinthians. Socrates created a democratic movement with the other players designed to challenge the dictatorial methods inside the Brazilian game at the time.

He urged his countrymen to demand the same in all walks of life.

Socrates Brasileiro Sampaio de Souza Vieira de Oliveira said he wanted to die on a Sunday with his beloved Corinthians winning the league title the same day. The footballing gods granted his wish.



Socrates. Photo: U. Dettmar/ABR

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Sport

Hares prevail in Phuket

By S Layne and S Fein

FC PHUKET lost their third home game of the season on Sunday, going down 2-0 to a determined Chanthaburi FC side.

The evening match was played in front of a smaller-than-expected crowd of about 2,400 fans at Surakul Stadium, and followed heavy showers that left the pitch waterlogged for the duration of the match.

With balanced possession in the two halves, both sides saw a handful of scoring chances. But it was the Chanthaburi FC "Hares" that drew first blood on 36 minutes, when Rattaphon Sae-tan jumped on a loose ball in the penalty area and drilled it into the top corner of the near post to put his side up 1-0 – a lead they took into halftime.

FC Phuket kept up the pressure in the second half, but were unable to find the back of the net as the end of regulation time drew near.

Following several near-scoring efforts, Phuket's best opportunity for an equalizer came when they were awarded a penalty kick with just five minutes left. Poramut "Mut" Krongborisut was blatantly fouled in the penalty area, but the



DENIED: Boubacar Issoufou's shot is blocked by Pichet. Photo: Football Siam

subsequent spot kick, taken by defender Wirachrote Junteng, was brilliantly deflected by the diving Chanthaburi keeper Pichet "Killer Rabbit" Traiphumi.

Clinging to their advantage, several Hares found themselves playing dead on the pitch as the clock expired – antics that resulted in five minutes of injury time being added.

Any hopes the Southern Sea Kirin entertained to equalize were extinguished just moments into injury time, when Chanthaburi's Ivorian-import Labi Aymard won a footrace

against charging Phuket keeper Jonathan Matijas and converted a beautiful pass from Rattaphon – later named man of the match – to seal the victory 2-0 for the Hares.

The result moves Chanthaburi (9 wins, 7 draws and 14 losses) up two spots to 11th place, out of the relegation zone, for now.

Recent wins by Buriram (1st), Chainat (2nd), Chula United (3rd) and PTT Rayong (4th) and Songkhla (5th) further shed doubt on Phuket's prospects for promotion next season.

PHUKET'S REMAINING FIXTURES THIS SEASON		
DECEMBER 11: AWAY	VS	
Volcanoes @ Buriram		
DECEMBER 17: AWAY	VS	
Thai Honda @ Bangkok		
DECEMBER 21: HOME	VS	
Suphanburi @ Surakul Stadium		
DECEMBER 25: HOME	VS	
Air Force United @ Surakul Stadium		
JANUARY 07: AWAY	VS	
Hornbills @ Chainat		
TBA: HOME	VS	
Bangkok FC @ Surakul Stadium		

With 43 points from 11 wins, 10 draws and 7 losses, Phuket have dropped into sixth place.

The Southern Sea Kirin now hit the road for two consecutive away fixtures (see above).

Their next match is on Sunday evening against league-leaders Buriram FC, who were victorious in Phuket 3-0 in May.

To be played at the I-mobile stadium in central Buri Ram, the rematch will be a tough one for Phuket, who will strive to be the

THAI DIVISION ONE LEAGUE TABLE			
WEDNESDAY, 7 DECEMBER 2011 20:00			
TEAM	P	GD	PTS
Buriram FC	29	47	70
Chainat FC	29	28	60
Chula Utd	30	18	59
PTT Rayong	29	18	47
Songkhla FC	28	14	45
FC Phuket	28	12	43
Bangkok Utd	29	2	42
Rajpracha FC	26	1	42
Saraburi FC	28	5	37
JW Rangsit FC	29	-7	36
Chanthaburi FC	30	-15	34
Suphanburi FC	29	-3	33
Airforce Utd	27	-17	31
Bangkok FC	28	-14	29
Customs Utd	29	-15	28
Chiangmai FC	30	-19	26
RBAC FC	30	-23	25
Thai Honda	30	-32	23

first team this season to beat the "Volcanoes" (27, 7 and 1) on their home turf. Buriram's only loss was in an away 1-2 defeat at Chainat, also back in May.

Ironkids nail second successful event

EIGHT corporate sponsors answered the call for race fees and support of over 90 children at the second IronKids Phuket event held at Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club last weekend.

The results were as follows: in first place - Quest Laguna Phuket who also sponsored a team of three kids from Ban Manik School. In second place - Team Lee Marine - who sponsored 12 children from Ban Bangtao School. In third place - Anantara Club who sponsored children from Anuban Phuket School

Zoe Bowden, aged 12, from Malaysia, successfully defended her TSLC IronKids Phuket title in a new best time of 39 minutes and 23 seconds which



Quest Laguna Phuket with their dream team - 1st place Corporate Sponsors. slashed over two minutes from her previous best.

Edwin Thiang from Malaysia won the boys 15 years age group with a time of 40 minutes

and 36 seconds beating the winning time of Nicholas Murphy in the last IronKids event by nearly five minutes.

– Neil Quail



Edwin Thiang first in Boys 15 category with Juergen Zack



Zoe Bowden poses with her second Ironkids gold medal

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Pryde sails into the future

NEIL Pryde is sailing his Welbourn 52 Hi Fi in the IRC Zero Class of the 25th Phuket King's Cup.

Pryde has won the King's Cup four times in the top racing division; the first time in 1998, then in 2001, 2004 and again in 2009 and he is looking for a record fifth win in 2011.

At 72 years of age, Neil Pryde is a stalwart of the Phuket King's Cup and of Asian sailing.

Pryde, a New Zealand born sailor, has been in Asia for almost 50 years. He is the Managing Director of Pryde Group, an assemblage of companies with roots in manufacturing, sports branding and worldwide distribution.

He started sailing at 10 years of age in Auckland in the P Class, and after early success campaigned ahead of the Rome Olympics in 1960, but just missed out on selection.

In 1963, Pryde began working for sail maker Rolly Tasker. A chartered accountant by profession, he worked with Rolly until 1970 and then set up his own company making sails for yachts.

"Until 1991 we were in Hong Kong and we then moved to China. We were actually pretty big at that stage and in peak times in the 80's we were making well over 300,000 windsurfing sails a year," said Pryde.

By the mid 80s they were the world leader in windsurfing sails and still are today.

"We noticed that kiteboarding was starting to cut into the windsurfing market. I met Pete Carina, a real icon in the sport and in 2000 we bought all the rights to his name for kitesurfing products and Pete came to work for us. He did the marketing and product direction and we went in to the kitesurfing business."

"Windsurfing is shrinking, but kitesurfing is definitely growing by probably five per cent a year.

"Kitesurfing is a great travel sport. The stuff is so portable that you can put your gear in your backpack and your board under your arm and basically go anywhere.

"It's interesting to see the kiteboarders here at the King's Cup and I will watch their progress with interest.

"But I just love sailing here in Asia. The standard of racing here is pretty damn good and that's why we are seeing more and more very good sailors here from around the world," Pryde said.

For news, results and information on the 25th Phuket King's Cup visit kingscup.com. The Phuket Gazette will run a full feature on the Regatta's conclusion in next week's edition.



WINDS OF CHANGE: Neil Pryde's Hi Fi competing at the 2011 King's Cup. Pryde is interested by the inclusion of kiteboarding at this year's Regatta.

Desmond delivers for Patong, Dehli delights in Phuket win

THE fourth Island Furniture League match saw current champions Patong take on Island Cricket Club (ICC) on December 4 at the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG).

After a dismal 2010 season ICC hoped to prove they were much improved this year.

Heavy rain overnight delayed the start of play by almost half an hour, but eventually the skies cleared and Patong put ICC into bat looking to take advantage of a wet crease and a slow outfield. The early dismissal of A Khan (7) with the score on 15 proved the correct decision for Patong.

Opener Anand Chand and I Kahn (12) took the score to 46 before Khan was sent back to the pavillion. Wicketkeeper D Mehtra (6) and Chand boosted the score to 67 before Mehtra was given lbw off the bowling of Manish Sadarangani. A determined effort by Chand ended when he was dismissed after a dogged captain's knock for 26. The remaining ICC batsmen could not settle and the last five wickets collapsed for just 24 runs.

ICC's failure to bat the full 40 overs reduced them to 125 runs all out from 32 overs. Pick of the bowlers for Patong were Seemant Raju with four wickets for only seven runs and Manish Sadarangani with four wickets for 27 runs.

Patong openers Richard Desmond (54) and Seemant Raju (44 not out) went out with orders from captain Richard Folds to stay at the crease for at least 10 overs. This they did, reaching 49 at the 10 over mark and then advanced the score to 91 without loss at the 20 over mark. Desmond was

eventually dismissed on Nelsons, the dreaded score of 111. Patong went on to cruise to victory reaching the target of 126 in only 27 overs for the loss of only one wicket.

Man of the match was Seemant Raju with four wickets and a 44 not out with the bat. Richard Desmond took second place with his winning knock of 54 runs and Manish Sadarangani placed third.

On Friday and Saturday preceding the local league game, a Phuket select team played three games against the visiting Dehli Viceroy's.

The touring side from India were due to play in Bangkok, but the recent floods encouraged them to move their schedule south to Phuket's ACG.

A decisive 10-wicket victory for the Phuket side on Friday in a T20 match seemed to inspire the Viceroy's in Saturday's 40 over encounter.

Putting Phuket into bat first with dark skies looming proved wise. Upper, middle and lower orders all collapsed with only one Phuket batsman reaching double figures (Patrick, 12) and posted a weak total of just 66 runs all out. Best figures and eventual man of the match was Slater with five wickets off four overs for just four runs.

The Viceroy's returned to crease immediately in the hope of giving their hosts more time with their families. Graciously, Phuket's bowling helped this effort with only one wicket taken in eleven overs before the Viceroy's reached the target for a comfortable win.



MATCH WINNERS: Patong's Richard Desmond (left) and man of the match Seemant Raju at the crease. Photos: Neil Quail

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Raelert and Rollison rock Laguna Phuket Ironman

By Neil Quail

ASK any athlete who has experienced the Phuket Ironman 70.3 Asia-Pacific course and they will describe the routes as challenging.

Downpours on Sunday morning endeavored to make this challenge decidedly more hazardous with decreased visibility and the dreaded surface water which, we know can turn Phuket roads into virtual ice rinks.

Despite the conditions, Michael Raelert of Germany and Melissa Rollison from Australia proved their worth as two of the best triathletes currently on the Ironman 70.3 circuit by claiming their first victories on Phuket.

As dawn broke over the island, 1,117 athletes representing 58 countries gathered on the beach in front of the Laguna resort complex before starting the 1.9km swim that would take them through open seas and freshwater lagoon routes.

First out of the water was Briton Daniel Halksworth just one second ahead of pre-race favorite and 2010 Ironman 70.3 champion Raelert, who in turn was leading the chasing group of American Matt Reed and Australians David Dellow and Paul Matthews.

One minute after the top Pro men got out of the lagoon, the Pro women began their exit from the water with Amanda Stevens from the USA building a 90-second lead over Ruth Nivon Machoud of Switzerland and last weekend's Laguna Phuket Triathlon (LPT) winner Radka Vodickova from the Czech Republic a further 30 seconds behind the Swiss.

By this point the rain was in play and athletes took to the bike course with caution. The conditions would adversely affect split times and unfortunately cause retirements through accidents and mechanical problems.

At the 10km mark Dellow had taken the lead and was being



BY A NOSE: Michael Raelert chests the line ahead of the Laguna Elephant in moment of comedy to win the Ironman 70.3 Asia-Pacific Championship.

chased by Matthews, Raelert and Reed. In the women's race, Stevens had extended her lead by another minute, but current Ironman 70.3 world Champion Rollison was in pursuit and had shot into second place having been sixth out of the water.

Raelert and Dellow were in a share of the lead at the 20km point, but this also marked the end of American Chris Lieto's race after a fall and long slide left him with severe road rash on his right elbow and he was forced to retire.

Lead group positions had changed dramatically by the 30km mark. Dellow and Raelert were in fourth and fifth respectively while the Australian trio of Matthews, Paul Ambrose and Timothy James Reed had snatched the front places.

Just before the halfway mark, Rollison took the lead from Stevens and continued to put distance between her and the rest of the field who were being led by Natascha Badmann of Switzerland, and last week's LPT runner up Belinda Granger.

A frenzy of Australians at the

end of the bike course saw Ambrose, Dellow, Matthews, Cunningham and Joshua McHugh all go into transition two (T2) within 17 seconds of each other behind Raelert.

Rollison was the first woman out on the run course followed by six-time-Ironman world champion. Badmann.

Treacherous conditions for cyclists became an ideal running environment with cloud cover keeping temperatures low for the runners.

In the end, both Raelert and Rollison

dominated the run course to finish well ahead of their chasing groups and secure the US\$12,000 top prize. Raelert crossed the finish line nearly six minutes ahead of Cunningham and Matthews to set a new course record of 3:51:36.

Raelert was completely enamored by the event and local support.



UNDEFEATED: Melissa Rollison celebrates winning the Laguna Ironman and her first title on Phuket. Photos by Christian Mouchet

"This is just a fantastic event. Even with the rain coming down, the people were still lining the roads to cheer us on. This really encouraged all of us," she said.

Conditions on the bike course were incredible. It was dark with torrential rain. We had to slow

down, but that meant I could relax a bit before the run. My arms got a good work out keeping control of the bike. After the injury setbacks of this season, it's great to finish in a high note and with a

good win and I'm sure this will help springboard next season," Raelert added.

It was a good day for Australia, with five Australians among the top eight men's prize positions and three in the women's top eight, including Rollison

Rollison slaughtered the field be-

hind her finishing nearly 14 minutes ahead of the 44-year-old Badmann and maintained her unbeaten Ironman 70.3 2011 record with her first victory on Phuket in a time of 4:17:01. Vodickova reclaimed third place from Lidbury during the run despite suffering from a knee injury.

Massimo Cigana, LPT triple champion and crowd favorite finished sixth in a time of 4:01:54.

Phuket's rising triathlete star Jaray Jearanai was the first Thai to finish in a personal best time of 4:38:38 on his home course. Top Thai female was Nampetch Porntharukcharoen in 6:22:28.

The day was also a triumph for the oldest competitor, 79-year-old Hiromu Inada of Japan, who finished in 6:42:01.

The Laguna Phuket 2011 Ironman 70.3 field competed for a total US\$75,000 pro purse, championship points, as well as 45 and 30 prestigious age group slots awarded for the 2012 Ironman 70.3 and Ironman World Championships, respectively.

The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV are sponsors of the Laguna Phuket Ironman 70.3 Asia-Pacific Championship.



Raelert during the wet bike course



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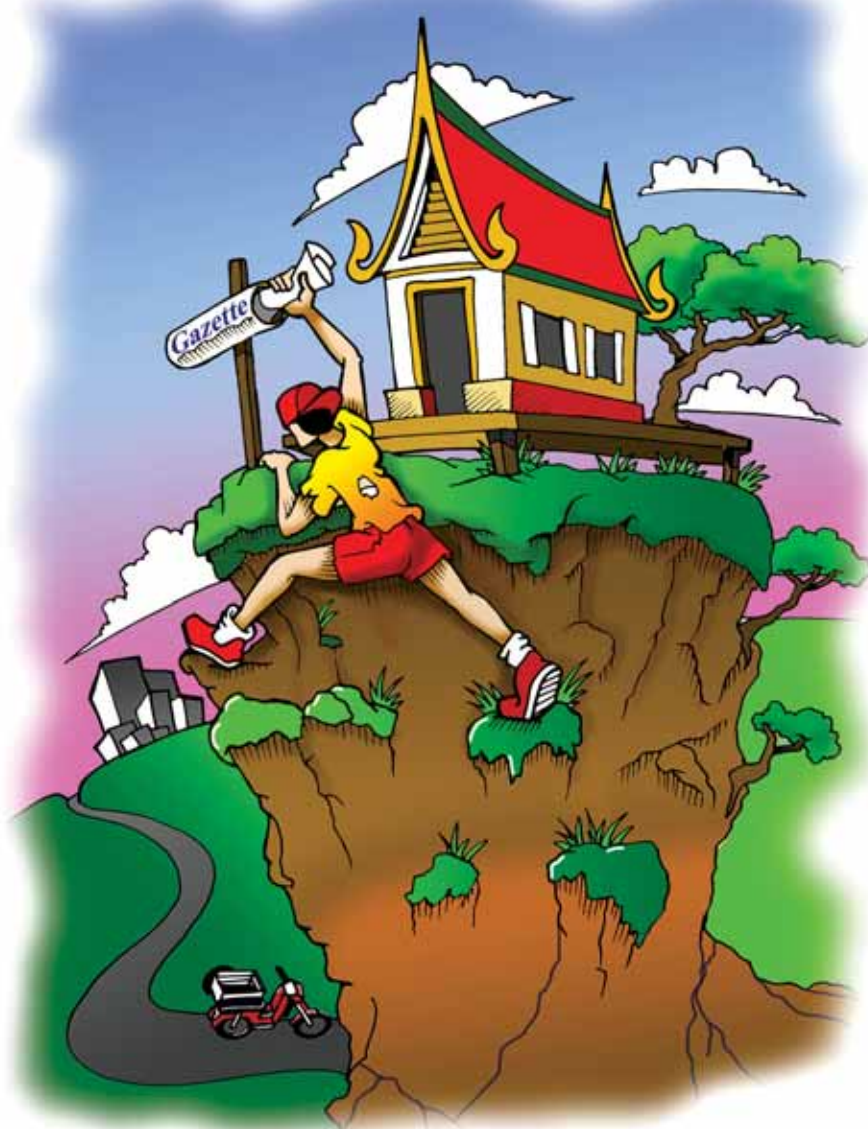
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