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Phuket roads claimed at least six lives over the New Year holidays.

New Year road toll 'worst in recent years'

THE annual 'Seven Days of Danger' road safety campaign drew to a close on Wednesday, marking one of the worst road toll records over the New Year long holiday for years.

Officials at the Phuket Office of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM-Phuket) at the start of the campaign set a target tally of no more than four deaths this year. That target took a battering on Day One of the campaign with three people dying on Phuket's roads.

But not all was doom during the seven days, as Phuket enjoyed not one, but two days without a person dying on Phuket tarmac. See page 3 for our full report on the Seven Days of Danger road safety campaign in Phuket.

Death of young boy sparks safety blitz

THE death of seven-year-old Methee Khunsuinh on Tuesday has prompted Rawai Municipality and lifeguards to introduce a range of safety measures at the popular swimming lagoon near Nai Harn Beach.

Methee, nicknamed "Shogun", was pulled unconscious from the lagoon by a foreign man at about 4:30pm on New Year's Eve.

He was pronounced dead after three days on life support in the intensive care unit at Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town.

Rachen Phuntarakit, chief administrative officer (*Palad*) at Rawai Municipality, told the *Gazette* that lifeguards at the beach have been given full discretion on which measures are to be taken in response to Methee's death.

"Even if they want to ban people from swimming in the lagoon entirely, we would support it," he said.

However, Samart Chandee, chief lifeguard at Nai Harn Beach, confirmed that the lagoon, which is formed by water exiting the sluice gate that empties the neigh-



Methee Khunsuinh on life support on Monday. He succumbed to his injuries on Tuesday morning. Photo: Gazette

boring Nai Harn Lake, will stay open to bathers.

"We will install signs in Thai, English and Burmese warning parents to keep an eye on their children playing in and around the lagoon... We want to install several signs because just one big sign will not be effective," he said.

Also, the Phuket Lifeguard Club has already installed ropes with floats to section off safe areas within the lagoon where children will be allowed to swim.

Original reports indicate that Methee was pulled from the water in an area away from where most children play. "It was only

about chest height for an adult, but that is too deep for children, especially when they are left unsupervised," he said.

In addition, vendors operating stalls around the lagoon have walkie-talkies to contact lifeguards in case of an emergency.

Continued on page 3

Pub murder rings in New Year in Patong

A DISPUTE between two Patong business owners turned deadly on New Year's Eve when one gunned down his rival outside a well-known Phuket pub just before dawn on New Year's Day.

The shooting was reported to Patong Police by 15-year-old Rachain Noonpakdee, said a report in the *Siangtai Daily* local Thai-language newspaper.

Rachain said that one of the "big brothers", 35-year-old Wirote "Baomee" Duangjan, was shot twice in the stomach by a man he identified only as Phi Kosit ("big brother Kosit").

Police rushed to the scene, outside a pub

at the southern end of Phang Muang Sai Kor Road, named in the report by its old nickname Soi Tun, which literally translates as "Dead End Street".

Arriving at the scene police found only bloodstains and broken shards of glass.

Mr Wirote had already been rushed to Patong Hospital for emergency treatment. From there he was later transferred to the better-equipped Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town, where he died.

Initial investigation by police revealed that the two men were very well-acquainted. They were both employed by the same unnamed business tycoon to oversee parts

of his operations in the tourist town, which on the night of the slaying was packed with foreign tourists celebrating the New Year.

Police believe the shooting was motivated by a conflict over which of the two would run which businesses controlled by their common patron.

Relatives of the late Mr Wirote have claimed his body, which will be cremated at his home in Chawang District, Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

At last report police were applying for an arrest warrant for the shooter, who they said they were familiar with because he already has a criminal record.

Sporting View



The Canadian synchronized swimming team in Phuket earlier this year. See pages 44-45 for our special roundup looking back at Phuket sport in 2011. Photo: Dean Noble

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Phuket Town underpass project to start this year

PHEU Thai MP and former Finance Minister Suchart Thadathamrongvech on January 3 announced that work on the much-debated underpass at the Darasamut Intersection (also known as the Central Festival Intersection) will start this year.

The news was announced at a public meeting at the Phuket Community Hall, near Phuket Provincial Hall, in Phuket Town.

Sriyada Palimaphan, Secretary to the Minister of Social Development and Human Security and coordinator of the ministry's projects in Phuket, confirmed that Cabinet has approved the 600 million baht in funding required for the project.

"The project will start this year. Once complete, the tunnel will open with three traffic lanes," she said.

Mrs Sriyada added that another underpass, planned for the nearby Samkong Intersection (also known as the Tesco Lotus Intersection), will have to wait.

"We should build both underpasses at the same time, but Prime Minister Yingluck first has to deal with the damage caused by the floods in Bangkok. We will continue to push for the Tesco underpass and I believe we will have the funding for it by next year," she said.



Suchart Thadathamrongvech and Sriyada Plaimaphan outline the underpass project at the public meeting. Photo: Chutharat Plerin



Although now performing a high-level ministerial function in Bangkok, Mrs Sriyada has a long history with Phuket. She represented Phuket as a Thai Rak Thai MP in the Thaksin administration after winning the seat with just over 8% of the electorate in Phuket Voting District 1. She also married the former prime minister's cousin Saravuth Shinawatra.

However, Phuket Provincial Highways Office chief Arun Sanae, who was not at the meeting, told the *Phuket Gazette* that if work on the underpass does start this year, it is likely to be late in the year.

"The project will fall under the responsibility of the Ministry of Land Transport. First of all, they will have to find a construction

company capable of undertaking the project. It will take some time to do that," he said.

"They should complete the bidding process and have selected a construction company for the project by the end of the year, but this takes time. There are many steps involved in starting work on a project like this," he told the *Gazette*.

The *Gazette* notes that in 2004, then-PM Thaksin rejected outright a proposal to build the same two underpasses at a combined cost of 800 million baht, saying that one tunnel long enough could be built for 600mn baht.

Incumbent Phuket MPs Anchalee Vanich Thepabutr and Raywat Areerob, both Democrats, were not present at the public meeting, either.

TAT calls businesses to join tourism trade show

THE Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) is inviting tourism-related businesses in Phuket and throughout the region to take part in its Thailand Travel Mart 2012 (TTM 2012), to be held June 6-8 at Impact Muang Thong Thani Exhibition Center in Nonthaburi.

This year, over 400 booths are available for travel operators and service businesses across Thailand and the GMS countries.

Business categories arranged for the event are: accommodation, entertainment, tourism organization/association, tour operator/travel agency, transportation, and other travel services.

Buyers are sourced from the major markets worldwide.

"The focus on the four niche-market segments is based on the global trend for more experiential tourism, especially among repeat travelers seeking to spend more focused time on a particular activity," said TAT Governor Suraphon Svetasreni.

Application forms and related information are available at: <http://thailandtravelmartplus.com> The deadline application is March 16.

For details contact the TATat Tel: 02-2505500 ext 4544-48; Email: prdiv3@tat.or.th; or visit www.tatnews.org

Baby saved from drowning

JUST a day after 7-year-old drowning victim Methee Khunsuinhua succumbed to injuries and passed away at Vachira Phuket Hospital, quick action by a foreign tourist today spared a toddler of a similar fate at the same beach.

Pawanrat Suetrong, age 19 months, was on a family outing to the swimming lagoon near Nai Harn Beach on January 4 when the near tragedy occurred.

Her mother, 31-year-old Wimon Sangjan, said she took Pawanrat, her two sisters aged four and nine, as well as her own 14-year-old brother to enjoy a day at the beach.

She went to get the children some drinking water, leaving them



Wimon Sangjan holds her daughter Pawanrat. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

to play in knee-high water at the edge of the lagoon.

"Pawanrat suddenly began sinking into deeper water, then went under. The other children were in the same area, but they did not notice what was happening to her.

Fortunately, a foreign woman sprang into action, pulling her back onto the shore unconscious," she recounted.

"My daughter was put in a Kusoldham Foundation emergency rescue vehicle and rushed to Vachira Phuket Hospital, but after five minutes she began throwing up and then regained consciousness," she said.

Pawanrat was kept in the hospital overnight for observation.

Mrs Wimon, who works in a Nai Harn restaurant, has lived with her family and other relatives in Chalong for five years.

He husband is currently back visiting their native Suphan Buri province.

— Atchaa Khamlo



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PITCHALAI PREPARATORY SCHOOL, HATYAI

Truck slams into tour van

FOUR Russian tourists on their way to a Phuket magic show got a painful dose of reality on December 27, when the passenger van they were riding in collided with a delivery truck south of Patong.

The accident happened at about 7pm on Wiset Road in front of Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort on the first day of the nationwide Seven Days of Danger road safety campaign.

While trying to avoid rear-ending a six-wheeled truck ahead, the delivery truck swerved across the center line and hit the passenger van, reportedly en route to a magic show on Soi Bangla in Patong.

The van came to rest in the middle of the road, while the truck slid into a roadside ditch.

Phuket Kusoldham Foundation rescue workers said that the minivan driver suffered a broken leg and three of the four Russians were rushed to Patong Hospital for emergency treatment.

— *Atchaa Khamlo*

New Year holiday road toll record takes a tumble

JANUARY 4 marked the last day of the "Seven Days of Danger" holiday road-safety campaign. With no fatalities recorded in Phuket the previous day, Day 6 of the campaign, the number of fatalities stood at six.

According to official figures from the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Phuket Office (DDPM-Phuket) on the morning of the last day, Day 6 ended with nine serious injuries in eight reported accidents, but no deaths.

Among the injured was one foreigner, listed as Canadian national Daniel Frewing, age 63. Mr Frewing was driving fast without a helmet when he lost control of his motorbike on Sakdidee Road in Baan Borrae, Wichit, according to DDPM-Phuket notes of the accident. The Canadian was taken to Bangkok Hospital Phuket for treatment.

Of the eight accidents reported on day six, half were attributed to drunk driving. In these cases all of the victims were Thai males in



A disappointing start to this year's road safety campaign with heavy casualty figures on day one rising to six over the period.

their 20s and 30s.

The youngest accident victim on the day was three-year-old Nassaroot Bandam, who fell from a motorbike driven by his father. The child was injured when his dangling feet got caught in the wheels, pulling him off the vehicle. The DDPM-Phuket log notes that

the boy was rushed to Thalang Hospital for emergency treatment and then referred to the better-equipped Bangkok Hospital Phuket.

Day six's accidents bring the total to 66, with six fatalities and 70 people suffering injuries requiring hospitalization. So far during

the campaign, 44,125 vehicles have been pulled over for inspections at police checkpoints in Phuket, with 3,554 charges levied. Eighteen people have been charged with drunk driving since the campaign began.

Nationwide, the first five days of the campaign record 282 people killed and 2,783 injured in 2,544 traffic accidents, the Road Safety Center in Bangkok reported. Buri Ram remains the deadliest province with 16 fatalities, while Chaiyaphum was the only accident-free province.

Compared with last year, deaths were up by one, while injuries were down by 308 and accidents down by 337.

Chiang Rai had the most accidents at 95 while Nakhon Sawan was tops in injuries at 100. On Monday, January 2 alone, 41 people were killed and 401 injured in 377 road accidents.

National reporting by *Phuket Gazette* partner publication *The Nation*.

— *Phuket Gazette*

Safety blitz at Nai Harn Beach

From page 1

"Three former volunteer beachguards now operate stalls near the lagoon. All three, like most vendors there, have walkie-talkies to contact us in case anything happens," Mr Samart explained.

Also, lifeguards will step up patrols around the lagoon. "We cannot spare a lifeguard to be stationed by the lagoon full time. Right now we have the budget only for only two lifeguard stations on the beach, but I have already spread out our lifeguards over three stations on the beach so we can better respond in case of an emergency.

"What we will do, however, is have our lifeguards patrol the area more frequently than we have done," Mr Samart said.

On the day Methee was pulled



The lagoon at Nai Harn Beach is popular with young families.

from the water, lifeguards were already conducting 10-minute turnaround patrols past the lagoon.

"Each patrol takes about 10 minutes, and when one lifeguard returns to the lifeguard tent, the other starts walking the patrol again," Mr Samart explained.

However, parts of the lagoon remain dangerous for young chil-

dren, he added.

"On January 1, at about 4:30pm, lifeguards had to pull a six-year-old girl from the water at same place in the lagoon where Methee was pulled out," he said.

On Wednesday, just one day after Methee succumbed to his injuries, lifeguards had to rescue a one-year-old from the lagoon (see facing page).

Mr Samart added that any volunteers wanting to assist the lifeguards at Nai Harn can call Julia Nontree, chief of Nai Harn Lifeguard Zone 1, at 081-2711509 or see Mr Julia in person at the lifeguard station on Nai Harn Beach between 9am and 7pm.

Extra buses to Bangkok for annual tourist exodus

PHUKET Land Transport Office Chief Terayout Prasertphol has ordered more buses be provided to ensure that all tourists who came to Phuket to celebrate the new year will get home in time to start 2012 without delay.

"I have ordered the [state bus operator] BorKorSor to boost bus services by 20 per cent to ensure that no passengers are left behind. I know it is important for people to reach to their desired destination by certain dates," said Mr Terayout.

He also ordered his officers to conduct safety inspections on



About 1,200 people a day are heading home from Phuket on buses. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

buses in order to help prevent any serious accidents from happening during the long new year break.

Bus drivers were also required to pass breath tests for alcohol before getting behind the wheel.



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Rattled yachting community remembers life of local sailor

FRIENDS of Leslie Beasley, who was found dead on a yacht moored in Chalong Bay on December 23, have told the *Gazette* about their shock and sadness over the local sailor's death.

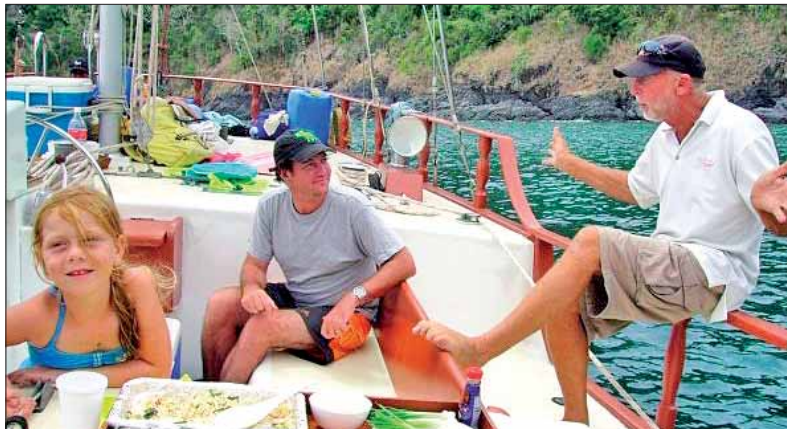
Mr Beasley was looking after the yacht for the owner, who is currently overseas. His body was discovered after the owner had repeatedly failed to contact him about the condition of the yacht, explained Brent McInnes of the Phuket Cruising Yacht Club.

Mr Beasley was found dead three days before his 69th birthday. Police deem the death a suicide, though the circumstances surrounding it have sent unerving ripples through Phuket's yachting community.

Mr Beasley's body was found with a hose from an oxygen cylinder connected to a plastic bag placed over his head.

"Les lived on Phuket for at least seven years. He was a yacht caretaker and had done work as a boat surveyor," Mr McInnes said.

"He used to come in once a month. He pretty much kept to



Leslie Beasley will be remembered fondly by many expats in Phuket.

himself. He wasn't a gossip monger, but he wasn't a recluse.

"Les was my neighbor for a time and I was fortunate to sail with him on a few occasions," said Justine Bristow.

"I'm not sure how he was with his male friends, but with me he was always a true gentleman. Gentle, knowledgeable and passionate about the ocean.

"I can't actually believe this has happened, but I'm sure that this was not some spur of the moment decision as he always struck me

as a very thoughtful and purposeful man," she said.

"I talked to him just the other day. He wanted to tie up his dinghy in front of the yacht club. I said he could just pull it up onto the beach and we'd keep an eye on it, but he said, 'I think I just don't have the strength to pull it [back] off the beach,'" said Mr McInnes.

Reports from throughout the local yachting fraternity indicate that Mr Beasley may have been suffering from a long battle with pancreatic cancer.

Caring for

HUMANITY has historically held a deep-seeded fear of death. That fear is often intensified when in strange or unknown surroundings.

Most people feel comfortable knowing that when their time comes friends or family will be there for them. But what if there is nobody? What happens to those with no known identity?

The *Gazette's* Chutharat Plerin reports.

THE unidentified body of a Caucasian male, recovered from the sea south of Phuket last month, was finally laid to rest on December 14.

The red-haired foreigner, dressed only in a black singlet and gray shorts, was discovered by the crew of Thai fishing boat *Sor Naja* as it sailed between Racha Yai Island and Koh Hei on November 4.

Chalong Police together with Phuket Ruamjai Foundation rescue workers rendezvoused with the *Sor Naja* to recover the body from the sea. At the time rescue workers assessed that the man might have been about 45 years old. Showing no

obvious signs of injury, they speculated that he probably drowned.

Once on dry land, "Red Hair" was transferred to the morgue at Vachira Phuket Hospital. Meanwhile, police started the often-difficult task of ascertaining his identity, the first step toward contacting relatives who might then arrive and claim the body.

In this case, putting a name to the deceased was difficult from the start as the corpse was found

without any identification whatsoever. A review of missing person reports turned up nothing and after laying in the mortuary for a month and a half, it was determined that all lines of inquiry were exhausted. At this point case officer Nitikorn Rawang of the Chalong Police authorized the release of the body to Phuket Kusoldharm Foundation workers for burial.

With no known relatives or next of kin to prepare Red Hair for his

final journey, Kusoldharm Foundation staff performed a small funeral ceremony before interring his remains at Mai Khao Cemetery.

Religious beliefs aside, for many of us there is an underlying fear of

what will happen to our mortal remains after we pass away. Are they to lie undiscovered until the smell of decay alerts a neighbor? And when finally discovered, will every passerby stop and gawk as the body is stripped and placed in a black rubber bag. Many people wonder if their remains will be treated with respect.

Fortunately, the vast majority of visitors and residents to Phuket are known to others who can help identify them.



Rescue worker Kritsada Suwannaroj

Protected snakes seized

A FRUIT seller has been caught smuggling protected snakes onto Koh Lanta in Krabi province, across Phang Nga Bay from Phuket.

Pin Sangduk, 43, was found with eight live snakes stuffed into fertilizer sacks in the back of his pickup truck, which was otherwise loaded with fruit.

Mr Pin was caught when Sgt Maj Terdsak Rakdaeng of Koh Lanta Police pulled him over and searched his pickup at a checkpoint on Tuesday.

In the sacks were six gold-

ringed cat snakes, one Malayan bridge snake and one python.

Sgt Maj Terdsak called Suwat Suksiri, head of the local protected national park Thung Thale Non-Hunting Area, and confirmed that all of the snakes were protected species in Thailand.

Mr Pin told Sgt Maj Terdsak that he was not aware that the snakes were protected.

"I sell fruit at markets on Koh Lanta. I bought these fruits in Nakhon Sri Thammarat. Before I returned to Koh Lanta, my friend who lives in Trang province asked me to take the snakes to a snake show place [on Koh Lanta]. I had no idea that they are protected animals," said Mr Pin.

Mr Pin was taken to Koh Lanta Police Station for further questioning.

A report of the find was drawn up in accordance with the Wildlife Preservation and Protection Act, B.E. 2535 (1992), but Mr Pin has yet to be charged with any offenses.

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the unknown dead of Phuket



All the graves are clearly numbered so the bodies can later be identified if a relative comes forward to claim it.

The death of a tourist can turn a nice holiday into a sad task indeed for a fellow traveler or family member who has to make final arrangements.

In the case of an expat, it is most often the local community that steps in to help, with individuals and sometimes entire groups often going far beyond the call of duty to provide their loved one with a fitting send-off. Even a lone tourist, if identified, usually has the services of an honorary consul to offer advice to relatives concerning repatriation of the body.

But what of Red Hair and other "unknowns" who die in Phuket? How are their remains dealt with? In almost every case they will ultimately find their way to the

Vachira Hospital morgue.

The Vachira morgue can store up to 14 bodies at any one time. The bodies of Thai nationals are kept for a week. More often than not, relatives will claim the body within that time. With the bodies of foreign nationals, the holding period may be up to one month. Although not equipped to conduct full autopsies, Vachira staff will conduct a post-mortem examination if requested by police. Often this also involves taking DNA samples to assist in the identification process. In cases where the police require a full autopsy to be carried out, the bodies are sent to Police Region 8 Headquarters in Surat Thani.

If a patient has died in hospital,

relatives are usually easy to contact and hospital staff can complete this on their own. Unidentified bodies can be problematic, however. The issue faced by hospital authorities on how to dispose of such remains is a matter of primacy.

In circumstances where bodies have been brought in by law enforcement officers, the police have the responsibility for contacting relatives, or in the case of foreigners, the relevant diplomatic mission. Bodies, even if they were patients, are considered "unclaimed" if no relatives can be found.

Vachira Hospital keeps a close eye on the number of unidentified bodies in storage at the mortuary.

Once they have several bodies coming to the end of the typical holding period, staff contact the Kusoldharm Foundation to arrange for collection and burial. This is not only for unidentified bodies, but also those that relatives have decided, for whatever reason, to leave with the hospital.

So what happens when the hospital and police decide the time has come for the body to be disposed of? The Kusoldharm Foundation doesn't maintain a fixed collection schedule, but they will respond to requests from any island hospital. The bodies that the Kusoldharm claim are taken to the Mai Khao Cemetery, near to the Phuket Tsunami Wall of Remembrance, for burial.

Kusoldharm workers place the coffins in proper graves to prevent them being disturbed by wild animals or the elements. The graves are laid out in lines, each numbered to identify the body should anyone come forward at a later date to claim a relative. It is a duty that the Kusoldharm workers perform with dignity and respect.

"We have a small ceremony during which we follow the Chinese rituals and burn silver and gold paper at the grave site," Kusoldharm worker Kritsada Suwannaroj told the *Phuket Gazette*.

"In my two years of experience, I have never seen anyone come to claim a buried body. Although once, relatives did come to see us. We were about to exhume the body, but they didn't think they could bear to see it. So we left it in situ and the relatives had a ceremony there at the grave," said Mr Kritsada.

Eventually the graveyard will fill to capacity. When a thousand unclaimed bodies have amassed, the Kusoldharm will exhume them en masse and hold a ceremony before cremating all of the remains, as it has done at other graveyards many times before. After that, new corpses will be buried in the now-vacant graveyard ... starting with grave site number one.

So Red Hair will be remembered, even if who he was, where he came from or how he died is never known. So Rest in Peace Red Hair.

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Marine police join safety efforts

By Warisa Temram

EVEN as the Seven Days of Danger road-safety campaign continued across Phuket, the Marine Police were joining the effort on the water by stepping up safety checks and deploying vessels to conduct 24-hour operations.

The move came as Phuket struggles to accommodate the huge influx of tourists who have arrived during the island's "peak season" in tourism, a period that begins just before Christmas and continues into the New Year.

As was usual for that time of year, the *Gazette* received reports of near 100 per cent occupancy at hotels and other forms of tourist accommodation located along Phuket's west coast, especially in the prime tourist beach areas of Patong, Karon and Kata.

To cope with the rising number of people who like to avoid the crowds by heading out to the islands in Phang Nga Bay, including Phi Phi and Koh Yao, extra boat services have been launched at Rassada Pier on the east side of Phuket Town.

Lt Col Rittee Phao Phan, commanding officer of the



The Marine Police step up safety efforts to help cope with Phuket running at capacity for the high season.

Phuket-based Marine Police Region 8, launched the water-safety campaign by leading a team of Marine Police officers to the Rassada Pier to deliver water-safety advice to operators and hand out safety brochures to tourists traveling to the nearby islands.

"Phuket Marine Police are re-

sponsible for the waters around Phuket and some areas of Phang Nga Bay. Passenger safety is our priority. This means ensuring there are no overloaded boats on the water and every passenger is wearing a life jacket," Lt Col Rittee said.

Marine Police had been assigned to look after tourists during

the New Year festivities 24 hours a day, even providing a 24-hour telephone hotline service, which operated until January 5.

The Marine Police ensured tourists' safety using inflatable dinghies and Marine Police vessel Khun Pum [Tor 814] to patrol around Rassada Pier.

Phuket Red Cross Fair underway

SCORES of people are expected to turn out on January 7 for the final night of the Phuket Red Cross Fair in Phuket Town, with many people among the huge crowd hoping to win the top prize in the popular lucky draw: a brand-new Honda City car.

The draw for the grand prize will be held on the Central Stage at 10pm on the closing night of the fair.

The 11-day fair, being held at the Central Stage Area at Saphan Hin, was declared officially underway by Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha, who handed out 50 wheelchairs to disabled people and 88 scholarships to students from poor families on December 31.

The fair has long proved very popular among tourists and residents, each year attracting tens of thousands of visitors from across Phuket.

Hundreds of stalls sell local delicacies, knickknacks, clothing and a huge variety of other items, while entertainment is provided by activities and performances from some of Thailand's top celebrities.

However, without doubt one of the biggest attractions over the years has been the lucky draw.

"I come here every year and I always buy a ticket for the Red Cross lottery. I hope to win the grand prize," local resident Saowapa Nathi-ngam told the *Phuket Gazette*.

"Although I have never won, at least I know that all the money I paid for my ticket will be used for charity," she added.

In addition to a brand-new Honda City car being this year's top prize, other prizes include a motorcycle, gold necklaces, refrigerators, televisions and much more.

Burglar caught with stolen amulets

PHUKET City Police on December 28 arrested a serial thief caught with stolen religious objects, jewelry and other items.

Police Superintendent Chote Chitchai said Wichit resident Eakkat Tipmart, 29, had confessed to burglarizing the Phuket town apartment of Saengduan Chaigma.

The incident at Ms Saengduan's apartment was just the latest burglary in a string of similar thefts, Col Chote said.



Eakkat Tipmart and his stolen goods

Ms Saengduan, 39, reported to police on December 27 that her room at Somboon Apart-

ments in Phuket Town had been burglarized.

A subsequent investigation and a search of Mr Eakkat's apartment in Talad Nua recovered about 100 items that the police suspect were stolen, including Buddhist amulets and other religious images, watches, necklaces, bracelets, rings, mobile phones and computers.

Mr Eakkat was charged with burglary after police compiled evidence from his apartment and

CCTV footage.

"Eakkat confessed that he drove to Ms Saengduan's apartment at Soi Imchit, off Chao Fa West Road, by motorbike and stole many of her things," said Col Chote.

Phuket Town residents who believe that they might also have been victims of Mr Eakkat burglaries should contact the Phuket City Police to identify and reclaim their property.

— Warisa Temram

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New Year's Tragedy

A NEW Year's Eve celebration went horribly wrong for one family on Koh Samet after a woman shot three bullets into the air to mark the start of 2012.

As Rampha Suphasi, 48, lowered her gun it accidentally discharged again, hitting her husband Thanakit Suphasi in the chest.

Mr Thanakit, also 48, promptly fell down dead.

Police arrived at the scene, the family's Saengthian Beach Resort, around 20 minutes later. They found Mr Thanakit's body lying on the bloodied sand.

Standing nearby was Mrs Rampha, still holding the .22-caliber pistol that killed her husband. Lying nearby were four cartridges.

Mrs Rampha told police that she and her husband had eaten dinner on the beach to celebrate the arrival of the New Year.

After their meal, they waited for the countdown to midnight. When the moment came, Mrs Rampha picked up her gun and



shot three bullets into the sky.

Mrs Rampha told police that when she lowered the gun, it went off, hitting her husband in the chest.

Mrs Rampha insisted that it was an accident, saying they "had never had any arguments whatsoever".

The police charged her with the killing and plan to investigate further to establish whether it was intentional or through negligence.

They will question the couple's relatives to determine if the husband and his self-made widow were actually on good terms.

Police will also conduct forensic tests and examine the bullet trajectories to establish the credibility of Mrs Rampha's story.

— Daily News

Balcony fall kills Russian

A RUSSIAN tourist died in a fall from an interior balcony at a holiday rental home in Kathu, central Phuket, early December 31.

Thung Thong Police received a report at 2:45am that Russian tourist Anton Oleynikov, 32, had died in the fall at the private residence at Loch Palm.

Police Duty Officer Chana Suttimard said that Mr Oleynikov and his friends had rented the large home where he had occupied an upstairs room.

At the time of writing it was unclear what activities Mr Oleynikov was participating in before his fall or if they were directly related to his fatal accident.

The body is now at Patong Hospital awaiting medical examination.

Police have informed the Russian Embassy of the incident.

— Phuket Gazette

Call to revise Article 112

THE head of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Thailand (TRCT) Kanit Na Nakorn has called for amendments to be made to Thailand's *lese majeste* law, which mandates prison terms for anyone found guilty of insulting the monarchy.

Mr Kanit said changes should be made to the law to prevent further social divisions.

The announcement came just days after Army chief Gen Prayuth Chan-ocha said Thais who opposed the law should leave the country.

Mr Kanit said certain elements were invoking Article 112 for self-serving reasons.

At the same time, some have argued that Article 112 stifles their freedom of expression, he said.

"The TRCT has taken up the challenge of reviewing the *lese majeste* clause with the hope of bringing about reconciliation," Mr Kanit said.

The TRCT was set up in July 2010 by former premier Abhisit Vejjajiva in the wake of protests by anti-government "red shirts" that left 92 people dead.

The mandate of the commission is to identify the causes of the con-

AROUND THE nation

flict and take measures to promote long-term reconciliation in Thailand.

The TRCT did not support the abolishment of Article 112, saying that would be "inappropriate to Thai society," Mr Kanit said.

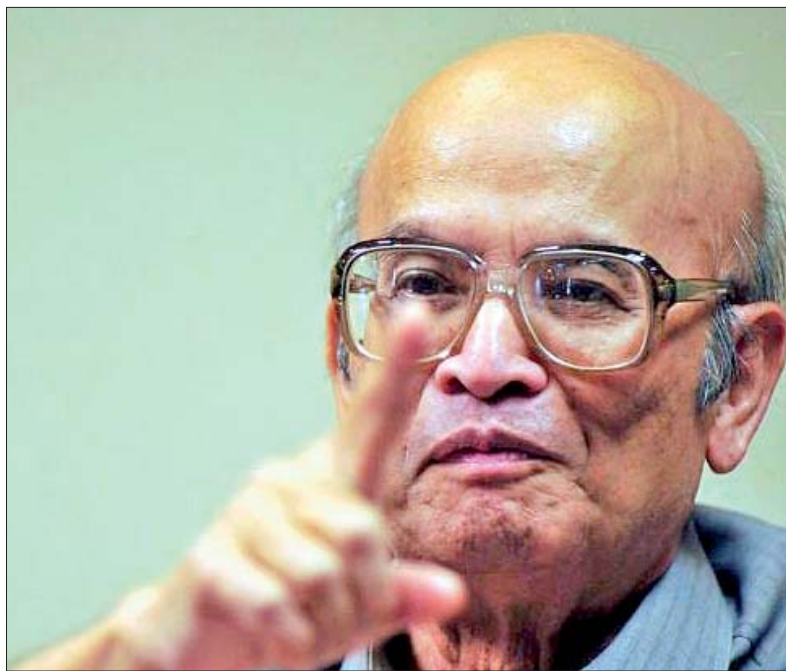
However, the current situation was not sustainable, he said.

Analysts have noted that *lese majeste* charges, which can be filed by any member of the public, have soared in recent years as Thailand's current political conflict has grown in intensity.

Instead, the TRCT is proposing that the royally-appointed Lord Chamberlain be able to decide whether such charges were warranted — or should be dropped.

The maximum punishment should also be reduced from 15 years to seven years, with the minimum sentence reduced to zero, the panel said.

Mr Kanit said he had forwarded the proposals to Prime Minister



TRCT chairman Kanit Na Nakorn wants to revise Article 112. Photo: The Nation

Yingluck Shinawatra for the government's consideration.

Despite the recommendations of the TRCT, there remain powerful elements of Thai society that oppose any reform of the law.

Last month Army chief Gen Prayuth said that activists who opposed Article 112 "must go and live in foreign countries," AFP reported.

"It is not appropriate to discuss this. Personally I will do my part for national security in protecting (the monarchy)," he told reporters.

Members of the current Pheu Thai Party-led government, including deputy premier Chalerm Yoobamrung, have also expressed opposition to amending the law.

MP surrenders to local police

A DEMOCRAT Party MP accused of shooting a rival politician to death has surrendered to police, denying charges of premeditated murder.

Samut Sakhon representative Khanchit Thapsuwan is accused of shooting Udon Kraiwatnussorn, former president of the province's Provincial Administration Organization, eight times at a gas station on Christmas Day before fleeing the scene.

Mr Khanchit reported to a police training unit on December 27 in neighboring Nakhon Pathom.

In contrast to widespread reports that Mr Khanchit and Mr Udon had argued publicly on many occasions, Mr Khanchit's father Anek, a Democrat veteran, said he was not aware of his son having any political feuds.

Mr Khanchit was questioned by police for one hour before being released.

By law, an MP cannot be held on criminal charges while Parliament is in session unless MPs vote to revoke his or her immunity. A letter has been submitted requesting the House to revoke Mr Khanchit's immunity.

Cambodia offers exchange for jailed political activists

CAMBODIA has refused a request by Thai Foreign Minister Surapong Tovichakchaikul for early release of two high-profile Thai political activists, but has raised the unprecedented possibility of a prisoner exchange.

In a visit to Phnom Penh last week, Mr Surapong requested that Veera Somkwamkid and Ratree Pipatanapaiboon be granted royal pardons.

The pair are serving sentences of eight and six years respectively after being arrested for "spying and trespassing" in Cambodian territory in late 2010.

Mr Veera is a leader of the right-wing Thai Patriots Network group affiliated with the "yellow-shirt" People's Alliance for Democracy, while Mrs Ratree is his assistant.

They were among seven Thais arrested in the border area during a period of high tensions between the two neighbors. The group, which also included seated Democrat MP Panich Vikitsreth, were allegedly in the area to inspect the ongoing border demarcation process.

The remaining five members of the group were released a few weeks



Veera Somkwamkid Photo: The Nation

later, following a one-day trial.

Last week, Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Namhong told Mr Surapong that the pair would not be eligible for a pardon from the Cambodian King until they had served two-thirds of their sentences.

However, Hor Namhong said an early release could be considered in exchange for the release of Cambodians detained in Thailand.

Mr Surapong said he would ask concerned authorities to consider Cambodia's offer. It was the first time the Cambodians had made such a proposal to Thailand, he added.

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Dealing with Phuket's high season dark side

FIRST PERSON

WE AT the Phuket Tourist Police Volunteers Club Patong deal with many interesting cases, the most recent being Manel's, the missing French girl we found. We receive daily reports of tourists having issues with jet-ski operators, tuk-tuk drivers, hotels, motorbikes, as well as getting robbed and cheated. This includes cases where tourists make bogus reports to the police.

We deal with both big and small cases, but I always remind our volunteers that our job isn't to solve the big cases, but to help with the small ones, things that we can quickly clear up.

The biggest problem we face now is timeshare scams. I have been actively fighting them for three years and they are still difficult issues to resolve.

The first timeshare problem I encountered concerned a couple who were sitting on the beach when a man selling timeshares gave them a coupon. They were then tricked into thinking they had won a week's stay in a hotel chain. As a result, they signed a contract and agreed to pay 20 per cent of the cost upfront to cover a fee the man was charging, as well as maintenance. The company then charged their credit card 3,600 AUS dollars.

The couple came to us and we contacted the timeshare company, who said it was a mistake made



Claude de Crissy has been president of the Phuket Tourist Police Volunteers Club Patong for three years. He and his wife have been active members of the club since 2005. He has lived in Thailand for 14 years and runs several businesses in Phuket, including the Royal Phawadee Village hotel and the All4Diving.

by their new secretary and canceled the contract. The couple recovered most of the money, but not all of it.

Another worrying development is aggressive ladyboys. They used to be nice, but for the last three years I have been receiving reports of ladyboys attacking and stealing from tourists.

A new threat is from a group of ladyboys using a scanner to copy tourists' credit cards. With the copied credit cards they buy gold from one shop and then sell it to another. They steal credit cards while tourists are being careless and then pass it through a portable scanner before putting it back. They are so fast that most tourists don't even notice.

I would like tourists visiting Phuket not to believe everything they hear. I don't want them to think everyone they meet is honest and won't steal from them.

Leaving valuables unguarded for even a minute is an opportunity for someone, Thai or foreign, to steal them.

Tourists in Thailand have to be smart and do things as they would at home, such as wearing a helmet, driving on the correct side of the road and not driving drunk.

The most important thing is to never give your passport to anyone, even if it's to rent a motorbike.

Tourists shouldn't think Thai people are stupid. They need to treat them with the same respect as they treat people in their home countries.

We want tourists in Phuket to be peaceful and have fun. Not act like cowboys or commandos.

Tourists shouldn't bargain too much. Occasionally it's best to pay the taxi fare, because the irritation it causes is better than the bigger problem they may get into.

I would like people visiting Thailand to enjoy their holiday. Many people visit Thailand every year and 95 per cent of them are very happy with their trip, it's just 5 per cent that have problems.

The pad thai restaurant you thought was home

WHAT does it mean to be a "regular" at a Phuket restaurant? As a new expat on the island I sure can't tell you, but maybe a month ago I think I would have tried.

Whatever its past meaning was, I am positive it doesn't last through the high season, unless you have the cash or reputation to back it up.

It's comforting to be a regular somewhere. There is the daily recognition that you exist as an individual, somehow different from the crowds. Restaurants and cafes become second homes to people for this very reason.

I show up at 8:45pm to the same "cheap" that I always do for dinner and take my usual seat in a plastic-red chair facing the road. It's hard not to hide a guilty smile after ordering pad thai – again, perhaps for the fourth night in a row.

Happily I tuck the food away without worrying about the price. I don't need to ask, or see if the price is on the menu. I wouldn't ask my mum how much for dinner, cause I already know it's free. I know the price, that's part of being a regular.

"40 baht," the restaurant owner said. "High season," she explained.

That's only five baht more than usual and the food is worth it, but there is an uncomfortable feeling as the cook slams me back into the masses. The five baht hike is a simple reminder of the bottom line; a reminder of the fact that in reality I'm no more special at the place than the couple who stopped in for a bite before heading out to Phi Phi.

My feelings on this have nothing to do with the money. It's the desire to be recognized as somehow different.

Last week a troop of co-workers and I headed down the road to a nicer restaurant for lunch – it

Island View

By Alex Stone

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



A serving of pad thai. Photo: Tuxta

was tradition. It's a way for us to kick back and watch the weekend roll in – treat ourselves. The restaurant was full of tourists, the true bread and butter of the place.

I've got nothing against all the tourists, since in reality I'm a long-term one myself, but it hurt when we were told the wait was an hour and a half, without the slightest hint of recognition, without even an apologetic smile hinting at the fact that we were regulars on lunch break.

There was nothing to let us know that we mattered or that they understood we weren't going to be able to sit around the fishing pond and drink beer until the food was ready.

Maybe the idea of being a regular is a western concept, maybe it simply doesn't apply to a place like Phuket, or maybe I just haven't become a regular at the right sort of place. Whatever the reason I sure hope I'm able to find a place to call home for the high season.

Issues & Answers...

...asking the questions that affect you...

How to get social with a club

I am interested in putting together a social club and I would like to know if I am required to register the club. If so, where does one register?

If we are not registered can we legally have occasional parties and competitions to generate money for club development?

What about having annual membership fees, shirt sales and so on? Would the club have to pay taxes? Would this be different if we were a registered social club?

Is it necessary that committee members have work permits?

Not For Profit
Chalong

Suksan Siangeak, Muang Phuket district Administrative Officer (Palad), replies:

Anyone can start a social club and it doesn't need to be registered, as long as you don't disturb other people. If you can take care

of each other within the club there won't be a problem.

Since you don't have to register the club it doesn't matter if club members have work permits or not. You will be allowed to sell club products and charge membership fees, but only as long as you take care of each other and don't disturb anyone else.

If you are a foreigner and you want to register an official social club, then you must be qualified. The exact qualifications are dependent on the size and activities of your proposed club. Of course, once you have registered you must detail your club's income to the Revenue Department to see if it is necessary to pay taxes.

You are welcome to come into the Phuket District Office and talk with us in person to explain the purpose of your club and get the details of the qualifications necessary for your case. For more information, please come and see us at 267, Mae Luan road, Muang Phuket 83000. We are open from Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm.

Ivana Jobski: 'actress'

There are now at least three Russian bars operating on Soi Bangla, with Russian ladies on the street trying to tempt customers into the bar, dancing in glass boxes and so on – I have no problem with this. However, over the years I have had friends who have been

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www.P PhuketGazette.net/
IssuesAnswers

refused a work permit because they were taking a job a Thai could do!

What are these ladies being called on their job applications? What is their job title? I am interested in opening a nightclub with



Actress of a popular club works the window above Soi Bangla.

only blond Scandinavian ladies allowed [to work].

David Nattr
Patong

Noppadol Ployudee, Phuket Provincial Employment Office

Chief Noppadol, replies:

The job title is actress.

Yes, there are some jobs reserved only for Thais. However, everything else is under the regulation of the Ministry of Labor and their officers' consideration.

Climate change to raise cost of living

BAD weather could send food prices skyrocketing and drive up the cost of living for consumers in Thailand this year.

Vatchari Vimooktayon, director-general of the Internal Trade Department (DIT), warned that crop damage from natural disasters could cause food-price inflation in the region, as domestic supplies would be curtailed.

The government's high subsidies for agricultural goods will also cause higher crop prices and markups in some food prices this year, she noted.

To prepare for unexpected situations and production fluctuations, the DIT, under the Ministry of Commerce, will call for some manufacturers to hold buffer stocks of certain staples including palm oil, rice, sugar and canned fish, for example.

However, the department is confident that the prices of other consumer goods will be under control this year, thanks to higher competition and the expectation that fuel prices will remain stable.

The ministry also plans to change some products on its price-control list this year.

It will withdraw soap, shampoo, dish washing detergent, yogurt beverages, garlic, instant coffee and paper napkins.

Meanwhile, farm equipment and service fees for agricultural business will be added as part of a strategy to ensure low production costs for farmers.

Currently, 41 products are on the price-control list, including rice, cooking oil, milk and student uniforms.

— *Petchanet Pratrungkrai*
The Nation

Year-end events inject B370mn into economy

By Chutharat Plerin

A NUMBER of large events held in Phuket during the final month of 2011 are expected to have generated as much as 370 million baht in revenue, government officials were told recently.

The news was announced at a meeting last week at Phuket Provincial Hall.

Chaired by Phuket Governor Tri Aukaradacha, the meeting was attended by representatives from various government departments.

Buayan Suwanmanee, Director of the Phuket Office of Tourism and Sports, lauded collaborative efforts between private and public sector groups in generating the income.

"We are pleased with the outcome of these events," Mr Buayan said, going on to highlight Phuket's money makers in December.

"Three thousand tourists participated in the Phuket World Music Festival from December 2 to 5. Organized by the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization, this event generated approximately 4mn baht," he said.

"The 25th Phuket King's Cup Regatta from December 3 to 10 drew 170 competing boats and about 1,000 tourists, generating about 51.5mn baht," he continued.

Six thousand tourists participated in the 131st commemoration ceremony for Admiral Krom Luang Chumphon Khet Udomsak, revered among Thais as the Father of the Royal Thai Navy, said Mr Buayan.

"Held from December 9 to 19 at the Krom Luang Chumphon Shrine at Saphan Hin, the event generated about 8mn baht," he said.

Patong Carnival, held from December 15 to 20, generated 85 million baht and attracted about



WINDING DOWN: The Colorful Phuket Countdown generated an expected 200 million baht and attracted tens of thousands of tourists.

20,000 tourists, he noted.

However, the largest event for the month – in terms of expected turnout and revenue generated – was the province's New Year countdown festival, he added.

"Colorful Phuket Countdown 2012 was held from December 29 to 31. Our expected target was

about 50,000 tourists, with target revenue of about 200 million baht," he said.

Mr Buayan added that the OrBorJor's Phuket Electronic Music and Dance Festival was also held in Karon on December 30 and 31.

He did not estimate how much revenue or tourists the event drew.

Help wanted: abled disabled

WITH the Phuket labor shortage reaching critical levels, authorities are encouraging employers to hire more disabled workers and are advising large organizations that they are legally required to do so.

Officials from Phuket Provincial Office, Phuket Provincial Employment Office and the Human Development and Security Office recently held a meeting at the Phuket Merlin Hotel to inform employers about the subject.

Phuket Provincial Employment Office Chief Noppadol Ployudee said the meeting was to explain to employers about the law relating to the employment of the handicapped persons, as well as highlighting the many advantages of employing them.

Mr Noppadol also discussed the duties of the Labor Ministry relating to 'The Persons with Disabilities' Quality of Life Promotion Act of 2007.

Particularly relevant are Article

33, on the proportion of disabled employees an employer must hire, and Article 35, which concerns providing access to disabled people and catering to their needs in retail stores and other businesses.

The Labor Ministry has a budget to promote awareness of and adherence to these laws. It will target 220 places of work in Phuket that employ more than 100 people and are consequently bound by terms of the 2007 Act.

The Phuket Provincial Employ-

ment Office itself has five disabled people among its staff.

Taking advantage of Phuket's disabled workforce could help ease the island's labor shortage, which Bhuritt Maswongsa, a vice president of the Phuket Tourist Association, recently called "critical".

"The lack of hotel employees has now reached a crisis point with 3,000 to 4,000 unfilled positions," he told the *Gazette* in a recent interview.

— *Nation Channel TV*

Peak season tourism spike sees limited hotel vacancy

OCCUPANCY rates at hotels along Phuket beaches have averaged more than 90 per cent during the current peak period and are expected to remain at or near capacity well into 2012, the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) has announced.

Bangornrat Shinaprayoon, head of the TAT regional office in Phuket Town, said the island's tourism sector is bustling not only because it is the high season, but also thanks to an increased number of direct flights to Phuket launched in 2011.

Popular destinations including Patong Beach, Karon Beach, Rawai Beach, Chalong Temple and Phromthep Cape have been packed with tourists during the current long holiday period, she noted.

Many hotels in Patong and Karon were turning away guests over the New Year period, despite a decline in arrivals from traditional source markets in Europe due to the finan-



BACKED UP: Tourists pack Patong beach despite overcast skies.

cial situation there, she said.

"Domestic tourism is down overall because of the recent flooding crisis. Most of the Thais that did come to Phuket [in 2011] came to visit friends and family," she said.

Fortunately, the decline in both Thai and European arrivals has been more than offset by an increase in the number of visitors from the Middle East, India and other parts of Asia throughout 2011, she said.

She expects these markets to continue to perform well in 2012, even during the tourism low season that typically begins in May.

"If there are no problems, the tourism sector will continue to thrive in 2012. Besides the New Year celebrations, more Asian tourists will be arriving at the end of January to celebrate the Chinese New Year holiday," she said.

— *Warisa Temram*

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FARAMOND
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Soi Bangla tops PG poll

SOI Bangla is the number one "must see" tourist attraction in Phuket, according to the results of a recent *Phuket Gazette* online survey.

On December 6, the Gazette posted the following statement and question online: Phuket has so many tourist attractions that most visitors to the island do not have enough time to see them all during their stays. Given this fact, which of the following Phuket tourist attractions would you rank as the number one "must see" on the island?

Of five attractions, in addition to a "none of the above" option, Patong's lively pedestrian street Soi Bangla topped the poll, receiving 26.1 % of all votes.

The "Big Buddha" image came in second with 24.3% of all votes, followed by the Chalong Temple (18.2%), Laem Phromthep (16.8%), and Old Phuket Town (5.2%).

In a breakdown by demographic, Soi Bangla was the most popular attraction chosen among both Thais (41%) and local foreign residents (29%) who responded.

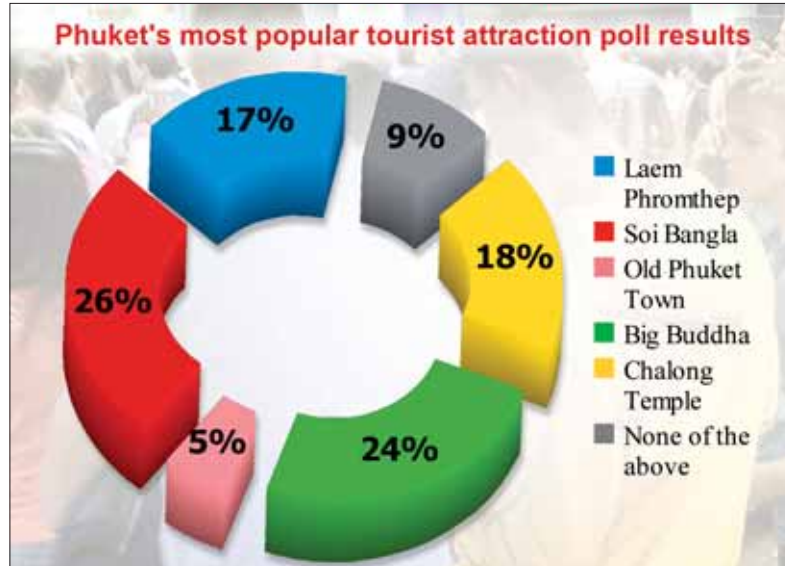
However, only 11% of those who identified themselves as tourists or visitors to Phuket chose the infamous walking street. The most popular replies in this demographic were the Big Buddha image (32%), followed by more traditional destinations Chalong Temple (26%) and the Laem Phromthep scenic vista.

Despite a great deal of improvement in recent years, such as the opening of the new fresh market and the burying of power cables underground, Old Phuket Town fared poorly among all three groups. Its vote tally of 5.2% vote was even less than the "none of the above" option, which received 9.3% of the vote.

While the Big Buddha was the second most popular choice for Thais (20%) and local expats (21%),



DHARMA TOURISM: Chalong Temple (above) and the Big Buddha image (right) are popular attractions among international and domestic tourists.



Soi Bangla, where almost everything is on offer. Photos: Gazette Archive

the second most popular choice for tourists and visitors to Phuket was Chalong Temple (26%).

Laem Phromthep came in 3rd for expats (15%) followed by Chalong Temple (14%) and Old

Phuket Town (6%).

Chalong Temple came in 3rd for Thais (16%), followed by Laem Phromthep (15%) and Old Phuket Town (6%).

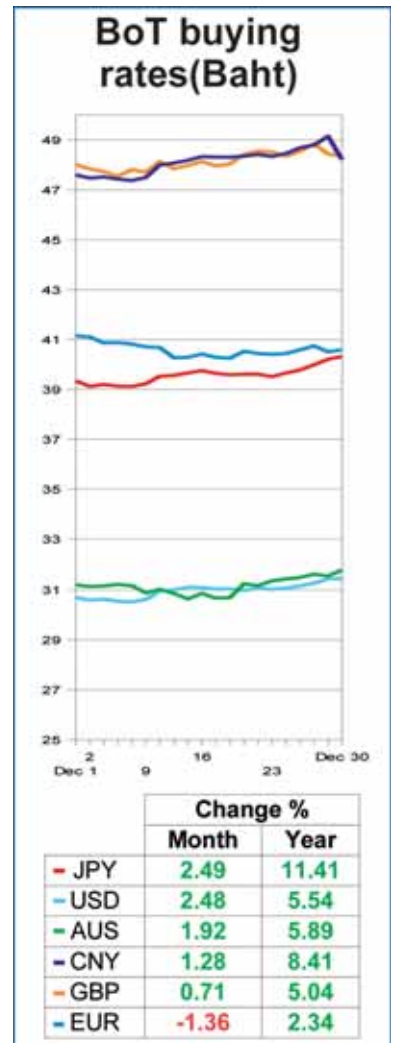
The survey results came from



ICONIC: Laem Phromthep (above) and Old Phuket Town (below).



a total of 846 respondents of which 368 (43.5%) identified themselves as Local Foreign Residents, 214 (25.3%) as Thais and 264 (31.2%) as Tourists or Visitors to Phuket. – *Phuket Gazette*



Commodities		
	Current	Change % Year
Benzine 91	35.85	-5.95
Gasohol 95	35.85	4.46
Diesel	27.97	-7.29
Rubber raw block**	87.15	-37.3
Rubber raw liquid**	78	-38.58
Rubber export block***	106.2	-30.5
Gold 96.5% ****	25,900	28.22

*as of Dec 30, 2011 from Dep. Int. Trade and Jan 4, 2012 from Office of Rubber Replanting Aid Fund
**local rubber market price
***FOB price via Bangkok port
**** Thai Gold price per Baht weight = 15.2 grams

Investment up in 2011

DESPITE last year's flooding – arguably the most economically devastating catastrophe in Thailand's history – Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) skyrocketed in 2011, the Board of Investment (BOI) announced last week.

BOI secretary-general Atchaka Sibunruang revealed that the combined value of FDI project applications in 2011 was more than 390 billion baht, a 67% rise from 187.75bn baht the previous year.

The BOI received about 1,020 FDI applications throughout the year, equating to an increase of 18% from the previous year, she said.

She noted that the combined value of all BOI applications in 2011 was 663 billion baht, exceeding its annual target of 500 billion baht.

BOI applications in 2010 were valued at about 412bn baht, she added.

Of this year's projects, investments in the service and infrastructure sectors had the highest value at 251.1bn baht, an

increase of 80 % from 139.7bn baht in 2010, she said.

Meanwhile, the BOI's board of directors has approved the promotion of investment in factories affected by the flooding and for industrial estates in general.

Over 660 factories in flood-hit areas are eligible for new incentives in the form of tax exemption extensions.

About 800 companies, whose BOI privileges have already expired, will not be eligible, however.

The maximum benefit of the new incentives is an extension of a corporate-tax exemption for up to eight years, and the measures will cause a tax revenue loss of up to 12 bn baht per annum, she noted.

Qualified factories can enjoy tax exemptions of between 50 to 150 per cent of their investment value for two, four, five, and eight year periods, she said.

The incentives aim to ease the burden factories face in the rehabilitation and recovery process.

– *The Nation*

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Recovering after New Year



Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

CONTINUING my series where I try to answer the computer questions I hear most frequently here in Phuket, this week I'll tackle a question I hear over and over again around Christmas and New Year: "How do I recover photos or video I've deleted?"

People tend to take a lot of pictures around the end of the year, and all too frequently they delete pictures on the camera or video recorder that they really want to keep. Sometimes the photos go poof because the owner's working with a new camera. Sometimes inexperienced people – little people, in particular – start messing around with things. Sometimes (and I'll raise my hand here) your thumb is just bigger than the little buttons, and a simple slipped push knocks out a great photo.

Whatever your excuse... er, reason... if you've deleted one or more photos or videos on a camera, all is not lost. I've written in this column before about "undeleting"

pictures from a camera - bringing back deleted pictures when you're sure they're gone forever. Invariably I get dozens of responses from

relieved folks who manage to bring back memories that seemed irretrievably lost.

First things first: if you've accidentally deleted pictures on a camera, **DON'T USE THE CAMERA**. Don't turn it on. Don't plug it into your computer. If the memory card is already out of the camera, don't put it back in the camera. In short: chill. Read the rest of this column before you try anything.

Of all the Windows tricks I've encountered over the years, this one has saved so many people, so many times, that you should seriously consider cutting out this column and stuffing it in

your camera bag.

If you accidentally delete pictures on a digital camera, Windows can help you get them back. The method isn't entirely foolproof but if you just deleted the shots of little Billy taking his first steps, and you didn't keep a backup, there is hope. Best of all, there's a photo undelete utility that works almost all the time and it doesn't cost a satang.

Cameras don't have fancy file systems. They use plain, old, simple FAT – the File Allocation Table approach pioneered in the original version of DOS, about a hundred years ago. (Bill Gates wrote much of the original code for FAT.) Camera FAT works with memory cards much like DOS FAT worked with floppy disks and, later, those gigantic 2 MB hard drives.

While FAT has few redeeming social values, one of its great virtues lies in the way that it deletes files. Er. Um. Actually, in the way it *doesn't* delete files. Cameras (via FAT) divvy up their memory card space into fixed-size chunks. When you take a picture, the camera grabs enough unused chunks of the

memory card to hold the picture, transfers the picture from the camera's computer to the card, and marks the chunks of memory as being

"in use". Easy.

When you tell your camera to delete a picture, it doesn't really delete anything. It just changes the first character of the file name to a reserved character that signifies, in effect, "the next time you need a chunk of memory, you can use all of the chunks that used to belong to this picture." The camera continues to use all of the memory on your memory card. When it runs out of room, it goes back and looks for chunks that have been marked as being available for re-use.

That's why you don't want to do anything to your camera or its memory card until you're



FAT CHANCE: This is what happens when your digital camera reclaims the space used by pictures that have been deleted: it over-writes pictures with pieces of other pictures.

ready to retrieve the "deleted" pictures - the ones that haven't really been deleted at all. If you mess around with mother nature, you may over-write parts of good (but "deleted") pictures with new pictures. You can see the effect of over-writing part of one picture with another in the photo above.

File undelete programs take advantage of the fact that the data – your picture – isn't actually deleted until the camera needs to re-use the space on the memory card. With a bit of luck, you can recover pictures that you took a long, long time ago.

Here's how to get the pictures back:

1. Don not use the camera! More precisely, don't use the memory card that holds the pictures. Every time you use the memory card – on some cameras, every time you stick the memory card back in the camera – you stand the chance of over-writing some of your old pictures (as seen here on the right).

2. Download *Recuva* (pronounced "recover" www.piriform.com/recuva). In Windows XP, double-click on the downloaded file to install the program. In Vista, Windows 7 and Windows 8 (yes, it runs in the Windows 8 test versions), you may need to right-click the file and choose Run as Administrator. The installer takes a while, so be patient.

3. If you have a card reader attached to your PC, take the card out of the camera, flip the write-protect "Lock" tab so

nothing can be written to the card, and put it in the card reader. If you don't have a card reader, attach the camera to your PC. In either case, if Windows pops up and offers to do something for you (such as copying the files

the end Recuva presents you with a list of recoverable files. Most of them show thumbnails of the picture that's available. Check the boxes next to the files you want to recover, and click the Recover button.

It's that easy.

Recuva itself is free. Piriform, the company that makes Recuva, wants to sell you a fully supported version for \$24.95. If you appreciate what they're doing – or if you have a technical question – show your thanks and pay for the product. It's worth every penny.

With Woody hunkered down writing a book, the weekly *Computer Clinics* are taking a new turn. Until Woody emerges with an 860-page copy of "Windows 8 All-In-One For Dummies" under his arm, around May or June, Seth Bareiss will hold computer sessions on every-other Wednesday afternoon, from 1 to 3pm. If you have a Windows problem that needs to be solved, drop by one

of Seth's free afternoon sessions at the Sandwich Shoppes. Details in the Events Calendar. Sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.

Live Wire is Phuket Gazette columnist Woody Leonhard's weekly snapshot of all things internet in Phuket. Follow him on Twitter: @PhuketLiveWire, or "like" his page at facebook.com/SandwichShoppe.



KEEP COOL: in this case all is lost.



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TOO LATE: Using the camera again can overwrite.

into your PC), "X" out of the AutoPlay dialog box.

4. Click Start, All Programs (in XP, it's just Programs), Recuva, then Recuva again. You get the Recuva Wizard. Click Next.

5. Follow the steps in the Wizard to choose the kind of files you want to recover (in this case, pictures), and point to the media card. On the final Wizard screen, check the box marked Enable Deep Scan, and click Start.

6. It may take a while, but in

Always look on the brighter side of life

NOW that the Christmas trees have been taken down and the New Year has been well and truly rung in, we can start looking forward to all that 2012 has to offer.

It is fair to say that 2011 was a turbulent year in the world of the financial markets, but will 2012 be any better? We certainly have a lot of things to look forward to: the Olympics in London, the European football championships.

These should bring a much-needed economic boost to the UK, Poland and Ukraine, and such events give everyone something to look forward to.

But on a global scale, analysts expect growth to remain low and upcoming policy decisions in the US and Europe are expected to hold the key to global growth outlook. Many economy watchers have also downgraded their predictions for 2012, which basically means that we could be in for quite the bumpy ride.

However, it is not all doom and gloom. The Dow Jones Industrial average for the US ended the year up by 5.5 per cent. This trend should continue into 2012.

There will still be a large degree of market volatility and returns are not likely to be anything sensational, but as we all know Rome was not built in a day, so any progress is positive news.

Although the ability of the European

Union to keep debt levels under control will be closely monitored, there does seem to be some cautious optimism surrounding the year ahead.

At this stage, all signs point to a slow and painful recovery, but at least a recovery. With 2011 now behind us, we can all have a little more confidence that the worst may now be well and truly behind us.

This means that we can sit on the beach, drink in hand watching Usain Bolt break the speed of light barrier and become the first man to run the 100 meters in less than five seconds and know that things this year are a little better than they were at the same point last year.

Maybe this is a over-optimistic, but what better way to start the New Year with a little positivity. The European debt problems have not fizzled away like so many New Year firework displays, and there are some major decisions that will need to be made in economies the world over.

Nevertheless, I remain positive. Who knows, my New Year's resolution of losing a few pounds, the same resolution I have made every year for the past decade, may even come true.

Wishing everyone all of the best for 2012.

For more information please contact alyman@montpeliergroup.com

Island Investor

By Anthony Lyman



HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL: Optimism for a financial recovery may be afforded by a few, but for others the future remains bleak. Photo: Vilam Curtis

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Take the art – leave the real antiques here

By Atchaa Khamlo

A DISPUTE about the export of art and religious objects between the Thalang National Museum and a Phuket shop was tentatively set to rest after a meeting on December 15.

The museum's concerns that there was a risk of valuable national treasures being illegally exported from Thailand was looked into during the meeting headed by Vice Phuket Governor Somkiet Sangkaosutthirak.

The parties seeking mediation were Vanvilai Limsuepehua and Sumate Kangsaprudtikul, owners of a Patong shop, specializing in antiques and objects of art, and Sukkamol Wongsawan and Kreethapol Yokjaroen, curators of the Thalang National Museum.

The curators were concerned about religious objects being exported, which they said is a sensitive issue to Thai Buddhists. However the shop owners were seeking permission from the Vice Governor to export their Buddhist art objects.

Ending the meeting Vice Governor Somkiet gave his permission for the shop owners to export the Buddha statues in question, but did ask the couple to consider selling other art objects instead of religious items. He also emphasized that the

curators must continue to carefully examine artifacts before they were sent abroad.

The Thalang National Museum curator Kreethapol Yokjaroen told the *Phuket Gazette*, "Foreigners want to take Buddhist art objects out the country almost as soon as they buy them. However, we have to examine them to ensure they are not ancient and that they have the correct documentation to allow them to be exported from Thailand."

"Previously, the process would take about two weeks to complete. However, with a number of government officials and examining committee members being transferred this year, the process is now taking about three weeks," Mr Kreethapol said.

"Permission is only granted for complete Buddhist religious items. Export permission will not be given for fragments of Buddhist objects or those carved from tree roots," he added.

Fragments of Buddhist statues are prohibited from export because of a history in Thailand of looters removing the heads from statues in archaeological sites and selling them. Buddha carvings crafted from tree roots are also banned from being exported due to them being considered sacrile-

gious by devout Buddhists. Root-wood coming from under the ground is considered unfit material for the full image of Buddha. In addition to this there is rarely enough wood from the roots to make a complete Buddha carving, also many of the trees that would be used are preserved in Thailand.

The committee, responsible for controlling the export of antiques, consists of the Director of the 15th Regional Office of Fine Arts Phuket, two archaeologist professors, a senior technique artisan and the head of Thalang National Museum. The Phuket Governor, who presides over the committee once matters have reached an advanced stage, makes the final decision on whether or not an object can be exported.

Speaking about his work Mr Kreethapol said, "Up to this point we've not discovered any authentic relics. Mainly we see imitations of ancient artifacts produced anytime from the Ayutthaya period (circa 1867) to now."

"When we have completed our part of the process, the permission documentation is sent to the Provincial Office for their action. Finally, it goes to The Fine Art Department for approval. Only then can the object be taken out of Thailand," he said.

Currently, there are 42 shops in Phuket licensed to deal antiques. Collectively they export about a hundred art objects every year, Mr Kreethapol added.

Ms Vanvilai, whose shop has been open for more than 10 years and exported Buddhist art items for seven, explained, "Our Thai artists are professional Buddhist artists. I don't want to see these skills lost. If they are, Thailand will lose out to China, which is also producing this art form."

"We are doing two things here. We are maintaining jobs for Thai people and preserving our artistic cultural heritage," she added.

Ms Vancilai explained that the most famous places for producing Buddhist art in Thailand are



A statue of Lord Buddha, Cambodian or Thai, on display at San Francisco International Airport. Photo: Wonderlane

Tha Phra Chan, Bangkok and Chiang Mai. Tha Phra Chan is well known for the forging of bronze objects and Chiang Mai is best known for its Buddhist paintings, sculptures and carvings.

"Most our clients are foreigners. Before we sell and export items, we always tell buyers that

the art is not ancient, it's an imitation of ancient art. I always examine objects coming into our shop to make sure that we are not accepting original antiques or ancient relics," she said.

"Besides," she added, "real ancient items would fetch a lot more than the 2,000 baht ours start at."



Vice Governor Somkiet (left) gave a green light in this case but suggested selling other art objects instead of religious items.

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Vanvilai Limsuepehua, Sumate Kangsaprudtikul owners of a Patong shop, specializing in antiques.



Thalang National Museum curator Kreethapol Yokjaroen explains what is considered an antique.

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Hogan's hues of a brighter future

By Neil Quail

HAVING enjoyed a tour of the newly refurbished Angsana Laguna Phuket resort it was suggested by general manager, Mr Jerry John, with a certain degree of pride that the kids club was worthy of particular attention.

While on holidays, every parent appreciates facilities for their children that provide entertainment, are secure and well attended. Angsana's kids club subscribes to these fundamentals, but goes a country mile beyond to give their young guests a wealth of experiences within safe surrounds.

Apart from the solid climbing structures on cushioned flooring, the hi-tech interior with interactive gaming, library and a restaurant dedicated to kids cuisine, a unique aspect to the gated club is the art center.

Walking into the colorful environment we are greeted by Australian artist, Christopher Hogan, who extends a paint-blotted hand of vibrant colors matched by those that awash his apron.

Christopher is a world-renowned artist recognized for his unique abstract paintings and has also been Artist-in-Residence at the Laguna Phuket Summer Family Festivals, where he staged art classes for local school-children and helped raise thousands of baht for Laguna Phuket's community programs.

Currently he holds court over the artistic development of children visiting Angsana with their parents and truth be told, many of the parents as well.

Unlike an art room where children are left to splash and splatter, there is a distinct atmosphere of focus amongst the young artists, interrupted only by the odd request for more paint, another brush or subtle approval for their work in progress.

Rather than offering a class that puts in a few hours for kids, Christopher has a wonderful ability to communicate concepts and the joy in producing a work of art of which the children can be genuinely proud.

It is this skill and with the artistic talent that Christopher sees in local children which has driven a collaboration between him and Angsana to produce a large mural which, with hands on involvement from the public, will generate funds to support school and university art scholarships for Thai youngsters.

"This scholarship could help offer a career in fields such as painting, sculpture, graphic design, interior design and ultimately



Christopher Hogan with David Campion (right), CSR Group Director.



BLACKBOARD JUNGLE: Students of Baan Chao Krau school exhibit their abstract work.

could work toward gaining employment within the organization mentoring these selected children," said Christopher.

"With my numerous visits to Thailand and in particular, Phuket, I have taught my art enrichment program at several local schools and many of the children have responded very well to my style of teaching," Christopher added.

"My involvement has expanded over the past two years, with my visits to local schools to conduct art classes in contemporary abstract painting. I teach them a new way of 'seeing'," Christopher explained.

Christopher's work with the resort's corporate and social responsibility (CSR)

objectives is part of a combined effort to gather resources so that the work continues to benefit both the children and the community.

"I am finding more and more that the enthusiasm of these local children is rewarding them with producing some excellent examples of artworks with just a few lessons, so I can only imagine what heights we can achieve with a dedicated program in the arts for these young people," he said.

The 14 square meter mural, which when completed will feature in the resort's lobby, is divided into 350 individual tiles and each one bought will then be painted under the guidance of Christopher to be then added



FUTURE HOPES: Christopher is very enthusiastic about the prospects for young Thai children with artistic talent and hopes his art projects will benefit not only individuals, but local Thai communities as a whole.



Christopher shows a model of the mural.

to the mural as a finished art piece.

"I am excited by the prospect that we can make a difference to their lives by furthering their education and encourage more awareness to contemporary art and design as a career for their children to the greater Thai community. My Angsana mural design for this project is a great start to commence a campaign such as this," said the amiable Australian.

For more information on participating in the mural project visit angsana.com or contact 076 324 101. Christopher Hogan can be contacted through christopherhogan.me.

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Organizer Michael Earle looks on.

Phuket's got talent

THE inaugural ThinkDesign Art Festival Phuket ended on December 30 at Royal Phuket Marina after a successful four day run.

The event was able to combine a palette of over 150 local and international artists, designers, film makers, musicians and even poets who were able to remind the relatively small number of visitors who showed up that creativity is alive and well on the island.

Having now proven that Phuket has this wealth of talent we can only hope that this Arts

Festival continues to be a notable calendar item for years to come.



Two Fish by local artist Map Abday was one of the paintings on sale.

Marut Lekphet

MARUT Lekphet's appearance is not something you'd expect from a head doctor at a district hospital. Quiet and pensive, his demeanour belies the fact that, at the age of 33, this GP already has a string of literary and artistic achievements behind him.

At Prunai Health Promotion Hospital in Koh Yao Yai, a small island in Pang Nga Bay, Marut and his small medical team tend to the health of the 5000-strong community of Prunai District.

In 2009, when there was a need to replace the 30-year-old inpatient building, Marut was responsible for sourcing architects willing to work with the villagers to design a patient-friendly space that would embrace the traditional ways of life of this close-knit community.

Expected to be completed in early 2012, the new wing will include a dedicated maternity ward with a wood-fire sauna making up traditional postpartum care. There will also be a prayer room, a community kitchen, a herb garden, and a visitors' social area.

A champion of integrative medicine, Marut admits that he relishes the idea of a hospital designed by the very people who use it.

"I trained in one of the best hospitals in Thailand and the place was downright depressing, and exclusive. In rural areas such as this one we can't deny that the rituals of

THAI gallery

By Nanthapa Pengkasem

birth, illness, and death invariably involve the whole community. Here, if the patient so wishes, we welcome families, healers, and even midwives who may come in to tend to the infirm or perform certain rites of passage. I believe that every hospital should have the facilities to include the patients' support system."

At the weekend Marut ferries back to Phuket, where a different reality awaits. No more hospital gowns and stethoscopes, but the world of books, movies and art. On Thalang Road, Marut runs a bookshop, that doubles up as an art gallery and screening space for rare movies. The small but vibrant Phuket Literary Club, to which he belongs, meets here regularly and its all-southern members are very keen to make their voice heard in the Thai literary circle.

Marut's love of reading and writing began when he was still in primary school. As a teenager he contributed regularly to the weekly Thai political and literary magazine Matchon. His collection of short stories *Ordinary Magic* – or *Mek Sek Klun* in Thai – won the coveted

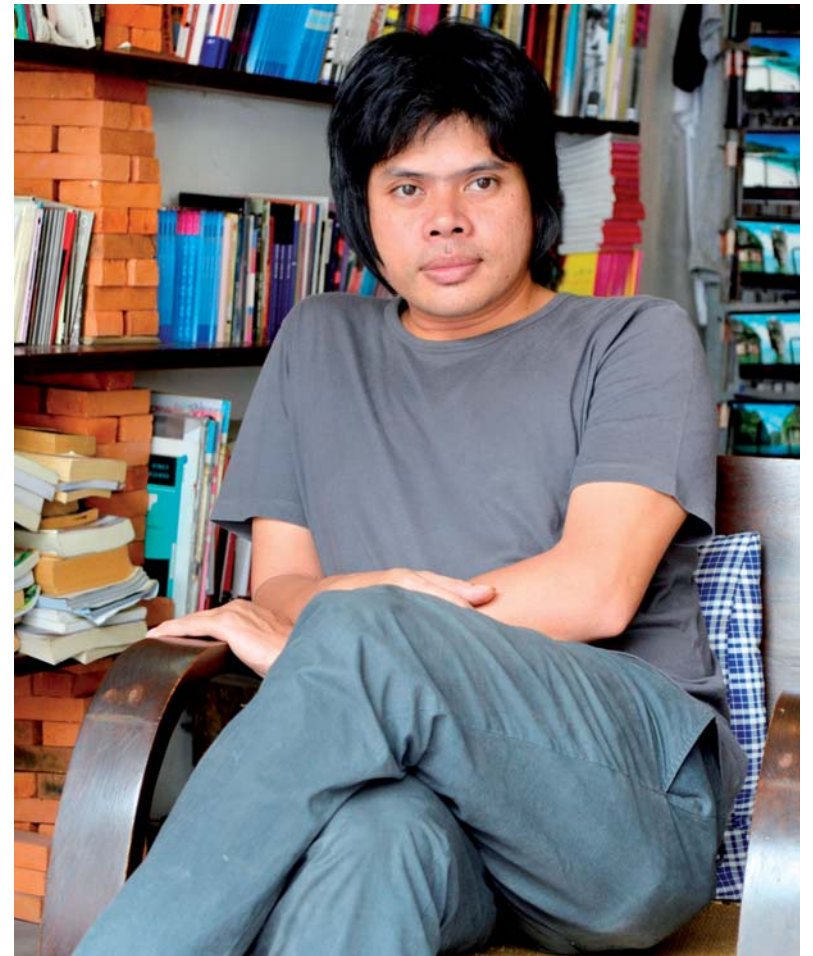
2006 Thai Independent Book Award, and earlier this year, his short story *Mother's Land* also bagged the Thai Parliament Prize for Political Literature.

Apart from writing, Marut also produces short, experimental films. Many have been shown at festivals across Europe and Asia, but not in Thailand where the content, he says, might be too controversial for some.

To the question of how he manages to reconcile his scientific medical work with his artistic pursuits, he answers:

"I don't look at my full-time work as science. It's all about creativity. When I diagnose a patient I create a 'family file' so I can tell at one glance that a male patient with unexplained symptoms has just had a second baby, his diabetic mother has missed her repeated prescriptions, and his first child has not yet been vaccinated. This is why it's great to be a country doctor – you can take your time with the patients."

Marut has many creative projects in the offing: he is editing a collection of short stories by local writers to be published later this year, and has just had a small show of his artwork comprising small-scale installations. He's also tried his hand at producing a feature film. It's true he has a full-time job, but lack of time is never an impediment to this energetic and multi-talented GP.



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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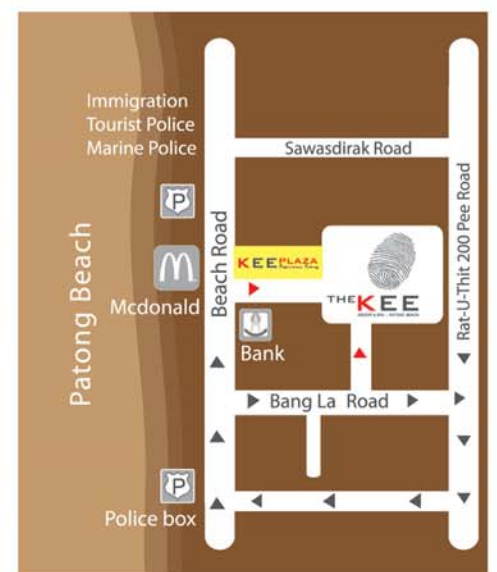


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The Boy Wonder's sad decline

THE 1960s were Tom Wolfe's decade, the stage upon which the founder of the *New Journalism* strutted with *The Electric Kool Aid Test*.

The 1970s belonged to Hunter Thompson and the Gonzo journalism of Fear and Loathing in Los Angeles. Wolfe eventually turned to turgid meta-fiction and Thompson to shameless potboilers.

But the 1980s saw the rise of P.J. O'Rourke and his globe-girdling *Holidays in Hell* in which he wrote about El Salvador, Gaza, Belfast, the Philippines, et al.

Formerly a writer of broad burlesques for *The National Lampoon*, O'Rourke's breakthrough was a huge gut-busting travel article for *Harper's* about his descent down the Danube on a Soviet cruise ship packed with old obtuse American lefties. This established his signature style of satire from the Right.

He followed this up with his Iraq war reportage in *Give War a Chance* but then gave up on war for armchair pontificating.

He as much as acknowledges this slide into domestic mediocrity with the title of his most recent book *Holidays in Heck* (Atlantic Monthly Press, New York, 2011, 265pp), subtitled "A Former War Correspondent Experiences Frightening Vacation Fun". Here the stars are his wife and his three small children and what they did for fun at home in New Hampshire and on trips to Ohio, Washington D.C. and Hong Kong.

While his former methodology was to put himself into a horrible foreign situation and write something funny about it, now he strains for humor from the

Books

By James Eckardt

mundane. It's a big come down.

Still, he hasn't lost his sense of humor entirely. He has great fun with the rich, whether they are foxhunting in England, quail hunting in South Carolina or travelling with a Republican tour group to the Galapagos Islands. Here is his reflection on Charles Darwin's historic visit aboard the *Beagle*.

"Anyway, when the *Beagle* arrived in the Galapagos, Darwin – perhaps after a heavy lunch of giant tortoise and beer – formulated his theory of evolution, which may be restated for Republicans as: If you're slow and edible and I have a gun, the situation will evolve."

And the piece on foxhunting allows him to slip in the line: "There are no atheists in foxhunts."

And on the subject of quail hunting, he mentions that his wife regards birds as "air lizards, icky velociraptors in bad boas."

"I, on the other hand, love birds. I spend a lot of money every year and travel thousands of miles for my love of birds. I trudge across acres of muddy fields, push through tangles of

forest underbrush, and hunker in swamps at dawn simply to find birds – and kill them. Call it tough love."

But most of this book is just shameless filler served up from paid junkets, puff pieces on the new Airbus A380, the aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt, the tourist island of Guadalupe. He excoriates the bad art of the Venice Biennale but this is too easy, it's like clubbing baby seals.

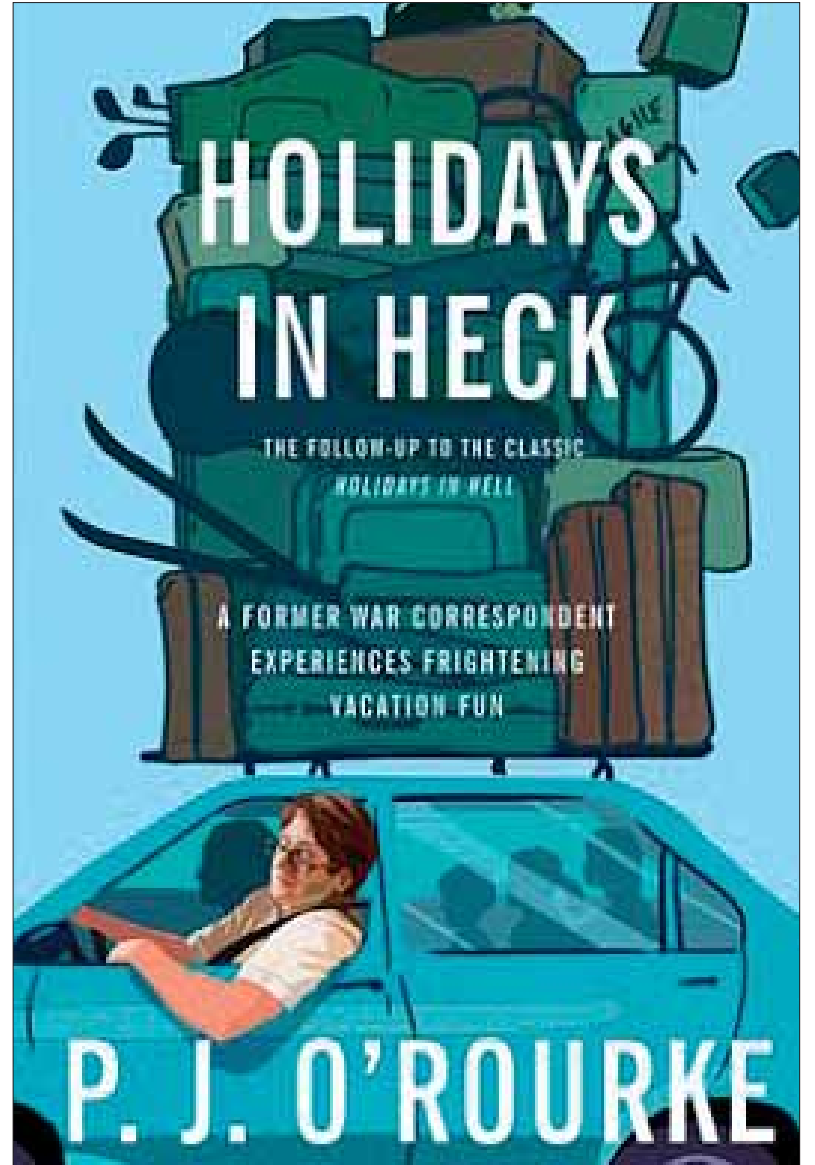
Incongruously enough, sited in the midst of all this drivel are three superb pieces of reportage based on trips he took to China and Kyrgyzstan in 2006. He does much of China on riverboat and Kyrgyzstan entirely by horseback.

"Not only didn't I know what I was doing, I didn't know where I was doing it... Even by the standards of outer space, Kyrgyzstan is remote. If something happened to my horse it would be shot. For me, the medical treatment wouldn't be that sophisticated."

"Furthermore, there were blond hairs all over my clothes and luggage. How would I explain this to my redheaded wife? I had a love affair in Kyrgyzstan. Not only that, but with a male. His legs are beautiful. And he has four of them."



P.J. O'Rourke



SOFT SEQUEL : O'Rourke strains for humor from the mundane.

Four years later, he travels to Kabul in "The Seventy-Two Hour Afghan Expert". Here he does what every fly-by hack does and stitches together a dozen interviews into a glib story. For the real story you'd have to ask real war correspon-

dents like Dexter Filkins and Sebastian Junger.

That P.J. O'Rourke has retreated to plush domesticity is his choice, but the books he writes suffer accordingly. I miss the old O'Rourke as seen fleetingly in China and Kyrgyzstan.

Film

Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy

Director: Tomas Alfredson
Actors: Gary Oldman, Colin Firth, Tom Hardy, John Hurt, Toby Jones, Mark Strong and Benedict Cumberbatch
Genre: Thriller
Phuket release: January 6

AFTER the book and seen the 1979 TV series starring Sir Alec Guinness, now here is the film version of *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy*.

It is a masterful re-telling of John le Carré's seminal work about British espionage during the Cold War. George Smiley (played majestically by Gary Oldman), is an intelligence officer who has been brought out of forced retirement to track down a Soviet 'mole' in the highest echelons of the British Secret Intelligence Service. Aided by Peter Guillam (Benedict Cumberbatch), Smiley sets about uncovering the mole without the knowledge of Percy

Alleline (Toby Jones) and his deputies Bill Haydon (Colin Firth), Roy Bland (Ciarán Hinds) and Toby Esterhase (David Dencik) the *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy* of the book (codenames assigned by Control, Head of British Secret Service).

The director, Tomas Alfredson, imbues his first English language feature with scenes that are heavy with period atmosphere and

drama using the best British actors around today.

The screenwriters, Peter Straughan and the late Bridget O'Connor, have also done an exceptional job in condensing down this complicated Cold War thriller into a classic two hour potboiler without losing any of its exposition, characters, and plotting. John le Carré fans are well served.



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The perfect steak out



MAESTRO: Executive Chef Mirko Cappa on the Bodega terrace.



A RARE TREAT: The meat is presented sizzling on a large cast iron skillet resting on a wooden platter.

By Marc Mulloy

IN THIS so-called “New Age” of raw food fads, organic salads and whole grain sustainability sometimes it is necessary to go all out for what all macho real-red-meat-eaters really crave—a great big juicy steak. We hear there is a new steak venue on the island and as part of our New Year celebrations my male colleague and I, both confirmed carnivores, go in search of that elusive rarity – the perfect steak.

Following an extensive US\$30 million refurbishment, the Angsana Laguna Phuket, now the flagship property of Angsana Hotels & Resorts worldwide, occupies the site of the former Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket.

The refreshed and restyled resort offers a variety of dining options, from Market Place, the resort’s all-day dining venue; Baan Talay and Loy Krathong, serving sunset cocktails and Asian tapas; Canal Bakery, which serves fresh baked pastries, sandwiches and and those healthy PC salads and juices to the Bodega & Grill, featuring premium char-grilled steaks, roasted fish and seafood which is where we have come to find the object of our meat obsession.

Featuring the best of Italian and Mediterranean cuisine in an elegant indoor or *al fresco* setting the Bodega & Grill is situated on a picturesquely landscaped patio overlooking the lagoon but we are not here for the view and given the task ahead we opt for the air conditioned comfort indoors.

Executive Chef Mirko Cappa with over 20 years of culinary experience, is the perfect accomplice in our bloodthirsty quest. Having established what we are looking for and gauging our impressive combined body mass index he recommends we plump for the signature *Tomahawk* (9,375 baht) a generous 1.2 kilo-gram hunk of Jackcreek wagyu beef designed to accommodate

three to four “normal” diners.

Chef Mirko then proceeds to question us on our predilections pertaining to sauces, side dishes and the most important question of all “How rare do you want it”? Explaining that the meat is presented on a large cast iron skillet resting on a wooden platter he recommends that we choose slightly under our optimal expectation as the meat will continue cooking a little while we eat.

After negotiation we all decide on medium rare to rare but with more emphasis on the rare. This is first time I have ordered a bespoke steak, but then this piece of tender meat was grain fed for up to 500 days so deserves only the utmost respect. By this time our own juices are flowing and to keep us from chewing the table cloth we are offered an exquisite selection of *hors d’oeuvres* washed down with a beautiful Italian Chardonnay. There was an oyster served in a Margarita (I will never be able to eat an oyster any other way again), pan-fried foie gras with caramelized apple, a duo of salmon and tuna tartare and a salt cod and crab croquette – all fantastic.

At this point we are joined by Bastien Giannetti who will manage the Angsana Beach Club due to open in March. On being told by his fellow countryman and colleague of the wise choice we have made with regards to our bespoke main course, Bastien joins our hedonistic conspiracy and suggests we “Let the meat determine the wine and not the other way around.”

We do not argue and are proffered a special selection 2009 La Volte from Tuscany which is light but with just enough tannins to cut through our rich reward.

Angsana is great place to eat and these two professionals really offer the full package when it comes to gastronomic pampering. “If you love meat you must try our signature Beach Club Steak Tartar once we open” he says



START ME UP: The selection of *Hors d’oeuvres*



Beach Club Manager Bastien Giannetti helped choose the wine.

as he leaves us to our food.

Bodega & Grill also specializes in authentic homemade pastas, risottos and paellas as well as roasted fish and seafood prepared in a wood-fired oven, but we will have to return another time for that as our mission here is focused on red meat.

A short while later as our steak arrives sizzling on its platter. A long rib bone juts out of the juicy flesh giving it the shape and size of an axe or indeed a tomahawk.

This steak with a marbling factor of 7/9 is so tender we do not even need a steak knife to cut into it as it melts under an average blade.

If there was a competition for the most delicious steak on Phuket then the hefty Bodega & Grill *Tomahawk* would probably win hands down. But we will return to try that Beach Club Porterhouse Tartar.

For information visit angsana.com



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There is no dessert menu. Instead an complementary assortment is offered.

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No Reservations: the life of a hotel English teacher

TUCKED away on the idyllic white sand beach of Kata Noi, a very chilled out and softly-spoken Jacob Ritter works as a communications specialist and English teacher for the Katathani Beach Resort.

Flanked by palm trees and with an ocean sunset behind him, Ritter sat down with the *Gazette* to share his insight into the luxurious life of a hotel English teacher.

So Jacob, what were you doing prior to working for the Katathani?

I taught physical education at a private school in Bangkok for a while. Then I moved back to Phuket to teach English, tai chi and yoga at Phuket's largest university; I've also done some holistic training at local health resorts.

How did you find the job?

Actually, my girlfriend found it for me on a Thai-language website called *phuketall.com*.

Describe your average day.

In the low season I do a lot of teaching – usually six hours a day because that's when the staff has time for English lessons. In the high season, there's less teaching and I have more communications work such as writing executive managers' emails and marketing materials. Specifically, I do public relations work for the hotel's environmental projects, of which there are many.

How do you set up your classes?

Classes are set up by department because language levels are often similar within each department. We try to see each class for 8-10 hours each week. I write

In the Classroom

By Eric Haeg

most of the lessons, but department heads will also have some requests to suit each department's needs. I work six days a week — five are for class time and one is for lesson planning.

Does the hotel supply you with teaching resources?

Yes, we have employee manuals that the hotel owner designed. In addition to these, I've added a lot of my own materials, as well as some materials from past teachers.

What is the most important aspect of language learning for your hotel's staff?

Listening. If they can't listen and understand the guest, then there's going to be a problem.

What is your approach to teaching Thai students?

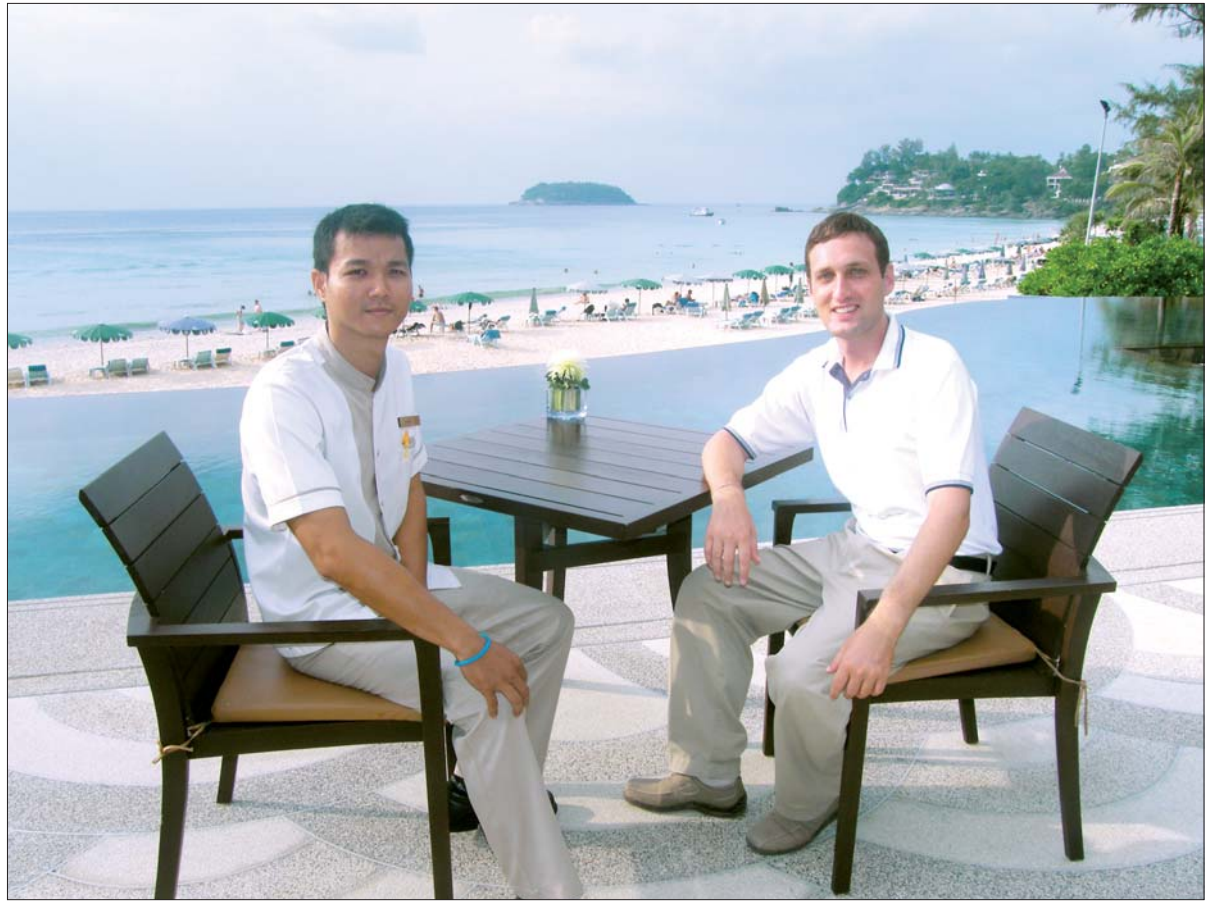
I try to maintain a relaxed and light-hearted atmosphere in class. Lessons shouldn't be a chore so English becomes something fun for student and they have a positive experience. When you're too serious, it can turn off the flow of learning.

Do you have any discipline problems?

I haven't really had any problems. My students have to approach this like a job; no one wants to cause problems.

Is the job what you expected it to be when you got hired?

It's a bit more dynamic. It demands certain things of me beyond



DREAM CLASSROOM: Jacob Ritter during another day 'at the office'.

teaching English so I'm learning a lot too. I do more than I thought I would and that's been a pleasant surprise.

What is the most difficult aspect of your job?

The cultural differences can be challenging and standard expectations for employees are different from those in my home country. Yet other cultural differences also help to create the best aspect of my job. We are here in

a Thai beach resort and everything is quite easygoing so I can't complain.

What's one thing about your job that you would change?

My six-day work week. In my opinion, the long work week can affect overall performance.

What are some of the perks of working for a luxury resort?

I get to attend cocktail parties with hotel guests; I have accommodation in a manager's suite on

the beach and utilities are paid for. Also, housekeeping, laundry, meals, hotel discounts and use of hotel's facilities are all included in my salary package.

What should someone seeking a position like yours expect in terms of salary?

At least 30-35 thousand with the perks I mentioned before. Without the benefits and perks, at least 45 thousand, but I know of some hotels here offering less.

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Back to school

THE Thai Ministry of Education has sent over two million books to flood-hit schools in 65 provinces across the country, according to Thai News Agency.

Education Minister Woravat Auapinyakul recently presided over a ceremony to release a caravan of 2.27mn books, donated by Suksapan Panich (a state-owned enterprise responsible for producing and distributing school books).

The school books, worth some 251mn baht are to be delivered to flood-affected schools in 65 provinces under the supervision of his ministry's Office of the Basic Education Commission and Office of the Non-Formal and Informal Education by Jan 31, 2012.

Fourteen billion baht's worth of books and learning equipment in more than 2,600 schools were damaged by the recent floods.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has also donated basic school supplies or "School in a Box" kits as part of the agency's policy to



U.S. servicemen help clean up a school. Photo: Official U.S. Navy Imagery

support global students' continual learning despite natural disasters or wars, said UNICEF representative for Thailand, Tomoo Hozumi.

Containing notebooks, pencils, pens, maps and other learning tools, up to 2,500 kits were delivered to students in 1,300 schools in 39 flood-affected provinces.

The kits will enable flood-affected Thai students to be ready for their new semester this month, even though their school buildings were recently damaged by floodwater.

Hozumi also said that UNICEF has budgeted US\$1.2mn to support flood-affected children and their families in Thailand. — TNA

Genesis turns out a revelation

By Bruce Stanley

WHEN I was asked to review a new production on Soi Bangla, I was a little nervous as I have yet to learn how to gracefully fend off the many invitations from very lovely and much younger Thai ladies (or ladyboys) who suggest I spend a few hours in their company.

What a surprise then when I approached the stairs to *Genesis*, to find the production team from Danze Fantasy, who are well known in entertainment circles as one of the world's leading producers of musical and stage performances. I've seen their shows in Genting Highlands in Malaysia and on Sentosa Island. I've heard about their productions on pleasure ships such as Star Cruises that ply the waters around Asia. And now they have brought one of their very professional and entertaining shows to Soi Bangla.

"We love visiting Phuket and have always wanted to launch a show here," says Ben Russell, the dynamic young Danze Fantasy producer. "We decided to go where the people are looking for entertainment and you can't get a better location than Soi Bangla."

The theater is set upstairs in the newly renovated Promenade Shopping Plaza across from Jung Ceylon. The space is intimate but the stage

is large enough for the company's eight dancers and the sizable machinery used in the magic acts. The 80 minute show features Joe Labero, who, in magic circles, is a major super-star. In 2009, he received the *Illusionist of the Decade* award at the Magic World Cup in Beijing, an honor also given to David Copperfield in earlier years.



Artistic Director Lindy Russell

Labero has toured the world with Danze Fantasy since 1996 performing from Monte Carlo to Australia but spends much of his time setting up his own productions in his native Sweden. He is joined by a talented cast of professional dancers from Europe, England or America who wear costumes and make-up to add to the show's Gothic sense of drama. Another highlight of the *Genesis* production is the juggling talents of Romano Frediani who is an eight generation Italian circus performer.

Lindy Russell is the troupe's artistic director. She has had an impressive career, first as a dancer in musical theater in London's West End and later she turned her talents to choreography and creating her own shows that have toured around Europe. In 1980, she brought her first production to Asia where she met her partner and collaborator,

John Eramanis, who added special effects and magic to the Danze Fantasy productions.

Over the past thirty years, they have mounted magic and dance spectacles around Europe, Australia and Asia.

"We have an international team. Our costume designer works out of Las Vegas and our choreographer is based in New York. When we decide to build a new production, I gather our team in our London offices where we have a great time designing the show," explains Lindy. "We also hold our auditions for dancers who arrive from around Europe and America hoping for a place in our production."

Genesis is an absolutely world class production of magic and illusion, well worth the effort to spend a fun evening on Soi Bangla.



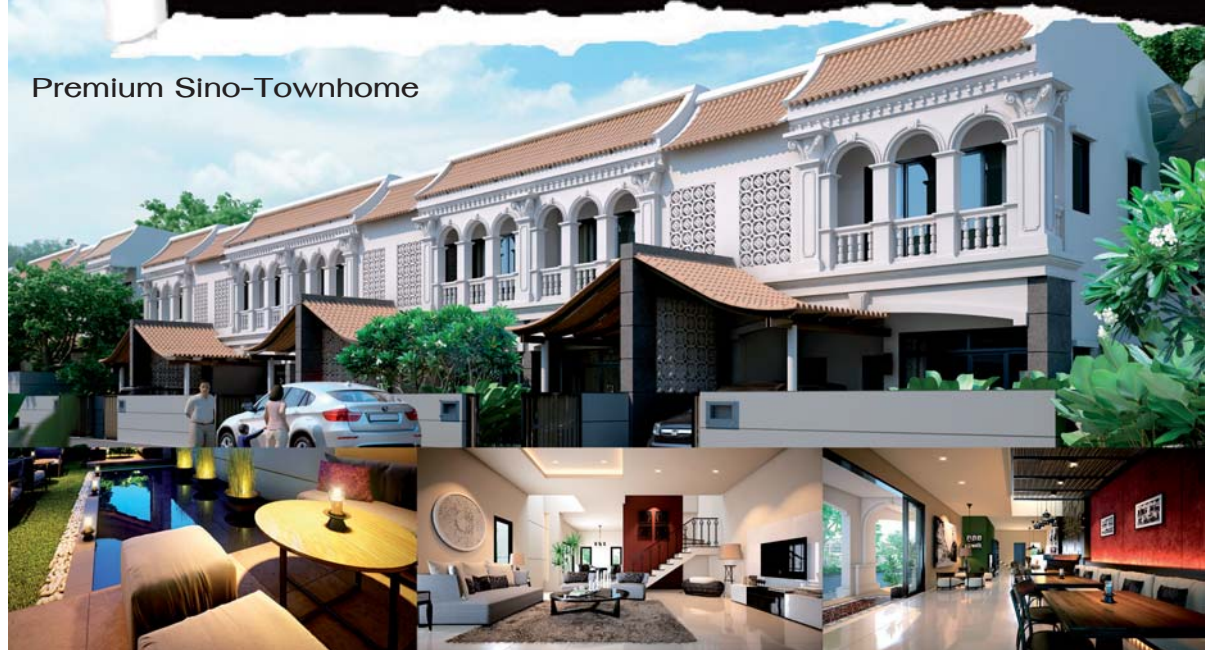
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All images are artist impression



USE YOUR ILLUSION: Joe Labero, received the *Illusionist of the Decade* award at the Magic World Cup in Beijing in 2009.

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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 jet-skis [for rent]. 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

January 6, 13 and 20. Thank God It's Friday

Thank God it's Friday at Skippers in Royal Phuket Marina – live music every week – starting with Neill T's easy-listening Friday tunes. Happy Hour from 5 to 9pm. Great specials on Thai and Western dishes. Kids room with 51 inch TV. Aircon or al fresco by the marina. Skippers is the place to be on a Friday. Contact Nungning, at 081-5353205, nungningskippers@hotmail.com.

January 6, 13, 20 and 27. Special Promotion for 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 Home-made 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 Angeles restaurant, Royal Phuket Marina. Contact Murat at 081-7973364, muratc@royalphuketmarina.com or visit royalphuketmarina.com.

January 13, 20 and 27. 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 on Friday only 449 baht nett! Draught Beer by the glass: just 50 baht nett. Special discount on beverages. Reservations at 076-286464 ext 4,



December 15 to March 31. International Buffet Dinner

International Buffet Dinner:
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Everyday start from 6:30 to 9:30pm
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Price: 950 baht net for adult
and children (4 to 12 years old) per one paying adult only 450 baht.
Reservation at 076-316000,
reservations@imperialadamas.com or visit imperialadamas.com.

sm@karonseasand.com or visit karonseasand.com.

January 12 to 14. Guest Chef Guillaume Salvan

The Pavilions is offering an exceptional opportunity for Gastronomy Lovers to sample a spe-

cially created menu from One Star Michelin Chef Guillaume Salvan from 7 to 10pm, at The Pavilions Phuket. Each evening, the award-winning connoisseur will prepare a unique gourmet dinner for The Pavilions' guests and Phuket residents. Dinner is priced at 2,800 baht ++ or at 3,800 baht ++ including the wine pairing from our sommelier. Seats are booking fast so please reserve yours now! Contact Francois Poletti at 076-317600, fb.phuket@thepavilionsresorts.com or visit thepavilionsresorts.com.

January 19. Monthly Lunch with PIWC in January

The Phuket International Women's Club lunch will be held on January 19, from 11:30am to 2pm at the 'Into Thai' restaurant of the Evason Phuket & Bon Island Resort, Rawai. All are welcome and prior booking is essential. Price:

500 baht for members and 650 baht for non-members. Contact Carole Dux, at 085-7821332, info@phuketiw.com or visit phuketiw.com.

January 25. Skippers Pub Quiz Nights Monthly

Join our Wednesday Quiz Nights here at skippers in Royal Phuket Marina. This event will be followed on February 29, March 28,

April 25, May 30 and June 20. The events starting from 7:30 to 10pm. Happy Hour prices and prizes! Reservation at 076-271583, pahay@netvigator.com.

January 30. Phuket Classical Music Concert

HE Adm ML Usni Pramoj will perform at Mom Tri's Villa Royale. His Excellency, a Privy Councillor, is also an accomplished conductor, composer and violinist. Price: Ticket 500 baht per each. Cocktail reception starting from 6pm. Contact Sylvie Yaffe at 076-333569, pr@villaroyalephuket.com or visit villaroyalephuket.com.

February 16. Monthly Lunch with PIWC in February

The Phuket International Women's Club lunch will be held on February 16 starting from 11:30am to 2pm at 'the Cudos' restaurant, Surin Beach. All are welcome and prior booking is essential. Price: 500 baht for members and 650 baht for non-members. Contact Carole Dux at 085-7821332, info@phuketiw.com or visit phuketiw.com.

February 24 to 25. Phuket International Blues Rock Festival 2012

The Phuket International Blues Rock Festival 2012 will rock again over the last weekend in February 24 to 25, from 6pm to midnight having now found a perfect new location at Laguna Phuket, Surin Beach. This will be the seventh year the two-day event will be held, the first having been in December 2005. Our 2012 headliner, Chris Thomas King, has sold more records and appeared in more successful films than any other blues artist this century. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV. Contact Andy Andersen at 086-6822639, phuketmusic@yahoo.com or visit phuketbluesfestival.com.

Phuket Afternoon Computer Clinic

Is Windows driving you NUTS? Looking for a good internet connection? Need to know how and where to get your PC repaired, or your confounding questions answered? Drop by the new Afternoon Computer Clinics, hosted by Woody Leonhard and Seth Bareiss. Bring your computer. Bring your questions. Bring your sense of humor and let's see if we can solve your PC problems. Second and fourth Wednesday of every month. Sponsored by Woody's Sandwich Shoppes and the *Phuket Gazette*.

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BARBEQUES GALORE



OOH LA LA: French fashion designer Christian Audigier and his Brazilian model girlfriend Nathalie Sorens celebrated the New Year on Phuket. Photo: Christian Mouchet

PPAO President Paiboon Upatising helps release birds to mark the end of 2011 at Phuket's Colorful Countdown in Saphan Hin.



**YOUR
Phuket**



ON THE BUSES: The Colorful Countdown included old style buses and traditional songs (right).



BEEP BEEP: FTV provided some eye candy to go with the beats at the Phuket Electronic Music and Dance Festival.



FINAL COUNTDOWN: Two of the DJs at Phuket Electronic Music Fest get people moving.



ROCKING HARD: Hard Rock Cafe rang in the New Year with their New Year's Eve Guitar Drop Countdown Party.

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EURO CREATIONS



YEARLINGS: Centra Ashlee Hotel Patong celebrate their first anniversary.



MAKING MERIT: Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwansupana offers alms.



SALAD DAYS: PPAO President Paiboon handing out calendars in a local fresh market before visiting a non-formal education establishment (right).



MAKING WAVES: The MD of Sunnav Co. Ltd and his Sales Team proudly launch their latest Sunnav 39 Transport & Gladiator 42S at their Kho Kaew Office.



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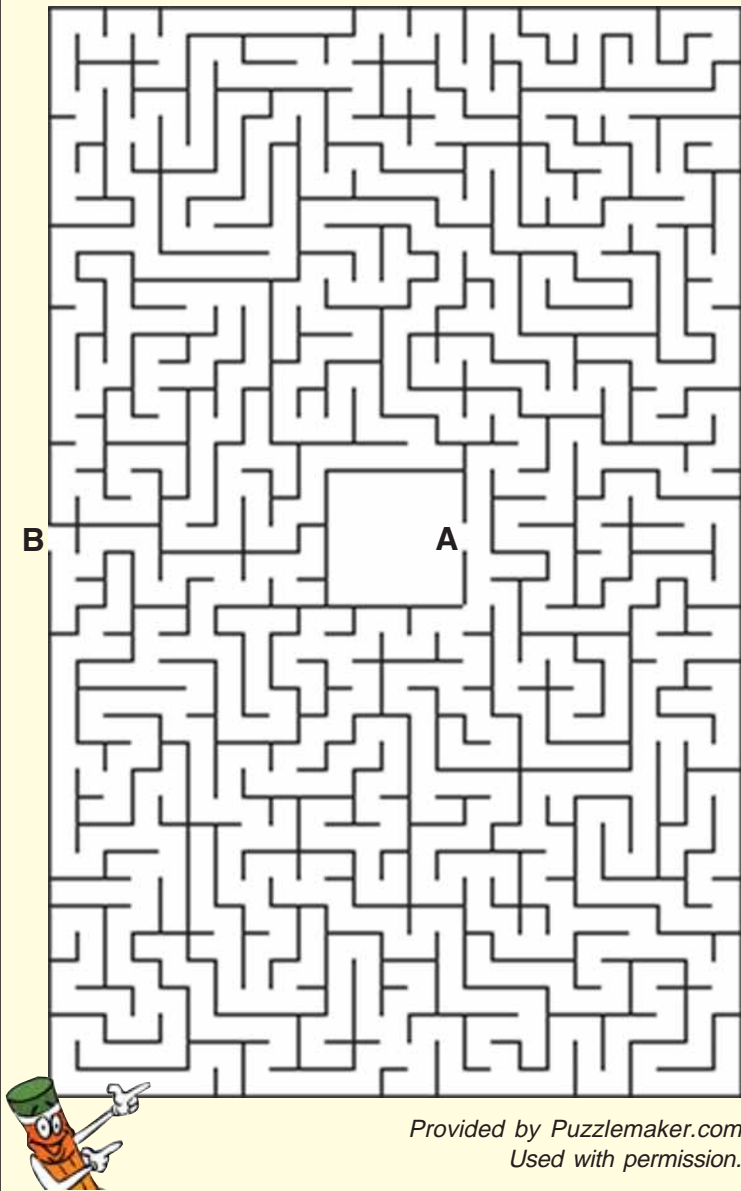
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A *Gazette* staff member completed this maze in 20 seconds. Can you beat their time? Make your way out of the maze.



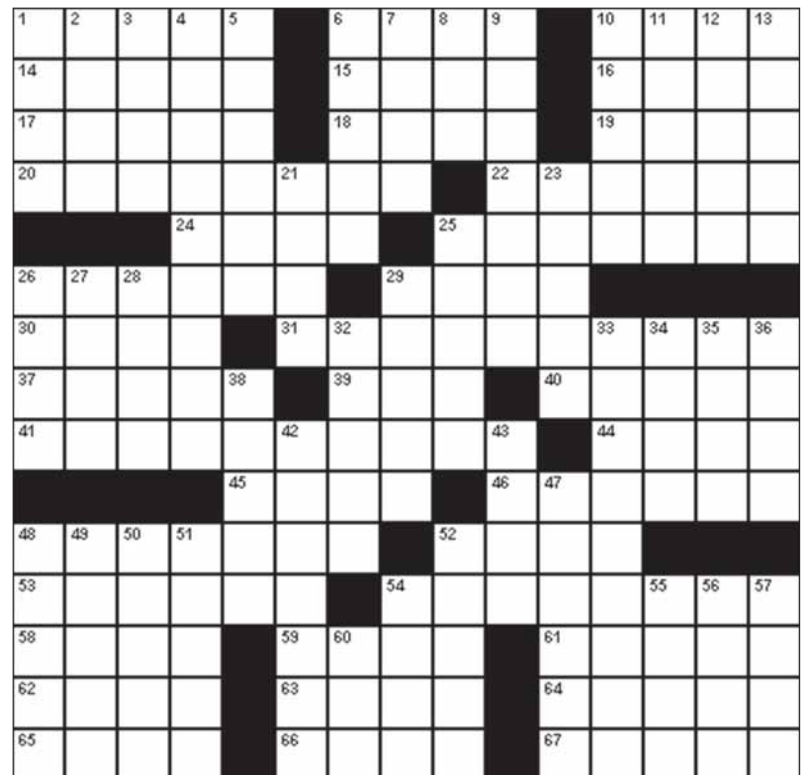
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Across

1. 200 milligrams
6. Depilatory brand
10. Injectable diazepam, in military lingo
14. Old-womanish
15. Cube creator Rubik
16. City near Provo
17. Strictness
18. Wimp
19. City near Phoenix
20. Blank metal disk
22. Decrees
24. Will of "The Waltons"
25. Buzzard food
26. Dishevel
29. Fill to surfeit
30. Cross inscription
31. Tending to depress
37. Guides
39. 100 years
40. Chucked weapon
41. Narrator
44. Humorist Bombeck
45. Med school subject
46. Take
48. One-piece bathing suit for women
52. Decree
53. Sharon's land
54. Rustic
58. Be that — may...
59. Trompe l'—
61. Author Calvino
62. Class struggle?
63. Adventurous exploit
64. Thicket
65. "A Hard Road to Glory" author
66. Casual assent
67. Mountain nymph

Down

1. Bellyache
2. Deep blue
3. Baltic capital
4. Next to
5. Male hawk
6. More recent
7. Stuck in —
8. Connections
9. A bit reddish



10. Humorous
11. Betel palm
12. Bird homes
13. Accumulate
21. Have regard
23. Apparel
25. Chili con —
26. Slant
27. Draft classification
28. Caspian Sea feeder
29. European wheat
32. Acclaim
33. Observer
34. Able was —...
35. Repair

36. Part of Q.E.D.
38. Hackneyed
42. Science of winemaking
43. Complain
47. Plain-woven cotton cloth
48. Mazda model
49. Beasts of burden
50. Whiskey type
51. Starbucks order
52. Disgusting dirt
54. Passport endorsement
55. Record with a VCR
56. Ingrid's "Casablanca" role
57. Like some dorms
60. Shoebox letters

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Crossword answers on page 41

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20):

Capricorns who were planning to get away early in the New Year may have to reconsider. The stars suggest that travel arrangements are likely to be compromised by news received this week. This could involve a job offer coming out of the blue as it appears that you have made a positive impression on people with influence. Those with a birthday in the week ahead can expect to gain more happiness from romance in the coming year.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19):

This is an auspicious week for fact-finding. Those born under the sign of Aquarius who want to move on this year should not make any sudden decisions without doing their homework thoroughly. A fire sign may try to convince you otherwise, but this person's motives are not entirely genuine. Lucky days for love are Wednesday and Thursday. Money matters are well starred until the middle of the month.

PISCES (February 20-March 20):

The novelty of one of your New Year resolutions is forecast to wear off quickly. Those Pisceans who were determined to take up more exercise

should set their limits lower. Another water sign can give you valuable tips for a regime that will be easier to maintain and more fun. Romance is affected by cloudy astral conditions – taking your partner's agreement for granted is forecast to cause trouble.

ARIES (March 21-April 20):

Friends and personal relationships are highlighted to occupy much of Arians' attention this week. There are hints that another fire sign might expect you to help them pick up the pieces of a broken relationship. Being supportive is one thing, but getting too involved could lead to trouble. Where your own love life is concerned, a partner's free spending during the holiday season becomes an issue. Monday is the best day for heart to heart talks.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):

Contacts made during the first half of January should stand Taureans in good stead where business is concerned. Introduction to another earth sign this week is forecast to lead to a situation you have been aiming for. Within the realm of romance, your desire to see more of a water sign should be satisfied. As far as a relationship with a fire sign goes, you can dream on as this person's interest lies elsewhere.

YOUR horoscope

By Isla Star

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

Geminis will be inclined to make waves in the world of business and work this week. It appears as though others aren't moving as fast as you would like, but the stars suggest that you should cultivate more patience. Progress should be smoother during the second half of January. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, your interest in another air sign is being considered. Playing it cool is advisable.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

Keeping your ear to the ground is recommended as the gossip grapevine could yield interesting information this week for those born under the sign of Cancer. Those who want to leave unfulfilled employment behind may learn something to their advantage. If relocation is on your mind, there could be useful tips. In the realm of romance, a partner's commitment to a friend threatens to get out of hand this weekend.

LEO (July 24-August 22):

What appears to be a free offer could have a hidden price to pay midweek. Leos are advised to keep their wits about them and be aware that flattery could get someone in exactly the place they want to be. Your luck with finances is subject to uncertain astral conditions until the middle of the month. Romance is better starred with an air sign is forecast to respond well to your advances this weekend.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23):

Virgoans could find it hard to see eye to eye with work colleagues this week. The stars suggest that a water sign in particular has very different ideas from yours. Tuesday is the most auspicious day to reach agreements. In the realm of romance, revealing secrets is inadvisable too early in a new relationship. Those already committed have reason to be grateful to their partner this weekend. Lucky days for finances are Monday and Tuesday.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23):

An earth sign friend's behavior is irritating this weekend. Those born under the sign of Libra who cannot control their impatience may be making distance away from

this person. Where work is concerned, your outlook is positive – a situation that seemed too difficult to contemplate late last year is likely to dissolve. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, another air sign has too much on their plate to shower you with attention.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22):

Scorpios who took extra time off during the holiday period could find that they have more catching up to do than expected. The stars indicate that your delegation may not have been as successful as planned – matters could come to a head with another water sign this week. Where romance is concerned, those who have been trying to win the heart of a fire sign could decide it's more trouble than it's worth.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21):

Sagittarians who were less than eager to start a new job after the holidays should be pleasantly surprised with the reality. There are indications that your misgivings about leaving previous employment will be laid to rest. The remainder of January will be a time for self-development and this week brings a golden opportunity to learn a new life skill. Sparkling days for romance are Sunday and Monday.

PROPERTY Gazette

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Krabi Boat Lagoon is open for business

Parting of Marriott and Destination



The Courtyard Marriott in Patong

MARRIOTT International and Destination Properties Thailand have parted ways over the management of three Phuket hotels and one in Hua Hin.

The three Phuket hotels are the Courtyard by Marriott in Patong, Kamala and at Surin Beach with the Courtyard by Marriott in Hua Hin to no longer operate as a Marriott brand.

Another international management company is expected to take over the running of the hotels before April 1, 2012.

Local staff have reported they have been informed of the change of operator and that employees will be retained through the handover.

"We are happy to conclude these discussions with our partners at Destination Properties and we wish them well with the on-going success of these four hotels. We are excited to continue working with them on other existing projects here in Thailand," Philip Bryson, Area Vice President for Marriott in South East Asia, said in a statement.

Destination Properties, under principal Gary Murray, also own the Hilton Hua Hin and the Talay Karon Beach resort (formerly the Ramada), which is currently closed for expansion, as well as a suspended hotel project in Kamala that was slated for management by Marriott under their flagship brand.

— Bill Barnett

By Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai

KRABI Boat Lagoon, a sister property of Phuket Boat Lagoon, officially opened in December and is now fully operational.

The marina is located in Talingchan area, Nuaklong district of Krabi, 15 minutes from Krabi international airport.

The Krabi Boat Lagoon provides 80 water berths of which six are covered and 100 hardstands. A travel lift for moving vessels of up to 50 tons, a boat ramp, and other marine services are also available.

Sriya Yongsakul, Deputy Managing Director of Krabi Boat Lagoon is confident that theirs will be as successful as its counterpart in Phuket.

"With 18 years experience at Phuket Boat Lagoon we have a track record of management and service experience for yachts, holiday homes, resort hotels, medical centers and retail outlets," said Sriya.

"All of the marinas in Phuket are overcrowded. We had planned to build another marina outside Phuket for a long time and luckily, we found an ideal location in Krabi three years ago. We saw a lot of potential in the area. Therefore, we started to develop the Krabi Boat Lagoon as

another option for yacht owners, sailors, and investors," she added.

"We have the same business model as Phuket Boat Lagoon. The difference between us is target customers. We don't target short term visitors or group seminar customers. Since Krabi is quiet and peaceful, we have set our target as those who want to be surrounded by nature and away from crowded areas," said Sriya.

"During the first period of our operation, we are going to offer reduced mooring fees. We want to attract a lot of people to use our marina and I want to promote Krabi as a marine hub," she said.

The marina also offers property as part of their portfolio in the form of condominiums.

"Our upcoming low-rise condominium project called 'The Cleat' will

be launching in February. The project is expected to be completed by the end of December 2012. There will be 12 units in five different buildings that allow our customers to choose either a sea view or a marina view.

Our target market will be retirees and Scandinavians who choose Krabi as their vacation home," she added.

"Our grand opening was in December and was attended by our business partners from the ASEAN Marina group in Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia. The following day, all of the members signed an agreement to certify us as part of the Phuket Boat Lagoon group," said Sriya.

"With our experience and this location, we are quite confident that Krabi Boat Lagoon will become a very popular marina," Sriya asserted.



Krabi Boat Lagoon

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For better or for worse

I REMEMBER sitting in a restaurant quite a few years ago with a brief flame who was knock-out-dead gorgeous. Without a doubt she was out of my league.

Chit chat conversation was the rule of engagement here, but suddenly I found myself surrounded by a wall of silence as this was a decade before the iPhone and the age of the instant pictorial, immortalizing every dish on the menu, which these days has to be posted on to Facebook for all the world to witness (as if anyone cares).

Back to our tale, and suddenly it occurred to me that my one and only, was checking out her hair in the shiny spoon's reflection which she twirled deftly on the tips of her aqua toned fingernails.

Have you ever stood on a crowded city street in any metropolis in the world next to one of those tall, mirrored glass windows and checked out every manner of person who walks by?

It's amazing. From a mere glance, to even the mad man's stop-and-stare – it's urban theater.

Running a small business I of-



ten find myself competing with larger concerns having multiple offices and an army of employees.

My company only has a handful of staff, and at times I feel myself falling into a pitchman's mesmerizing use of the grandiose "we". On more than a few occasions the person being hounded will fire back "Who is we; I thought we were just hiring you?"

So how many are the proverbial "we"? Maybe the American forefathers who wrote the Constitution of the United States never imagined such a dilemma and had to answer just how many people were in the room when they authored the "We the people" line.

History may have been different if it was authored as "nine guys from the neighborhood had an idea to set up a country". I guess these days we have the Tea Party for that.

This is now the longest possible lead in to what is not intended as



RELECTIONS ON PHUKET: Looking back at 2011 . Photo by Colin Northway

another "Best Of" list, but a glance into the shop front window of Phuket. A reflection of what Bill thinks.

There isn't a soul in the office except me, so let's start with things that were interesting in 2011 or what could cause a stir in 2012.

Lots of hotel openings in 2011 – more than can be written about. The freshest architecture has to be the Casa de la Flora boutique hotel in Khao Lak which is extraor-

dinary and innovative.

Bedside reading continues to be a passion and Ensign Media's Business Report Thailand together with Michael Earle's Think Design magazines are both top quality publications.

Philanthropy continues to be on the rise, and no, I have no favorites here as doing good comes in small and big packages, be it the Soi Dog Foundation, Phuket Has Been Good To Us, and many more. All I can say is that this space

should be more crowded whether it benefits kids, old folks, sea turtles, eliminating plastic bags or whatever floats your boat.

It's a new year, so get off the couch and whether you have some spare time, extra cash or a cause, get stuck into it and see where the journey leads.

Beach clubs look set to rule the island roost and might be 2011's big story. Whether more is better or not, the future will have to tell.

Better island eating remains an object of desire and Rawai's Delish Café with simply awesome food and value is a prime example of what's going right these days.

Turning to the horizon, I've got my eye on the opening of The Naka design resort, Xana Beach Club at Angsana, Regent Sri Panwa (finally), the launch of The Yamu's hospitality led residential villas, and maybe a string of international banks opening branches on the island.

Of course these are just the thoughts of one guy in an office without a spoon, alone on a rainy public holiday somewhere on Phuket.



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In brief...

Trang welcomes new AirAsia route

THAI AirAsia has announced regular flights between Bangkok and Trang commencing in the middle of January.

Currently Nok Air and Orient Thai service the destination.

Tourism in the southern area of Trang continues to struggle with low demand.

Sri Lanka starts E-visa requirement

DESPITE a drive to increase tourism numbers into post war Sri Lanka, the country is implementing a new requirement for electronic visas as of January 1.

With the exception of passport holders from the Maldives or Singapore, all nationalities will be required to obtain an Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA).

Forms can be filled out online and for the majority of visa's cost US\$50.

Dollar set to rise against Thai baht

STANDARD Chartered Bangkok Thailand is forecasting the appreciation of the US dollar against Thai currency of up to 32.5 baht in the first quarter of 2012.

Financial uncertainty in the Eurozone have been cited as a critical factor.

Domestically Thailand looks set to take a heavy hit in 2012 with the negative impact to GDP from the flooding and ensuing damage to industrial output.

In an economy heavily leveraged on exports, the outlook for the sector remains cloudy.

Another pressure point looks to be the tightening of bank debt by local banks which would substantially impair the property and hospitality sectors.

Wallace leaves Thailand's Centara

THE head of Centara Hotels and Resorts International Management Kevin Wallace recently left the Thailand based hospitality group.

Wallace had spearheaded the group's expanding overseas expansion with a number of operating contracts.

No replacement in the role has been named at this time.

All of the legacy Thai hotel brands such as Centara, Dusit, Anantara and Onyx (formerly Amari) continue to look at global growth opportunities both by means of management agreements and acquisitions.

– Bill Barnett

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Scribing the way to a clear handover

ONCE your dream home has been built, the builder or seller may require a swift inspection of the property and acceptance that all construction work has been completed. This is often the case as the acceptance of the construction works is typically the last hurdle making final payment due.

However, buyers normally want a physical due diligence performed on the property to verify that all construction work has been completed as agreed to, in good workmanship, free from defects that can be time consuming to correct and thereby "delay" the final payment.

These conflicting interests should be addressed under the agreements signed by the buyer and the seller or builder. Such agreements should provide the relevant parties with a guideline for the handover procedure and a clear understanding of their responsibilities in this procedure.

Typically, such handovers commence with a completion notice sent by the seller or builder to the buyer stating completion of the construction and providing the buyer with the possibility to inspect the construction works.

The seller or builder should at-

Property Legal By International Law Office

tend the buyer's inspection and assist with preparing a concise inspection report itemizing defects or non-conformities and stipulating a date by when these will be rectified. This report should be issued in two identical sets and signed by both parties.

Some buyers may not be familiar with construction matters and therefore want to appoint a surveyor or building engineer to assist with the process. A builder or seller should have no problem with a buyer hiring such professional assistance.

Nevertheless, it is advisable to clarify under the relevant agreements that the buyer shall have the right to appoint a representative who may make site inspections during construction and assist with the handover.

Sometimes these agreements also allow for an independent inspector to be appointed, with approval by both the seller and buyer, to settle disputes over defects. In these cases, the agreements may stipu-

late that the inspector's decision shall be final and binding, and can have the party found at fault pay any expenses involved in appointing such inspector and correcting the defect (if any).

Furthermore, it should be understood that the inspection and subsequent handover shall not be deemed as a buyer's acceptance that the completed property is free from defects. The acceptance should take place after all detected defects have been repaired and such rectification acknowledged in writing.

If a seller or builder fails to make good all defects or non-conformities within a reasonable time frame, the parties' agreements should provide for appropriate remedy in favor of the buyer. This could include a right to reject acceptance of the property and to withhold outstanding payments until all defects are fully rectified.

In addition, the buyer could be provided with a right to appoint a third-party contractor to complete the construction work and make good all defects at the expense of the seller or builder.

To summarize, it is highly recommended for both the seller and the buyer of a property to



UNFINISHED BUSINESS: An inspection report itemizing defects or non-conformities should be made. Photo: Marshall Astor

agree on clear handover procedures, hence providing both parties with a guideline regarding their responsibilities existing in connection therewith.

This should minimize the risk of a dispute and the problems that soon follow.

This article has been written by International Law Office Patong Beach Co., Ltd., a Phuket based law firm, and for informational purposes only. In case of inquiries, contact Michael Greth, Consultant by email at michael@ilo-phuket.com or call 076-222191-5.

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Construction commences Q2 2010 and Completion during Q2 2012

Growing plants indoors and outdoors in water



Water Lilies are a favorite and lucky bamboo (right). Photos Flickr



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

WHEN I first came to Thailand, I was, like everyone else from colder climes, astounded by the sheer range of plant life.

Even more amazing was the way nature not only coped, but actually thrives in these hot, humid conditions some of which seemed downright alien: smoggy air, poor soil, periods with either burning sun or bucketing rain. The very first night I spent in a Phuket hotel, there were vases and glasses attached to the walls with flourishing green plants cascading down their sides.

After all the struggles of trying to grow house plants in so-called temperate climes, this was a real eye-opener. A lesson once learned is one never forgotten. Nowadays, the bathrooms in my house have *philodendrons* or *dracaenas* to add a fresh dash of greenery, all grown with the absolute minimum of fuss.

Which brings us to a reader's query. He asks which plants can

be grown in water? The question is not only which, but where?

Outdoors is one thing; indoors quite another. Let's start outdoors. Of course, we all know about water lilies (*nymphaeas*) and lotuses (*nelumbo nucifera*). Lilies, now available in brilliant deep colors, grow splendidly in plastic pots in fish ponds, or in wide terra-cotta containers that give the round floating leaves plenty of room: lotuses are better in a large, narrow-necked vase from which their long elegant stems topped by parasol-like leaves and dramatic blooms can be seen to best advantage.

However, there are plenty of other less well known water denizens, better known for their foliage than their flowers; for example the pickerel weed (*pontederia*) which has long dark stems and dark green heart-shaped leaves, or the larger (up to five or six feet) water canna (*thalia*) which has long, erect woody stalks which may be deep red or green. The elegant oval leaves grow at the tips.

The water canna is particularly popular with Thais as a front yard specimen. Papyrus (*cyperus*) is

another excellent choice, with its sculptural bright green stems and circular crowns of narrow, grass-like leaves. It looks the part in a vase or deepish pond.

Remember though that these are all essentially outdoor plants and sun-worshippers. Moreover, they all have roots in the soil at the bottom of your water-filled pot or pond which will need feeding from time to time with fertilizer tablets. And they require to be grown in that special clinging mud that is sold, already moistened, at plant nurseries in white plastic bags. Marsh plants, if you like.

Plants grown in water-filled containers indoors are usually not water-based at all, but they will adapt to these very different conditions, since they can tolerate low levels of sunlight, and have roots that can survive in a condition of permanent wetness. In general these are bog dwellers, or plants that prefer shade and moist surroundings.

Put them in ceramic or glass receptacles (readily available) that are flat on one side and can be fastened to a wall. They can be cuttings, or already rooted. With rooted specimens, carefully wash the soil off first.

Plants that should respond to this treatment include the lucky bamboo (*dracaena sanderiana*), which is often marketed in this way, some *philodendrons*, possibly *alocasias*, and *anthuriums*.

Try them out and see. That's half the fun.

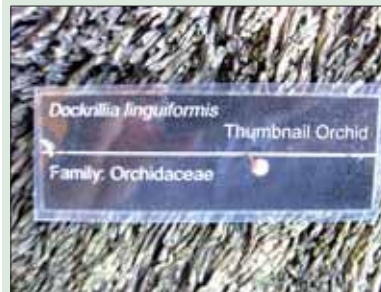
If you have a question or a garden that you would like featured, you can email me anytime at: drpaccampbell@gmail.com



LOTUS ELITE: These flowers are popular in gardens across Thailand.

Tip of the week

Reading those labels on plants



EACH family or genus of plants is divided into groups of individual species that reproduce from seed with only minor variations.

The first word in a plant's name designates the genus; the second word the species. Normally both are italicized, the genus name is often capitalized as well. For example: *Acalypha hispida*. Most plants also have a common or garden English name. Thus the common name for *Acalypha*

hispida is the chenille plant or cat's tail – both labels which describe the hanging, red, velvety racemes of the plant in question. In Phuket, we have to remember the Thai name too when we order or buy from a garden center, since the botanical name is unlikely to be familiar. In this case, the name is *hang kra rok daeng*. A few plants here have not yet been classified, and carry only Thai names.

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**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.

**BEAUTIFUL LAND
NEAR BEACH**

3 rai 40sq wah in Nai Yang. 6 million baht per rai. Contact Khun Nan. Tel: 087-091 8331. Email: chiangmaibeltrade@hotmail.com

**LUXURY HOUSE IN
GOLF VILLE**

22 Million baht. An excellent location at Anuphas Golf Ville in Kathu, land plot size 650sqm. Comprises 3 beds, 1 office, 4 baths, large swimming pool with jacuzzi, European fitted kitchen, terrace and indoor dining area, separate lounge with built-in bar, extensive security. View now. Tel: 084-293 7923 (English & Thai).

**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.

**HOUSE FOR SALE IN
BAAN PROMPHAN**

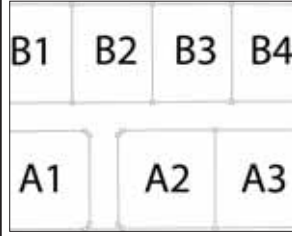
2.5 floors, 5 mins to town, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, Good for stay! 2.85 million baht. Tel: 083-506 9155. Email: sumitra.saetan@gmail.com

**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 IN
PHUKET VILLA 5**

at Phuket Villa 5. Living room, dining room, office, 5 bedrooms, 4 shower/WC, store, kitchen. Plot 521sqm. Asking 7.2 Million. Tel: 081-956 6462 (Thai), 086-682 4356 (English). Email: siam@gmx.net For further details, please see our website at www.thai-swiss.ch/Immobilien.immobilien.0.html

**STUNNING VIEW
HILLSIDE LAND**

6 plots at Nai Yang Beach, Chanote title. 350sqm each. 2.5 million baht per plot. 5 mins from the beach. Has inside road, water access, wall. Plot A1 is luxury villa for sale. 9.9 million baht. Contact Khun Nan. Tel: 087-091 8331. Email: chiangmaibeltrade@hotmail.com

**REDUCED PRICE
VILLA 7.5 MILLION
BAHT**

3 beds, 3 baths, swimming pool with jacuzzi and Lake view. Superb location at Anuphas Golf Ville in Kathu. Fully furnished and ready to move into. View now. Tel: 081-273 3975 (English), 084-293 7923 (Thai).

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

**PATONG TOWER-
CONDO FOR SALE**

Large 2-bed condo for sale. Fantastic sea views. Foreigner freehold. Top-end luxury including all furniture, etc. 19 million baht or nearest offer. Tel: 082-813 3824 (English). Email: showbus1@msn.com Website: www.patongapartmentcondo.com

CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

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

30 RAI IN TOWN

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

**BRAND-NEW
CONDO**

Mid Town, Royal Place Project, 2nd floor, 37sqm. Studio condo, fully furnished, reasonable price. Tel: 086-476 9612.

**PATONG TOWER
CONDO**

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

**TWIN HOUSE
FOR SALE**

2 floors, 3 bedrooms, 3 aircons, 2 toilets. 2.9 million baht. Contact Phant. Tel: 089-697 0928. Email: siriphant23@gmail.com

POOL VILLA RAWAI

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished, 80% finance, 0% interest, 20% deposit. Tel: 083-641 9327. Email: rawaipoolvillas@hotmail.com

**LUXURY
CHIANG DAO ESTATE**

3 home, 7 rai estate priced well below market for quick sale at 9.5m baht, ono. Tel: 053-448181, 081-724 9155 (English & Thai), 080-790 5506 (English). Fax: 053-448181. Email: mychiangmaiproperty@gmail.com website: http://mychiangmaiproperty.com

HOUSE IN PATONG

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

**BEST LUXURY
VILLA**

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

**THE SUNRISE
OCEAN VILLAS**

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



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

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

www.thesunrisevillas.com

**BANGTHONG,
KATHU LAND**

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

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

**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 Website: www.cherngtalay.weebly.com

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Properties For Rent

HOUSE IN PATONG



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

KATA LUXURY SEAFRONT APT

5-star, quiet area, pools, spa, ADSL, ocean view, available now. Email: asiasail@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.katasala.com/

APARTMENTS KATA & NAI HARN

Apartments 2-bed Nai Harn beach, 2bed Kata Noi, 1 bed Kata + 2 bed Kata. Available now. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

PHUKET / PA KHLOK

at Palm Garden 56/6 bungalow for rent. Tel: 081-606 3525. Email: boyorasa@hotmail.com

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>

THAI VILLA AND POOL

Nai Harn, long term, mid-March. 40,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-270 5126. Email: mervyn.crocker@yahoo.com

LAYAN BEACH, 3 BEDROOM APT

Layan Gardens – luxury, large ground floor apartment. Swimming pools, jacuzzi, tennis court. Two minutes from Layan Beach and Laguna Resort. 85,000 baht per month, 6 months minimum. Tel: 082-605 6406 (English), 080-342 4253. Email: claire@imarketingonly.com For further details, please see our website at www.layan-gardensapartments.com

B.L. APARTMENT

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

THAI STYLE HOUSE & POOL

fully furnished, 2 storeys, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, aircon, living, dining, car park, garden, Internet & cable TV, 60,000 baht/month. Tel: 089-725 0779 (English & Thai). Email: bitong1@yahoo.com

KATA SEAVIEW WESTERN APART



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



4 Bedrooms Villa for Rent / Sale

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

LAND 2.3 RAI AND 4 HOUSES



For rent by owner at Bang Tao Phuket. Price: 2 million baht / year net. Tel: 089-288 3047.

SEA VIEW MODERN STYLE VILLA

6 bedrooms, panoramic terrace, 17m sea-view swimming pool, Finnish sauna, sophisticated security system and much more. Available for rent for long term only at 160,000 baht/month inclusive of in-house maid service. Located just above Phunaka Golf Course in Chalong Hill. Tel: 081-892 7847 (English). Email: patrick@oceanic-global.com For further details, please see our website at www.oceanic-global.com/villa-neptune.php

NICE HOUSE IN THALANG TOWN

fully furnished, 2 bed, 2 bath, aircon, cable TV, full kitchen. Good location in town. 5 mins to Tesco Lotus. 15 mins to the airport, near Laguna area. Can negotiate for one-year contract. Please call to Wa. Tel: 089-874 2960.

KATA SEA VIEW VILLA

Top location, 3 bedrooms, Roof-top spa, 17m pool. Immaculate. Available now long/shortterm. Tel: 083-182 2170. Email: i.charles69@yahoo.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.

BALINESE POOL VILLAS

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

4-BED VILLA FOR RENT

Fully furnished, Great location, 10 mins to Central, Int schools, Golf courses. Available Jan 20. Min 1 year. 75,000 baht/month, owner pays common area, pool, gardening. Tel: 076-321738, 083-967 5777 (English & Thai), 083-967 5888 (English). Fax: 076-321738. Email: jenjira5@hotmail.com

2-BEDROOM FURNISHED HOUSE

Convenient and safe location in Kathu, just 2km from Tesco Lotus. Large lounge and 2 double bedrooms with aircon, hot showers. Basic furnishings, plus TV, fridge, microwave. ADSL / WiFi / Cable TV available (optional extras). Short term baht 15,000 per month. With big discounts for long term. Tel: 076-202679, 081-970 3526 (Eng), 081-676 2629 (Thai). Email: petersoffshore@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

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 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.

HOUSE IN CHALONG

Near Palai Beach, for rent. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, ADSL, fully furnished, cable TV, car park. Tel: 089-728 8311.

KAMALA APARTMENT

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished, cable TV, WiFi. 10 minutes to beach. 30,000 baht per month. 50,000 baht per 2 months. Available now. Tel: 084-716 0502.

PATONG POOLSIDE STUDIOS

Furnished studio with 42" TV, kitchenette, aircon, cable, WiFi, parking. Long term rent 24,000 baht/month. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English). Email: phvcondo@aol.com

PATONG CONDO



1 bedroom, 66sqm, includes balcony. ADSL, DVD, microwave oven and more. Have also big swimming pool in front. Good view. Fully furnished. Available now. Not less than 6 months rental at 16,800 baht per month. Tel: 089-872 6895. Email: jospeder@live.no

HOUSE FOR RENT IN RAWAI



Brand-new house, fully furnished, 2 beds, 2 baths, with pool and big garden for long and short term. Maid provided. Contact Orawan. Tel: 090-159 9929.

BRAND NEW HOUSE FOR RENT



New townhouse for rent. Near BIS and Boat Lagoon.

- 88sqm of luxury living

- 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms

- Fully furnished

- 4 air conditioners

- European kitchen

- Car park

- Communal pool

Rent: 16,000 baht per month. Long term rent

15,000 baht per month.

Contact John. Tel: 086-940

4267. Email: johngriffinphotography52@yahoo.co.uk

NAI YANG HOUSE FOR RENT

Quiet, fully furnished, 2 bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms, aircon, satellite TV. Only 500m to Nai Yang Beach and 2km to airport. 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-667 1844 (English & Thai). Email: slarti@onthenet.com.au

KATHU: 3-BED HOUSE WITH MAID

Amazing 3-bed, 2-bath, large garden house with daily maid service 30,000 baht/month. Tel: 082-498 0872. Email: shetz66@hotmail.com

LERSUANG HOUSE SURIN BEACH

3-bed, pool, jacuzzi, sauna, fully furnished, land of 700sqm. Could also sell. Tel: 081-737 1678 (English & Thai). Email: suptpac@phuket.ksc.co.th

HOUSE CHALONG BEACH

3-bedroom duplex, furnished, quiet, secure, internet, cable TV, swimming pool. 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-415 2900.

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 WITH LARGE GARDEN



3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms 110sq wah. Fully furnished, in Land & Houses Park. 40,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-607 8567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com Website: www.phuket-apartment-house.webiz.co.th

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- 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.

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Email: travelsia@3bbmail.com

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- ❖ Attending tradeshow, company sponsored promotions and events.
- ❖ Preparing standardize presentations, charter proposals, agreements, and other documentation when needed. Handle booking of charters, and ensuring the customers will be satisfied with the luxury Windy boats and service.
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Contact khun Bow: jariya.sungdong@windyboats.asia

Mobile: **080-529 6928**

DANISH STAFF

Danish-speaking female, 20-30 years old. Send CV & photo to: rainforestjob@gmail.com

GERMAN SPEAKING TELEMARKETER

I-net Advertising Company in Germany looking 4 home-based Telemarketers in Thailand. Must be German speaking! We provide contract with good pay. Tel: +49-223-499 9629. Email: bewerbungen_tae@publo-city.de For further details, please see our website at www.publocity.de

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4 hours a day, 3 or 4 times a week. Patong beach road, behind football ground. Tel: 089-675 3861.

EMPLOYMENT SCUBA DIVING

Urgently seeking 2 instructors to run a small dive shop in Phuket. SSI Instructor is a big plus, good English a must. Please send CV to office@sea-bees.com or call 076 381 765.

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New massage shop needs staff for massage, facial treatment and manicure. Salary with commission. Open 12:00am. to 12:00pm. 6 days/week. Tel: 085-019 3410 (English), 089-128 4783 (Thai). Email: la_terra@inbox.ru

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Office Admin - Secretary (Thai) needed for property sales office in Naithon. Fluent in English and Thai (speaking, writing, computer skills, email, Internet) required. Tel: 084-840 7624 (English). Email: sales@vistadelmarphuket.com

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New idea search freelancer sales team. No MLM, your chance to be independent. Email CV to phuket55555@gmail.com

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Small, new fast food shop with simple farang food, needs experienced English speaking Thai manager. Work closely with owners to hire staff, set work schedules, finish training and open. Join this team early for promotion as we get bigger. Open to discuss hours. Monthly salary 700 baht per day plus benefits. Tel: 084-627 1301 (Thai). Email: flatstanleysfastfood@gmail.com

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Salary: 20,000 baht per month, plus commissions. Tel: 081-968 5963 (English). Email: cc@bayshoreprojects.com

TEACHER WANTED

Chalempriak School is looking for an English teacher. For more info contact Clarke. Tel: 084-446 3049. Please forward your CV to swpk_mlp@yahoo.com

RECEPTIONIST

Hotel in Patong requires Thai female receptionist with good English skills. 2 days off per week. Tel: 081-892 1621.

THAI MAID

Live-in maid to take care of house in Chalong and give daily massage to farang. Pay: 14,000 baht/month, with use of motorbike. Age: 35-50, must speak some English. Email information about yourself to ltmesneq@aol.com

HOUSEKEEPING STAFF

Experienced and able to speak some English. Needed for small guesthouse on the beach. Tel: 085-159 7400 (English), 086-902 8566 (Thai). Email: dshumny@yahoo.com

NANNY WANTED

Thai or Filipino nanny, English speaking. 6 days per week. Contact Nadya. Tel: **086-028 6945**. Email: myhoneyglenn@yahoo.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

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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We are a newly established company. We have the following positions available: Sales rep, Cleaners, Customer service, Accountant, General labor, Secret shoppers, Marketers, Drivers, Writing and editing. If you are interested in any of the listed positions, email: dunlapps@gmail.com for more details concerning the Job and interview.

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

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is looking for long-term staff, no older than 30 years. English fluency and excellent communication skills are a must. Tel: 082-329 3207.

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Seeking a Swedish/Finnish speaking instructor to join our team at remote but busy dive center. Immediate start. Tel: 076-381765. Send your CV to office@sea-bees.com

WANTED:

GARDENER AND MAID in Rawai. Previous experience required in hotel or farang home. Husband and wife ok. Tel: 081-797 7898.

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Booth staff, good salary, 5 to 6 hours a day, 6 days a week. Tel: 081-968 5963. Email: cc@bayshoreprojects.com

MAID/COOK FOR HOLIDAY VILLA

English speaking maid who can also cook Thai food needed for a vacation villa in Kalim. Good salary and room available if required. Start immediately. Tel: 080-699 2436. Email: kokakat@gmail.com

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SECRETARY/ PA (foreigners only/salary negotiable). We are looking for young (25-30) and highly motivated, self driven people who are a combination of both the right kind of attitude in dealing situations. Good communications skills with problem solving ability. You will take on some of the manager's responsibilities and work more closely with management, screening telephone calls, inquiries and requests. You will also organize and maintain diaries and make appointments, take dictation and produce minutes of meetings. The successful candidate will also produce documents, briefing papers, reports and presentations. Tel: 081-968 5963. Email: cc@bayshoreprojects.com

Best Fire Solution Co., Ltd. was established in 2011 to supply all extinguishing system needs. We are now looking for distributor in the Phuket area in order to expand our business.

We supply, design and distribute extinguishing systems, fire pumps, valves, etc. For example **DSPA, Advance Electronics, Orient and Firemiks.**

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Applicants must:

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- ▶ have a university degree in finance or business;
- ▶ have a minimum of three years' experience in finance or business;
- ▶ have strong PC skills, in particular MS Excel;

The role consists of:

- ▶ investment portfolio performance analysis and reporting;
- ▶ investment product analysis and new product research;
- ▶ regular client contact, including new client account opening and ongoing account administration;
- ▶ liaison with our trading platforms and banking partners.

Please send your curriculum vitae to:
Jaruan Naksalab, assistant to Managing Director:
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(1) Assistant Accountant (Ref No. P01/11)

Prepare monthly account, AP, GL and bank reconciliations, liaise with Revenue Department on tax matters, review accounting documents and make appropriate accounting entries.

- ▶ Degree holder in accounting with 3 years' accounting/auditing experience
- ▶ Construction accounting experience will be a definite advantage
- ▶ Excellent command of spoken and written Thai with good spoken and written English
- ▶ Well versed with Microsoft office applications

(2) Accountant (Ref No. P02/11)

Prepare monthly account, financial statements and reports, handle tax matters, check and verify accounting entries and other ad-hoc accounting duties.

- ▶ Degree holder in accounting with 5 years' accounting/auditing experience
- ▶ Construction accounting experience will be a definite advantage
- ▶ Excellent command of spoken and written Thai with good spoken and written English
- ▶ Well versed with Microsoft office applications and accounting software

(3) Document Control Officer (Ref No. P03/11)

Responsible for documentation administration and records management of the project, manage and supervise the organization of a significant project document control system and software.

- ▶ Tertiary qualified with solid experience related to administration and records
- ▶ Good computer literacy, some programming experience is an advantage
- ▶ Detail-minded and with fluency in both written and spoken Thai and English

(4) Legal and Company Secretarial Officer (Ref No. P04/11)

Assist Legal Department and Company Secretarial Department on enforcement of corporate compliance issues, assist in simple translation work and ensuring proper and timely delivery and sign off on important documents from headquarters.

- ▶ Degree holder in Law with at least 3 years' relevant experience
- ▶ Experience in handling company secretarial documents and legal documents
- ▶ Experience in handling translation between English and Thai
- ▶ Excellent command of spoken and written Thai with good spoken and written English

(5) Planning Officer (Ref No. P05/11)

Assist in preparation of planning submissions and building permits' documentation, prepare strategic programmes like design, procurement and construction schedules, review site progress reports, monitor and review development schedule trends and reporting delays, and recommend corrective action.

- ▶ Degree holder in Civil Engineering with at least 5 years' relevant experience
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Green Man Pub - Chalong
Tue, Thu, Sat 1 PM

Stereo Lab Restaurant - Surin Beachfront
Mon and Thur 9:30 AM

Bhavana Treatment - Cape Panwa
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COFFEE break

Crossword puzzle:

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14	A	N	I	L	E		15	E	R	N	O		16	O	R	E	M			
17	R	I	G	O	R		18	W	U	S	S		19	M	E	S	A			
20	P	L	A	N	C		21	H	E	T		22	E		23	D	I	C	T	S
						24	G	E	E	R		25	C	A	R	C	A	S	S	
26	T	O	U	S	L	E		29	S	A	T	E								
30	I	N	R	I			31	D	E	P	R	E	S	S	I	V	E			
37	L	E	A	D	S		38		39	C	E	N		40	S	P	E	A	R	
41	T	A	L	E	T		42	E	L	L	E	R		44	E	R	M	A		
						45	A	N	A	T		46	A	C	C	E	P	T		
48	M	A	I	L	L	O	T		52	F	I	A	T							
53	I	S	R	A	E	L		54	V	I	L	L	A	T	I	C				
58	A	S	I	T			59	O	E	I	L		61	I	T	A	L	O		
62	T	E	S	T			63	G	E	S	T		64	C	O	P	S	E		
65	A	S	H	E			66	Y	E	A	H		67	O	R	E	A	D		

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Man City pepped up for the FA Cup



HEAD HIGH: Yaya Toure scores Manchester City's second from Silva's corner kick at the Etihad Stadium in their 3-0 victory over Liverpool to go three points clear. Photo: AFP

MANCHESTER City took full advantage of a Pepe Reina error on a blustery night to secure a comfortable 3-0 win over Liverpool at the Etihad Stadium.

Sergio Aguero was the benefactor of the Reina blunder, and with Yaya Toure heading high into the net from a David Silva corner doubled the Blue's advantage before the half-time break.

Even with an equal share of possession and more shots on target, the Reds lacked any real bite in attack until late with efforts from Stewart Downing and substitute Steven Gerrard.

Joe Hart rarely looked troubled in Man City's goal dealing with the visitor's attentions confidently.

Liverpool who have confirmed that they will not appeal the eight match ban handed to Luis Suarez for racially abusing Manchester United defender Patrice Evra, sorely missed his services.

James Milner wrapped up proceedings with pure power from the penalty spot, after Toure was brought down by Martin Skrtel while Man City's manager Roberto Mancini waved an imaginary red card at the incident.

Perhaps Mancini was looking for

redress after the harsh dismissal of Gareth Barry for two bookable offenses, who will now miss the FA Cup 3rd round tie with arch-rivals Manchester United.

Tottenham Hotspur meanwhile kept up the pressure on the league leaders by grinding out a victory over lowly West Bromwich Albion.

West Brom manager Roy Hodgson's formation of 4-5-1 from the off clearly showed he was intent on gaining a precious point for premiership survival.

It almost worked until excellent work by Gareth Bale and Rafael van der Vaart set-up Jermain Defoe on the hour mark. Turning on the spot, Defoe poked the ball past Ben Foster despite four players surrounding him just outside the defenders' six-yard box.

West Brom gave Tottenham some minor concern in the dying moments of the game winning successive corners, Harry Redknapp's team held on for victory.

The win leaves Spurs only six points off the pace, with a game in hand over Manchester City, and a visit there later this month. The title race at the halfway stage is very much open.

This weekend's FA Cup fixture

list often provides the most excitement in the English football's domestic calendar.

Mouthwatering ties such as the Blues hosting the Red Devils is one that stands out.

Portsmouth could exact vengeance against Chelsea in a repeat of the 2010 cup final. Didier Drogba eventually scored to break Pompey's hearts after the Pensioners had hit the woodwork no less than five times previously.

Arsenal also have a tricky tie against Npower Championship outfit, Leeds United.

Currently just outside the play-off zone, the Whites will enjoy the distraction of the Cup after a torrid festive period, picking-up only three points out of a possible 12.

Non-league Fleetwood Town are relishing the visit of neighbours, Blackpool after dumping out league division one Yeovil Town in a replay 0-2 on Tuesday night.

Fleetwood boss Micky Mellon who played for Blackpool, when asked about challenging close friend and managerial counterpart, Ian Holloway said "He'll be delighted as we both know how big an event it'll be for the whole of the area."

— Phuket Gazette

THE FA CUP FIXTURES		
MAN CITY	SUNDAY 8 JANUARY 2012 20:00	MAN UTD
LIVERPOOL	VS FRIDAY 6 JANUARY 2012 03:00	OLDHAM
NEWCASTLE	VS SATURDAY 7 JANUARY 2012 22:00	BLACKBURN
TOTTENHAM	VS SATURDAY 7 JANUARY 2012 22:00	CHELTHENHAM
CHELSEA	VS SUNDAY 8 JANUARY 2012 22:00	PORTSMOUTH
ARSENAL	VS MONDAY 9 JANUARY 2012 02:45	LEEDS

SATURDAY, 7 JANUARY 2012 19:30	SATURDAY, 7 JANUARY 2012 22:00
Birmingham VS Wolves	Crawley Town VS Bristol City
SATURDAY, 7 JANUARY 2012 20:00	Derby VS Crystal Palace
Dag & Red VS Millwall	Doncaster VS Notts County
SATURDAY, 7 JANUARY 2012 22:00	Fleetwood Town VS Blackpool
Barnsley VS Swansea	Hull VS Ipswich
Everton VS Tamworth	Middlesbrough VS Shrewsbury
Fulham VS Charlton	Nott'm Forest VS Leicester
Gillingham VS Stoke	Reading VS Stevenage
MK Dons VS QPR	Sheffield Utd VS Salisbury
Macclesfield VS Bolton	SATURDAY, 7 JANUARY 2012 00:30
Norwich VS Burnley	Bristol Rovers VS Aston Villa
Swindon VS Wigan	SUNDAY, 8 JANUARY 2012 22:00
West Brom VS Cardiff	Sheffield Wed VS West Ham
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Sport briefs...

TENNIS: British No. 1 Andy Murray scraped through the first round in Brisbane despite fitness issues. He will also be joined by new coach, eight-times Gand Slam winner, Ivan Lendl.

CRICKET: Ricky Ponting secured his 40th Test century at the Sydney Cricket Ground with a risky single. Australia are dominating the game and series despite a full strenght Indian line-up.

BASEBALL: Barry Bonds, holder of most career home runs scored was spared jail for misleading a jury investigating as to whether he took performance enhancing drugs.

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Phuket Gazette Sports

A look back over the year's sporting events and memorable moments that

January

Fresh start and fresh faces



Promotion to Division 1 of Thailand's national football league also brought a coaching set up for FC Phuket led by Surachai Jirasirichote. Surachai's dream of taking the Southern Sea Kirin to the heady heights of Thailand's Premier League would soon turn into a nightmare for the former Thailand international. Australia's cross country mountain bike champion, Damien Enderby was on Phuket preparing for his title defense and the Gazette profiled golfing prodigy, 14-year-old Pariwat Pinsawat and surfing sensation, 12-year-old Annissa Flynn. Both young sports stars would have an outstanding 2011.

February

A Knight's tale



As fame came to a new generation of Phuket sports talent, one of Phuket's sailing icons passed from this life. Tony Knight succumbed to injuries following a motorbike injury in Australia, but his dedication to Phuket's yacht scene and involvement with Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) will always survive. Continuing with sailing, Scott Duncanson and his crew on *Quantum Fusion M* took top honors at the Bay Regatta, while FC Phuket began their league campaign with a 1-1 draw against Suphan Buri. Youth rugby got off to a fine start when the Phuket Lomas performed well at the Bangkok 10s.

March

Zack's back



Juergen Zack, one of the world's leading triathletes arrived to Phuket to take up a post with Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club (TSLC) as their Director of Triathlon Training in order to promote the sport of triathlon on Phuket. FC Phuket claimed three points against Rajapracha FC in bizarre circumstances after it was asserted that the visitors to Surakul Stadium fielded too many foreign players. The ACYC Keel boat and Multihull Club Championship got underway with Kevin Gillow and Mick Kealy drawing first blood onboard *Minx*.

July

Pryde of place



Young Pariwat Pinsawat teed up his future on golf's world stage by taking joint second place at the Callaway Junior World Golf Championship held in the US. *Miss Saigon* and *Voodoo* won their respective classes at the SEA Property Multihull Championship, a precursor to the Six Senses Raceweek which was eventually won by *Team Premier*, skippered by Neil Pryde. Olympic hopefuls, the Canadian synchronized swimming team, splashed down at TSLC to use the facility as a training camp before the World Championships in China.

August

FC Phuket win away



After 10 games without a win away from home, FC Phuket break their duck against RBAC. Jaray Jeranai, a marketing executive in Laguna become the first Thai athlete to secure qualification at both the Ironman 70.3 World Championships and the Ford Ironman World Championship in Hawaii. Former captain of the Thailand football team, Therdsak Chaiman, visited Phuket and gave a free coaching clinic to young players at TSLC.

September

Pariwat and Flynn step up



Another prolific month for Phuket's young talents. Pariwat returned home as part of the victorious Thailand golf team that won the Lion City Cup in Hong Kong to be announced as Brand Manager for the Phuket Country Club. Annissa Flynn finished runner up at the Quiksilver Thailand Surf Competition held at Patong Beach in a field of vastly more experienced and older professionals. Phuket Vagabonds rugby club hosted the first Rugby Challenge Trophy at TSLC which was eventually won by DEA Tigers of Hong Kong.

Review Of The Year

helped highlight Phuket as a center of excellence in the Kingdom and Asia

April

Young aims for F1



After five games FC Phuket were on top of the world and on top of the Division 1 table with 11 points. Kenth Fredin and Michael Weinstein won the World Corporate Golf Challenge Thailand chapter which gave the Phuket duo a berth at the world finals in South Africa. Dylan Young from Australia secured a seat at the JK Racing series and took on the best upcoming drivers in Asia at the F1 circuit in Sepang. Patong Cricket Club won the 35 over Island Furniture League in dramatic style against arch rivals Laguna.

May

Laguna take T20 title



Phuket's young sports enthusiasts hit the pages with the inaugural IronKids triathlon which took place at TSLC where athletes as young as six years old swam, biked and ran into the record books. Laguna Cricket Club avenged their 35 over league defeat by defeating Patong CC in another exciting final, this time for T20 honors. Raymond Windsor's amazing aquatic abilities surfaced when he took eight gold medals at the British International School's Flying Fish International Swimming Gala. Fredin and Weinstein posted a highly commendable fifth place at the World Corporate Golf Challenge finals in South Africa. A beleaguered Surachai steps down as FC Phuket coach after a series of poor results.

June

Marathon sports month



An exceptional month for sport on Phuket! After sleeping on the beach for fear of missing the start of the Laguna Phuket Marathon, Vsevolod Khudyakov from Russia not only raced to victory, but set a new course record. Thailand's Thepchaiya Uth-nooh claimed the Sangsom Phuket Snooker Cup by defeating world number 17, Stuart Bingham. Defending Phuket Rugby 10s champions, the Kriel Roosters from South Africa, copped one from the Royal Thai police rugby team to lose their crown. Alan Cooke MBE announced the establishment of Phuket's first dedicated cricket facility soon followed by an anonymous donation of 1 million baht to help with its development. Gerry Norquist and his team won the Phuket Property Dot Com Pro Am Invitational which also raised 1mn baht for charity.

October

Jaray races into the record books



TSLC announced Phuket's first ITF professional ranking tennis tournament would be held at their facilities. Thachakorn Tonnon and Pavapon Limsakul, both students at Satree School, were awarded wild card entries into the prestigious tennis tournament after their success at TSLC's Tennis Challenge tournament. Laguna's Jerai Jeranai, crossed the finish line after 11 hours on the torturous Ford Ironman triathlon held in Kona, Hawaii to become the first Thai athlete to qualify and finish two of the world's biggest triathlon events.

November

Volleyball gold for China



As high season arrived, Phuket sports also heated up. Chen Xue and Xi Zhang of China won the 6th Phuket FIVB Beach Volleyball Swatch World Tour competition at Karon Beach. Laurent Rochette of France won the first ever ITF tennis tournament at TSLC while Jittawat Boonrat secured the Phuket Dinghy Series title after three events off Cape Panwa. The first Lomas International Rugby Tournament was also held at TSLC which saw King's College Bangkok escape the floods to take the inaugural title.

December

Entries exceed for King's Cup and LPT



Laguna's week long triathlon festival ended in December with Massimo Cigana from Italy winning the men's title for a record third time and Radka Vodickva from the Czech Republic taking the women's crown. A week later at Laguna, Michael Raelert of Germany won the men's Ironman 70.3 Asia Pacific triathlon title and Melissa Rollison from Australia took the women's honor. Anissa Flynn posted three wins and a second place on the Asian Surfing Competition Pro Calendar which put her in second place for overall tour results in 2011. The 25th King's Cup Regatta had its largest competitive fleet entered with first place eventually going to *Team Premeier*, skippered by Hannes Weimer. FC Phuket's season fizzled out and may result in the club's dissolution.

Cheering banned at final FC Phuket home match

AN APPEAL by FC Phuket to be allowed to play their last home match of the season at Surakul Stadium has been approved by the Football Association of Thailand (FAT), but under the bizarre proviso that home-side fans will not be allowed to cheer their team on.

"Fans will only be allowed to sit still. There can be no wearing of FC Phuket shirts or other gear, no singing or chanting, no drumming, no cheering the team on whatsoever. This is in order not to put pressure on the Bangkok FC's players," Assistant Coach Apichart Mosika told the *Gazette* during the team's first post-holiday training session at the stadium.

The appeal followed a ruling by the FAT board that the team lost its right to host the match following their December 21 home loss to Suphanburi FC, after which the referee, surrounded by a contingent of furious FC Phuket supporters, was obstructed from leaving the pitch until he reluctantly offered an apology.

That ruling said Phuket would have to find a neutral pitch for the match.

FC Phuket successfully argued that this was unfair because the ban affected their last home game of the season, when it should have been applied to the following match, which was against Air Force United on December 25.

Meanwhile, ten players took part in Monday's workout, including a surprise showing by goalkeeper Jonathan "John" Matijas, whose contract with the team expired on December 31.

"This is my last day here. Tomorrow I will fly to Bangkok to look for a new team. Anyway, I will come back here for vacation for sure," the Frenchman said.



TOUGH TERMS: FC Phuket club secretary Soranan Sanae helped negotiate to allow fans to see one final home match. Photo: Pimwara Choksakulpan

Though only joining the team in July, John's signature mohawk hair cut, pretty boy poses and superman diving saves quickly accumulated him a following in Phuket.

All good things must come to end eventually, and John had to bid his final farewell to Phuket fans.

In a post on the team's fan club Facebook page wall, he wrote, "I spent a magical half-of-a-season with you. When you came watching our games you came with your heart, when you met us anywhere you talked to us with your heart. FC Phuket fan club, when you live, you do it with your heart. That's exactly why I played every minute with my heart too. You are great supporters and amazing persons too! I'm gonna miss you all and hope to come back some day. When FC Phuket becomes a big team, it will be a pleasure if I can be on your side then. Goodbye my supporters."

Also at Monday's workout were two Nigerian players look-

ing to catch the attention of the FC Phuket coaching staff.

Oniovokukor Akpos Joseph, 26, just ended a contract with Phayao FC in the Division 2 Regional League, while his friend Ike Michael, 27, two years ago played with Prachinburi FC, which at the time was in Division 1.

Saturday's opponent Bangkok FC are currently in 12th place in the table, three spots below FC Phuket. The season for both sides is drawing to a close. Phuket's final game is an away match against league runners up, Chainat FC. Bangkok finish on the same day, hosting Chiangmai FC.

Those that are left of the Southern Sea Kirin will be looking for some payback after Bangkok FC crushed them 5-2 in their first encounter in Bangkok in April last year.

That match was called six minutes short of time when a high-powered squall hit the pitch. It was later discussed that, in order to save on expenses, the final



SIT STILL CHILDREN: It is not clear whether the ban on FC Phuket cheering in Saturday's match extends to visiting Bangkok FC fans or not.



SO LONG JOHN: Jonathan Matijas (left) bid farewell to Phuket. Right: Team hopeful, Ike Michael has Division 1 experience. Photos: Pimwara Choksakulpan.

six minutes be played in Phuket before Saturday's match.

However, FC Phuket later conceded the 5-2 defeat, thus eliminating the even more bizarre scenario of fans being able to cheer as normal during six minutes, then having to suffer in silence during the more important 90-minute match that would follow.

With cheering by Phuket fan's banned, and many core players gone, it could turn out to be a

strange finale indeed.

Aiming for nothing short of a point from this meet, Bangkok are among five teams that risk filling the fourth and final relegation spot. The other three spots have already been taken by Thai Honda, RBAC and Chiangmai.

Fans are invited to come stare in zombie-like silence as the final home match of the year takes place on Saturday. Kick-off is at 6pm.

— P Choksakulpan and S Fein



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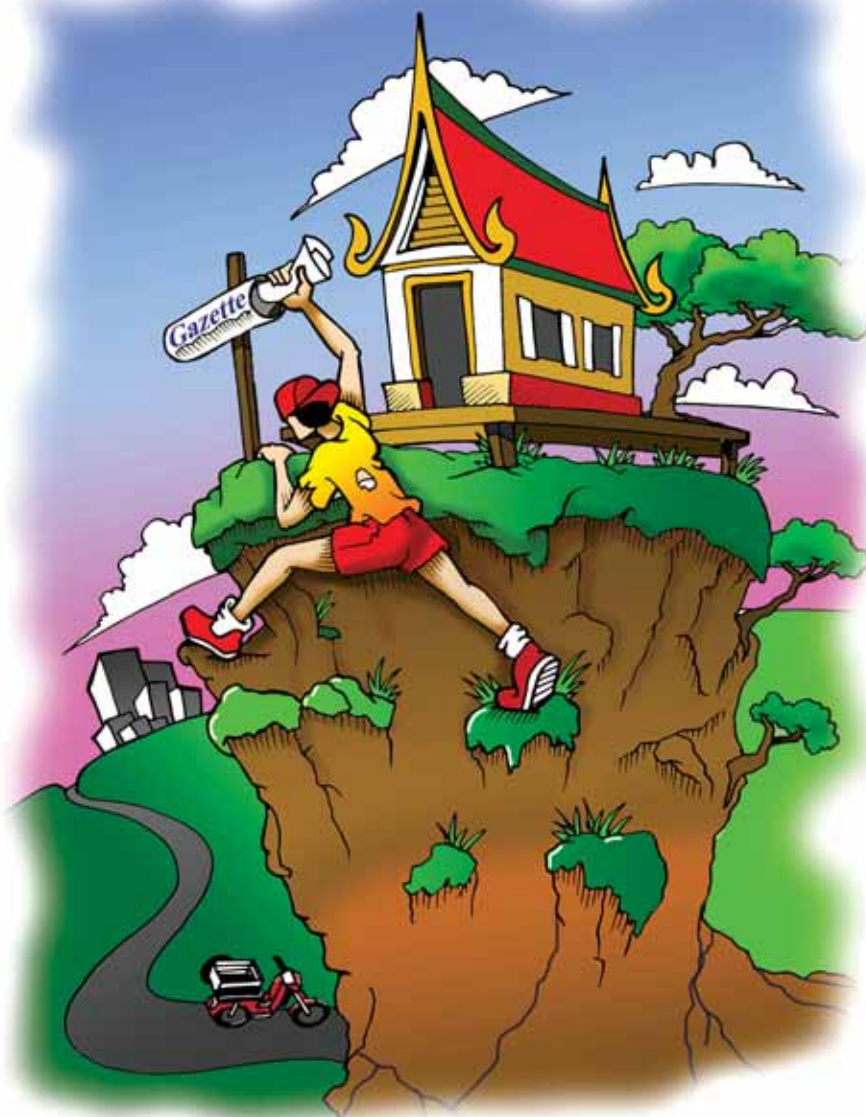
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Services to Phuket Sports



ALL THE BEST: (Clockwise from above) the Canadian Synchronized Swimming Team, an IronKids winner, Juergen Zack and Jaray Jearanai, Therdsak Chaiman, international rugby and Thailand's number one tennis player, Danai Udomchoke all graced Phuket due to the efforts of the team at Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club. Photos: Dean Noble and Neil Quail

By Neil Quail

THANYAPURA Sports and Leisure Club (TSLC) has been awarded the *Phuket Gazette's* inaugural Services to Sport title.

The purpose of such an award is to identify and recognize individuals, teams or organizations whose contributions to raise the profile of sport on Phuket has been outstanding throughout the year.

A panel of *Gazette* Editors deliberated over a selection of exceptional nominees which included Phuket Lomas coaching staff for the development of youth rugby, Mr Bob Selznick for schools volleyball, ACG committee for cricket, Katy Gooch for youth sailing, Martin Hill for youth football, Grenville Fordham and Leslie Hand for sailing, British International School, Laguna Phuket Resorts for marathon and triathlon events and Geoffrey Rowe for FIVB volleyball.

Every one of these mentioned has delivered excellence through organization and development to their respective sport and the *Phuket Gazette* is proud to have had the opportunity to support their efforts in 2011 and looks forward to further success in 2012.

Awarding TSLC the honor is due primarily to the efforts of their team in developing a top class facility which has brought a number of high profile players, coaches and events to Phuket. To watch and obtain advice from these professionals has been an incredible opportunity for anyone involved with the development of sport on the island.

On the TSLC highlight reel we saw Juergen Zack, one of the world's finest triathletes, take up a position as director of triathlon training. He would eventually train Jaray Jearanai of Laguna to become the first Thai athlete to compete at two

of the world's most prestigious triathlons. Juergen is also heavily involved with Laguna Phuket Triathlon and the Ironman 70.3 Asia Pacific Championship, not to mention his triathlon training column for the *Gazette*.

The Canadian Synchronized Swimming team took up residence at TSLC for a training camp in preparation for the World Championships. It was a privilege to learn of the dedication to become the best from these supreme athletes and Phuket will hope for their success at the London Olympics this year.

Tennis on the island received a massive boost, first with the development of TSLC's state of the art tennis courts followed shortly by the establishment of their tennis academy which is now headed by Travis Bertram who also provided tennis tips to *Gazette* readers. It didn't end there for tennis, and by the end

of the year, Virapol Cholvipol, Dave Roberts and Travis had organized Phuket's first ever ITF professional ranking tournament. This was preceded by TSLC's first challenge tournament which awarded two local players wild card entries into the pro event to face several of the world's top players including Thailand's number one, Danai Udomchoke: a great opportunity for the youngsters.

Two IronKids events have now successfully passed at TSLC organized by Claire Ratcliffe and team. This youth triathlon event encourages children as young as six years to become involved in sport and has reached into Thai schools with the help of corporate sponsorship.

Rugby has seen a number of tournaments and touring matches played on the IRB approved synthetic pitch at TSLC. With the help

of George Grecia and Giles Leonard, teams from Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia, New Zealand and South Africa have graced the surface with many exciting coaching developments to come this year including a workshop by Australia's World Cup winning coach, Bob Dwyer.

Any sports round up wouldn't be complete without football and TSLC has this covered too. Former Thailand captain Therdsak Chaiman visited the facility to give a free coaching clinic while the Adult Futsal League has just finished its eighth season and Brazilian Soccer Schools under the tutelage of Martin Hill continues to provide a quality football experience for boys and girls.

The *Phuket Gazette* sports team takes this opportunity to express its thanks to all clubs, coaches, organizations and players for a wonderful 2011 in the hope for an even more successful 2012.



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