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Phil Tufnell in Phuket this week.

Tuffers bowls 'em over

PHIL Tufnell, one of England's greatest spin bowlers and star of the BBC show "A Question of Sport", spent an evening at the Village Coconut Island bowling the crowd over with tales of his career.

Also dubbed 'Cat' and even 'Two sugars' for his love of tea, the Englishman recounted his tales of his travels around the world and his days as one of the world's greatest cricketers – including taking 11 wickets against Australia in a single match – all in the name of charity.

See page 15 for Neil Quail's exclusive interview with the man millions have come to know as "Tuffers".

Axe attack sparks police crackdown

THE vicious attack of Sri panwa resort general manager Vorasit "Pla-wan" Issara at the Rachada pub in Phuket Town last week has prompted a crackdown on entertainment venues across the island.

Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha on Wednesday announced that police and provincial authorities will crack down on nightlife venues staying open later than government-mandated closing times, as well as a number of other infractions. These include allowing entry to patrons under the age of 20, employing staff under 18 years of age, as well as drugs and handgun law violations.

Gov Tri said there are about 700 nightclubs on the island, of which only 500 are registered. Getting the remaining 200 properly licensed will be another objective of Phuket Provincial Office, he said.

New Phuket Provincial Police Commander Chonasit Wattanavrangku had earlier announced that a special provincial police task



Police arrested six suspects within 24 hours of the Rachada pub attack.

force will also be set up to carry out the crackdown island-wide, making surprise inspections at nightclubs in all eight of Phuket police precincts.

"I understand that the closing times are unpopular on a tourism destination like Phuket, but the law is the law," said Maj Gen Chona-

sit, who was transferred to Phuket from Songkhla on Christmas Day.

Maj Gen Chonasit also stressed that the timing of the crackdown was not directly related to the attack at Rachada pub.

"It would have happened even if the attack had not occurred because too many venues across the

island are breaking the law by staying open late," he said.

He also stressed that police would conduct an impartial investigation into the attack, not allowing the victim's high social standing to affect their work. He promised to wrap up the investigation within 30 days, as required by law, and personally review the case file before forwarding it to the court.

The attack at Rachada pub, carried out by at least eight young staff members, took place at 4:30am. Like all venues in Phuket Town, which does not have a designated "entertainment zone" like those in Patong and Karon, the club is required to close by 1am.

Club owner Sawat Prueksakij, who visited Mr Vorasit in the ICU, offered his apologies and promised to question his staffers. Rachada pub was ordered closed for 90 days after the attack and Mr Sawat was fined 5,000 baht for late trading.

Continued on page 3

Truck driver charged over Patong horror crash

By Atchaa Khamlo

THE driver of the truck involved in the horrific road accident that claimed the life of an Indonesian woman and her unborn son in Patong last Sunday has been charged, Patong Police have confirmed to the *Gazette*.

Lt Col Chaowalit Neamwadee of Patong Police confirmed that truck driver Aroon Bunnaburi was held at Patong Police Station overnight and released on bail on Monday.

"He has been charged with with reckless driving causing death," he said.

The Indonesian woman, 30-year-old Erna

Dahlan, was riding pillion and side-saddle on a motorbike operated by her British husband when the two vehicles collided.

She fell off and was run over by the truck's rear wheels.

Both Ms Erna and her unborn child were killed instantly.

Mullika Satupak, a 72-year-old who runs a tailor shop in the area, witnessed the accident. She told the *Gazette* that Mr Dahlan was riding in the northbound lane of the narrow Nanai Road and turned right onto the steep access road that leads to the Royal Crown Hotel.

Meanwhile, a cement truck whose driver had the same destination in mind swung

wide into the oncoming lane before turning into the narrow street, probably in order not to lose too much momentum as he started his ascent up the steep hill, she said.

The two vehicles met at the entrance to the street at the base of the hill, with tragic results for the Dahlan family.

"The couple hit the side of the truck and the bike went down. Ms Dahlan was thrown under the vehicle," she said.

Phuket Kusoldharm Foundation rescue workers were notified of the accident at about 4pm. They took Ms Dahlan's body to Patong Hospital.

Mrs Dahlan's husband suffered only minor injuries but was deeply traumatized.



Both vehicles turned into the access road to Phuket's Royal Crown Hotel at the same time, with tragic results for all. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

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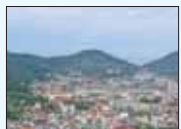
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Police ordered to investigate assault

A YEAR after a woman was beaten unconscious in front of tourists on one of Phuket's most popular beaches, police have finally launched an investigation after being ordered to do so by Phuket Provincial Court.

Maiwadee Thonglor, 25, who sells fresh fruit to tourists on Surin Beach, was beaten unconscious in broad daylight by a rival beach vendor on January 7 last year, at the peak of Phuket's high season for tourism.

Lack of police action prompted her father, Sawang Tonglaw, who heads a group of 16 vendors on Surin Beach, to file a complaint at Phuket Provincial Hall three days later. They cited a history of intimidation and death threats against them.

The complaint resulted in a meeting the next day, during which the people involved in the attack discussed the issue with high-level officials, including Weerawat Janpen, a Phuket Vice Governor at that time who now has recently retired from government service.



Ms Maiwadee recounts the attack

At the meeting last January, V/Gov Weerawat ordered Thalang District Chief Naruenart Supattaraprateep and Chong Talay Police Superintendent Col Witun Kongsudjai to investigate.

"The men responsible for attacking Ms Maiwadee will be prosecuted," V/Gov Weerawat vowed at the time.

But since then no police action has been taken, even though Col Witun has since been promoted to the position of Superintendent of Thalang District Police.

However, on this week, police reopened the investigation into the

attack following a court order. Chong Talay Police Snr Sgt Major Boonlert Champa visited the scene of the attack, where Ms Maiwadee recounted her ordeal.

"The police officers who had previously been responsible for the case were transferred," Snr Sgt Maj Boonlert explained.

"The case is now belongs to Lt Col Sarit Boonongsang. He could not come to the scene today because he has other duties to take care of. I have just been assigned to question the victim," he said.

Ms Maiwadee told the *Gazette* that four different police officers have been assigned to the case so far.

"The only reason police officers have come to investigate today was because of the court order," she said.

The court order was issued amid a civil legal suit instigated by Ms Maiwadee, she explained.

No criminal charges have ever been filed over the incident, which left Ms Maiwadee hospitalized for two weeks.

— *Phuket Gazette*

Doctor killed in crash for her daughter to Bangkok

A FEW hours after the Seven Days of Dangers road-safety campaign officially ended, a Swedish doctor was killed riding his motorbike on Phuket's west coast on the morning of January 5.

Pol Capt Somneuk Dumkewa of Kamala Police received a call reporting the accident at about 2:30am.

At the scene, on the street leading to the Kamala Tambon Administration Organization (OrBorTor) building, officers found the body of Mahmood Sutan Safi, 48, lying near a red Honda motorbike.

Capt Somneuk said Dr Safi had suffered a severe head injury. "He was dead when we arrived."

Police at the scene found blood

on a broken window of a house close to the edge of the road, Capt Somneuk said.

"We believe he was traveling at speed when he failed to make the curve. He hit a house that is right beside the road. We found blood on the side of the house and on glass from a broken window on the front of the house," he said.

Police initially believed that Dr Safi worked for NATO. However, an official from the Swedish Consulate in Bangkok confirmed that Dr Safi had been working in Afghanistan for a Swedish government organization, alongside 'Doctors Without Frontiers', an international medical aid program.

— *Atchaa Khamlo*

IT HAS been over a month since Samudchaya "Nong Pin" Yanpunya, a 12-year-old Phuket school girl, logged off of Facebook at a internet cafe in Phuket Town and went missing.

Having received no information of value, Nong Pin's mother Mrs Samruay Saenthaweesuk, 43, told the *Gazette* that she would get nation wide help in the search for her daughter from the Pavena Foundation for Children and Women in Bangkok.

The *Gazette* contacted Mrs Samruay this week to find out how her search for Nong Pin was progressing.

"I am now in Bangkok. However, following a suggestion from a friend I have changed my plan



No information concerning the whereabouts of Nong Pin who went missing from Phuket in, December, has come to light.

on who to ask for help. The Mirror Foundation has the Missing Children Statistics Center and I think this is the better place for me to go for help," she said.

The Mirror Foundation is re-

nowned for helping families trace missing children.

Since Mrs Samruay is already in Bangkok, she has also decided to bring her plight to the attention of the entire nation.

"I'm also planning to make my way to the Thai PBS TV Station to ask them to help me find Nong Pin. They have one program that allows people to announce missing persons and that is where I am going to make a request for the nation's help," said Mrs Samruay.

Even though it has been more than a month, Mrs Samruay has high hopes that she will find her daughter with the help of the nation.

— *Phuket Gazette*



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'Wrong place, wrong time'

Atchaa Khamlo

THE parents of stabbing victim Vorasit "Pla-wan" Issara held a press conference last weekend to explain that their son was simply "in the wrong place at the wrong time" and lucky to survive multiple wounds inflicted by staff in a vicious attack at the Rachada Pub early on the morning of January 4 [see page 1].

The press conference, held at Bangkok Hospital Phuket, began with a detailed description of the injuries sustained by Mr Vorasit.

Using a slide projector, Hospital Deputy Director Badin La-aid and orthopedic surgeon Pongsak Vijitrujanapan showed gruesome images of injuries sustained by Mr Vorasit, who underwent 12 hours of surgery and lost over a liter of blood after the assault and during the surgeries that followed.

The most life-threatening injury was a deep gash to the left abdomen that penetrated the large intestine. Given the nature of the wound, doctors believe one of the assailants plunged a dagger-like weapon into the victim. Doctors managed to close the wound with stitches. The puncture wound narrowly missed vital organs, Dr Pongsak noted.

Also requiring major surgery were a deep laceration in Vorasit's right shoulder that separated his



Vorasit Issara underwent 12 hours of surgery after the attack. Inset: Vorasit and his father Songkran

clavicle and upper arm; a laceration to the left ankle that severed two tendons; an axe wound to the left shoulder, with damage to the shoulder blade; and five head wounds consistent with being hit by a sharp object.

At last report Mr Vorasit remained in the ICU. Doctors described his condition as "safe", but said they were monitoring his intestinal wound very closely.

"He is fully-conscious, even though he is still in shock and not yet ready for police questioning. He can eat soft food on his own," Dr Badin told the press conference.

After the doctors outlined the

medical situation, Vorasit's father Songkran Issara reiterated his belief that his son did not instigate the violence.

"I think he was in the wrong place and time... The fact that a single broken whiskey glass nearly cost him his life shows just how bad our society has become," he said, while calling on officials to address such social ills.

"I would like to warn young people who go out clubbing at night that they are not immune and should always keep an eye out for trouble," he said.

He was satisfied with the police investigation, but said he

intended to monitor developments closely.

Mr Songkran, 57, is the managing director of the Charn Issara Development PLC real estate conglomerate.

Also addressing the media was Vorasit's mother, Srivara Issara, also 57.

"We are quite confident in our son's behavior and definitely don't think he could have instigated this fight. He is always nice and kind to all people," she said.

"I'm am still in doubt as to why these men set on him so viciously. This is a big lesson to our son about the dangers of going out to places and being surrounded by so many drunken people," she said.

"Pla-wan quite loves Phuket, but it's bad what has happened to him," she added.

Despite all the outpouring of goodwill for the affable Mr Vorasit, uncertainty remains over what actually happened at the Rachada pub that night.

Efforts by one of six suspects arrested for the attack to give his side of events at a police press conference on Thursday morning were squelched by new Phuket Police Superintendent Chonasit Wattanavrangku, who pointed out that such statements could jeopardize the integrity of the investigation.



Sympathies flood in

THE owner of the Rachada pub in Phuket Town has apologized in person to Vorasit "Pla-wan" Issara, General Manager of the Sri Panwa Resort.

"I am very sorry about what happened. I will call my staff together and question them about what happened," said Rachada owner Sawat Prueksakij.

The attack also prompted a gift of flowers from HRH Princess Sirivannavari Narirat, hand delivered by Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha (left).

In a goodwill gesture, HRH Princess Sirivannavari Narirat offered flowers to Mr Vorasit. Governor Tri delivered them to Mr Vorasit on her behalf as the royal envoy.

Tsunami scare confirms all systems operational

THE National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC), at 3am this morning, canceled the tsunami warning that had been put in place as a result of an under-sea earthquake off the west coast of Sumatra at 12:37am.

Director Somsak Khaosuwan told *Phuket Gazette*, "The warning was canceled at about 3am as the predicted time for a tsunami to strike the coast at 1:30am had passed."

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) recorded the earthquake as 7.3 magnitude, occurring 423 kilometers southwest of Banda Aceh, on Sumatra, and an estimated 950km west of Kuala Lumpur.

The USGS released a report explaining that the earthquake had been caused by a strike-slip fault, meaning two tectonic plates moving sideways past each other.

The Indo-Australia plate moving north at a speed of 52 millimeters a year past the Sunda plate causes friction and occasionally earthquakes, the USGS reported.

San Jantharawong, chief of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) Phuket office, told the *Gazette*, "After we received the warning from the NDWC, we closely monitored the situation in case we needed to



Evacuation sign on Sainamyen Road sound the tsunami warning.

"It would have sparked chaos if we immediately sounded the warning without first confirming with the NDWC that a warning was to be issued."

DDPM chief San said he also took the opportunity to check with the NDWC that the tsunami-warning system was fully operational.

"They confirmed that it was and that they conduct regular tests," he said.

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Axe attack sparks islandwide crackdown

From page 1

Six of his staffers, arrested shortly after the attack, were presented to the media at a press conference the following day. Among the variety of weapons presented as evidence were clubs and cutting objects, including a homemade axe fashioned from a motorcycle disc brake rotor.

Further investigation led to the issuance of two more warrants.

A seventh suspect, 27-year-old Komsan Ngamwilai, was arrested



Phuket City Police chief Chonasit Wattanavrangku, who pointed out that such statements could jeopardize the integrity of the investigation.

By Wednesday, police had already questioned at least 20 people

and said they would broaden their investigation to include a policeman who was outside the pub when the attack took place, Phuket City Police Deputy Superintendent Jamroon Playduong told the *Gazette*.

Reports of the attack made national and international headlines, not only for its savagery and high-profile victim, but also because Hollywood actor and Academy Award Best Actor nominee Jeremy Renner was among Mr Vorasit's coterie that evening.

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Dive crew praised for sea rescue of tourists

HIGH praise has been rolling in for the crew from Prestige Divers who rendered assistance to a tourist-laden speedboat that quickly sank off Koh Yao Yai in Phang Nga Bay last week.

"My crew did a fantastic job. It all happened within 10 minutes. We were on a normal day trip to Phi Phi [on January 5] when at about 10:30am we just happened to pass by the vessel," said Micha Hildner, managing director of Prestige Divers.

"We heard the shouts for help and pulled up close enough to span two lines and we jumped into the water to get people on board," Mr Hildner said.

The Prestige Divers' vessel turned back to Phuket, foregoing its trip to Phi Phi.

"Many of the customers on our boat were leaving Phuket the next day, so we gave all of them their money back. Our main priority was getting everyone safely on board. There were many children there," Mr Hildner said.



Micha Hildner (2nd from right) with his crew who rescued the tourists.

No injuries were reported in the rescue.

Lt Col Panya Chaichana of the Phuket Marine Police said that foul weather was the likely cause of the sinking.

The tour speedboat Manific was carrying 28 people: 24 tourists, a guide, a photographer and two crew. It sank near the tip of Laem Hua Lan (Cape Hua Lan).

"So far our investigation indi-

cates that the boat sank after being overcome by big waves that cracked the hull," he said.

Mr Hildner at Prestige Divers said the weather could have been a major factor. "It was quite windy and there were strong waves that day. Accidents do happen. It is very possible that the waves caused the problem," he said.

Lt Col Panya said that police were continuing their investigation.

Storms leave wrecks unmarked at Chalong

RECENT storms have again made two wrecks in Chalong Bay a hazard to mariners.

"Please exercise caution when maneuvering close to the pier fueling jetty; there is a sunken wreck not visible at high tide; take care to stand clear when reversing," wrote Barry Kennaugh in a warning letter to mariners posted on Facebook.

Brent McInnes from the Phuket Cruising Yacht Club explained, "We had them marked with bamboo rods with Thai flags tied to them; recently we've had some weather come through and it washed them all away."

"We need Spring low tide to do it all again. At the moment they are unmarked. The one out in front of the fuel dock – the storm kind of knocked the whole top off, so it is now a hazard to navigation," he said.

The wrecks are both dive boats that sank two to three years ago. The one closer to shore was a liveaboard about 70 feet long and the other, the one opposite the fuel dock, was a day-trip boat.



The markers placed by the Phuket Cruising Yacht Club are no longer there after recent storms.

The one closest to the fuel dock was most likely sunk by rain water, while the other "just sank", said Mr McInnes.

Recently, a catamaran backed into the one by the fuel dock and broke its rudders.

"We've put out a notice to mariners from Singapore up to here... But some people aren't aware of it. It just looks like a wonderful spot to anchor, and the other one is just in the middle of the seaway. Pretty easy to run into them," said Mr McInnes.

For more information visit PhuketCruisingYachtClub.org

– Isaac Stone Simonelli

Prison 'kingpin' behind meth bust

POLICE have arrested three members of a major methamphetamine trafficking ring operating across Phuket that is allegedly masterminded by a "kingpin" inmate at Phuket Prison.

Seized in the case was the biggest drug haul in Phuket in recent memory: 20,200 *ya bah* (methamphetamine) pills and 718 grams of *ya ice* (crystal meth).

The scale of the operation was such that a press conference held at Phuket Provincial Hall on Tuesday was presided over by Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha.

Thanasin "Bang" Na Pattalung, 25; Amarin "Bird" Klinfung, 25; and Thawatchai "Chai" Boonruam, 24, all confessed to possession of a Category 1 drug with intent to sell, said police.

Gov Tri said that members of a special provincial drug suppression unit, working with Border Patrol Police Unit 425, acted on a tip-off to arrest Thawatchai with 200 *ya bah* pills in Phuket Town on Monday.

As Thawatchai was being questioned, Thanasin and Amarin, his supposed suppliers, phoned him to demand payment for the latest consignment to be delivered to an address on Soi Rattha Thama-noon, off Wichit Songkram Road in Kathu.

The pair were arrested at the soi at 7pm on Monday and confessed to selling drugs. Under questioning they said they had a further 18 grams of *ya ice* in a room at the Cool Resident Apartment building on Soi Suksunti in Phuket Town.



The drug haul seized was large enough to draw the attention of Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha (standing, right). Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

From there they led the officers to a home at the Garden View 4 residential estate in Kathu, where police seized 20,000 *ya bah* pills and 700 grams of *ya ice*. The two men confessed that the drugs belonged to them.

The men said that a man they knew only as "Mr Bang" left stashes of drugs for them at points along Phra Barami Road, the main supply route to Patong.

The men were paid 10,000 baht for each delivery to customers in Patong.

All three said they had made three such deliveries in the past.

A review of the suspects phone records revealed that the men were in regular contact with an inmate at Phuket Prison who is suspected of arranging drug deals by mobile phone.

The police have yet to determine the man's identity because he changes his SIM card frequently, which makes tracking difficult.

– Atchaa Khamlo

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Hospital refutes 'killer' claims

By Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai

THE director of the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organization (*OrBorJor*) Hospital near Phuket Town has denied accusations that his hospital was "unethical" in its practices, resulting in the death of a patient.

Hospital Director Dr Chack Somana on Tuesday refuted all allegations leveled by Narongphon Suwanmosee, who claimed that the hospital refused to allow his mother, Pa Khongjean, to be transferred to Vachira Phuket Hospital for treatment because of an outstanding medical bill.

"What Mr Narongphon said was not right. Our hospital does have a policy to not allow patients to leave before they pay their bills, but in emergencies we are more concerned about the patient's condition than the bill.

"I didn't hear anything from our accounts department that Mr Narongphon was unable to pay the bill and that he had asked to transfer his mother first and pay the bill later... If I were told that, I would have allowed him to transfer his mother to Vachira Hospital as he



Mr Narongphon (right) files his complaint at the Damrongtham Center. Photo: Warisa Temram

always pays his bill," he added.

Dr Chack also explained that the delay in transferring Ms Pa to Vachira Hospital, which Mr Narongphon said took six hours, was because they had to wait until Vachira was ready to admit her.

He also denied that his hospital staff took Ms Pa off a respirator while she waited to be transferred.

"That was not true at all. First of all, Mrs Pa was not on a respirator. She only had an oxygen mask to help her breathe, and we never removed that while she was being transferred.

"Also, we kept her in the [Intensive Care Unit] ICU while she was waiting, not in an ambulance," he added.

Dr Chack further countered allegations that the hospital failed to transfer Ms Pa directly to Vachira's ICU, hence forcing her to wait in the Emergency Ward instead.

"Once Mrs Pa arrived at Vachira, she spent two to three hours in the Emergency Room since it is part of their screening process. This all depended on the opinion of the doctor there. He thought Ms Pa's condition was still stable," said Dr Chack.

"Mrs Pa spent at least a couple of days at Vachira Hospital before she passed away. She had many medical conditions: diabetes, high blood pressure, a heart condition and chronic renal failure," he added.

"On behalf of the *OrBorJor* Hospital, I would like to offer my condolences to Mr Narongphon and his family for their loss. I also want to give my promise that our hospital has our standards and that we work hard to try to help everyone.

"Even though we have limited resources, we devote ourselves to help everyone, and we treat everyone just like a family member," said Dr Chack.



Hospital Director Dr Chack denied all allegations that the hospital's actions contributed to the death of Pa Khongjean, age 74. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

Tourists help grieving father

A GROUP of tourists who witnessed the accident at Nai Harn on New Year's Day that led to the death of seven-year-old Methee Khunsuinhru have offered a donation to help the grieving parents.

A man who asked to remain anonymous contacted the *Gazette* in response to the stories covering the unfortunate death of Methee.

"My friends came from Italy to holiday in Phuket. The 15 of them were at Nai Harn Beach when the tragedy happened," he said.

"My friend said he heard a woman scream. He ran there and saw Methee drowning. The beach guard wasn't there and no one seemed to be doing anything, so he jumped into the water to help," he said.



Pakit Khunsuinhru expressed his deep gratitude to the tourist who pulled his son from the water.

"He pulled the boy from the water before anyone else arrived. He saw that the boy was unconscious and did everything to help. He tried CPR and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, but nothing seemed to work," he added.

The man told the *Gazette* that he and his friends gathered a donation of 13,000 baht to pass on to Methee's family," he said.

Methee's father, 30-year-old Pakit Khunsuinhru, conveyed his thanks for the donation and his deep gratitude to the man who pulled Methee from the water.

"We will honor him by dedicating tonight's prayers to him before Methee's cremation," he told the *Gazette* last Friday.

Mr Pakit explained to the *Gazette* that he requested doctors at the hospital cease treatment after he was told that Methee's prognosis was fatal.

"I didn't want to see my boy suffer anymore," he said.

— Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai



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

The wine program, created by our Sommelier, Harry Haan, has been granted the Wine Spectator Award of Excellence for three years in a row.



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Mr Prasut and his wife receive the Red Cross Fair grand prize.

Winner hands prize to wife

THE lucky man who won the grand prize of the Phuket Red Cross Fair lucky draw, a brand-new Honda City car worth 590,000 baht, has given the car to his wife for her 57th birthday.

Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha handed the keys of the the brand-new car to 58-year-old Prasut Ruengjiradthien on Wednesday.

Mr Prasut is a Level 9 officer at the Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority, and his wife, Mrs Aorrapin Ruengjiradthien, teaches at Anubaan Phuket preschool.

She turned 57 on Wednesday. Mr Prasut said he supported the Red Cross and their efforts by buying Red Cross raffle tickets every year.

"I didn't expect to win any prizes. This year I bought 10 tickets for 1,000 baht. As a Phuket citizen I wanted to help by giving back to the community through the Red Cross," Mr Prasut said.

"It was such a great surprise. I am very lucky to have won," he added.

The winning numbers for the grand prize and other major prizes were drawn at the fair, held at Saphan Hin Park on Saturday night.

Rampant rental car thefts

By Atachaa Khamlo

SEVEN hire cars remain missing from a Phuket rental firm. Two suspects are in custody but three more are evading capture having failed to return the vehicles. The rental company owner suspects they may have been fraudulently sold or have been used to get finance from a pawn-broker.

In the middle of October last year, Sarun Thongularn, 37 and two friends got together and started up a car rental business. However, by the end of the year, seven of their vehicle fleet were missing with the renters either arrested or in hiding from the police.

"We have lost seven cars, including five new cars with red registered plates. However, we have just recovered the eighth car," Mr Sarun said.

"One of my business partners has lost five of his new cars. Models such as a Toyota Fortuner, an Isuzu Mu 7 and a Mazda 2. My other friend lost one new car and I have lost a Toyota Vios, which cost 500,000 baht. All together the cars cost about 6 million baht," he said.

"We do not have any commercial insurance for the car as we just bought them. We were supposed to sort out GPS and get the insurance later," he added.

The eight cars were hired by six different people. Sirirat Engchuan, 24; Detrit Homhuan, 40; Janthip Sae-iad, 28; Teerawat Bunraksa, 45; Wassana Jaroenrit, 49, who was accompanied by Thalerngsri Promrat, 50.

Mr Detrit, who had already hired four cars for a month, asked Mr Sarun on November 10 to rent a fifth vehicle for five days. Detrit's wife Ms Janthip collected the car leaving her motorbike and driving license with Mr Sarun.

"When they were three days late



Sarun Thongularn and two of his business partners have fallen victim to rental car thieves this year.

returning the car we called them. They said they would transfer the money as they were not in Phuket. We got the money for the five day extension," Mr Sarun explained.

However, months later the cars still haven't been returned, Mr Sarun told the *Gazette*.

"I kept calling them; sometimes their phones were off and sometimes they picked up, but said they were busy," he said.

"We didn't know that the missing cars were connected until Sirirat was arrested and confessed to Phuket City Police that Detrit had asked her to rent the car," he said.

Ms Sirirat, who rented a car on November 12 was arrested at a Panthep apartment on Mae Luan road about a month ago. Mr Sarun explained that they knew where Sirirat lived, because he had picked her up at her apartment

when she had rented the car.

Wassana, was caught by the police on December 25 near the Bangkok Hospital Phuket. Mr Sarun explained that he and his friend "tricked" her into meeting with them, allowing police to catch her. Mr Sarun said police had told him Wassana had previously been involved in similar incidents.

Thalerngsri Promrat, who was caught with Wassana, was released after police investigated her claim that she had been tricked by Wassana and didn't know anything about the stolen cars.

The car that Wassana had rented, however, had already been pawned in Ao Luk, Krabi. It reportedly cost Mr Sarun's friend 100,000 baht to get back.

"Theerawat, who said he was a land surveyor for a private company, rented a car in October 31

and disappeared. We're not sure if he is part of the same gang as Detrit, but his behavior was the same," Mr Sarun said.

"We have to pay by installments for nothing now. It costs me more than ten thousand baht a month. Meanwhile, my friend has to pay for five cars," Mr Sarun said.

Mr Sarun is now only renting cars to foreigners and asks that they leave their passports with him.

An arrest warrant relating to a charge of assault was issued for Detrit on August 17 by Phuket Provincial Court, though police suspect that he is now in Surat Thani. Meanwhile Sirirat and Wassana remain in jail attempting to raise the bail money.

Phuket City Duty Officer Taweesak Yongkae told the *Gazette* that the case is currently under investigation.

Former Phuket-based home vendors wanted by the Australian authorities

AUSTRALIAN authorities are investigating the ongoing practices of a Gold Coast man who allegedly fled to Phuket in 2010 and set up an office so he could continue to sell "kit homes" in Australia.

The news comes after Nick Nichols, business editor at the news website GoldCoast.com.au, posted a story on January 9 highlighting the recent launch of US-based business Nair Homes.

The website names Matthew Nair as company director and his partner Jessica Wilson as chief executive.

Mr Nair, a former Gold Coast resident, is also known by the names Edwin Mack and Mathew Bradley Willaims, said the report.

Mr Willaims (Mr Nair) is wanted by police in the Australian Capital Territory on outstanding warrants and is still under investigation by the Queensland Office



Matthew Nair aka Mathew Willaims

of Fair Trading (OFT), which has issued two warnings alleging unfair trade practices.

So dire is Mr Willaims' reputation among the Australian authorities that on April 5 last year Gary Clements, Northern Territory Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, issued a formal warning about Mr Willaims within hours of his landing in the northern capital Darwin.

"Several complaints worth over

AUS\$600,000 were received by the OFT. The Queensland Building Services Authority had also canceled the license of ASK Homes in August 2009," said Mr Clements.

The warning also highlighted that in October 2010 the Queensland OFT issued a public warning about ASK Home Enterprises Pty Ltd, ISK Homes Pty Ltd and its director Mr Mathew Willaims.

"In November/December 2010 [the] OFT raised further concerns that the trader had reinvented itself as a Phuket-based business, ISK Homes, with an Australian website and an Australian telephone number," the warning read.

Mr Willaims "fled to Thailand in October 2010 on a one-way ticket", the warning read.

Mr Willaim's current whereabouts are unknown.

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Department of Special Investigations probes Aussie NGO

THE Department of Special Investigations (DSI) is probing allegations that an Australian human trafficking charity faked the rescue of several hill-tribe children from sex slavery in Thailand last year.

The Grey Man, based in Brisbane, is accused of fabricating the rescue of 21 Akha children from a village in Chiang Rai and posting them on its website, according to *The Australian*.

The organization, which is comprised of ex-police officers and special-forces veterans, allegedly used the pictures for fund-raising purposes.

The DSI has asked the Australian Fed-

eral Police (AFP) to investigate The Grey Man over the alleged use of false advertising to solicit funds.

The Grey Man's president, John Curtis, said he had "no problem" with any investigation by either Thai or Australian authorities, reported *The Australian*.

"Our major concern is for the children, and we stick with everything that we've done," he said.

"We'll co-operate with any investigation, but we have no doubt that we'll be completely exonerated. We have no problems with the AFP looking at both our accounts and the basis upon what it was raised," he added.

Despite The Grey Man's claims, an investigation by the DSI and Traficord, the North Thailand anti-trafficking unit, supposedly showed the operation to rescue the children never took place.

Mr Curtis claimed the accusations appeared to stem from resentment on the part of Traficord.

"The successes of The Grey Man seem to have raised sensitive issues with a Thai-based NGO," he said.

However, "The Grey Man's main mission is the rescue of children. This war by Traficord is unworthy and distracting us from our mission," he added.



Member of The Grey Man along with children rescued from Cambodia. Photo: The Grey Man

'Witch hunt' draws criticism

AROUND THE nation

THE hounding of a female university student accused of *lese majeste* insulting the monarchy has drawn high-profile criticism from students, academics and the media.

In May 2010, the girl who uses the nickname "Kanthoop" meaning "Joss Stick" posted some comments on her Facebook page that led some media outlets and online posters to accuse her of *lese majeste*.

According to Somsak Jeamteerasakul, a Thammasat University professor who has been a vocal critic of the *lese majeste* law, the attacks on the girl led a dean of Silpakorn University to reject the girl's application to study at the institution.

The dean "decided to reject her as [a] new student, claiming she was not qualified because of her lack of loyalty to the monarchy," Prof Somsak wrote in a post on the *New Mandala* blog.

The girl then tried to get into Kasetsart University. According to columnist Voranai Vanijaka, this led her opponents to set up a



Using the nickname "Kanthoop", meaning "Joss Stick", a student made comments online that led to a *lese majeste* "witch hunt" by some media sources, despite her not being formally charged. Photo: Hans Bernhard

Facebook group entitled "We are confident that the people of Kaset would not welcome someone who insults Father," referring to His Majesty the King.

The girl was forced to cancel

her application to Kasetsart after a mob demonstrated against her admission on the day she was due to have an interview.

After missing a year of study and changing her name, the girl

was eventually accepted into the Social Welfare Faculty of Thammasat University.

Nevertheless, the girl's new identity was revealed by well-known "yellow-shirt" newspaper

Manager, owned by Peoples Alliance for Democracy leader Sondhi Limthongkul, leading to a resurgence in discussion of the case.

Opponents of the girl's comments that were allegedly against the royalty have filed a *lese majeste* complaint against her, though she has yet to be formally charged.

"I, together with some academic friends, have tried to make informal contact with people in the authorities, urging them to reconsider [the girls] case," wrote Prof Somsak. "After all, there is really little merit in the charge and still less any benefits to social and political order, but to no avail."

In an interview with Matichon, Thammasat University rector Somkid Lertpaitoon said the girl had a right to study at the institution, since she had not been convicted of any crime, according to well-known political blogger Bangkok Pundit.

Thammasat University Student Union has issued a statement condemning *Manager*'s publication of the girl's identity, saying the news organ lacked "decency" and "objectivity" and had failed to respect the girl's right to privacy.

Prof Somsak described the girl as "officially the latest victim in this LM madness".

Brit dies after fridge shock

A BRITISH man was electrocuted to death by a faulty fridge while on holiday on the Gulf of Thailand island of Koh Phangan.

Grant Harrison, 36, from London, had been relaxing by the swimming pool before going to take a bottle of water from the appliance in his hotel room.

When he touched the item, he was electrocuted.

Mr Harrison had arrived in Thailand around New Year after being made redundant. He had been planning to travel around the region with his girlfriend.

Mr Harrison, who lived in London, was a huge fan of English football team Middlesbrough.

The club's website was flooded with more than 300 messages of condolences after news of Mr

Harrison's death broke.

One fan wrote: "He told me he was going travelling for a bit in the New Year, over to Thailand and more, to enjoy life for a bit."

"He was a fantastic friend and a brilliant character," a friend said.

"I am going to miss a really great friend and I'm totally gutted he won't get the chance to score at the Riverside like he desperately wanted," referring to Middlesbrough FC's football ground.

Last year, a young British tourist was electrocuted in Patong after putting his hand on an outdoor power socket that was covered with water.

Charles Thomas, 20, died in Patong Hospital after receiving the shock on flooded Soi Bangla.

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Sweeping save for FC Phuket

PHUKET football fans were bestowed some excellent news last weekend with the revelation that FC Phuket will enjoy financial support from Thai Premier League powerhouse Muangthong United next season. The news also came as a considerable relief to fans, given the fact that the team's future had been very much in doubt.

The fans' uncertainty followed a ruling earlier in the year by the Auditor General's Office that provincial administration organizations would no longer be allowed to use taxpayer money to support Football Association of Thailand teams. This essentially left FC Phuket, as well as some other clubs, without the funds needed to compete seriously at the Division 1 level.

The *Gazette* of course agrees that taxpayer money should not be allowed to prop up privately-owned football clubs, as this is an obvious conflict of interest. But we do expect that the efforts made by the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) in building up a fan base were done with good intentions and that whatever "accounting" of the *OrBorJor*'s role is forthcoming will reflect this.

The team certainly has come a long way with *OrBorJor* support. Few among its current supporters were around during the team's first year, when "Phuket FC" players wore hideous baby blue kits and failed to win even a single home game all year while playing in the backwater Division 2 regional leagues. One can hardly blame the players at the time for not winning. They typically saw more numerous and vocal supporters backing their opponents, even when playing at home.

Many new fans jumped on the FC Phuket bandwagon over the past year, when the rebranded side enjoyed crowds of up to 20,000 at some key matches during its first year in Division 1. Sadly, this level of support waned dramatically in the final months after the team's financial woes became known, leaving many to wonder just how much hardcore, grassroots support there is for the team.

Looking forward to next season, the team is now looking to secure some key new talent to bolster its bid for promotion to the elite Thai Premier League. The alliance with Muangthong Utd should be mutually beneficial, especially given the fact that the team owners also run SiamSport, by far the country's most expansive sports media network. As such, they are no doubt aware that FC Phuket enjoys the most intensive English-language media coverage in Division 1, if not the entire Thai Premier League.

As the only English-language media organization to follow the team since its inception, the *Gazette* looks forward to keeping fans abreast of all the action in the upcoming year.



Nobody dies – sad news

Re: Gazette online, Phuket records second day without death on the roads, January 4

It's sad that not having a death on the road has become a news item. Ninety-five per cent of the accidents [in Phuket] can be attributed to irresponsible driving, which includes parents allowing toddlers on motorbikes, kids in sidecars, drunk driving, speeding and so on.

Responsibility is not well-known on the local roads – runaway drivers, pets left on the street, kids unsupervised and so on. And tourists seem to have left all sense of responsibility at home so that they can "enjoy" themselves.

*Tinkerbell
Gazette forum*

Child watcher

Re: Gazette online, Foreigner saves drowning toddler at Phuket beach, January 4

I have been here 11 years. We have small kids and I know that kids are very much left alone to play here, even if it is close to a body of water or a street. That is unfortunate.

I have also rescued a small boy from drowning in the exact same area.

Kids need to be watched all the time – simple as that.

Without pointing fingers at anyone, it only takes a second or two for something to happen.

*m
Gazette forum*

Tuk-tuk mafia, again

Re: Gazette online, A New Year's message from the Phuket Governor, December 31

The last sentence [of the article] refers to the mafia. I had two ex-

Letters to the Editor

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

periences last night (New Year's Eve) at the hands of the taxi/tuk-tuk mafia. Leaving a restaurant we were quoted 3,000 baht to go to Layan. This was for just one person who wanted to go home.

My wife complained to the restaurant asking why they allowed this. They also were amazed, but when they came out and saw who was demanding the price they walked away.

The rest of the group wanted a tuk-tuk to Bangla Rd. After being physically abused by one tuk-tuk driver for refusing his price, we eventually had to pay 400 baht for the short journey. So, even the agreed prices, publicly announced not too long ago, were thrown out the window because it was New Year's Eve.

Just when is anyone going to do something about these bad eggs within Thai society who seem to have congregated in Phuket.

Please Mr Governor, do something about this. You will not only be a hero with the expats, but also with many of the Thai people of this wonderful island.

*Kevin Hellon
Cherng Talay*

Jumping to conclusions

Re: Gazette online, 'Wrong place, wrong time': Phuket axe victim's parents say, January 8

I was sure this story was about a rich, powerful, arrogant playboy, who was drunk and being abusive to the staff.

The fact that one of the attack-

ers paraded at the press conference was prevented from speaking in his own defense, strengthened my belief that not all was as it was reported. When the Governor presented flowers, I genuinely believed that it didn't matter who did what to who – those boys were going down.

Since then, I have heard locals speak of Vorasit Issara's kindness and generosity. I find myself more than a little embarrassed about my initial, rather prejudiced view of him.

Get well soon.

*Timothy McFin
Phuket Town*

What you fishing for?

Our island has incredible seafood. I know that both larger commercial fishing operations and more local operations like the sea gypsies bring in a great deal of the beautiful bounty from the sea.

However, I cannot for the life of me understand all the shore fisherman. I spend my evenings down at Rawai Pier watching dozens of lines being cast out into the sea; I don't think I've ever seen anyone catch anything.

No doubt some of them eventually catch something, but it makes me wonder if shore fishing here is like it is in the States, more about grabbing a couple beverages, kicking back next to the water and getting away from the wife.

Then again, there seems to be plenty of couples out on the pier taking in the sea breeze, enjoying the night and ignoring their fishing lines.

I think I might have to buy a pole at the Super Cheap and join the crowd. Maybe I'll even see someone catch something.

*Greg Kilgore
Rawai*

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Time to champion the people's voice

FIRST PERSON

I WAS a vice governor of Mukdahan province for just over four years before I transferred to Phuket. I am glad to be working here, because it is a well-known international tourist destination. I am pleased to have the opportunity to help move Phuket forward.

I have not really had the chance to study the details of the situations in Phuket. As far as I know, Phuket has some issues with land encroachment.

I am not sure if I will be taking charge of that particular problem. However, with 330,000 registered Phuket residents along with many others visiting and working here, bringing the total up to near a million people on the island, the 500 square kilometers of Phuket just isn't enough. So properly managing public land becomes an important part of the government's responsibility, because everyone has an equal right to that land.

One of my priorities would be to be strict on city planning. Public meetings are very important and should be held before any big decisions are made about developing Phuket. I would make my decisions based on the popular opinions voiced in these meetings to ensure that the wants and needs of the Phuket people are being met.

I will do my best to fulfill the needs of the Phuket people,



Sommai Prijasilpa is the first woman to become a Vice Governor of Phuket, a position she took up on January 9. V/Gov Sommai graduated from Illinois State University with a doctorate in Educational Administration in 1994. She has experience dealing with economic and societal development as well as security and management. Here she talks about her goals and concerns as the vice governor.

though if people respected the law, many of our problems would be solved.

There is also the issue of the increasing number of tourists flying into Phuket and passing through Phuket Airport. The current expansion project at the airport should help ease this problem.

The problem of road traffic jams and transportation services are also something that I know Phuket has to deal with.

Government services must support Phuket tourism, because it is so important here. This means the government has to move very quickly when resolving issues affecting tourists.

I am glad to be the first female vice governor in Phuket. I feel equal to my male counterparts. I have been warmly welcomed here.

Under Thai law, men and women are to be treated as equals.

In order to have people respect you, you have to be competent in your work and respect other people as well.

Thai society is now more accepting of woman in the workplace than in the past. I'm glad about this, because now there aren't unfair restrictions on what a woman can do, as long as she is good at what she does.

As the new Vice Governor in administration and development in Phuket I would like to make it clear that I am here to help support Phuket and move it forward, especially in the area of tourism. I will do my best to develop Phuket and make it even better known around the world.

If anyone has any issues that they want to share with me, they should visit me at my office. I would be glad to discuss the issue and find a resolution.

Paying for paradise



Fewer sea turtles are nesting on Phuket's beaches. Photo: Ukanda

BEACHFRONT land that runs abreast of traditional turtle nesting sites in Mai Khao is now up for sale at 15 million baht per rai. Advertisements for these sites describe them as ideal for hotel projects, with road access, electricity and water all ready to connect.

Sadly, the continued degradation of nesting sites, through development of nearby land such as this, is one of the biggest threats to the survival of Phuket's sea turtles.

The building of more hotels, restaurants and roads near turtle nesting beaches will lead to an increased disturbance of nesting turtles by people and dogs.

It's impossible to forget your first experience of watching a turtle come ashore to nest, unfortunately this sight is becoming increasingly rare. So, if you are one of the few lucky ones what should you do?

If a turtle comes ashore, stay out of sight; she won't get out of the water if she sees you or feels threatened.

After finding a location for her nest, well above the high-water mark, she will dig. Not until she is almost finished can you quietly

Island View

By Benjamin Walker

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

approach her, still keeping out of her line of sight. Make sure you keep a respectful distance and remain silent while she covers her nest at this point you can start taking photos, but no flash!

Not only do beachfront hotels and restaurants bring crowds that disturb nesting turtles on once secluded beaches, they also emit light pollution at night that scares away female turtles. So unless a hotel has a policy of no external lighting, and actively enforces it, their establishment is contributing to the demise of Phuket's turtle population.

If we want to keep our turtles on Mai Khao Beach and other nesting sites in Phuket for future generations, we have to set aside areas of prime beachfront land exclusively for them. The choice is ours, but doing nothing can't be an option if we want to save these creatures from the brink of extinction along our shores.

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

Helping hands

I live in Nai Haan and I am looking for a volunteer opportunity in my area. I have done a lot of research, but Phuket doesn't seem to offer many volunteer opportunities. The ones that do exist are not in my area at all.

I would like to give back to the community and help the underprivileged. Who could I contact to find an opportunity in the Chalong and Rawai areas?

Andre
Nai Harn/Rawai

Monday and Friday 8:30am – 4:30pm. There is no need to make an appointment. If you would rather, you can fax the letter to 076-289055.

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

Khun Ying, from Social welfare section in Rawai municipality replies:

I spoke with our chief and he recommended that you prepare a letter of introduction. Also in the letter explain why you are looking specifically to volunteer in the Rawai/Chalong area and what you would like to do. Please address the letter to "The Mayor of Rawai". You can drop the letter off at our office any time between

Beach booze vendors?

How is it that on some Buddhist holidays days, when all the bars are closed and selling alcohol is prohibited, the stalls on the beachfront can do so, with no problems and in full view of the police?

I have just checked with the

staff [of the beach stalls] and they don't even have a license to sell alcohol.

Amazed

Patong Police Deputy Superintendent Pratya Chansomwong replies:

Thank you for bringing this to our attention.

According to the law, there are four Buddhist holidays when the sale and purchase of alcohol is prohibited.

These days are Magha Puja Day, Visakha Bucha Day, Asarnha Bucha Day (the day before the Buddhist Lent) and Khao Pansa Day (the start of Buddhist Lent).

Whoever breaks the law is subject to a prison sentence not exceeding six months and/or a fine of up to 10,000 baht.

In addition, there are Father's Day and Mother's Day. Over these two days, we ask out of respect that people comply with a ban of alcohol to honor HMs The King and Queen.

To sell alcohol, whether it's on

the beach or elsewhere, the owner must have the correct license. Alcohol ban day or not, the police are responsible for enforcing this law.

We will arrest those who break the law. As for the issue of licenses to sell alcohol, that is a matter for the Excise Department.

Double or nothing

How do I get a duplicate building permit? I lost mine.

Lost
Patong

Patong municipality, Engineering Department officer replies:

You can get a duplicate building permit from our municipal office.

You must bring your ID card or, if you are foreigner a clean copy of your passport. You will also need to fill out one of the duplicate building permit request form.

If your application doesn't have any issues and is approved we will make you the necessary duplicate building permit.

Our office hours are Monday through Friday 8:30am – 4:30pm.



However, duplicate a building permit doesn't get you this. Photo: Kjetil Lenes

Customs: trade thrives in 2011

TRADE in Phuket flourished in 2011, with the island's surplus of exports over imports more than 10.4 billion baht, according to statistics recently released by the Phuket Customs House.

The total value of imports to the island during the 2011 Thai Government fiscal year (October 2010 to September 2011) was 2.12bn baht compared to 12.5bn baht in exports during the same period.

This is compared with the previous fiscal year which saw a surplus of only 5.5bn baht (7.4 bn baht in exports over 1.9 bn baht in imports) and in 2009 when the surplus was just 3.62 bn baht (5.16 bn baht in exports over 1.52 bn baht in imports).

Trade continued to flourish in the final three months of the cal-

endar year, with an export-import surplus difference totaling more than 2.8bn baht.

Total value of the island's imports from October to December, 2011 – the first three months of the 2012 Thai Government fiscal year – equated to 593.7 million baht, with the value of exports reported to be 3.43bn baht.

The bulk of these exports comprised of block rubber, totaling 73 % or about 2.5 bn baht of all exports, while 24 % or 808 mn baht was tied into rubber particle board.

The remaining significant exports accounted for in the three month period, consisted of live fish, (43.5mn baht), frozen and chilled seafood (27.5 mn baht), and transport machinery (24.8mn baht).

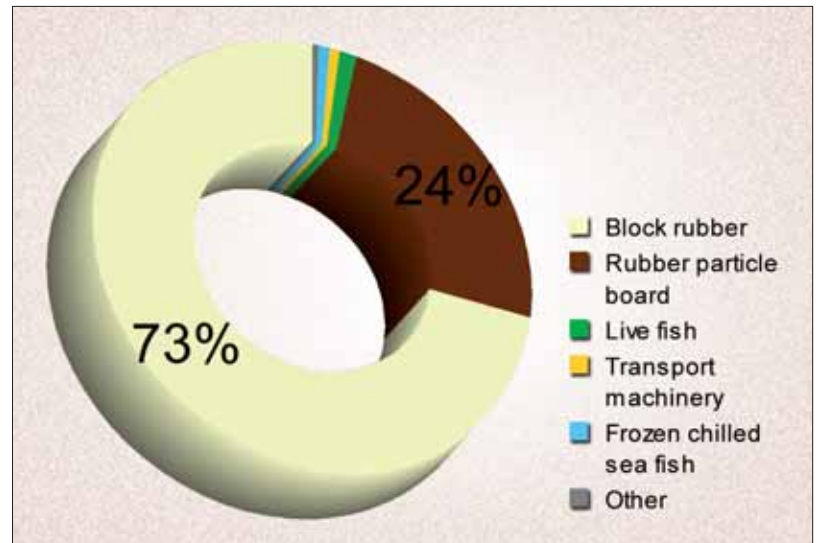
As for highest value of imports

from October through December, seafood tipped the scales with a total of 265.34mn baht's worth brought to the island.

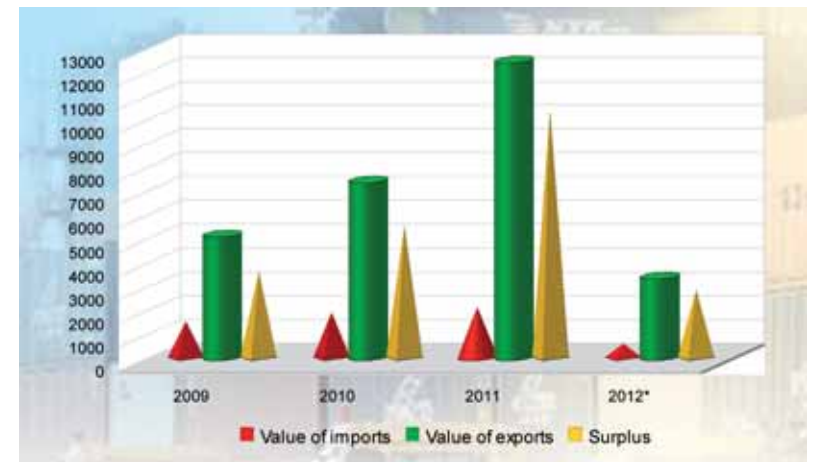
Yachts came in a close second during the same period, with the total value of imported luxury boats exceeding 236mn baht. Notably, 168.69mn baht of this value is attributed to 16 yachts imported during the month of December alone.

Other major imports in the 2012 fiscal year so far include boiler equipment (39.9mn baht), refractory bricks (6.4 mn baht), electrical distribution boards (5.7mn baht), boat engine parts (at least 372,000 baht) and particleboard (at least 986,000 baht).

– Steven Layne



CASH CROP: Phuket's most valued homegrown commodity is raw rubber.



Gov Tri predicts investment boom

THE new year is shaping up to be a golden one for investment and tourism in Phuket, says Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha.

In an exclusive interview with the *Phuket Gazette*, Gov Tri said the island's continued attractiveness to foreign investors could see growth figures for 2012 surpass those of 2011.

"Thai and foreign investors are continuously coming to invest in Phuket, especially foreign investors who want to put their money into hotels, resorts and the tourism industry in general," he said.

"Foreign investors typically don't buy land or start construction. They usually buy an existing property in order to avoid lengthy legal and documentation processes," he said.

Chief among these is the thorny issue of land ownership.

"We have many cases in which land title deeds were issued illegally. Investors are aware of this issue. They have to check land ownership documents carefully before making the decision to invest," said Governor Tri.

Department of Special Investi-

gation (DSI) officers who came to Phuket last year to probe suspect land title deeds unearthed a number of irregularities, he said.

"I have heard that the DSI and Office of Public Sector Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) came to Phuket to inspect land title deeds on plots at Kamala Beach and Freedom Beach," said Governor Tri.

"They found more than 10 plots for which title deeds had not been legally issued. Those deeds will all be revoked," he said.

Developments like this should

increase confidence among potential foreign investors, he said.

The typical foreign investor is from Russia, Scandinavia or the Middle East and invests from 150 million to 200mn baht to acquire a hotel property with 150 rooms or more. They often improve resort properties and sell them on to other foreigners, he said.

The current government sees the importance of Phuket as an economic growth area and intends to invest substantially in several big development projects planned for the island, he said.

"The government has sent advisers from the Prime Minister's Office as well as an economic advisory team to collect information on development projects in Phuket. These include the Phuket International Convention and Exhibition Center, the light rail train project and the Patong Tunnel project," he said.

"Since the government is showing a real interest in these projects, I think they will be approved without too much difficulty," he added.

– Warisa Temram

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FARAMOND
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Island prepares for more Indian weddings in 2012

A NUMBER of lavish weddings in Phuket for Indian couples tying the knot are being planned this year, with top Phuket officials offering their help to smooth the way for the reception parties.

Among the planners were the parents of one couple who met with Phuket Governor and head of the local Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) office on Wednesday to discuss their requirements and to ask for assistance.

Capt Somesh Batra, father of bride-to-be Vicky Batra, and Sresh Bathija, father of her fiancé Sadcarika Bathija, met with Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha and TAT South Region 4 Office director Bangonrat Shinaprayoon at Phuket Provincial Hall.

The wedding planners came to request special consideration for

wedding guests arriving by private charter plane at Phuket International Airport in clearing customs and immigration, as well as for heightened security during the event, to be held from August 9 to 13.

Mr Batra, director of Seahorse Ship Agencies PVT Ltd, was accompanied by his business partner Capt Avinash Batra, who serves as chairman of the same conglomerate.

Capt Somesh said the families are now looking for a hotel to host the reception for some 200 guests and have several venues in mind.

"We chose Phuket for the wedding as I have been here three times already and I like the food and the tourist attractions. Moreover, India and Thailand have a longstanding good relationship," he said.

Gov Tri said, "We are glad to host you all in Phuket and are willing to assist the couple and their

guests. India is emerging as an important new source of tourists to Phuket, so it's very good to be able to host a wedding on this scale," he said.

Mrs Bangonrat said the event could further cement Phuket's reputation as a wedding tourism destination in the Indian market.

"Weddings in Phuket are popular with Asian, European and especially Indian couples because we have so many romantic places," she said.

"The first Indian wedding ceremony this year will be held in February, with about 200 guests attending, but there will be dozens more coming to Phuket to marry after that," she said.

Indian families typically spend about five million baht on these lavish ceremonies, she said.

– Warisa Temram

Solar system pilots

By Steven Layne

AN INNOVATIVE new solar power system will be making its world premier in the coming months, with Phuket to serve as a pilot market, and possibly a manufacturing base.

The Powerrup – that's right, 3 rs – is an ingenious yet simple ground-breaking, renewable energy system developed specifically with the island's "green conscious" market in mind.

Its inventor, Ivan Peeters spoke exclusively with the *Phuket Gazette* on Monday, unveiling details about the innovation for the first time ever.

The Belgian entrepreneur, reinforced by Singapore-based backers sharing a common vision to develop practical and affordable green energy solutions for the mass market, said that Phuket is particularly appealing due to its abundance of sunshine, coupled with a growing demand for alternative and affordable sources of energy.

"The Powerrup system increases the energy yield of conventional solar power systems by 20 per cent," Ivan said.

At the core of the innovation are photovoltaic solar panels. While solar panels themselves are nothing new, the mechanism in which the technology will be applied is.

Replacing conventional rooftop solar panel setups, the Powerrup system features a lightweight and mobile panel-mount designed for the ground.

Unlike traditional, fixed-place systems, the Powerrup provides optimized yield efficiency thanks to its mobile and flexible properties.

Ivan explained, "The problem with rooftop panels is that they are fixed at one particular angle and can't follow the path of the sun throughout the day. People



GROUNDING GREEN: Inventor Ivan Peeters says the Powerrup system increases conventional solar panels' energy yields by up to 20 per cent.

with a lot of money might consider investing in an automated tracking system, but this can be expensive and you end up using more energy than you can get returned, and thus defeat the purpose."

"Typically, people install many panels on their roof to increase the energy yield. There are several issues with this approach. Not only are the panels not operating at full capacity throughout the day due to the angle of the sun, but the weight of many panels puts stress on the roof and the building structure, which may end up costing one more in the long run.

"Another problem is the risk of damage to the panels from storms, wind and rain. Moreover, there are complications with cleaning and maintenance..."

Easy to position and move around to suit various grades of terrain, the Powerrup mount is made from recyclable polypropylene material and its basic design allows it to be set between 25 to

45-degree angle tilts.

While many people tend to presume that renewable energy such as solar power is not as cost effective as fossil fuels, Ivan, an accomplished engineer, suggested the contrary.

"When people invest in diesel generators for back-up or supplemental power systems, they also incur continuous costs as they need to keep buying fuel. With solar systems, there is only a one time start up cost, and as long as the sun shines, there are no more regular costs – other than replacing the battery or converter after 10 years, and a new panel after about 20 years," he said.

"What's more, the Energy Return On Investment (EROI) factor for a solar panel is higher than a barrel of oil. For example, one solar panel has an EROI rating of 6 compared to 5 for a barrel of oil.

"In other words a solar panel can produce enough energy in its lifetime to create six of the same panels. Meanwhile a barrel of oil

has enough energy to produce only five [barrels of oil]. As time goes on the EROI for oil is decreasing, while that of solar is increasing," Ivan explained.

While most existing green businesses might be considered viable as a niche market for a minority, the Powerrup system has been designed for a broader, mass market.

"The system is ideal for everyone who has a need or desire to become more self sufficient and to reduce expenses amid rising energy costs. Large and small-scale offices, firms, bars as well as homeowners, and even those living in apartments and condos with space on their balcony can benefit from, and more importantly, afford the system," he said.

Ivan noted that a complete, ready-to-use 250 watt system can be bought for as little as 400 US\$, or about 12,600 baht.

Talking about plans in 2012 and beyond, Ivan said, "As part of the pilot phase, we're looking to collaborate and have discussions with officials and other like-minded businesses and organizations in Phuket. But we aren't necessarily looking for investors," he said.

"We are developing several more innovative green products that we plan to launch in the coming years. Ultimately, we'd like to localize manufacturing of our products by establishing a factory in Phuket which could employ several hundred locals," he said, noting that the bulk of materials used are currently sourced from China.

"If everything goes well, we plan for an official launch of Powerrup by September and are also keeping an eye on the markets in the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore," he added.

In Brief...

Farmers rubbed wrong

PLUMMETING rubber prices coupled with rising tempers resulted in blocked roads and one shooting following demonstrations in Songkhla earlier this week.

About 1,000 Thai rubber farmers closed Phet Kasem Road in the Southern Thai province, demanding the government to guarantee the price of rubber at 120 baht per kilogram – more than 30 per cent higher than its current price.

During the protest, a driver who was dissatisfied with the traffic disruption fired at the crowd, wounding one traffic police officer, Pol Sen Sgt-Maj Somkid Katenuan. Five protesters were also reported to suffer minor injuries from the incident.

The farmers have voiced plans to demonstrate in front of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra's home in Bangkok if the problem is not addressed. At the time of press, negotiations were taking place.

– MCOT

Commodities

	Current	Change % Year
Benzine 91	37.01	-6.49
Gasohol 91 (E10)	33.98	3.66
Gasohol 95 (E10)	35.73	1.28
Gasohol 95 (E20)	32.98	N/A
Diesel	30.43	2.01
Rubber raw block**	88.8	-39.96
Rubber raw liquid**	82	-39.71
Rubber export block***	107	-34.36
Gold 96.5% ****	24,300	22.42

*as of January 11, 2012 from Department of Internal Trade and Office of Rubber Replanting Aid Fund
 **local rubber market price per kg
 ***FOB price via Bangkok port per kg
 **** Thai Gold price per Baht weight = 15.2 grams

Petrol pump prices jump

NATIONWIDE petrol prices, including in Phuket, rose by as much as 40 satang earlier this week.

The *Phuket Gazette* confirmed with PTT gas stations in Phuket that the price rises on petrol and gasohol went into effect on the island on Wednesday.

The prices of all benzine petrol and most forms of gasohol increased by 40 satang (0.4 baht) per liter.

The E85 form of "Gasohol 95" increased by 20 satang (0.2 baht) per liter, but the price of diesel remained unchanged.

Staff at the new PTT gas station just north the Heroines' Monument on Thepkasattri Road northbound confirmed that the price of Gasohol 95 there increased from 35.73 baht per liter to 36.13

baht per liter, and Gasohol 91 increased from 33.98 baht per liter to 34.38 baht per liter.

The price of E20 increased from 32.98 baht per liter to 33.38 baht per liter, and E85 increased from 22.66 baht per liter to 22.86 baht per liter.

While PTT started charging the higher prices on Wednesday, the main Shell petrol station just north the Heroines' Monument confirmed to the Gazette that they started charging the higher prices on Tuesday.

The prices per liter charged at that Shell gas station are now: Diesel: 30.43 baht Diesel V Power 33.42 baht, Gasohol 91: 34.38 baht, Gasohol 95: 36.13 baht, and Gasohol V Power 95: 38.95 baht. – *Atchaa Khamlo*

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So what's all this about a 3G auction?

CONTINUING my series of articles answering questions that I hear most often... the next question is one I expect to hear a thousand times in the next few months. It's a little complicated, but you're going to get confused anyway, so let me try to simplify things as best I can.

"Woody, I hear that Thailand is finally going to have a 3G auction. Surely the papers are wrong. We already have 3G all over Thailand. They must be talking about a 4G auction, aren't they?"

Yet another reason why I hate the term "3G." As I've said many times before, 3G is a nonsense marketing term. A telephone company can string together telephones with extra-long spaghetti and call it 3G. So don't get hung up on the "3G" part of the discussion. (Even though I'll have to admit I've been using the term a lot lately just because people identify with it. Mea culpa.)

Here's what's happening. I'll leave out the really complicated parts, so forgive me for only presenting part of the story.

Let me preface the historical discussion by drawing an analogy to radio. Originally, radio ran on something called the AM band. Back in the bad old days, anybody could set up a radio station and broadcast on any channel, and stomp all over anybody else who was trying to broadcast on the same channel. Ultimately, governments portioned out frequencies on the AM band, and regulated them, deriving a great deal of income by selling off the frequencies.

Then FM arrived, on a completely different set of frequencies. Governments jumped in and regulated those frequencies too, generally selling off specific frequencies by auction. People who owned AM radios couldn't hear FM stations, at first. Over time, radios started carrying both AM and FM bands, and you could tune in



Live Wire
By Woody Leonhard

to any station on either band.

Something similar is happening with wireless internet in Thailand.

A long time ago, Thailand had one telephone company. The government found that a single monopoly wasn't very competitive, so it created a second telephone company, also owned by the government. That's how CAT and TOT were born. CAT handled international traffic, and TOT handled most domestic phone concerns, although there was some overlap. The government slowly "privatized" both organizations, although it still owns the lion's share of both: CAT and TOT are traded on the Thai stock exchange.

Then came mobile phones, and the world turned upside down. CAT and TOT had a monopoly (perhaps I should say a "duopoly") on communication. But mobiles rolled out so fast and furiously that CAT and TOT couldn't possibly keep up. CAT and TOT had enormous revenue streams from the wired phone network, and those revenue streams were threatened by the new mobile phone technology.

The government moved to keep the revenue pouring into CAT and TOT by granting them exclusive rights to run mobile phone networks on something roughly analogous to the AM band: CAT got the frequency (think "radio station") at 900 MHz; TOT got the frequency/station at 850 MHz. Any company that wanted to offer a mobile phone service had to bang out an agreement with either CAT or TOT and rent time on their frequency. No other frequencies were made available.

That all happened long before

the "3G" technologies came on the scene. For years there were lawsuits and court cases and negotiations with CAT, TOT and the government about running the newer technology on the old frequencies. Up until a couple of years ago, the situation was hopelessly mired in political and legal wrangling, and Thailand became one of the very few countries in the world without a "3G" infrastructure.

It's always been technically possible to run the newer, faster internet technologies on the 850 MHz and 900 MHz frequencies, but in most countries the government opened up a new set of frequencies (think "FM band") at 2,100 MHz (commonly called 2.1 GHz). That hasn't yet happened in Thailand.

There's never been a legal prohibition against running the newer "3G" technology on the 850 MHz and 900 MHz frequencies. It's just that the original concessions granted by the government to CAT and TOT were drawn up at a time when nobody had even thought of – much less heard of – 3G. Even now, it isn't at all clear that their concessions include permission to run anything but voice and limited (GPRS/Edge/SMS) data over the 850 MHz and 900 MHz frequencies.

Finally, after years of wrangling, both TOT and CAT broke through the Gordian knot by simply drawing up contracts – with AIS and

True, respectively – to allow those companies to run "3G" service over the 850 MHz and 900 MHz networks, using towers and some of the equipment already in place. There were lawsuits and threats of lawsuits, but in the end AIS and a True subsidiary called RealMove (thus the name TrueMove) were granted contracts by TOT and CAT to run "3G" service over the existing network. Later, DTAC managed to wrangle a deal with CAT to do the same.

All of these newer technology networks – AIS, TrueMove, DTAC – are supposedly "experimental" networks, but that's just a wink-wink-nod-nod arrangement, a bit of fiction designed to ward off even more lawsuits. Billions of baht are being poured into the CAT and TOT networks right now, and the two partially-government-owned companies are raking in a lot of concession money. That's only fair, they argue, be-



PIE IN THE SKY: The winner(s) will have a license to print money as they won't have to rent bandwidth from CAT or TOT. Photos: hn and walknboston

cause "3G" technology is eating and will eat into their profits on both wired and mobile telephones. Anybody who's used Skype to place a free long distance call on a 3G phone will immediately understand why.

Why the head-long race to get 3G networks built and running? Money, of course. AIS, True, DTAC, CAT and TOT are all acutely aware of the fact that getting a high speed internet network up and running right now will draw customers who will stick around for years to come.

Which brings us to the subject of the "3G" auctions. The government is rumored to be close to setting up auctions to sell concessions for the 2.1 GHz frequencies. They have to juggle a lot of competing groups, each with huge constituencies and obscenely large amounts of money.

Up for grabs: the ability to use frequencies (think "radio sta-

tions") in and around the 2.1 GHz frequency (think "FM band"). The winner(s) of the auction(s) will be in a good position to roll out extensive 3G and 4G (and 5G and 6G?) networks all over the country, without having to rent bandwidth from CAT and/or TOT.

In other words, it will be a license to print money.

The auctions don't have anything to do with "3G" – however you want to define the term. They have everything to do with running an independent high speed internet network and getting rich doing so.

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 1:00 to 3:00. 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/SandwichShoppes.



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Outlook 2012: bull to the fore?

A look ahead at what the year may hold for investment strategies

Retirement Years

By David Mayes

PERSONALLY, I am very glad 2011 is over; it was a horrible year across the board for almost all investment strategies.

I do think 2012 will be a better year, although I am not predicting that things are going to get better overnight.

Unfortunately there are two opposing forces at play which allows for a lot of uncertainty in the markets, and how these play out will have a big impact on investment performances for most asset classes.

First a quick review of 2011, which saw most stock markets of the world down. The main index for the UK was down over five per cent while in the US the main few were mixed from flat to slightly up.

In Europe we saw close to 20 per cent drops in the indexes for the French and German markets, while Greece took more than a 50 percent hit. China was also down over 20 per cent, but amazingly the Venezuelan market was the big winner for the

year with just over an 80% gain.

Most alternative funds had a bad year due to the markets moving based on reaction to government policies or other such news, which prevented any major trends from forming. Even gold and oil, which ended the year up, spent the second half of the year in a holding pattern while the world waited for the outcome of Europe's nasty financial mess.

It looks like we may see a short term solution "voted in" during the first quarter. However, this is not guaranteed to work and is also not guaranteed to be accepted by all.

The threat of a sovereign default has the potential to continue to wreak havoc on the markets in 2012. If political action does not convince the markets that Europe is on a sustainable course, the uncertainty could cause further volatility and declines in markets.

The positive force which should be at work in the markets this year is the US presidential election. Historically, the markets usually rise as the current administration will do everything it can to prop them up, even if only for

the year, in order to increase the chances of re-election. The US presidential cycle is one of the few historical indicators that has had an extremely high probability. If the situation wasn't so dire in Europe I would say that 2012 for sure would be an up year.

I don't think we are at the start of another long-term bull market, however, I think that even if we do have another dip and if things hit the fan in Europe, it will be the last bad spell before a cyclical bull market returns lasting at least a year or so. I am still wary of bank accounts over government guaranteed limits, since a default in Greece or Italy could trigger failures in some unexpected places.

No one really knows exactly who has the most exposure to an event like that, and it is better to be safe than sorry. I hope everyone out there has a fantastic 2012 and remains healthy and prosperous!

David Mayes MBA lives in Phuket and provides wealth management services to expatriates around the world, specializing in UK pension transfers. He can be reached at david.m@faramond.com or 085-335-8573.



ALL THAT GLITTERS: Vermin Supreme dusts fellow US presidential candidate, Randall Terry, hoping for a magical 2012 market surge. Photo: Marc Nozell

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DUSIT Thani Laguna Phuket has appointed **Bhatara Amornrattanakij** as its new Marketing Communications and Public Relations Manager.

In her new role, Bhatara is responsible for all marketing materials, social media networking and public relations activities for Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket.

"We are excited to have Bhatara join us and her exemplary experience will add value to our team. Her strong graphic design skills and media savvy gained over a decade's experience in hospitality will help develop our corporate branding and keep the public well informed about hotel's activities," said Peter Komposch, General Manager of Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket.

Bhatara graduated with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration majoring in Business English from Rajamangala Institute of Technology, Borpitpimook (now known as Rajamangala University).

She has previously worked at Phi Phi Island Village Beach Resort and Spa, as well as Indigo Pearl Resort, West Sands Resort and Splash Jungle Water Park in Phuket. She also worked as a freelance project director for award-winning international photographer and author David Troad on a publication for the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) entitled "72 Hours Amazing Thailand – Phuket" to promote the destination of Phuket worldwide and much more.

Meet the people who make Phuket

A monthly briefing with business people on the island



KAMOLUX Israngkul Na Ayuthaya is the Public Relations Manager of Angsana Laguna Phuket.

Born and raised in Bangkok, she moved to Phuket in early November 2011 to join Angsana Laguna Phuket as part of the pre-opening team which opened the stylish holiday destination on December 1, 2012.

She has a genuine passion for hospitality and has gained different skills and experiences from working in the hospitality, hotel and aviation industries.

Formerly, Kamolux was the Assistant PR & Sales Manager at KC Hotels & Resorts on Koh Samui. (late 2010 – late 2011)

Before that she worked as a cabin crew for three years at Thai Airways International.

Having graduated from Bangkok University International College with a Public Relations Bachelor's degree, she then moved abroad for two years to live in Michigan, USA.

In her spare time she explores Phuket and the south of Thailand. This young jet-setter enjoys travelling, Jet skiing and horse riding.

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EURO CREATIONS

JITTRA Pornpitakkul has been appointed as the Marketing Communications Manager at Banyan Tree Phuket – the flagship property within the group.

Jittra has a degree in Liberal Arts from Thammasat University and continued her study in Hotel Operations and Management at New York University in the United States.

After working at Le Meridien Bangkok as a Marketing Communications Executive, she became an Assistant PR & Marketing Communications Manager at the hotel management company, Zinc 1 InVision before moving to Phuket.

"It is such a challenging opportunity for me to work with a renowned brand such as Banyan Tree. Banyan Tree Phuket which has gained its reputation over the past 17 years. From 2011, Banyan Tree Phuket will begin to position itself as not one but three individual hotels: Banyan Tree Phuket, which is created to the needs of romantic couples and families, Banyan Tree Spa Sanctuary, boutique 14 villas holistic wellness resort, and



DoublePool Villas by Banyan Tree with its creative pool concept and villa host program, which will meet the needs of high-end clients looking for luxury, privacy and exclusivity. With the repositioning plan and work in-

involved, I am excited to be a part of it. My aim is to gain exposure through the PR and Marketing effort globally that will allow Banyan Tree Phuket to maintain its reputation as one of the best hotels in the world," she said

Two sugars, please

Former England cricket international and celebrity Phil Tufnell spins a yarn or two at The Village Coconut Island

By Neil Quail

SPORT brings many different characters to the table from those who are utter professionals and perfect role models, for the general public at least, and those who are themselves on and off the pitch and exude character and charisma constantly.

Phil Tufnell is one such sports personality whose temperament during his playing career took him from international cricket player to international television celebrity.

"Tuffers", "the Cat" or "two sugars" (related to his love of tea) as he is affectionately called is an orthodox left-arm spinner and plied his trade at school where his talent to make a ball turn was noted. Soon after graduating as a quantity surveyor, the young Tufnell was selected as arsenal for the English bowling attack.

In 2003 and at the age of 33, Phil decided to retire from his beloved calling after 42 test matches, 20 one day internationals with 121 first-class wickets to his credit, and a store of experiences to dine out on for years.

Dining out on his career is not quite what Phil has done, but he certainly has capitalized on his experiences and his ability to translate them as humorous anecdotes that draw crowds to enjoy his after dinner charity "conversations".

As an ambassador for the Absolute World Group, Phil has visited Phuket a number of times and was again here recently with his family when they stayed at The Village Coconut Island.

Last Friday evening, cricket enthusiasts on Phuket and fans of Phil's current media exposure had the opportunity of enjoying his company over drinks and a wonderful barbecue spread laid on by The Village Coconut Island.

Fortunately, with the help of Chanut Nawnarong, Managing Director of Infinity Communications, the *Phuket Gazette* was able to speak exclusively to Phil for a few moments before his scheduled dinner date with a room full of admirers.

A sun-tinted Phil Tufnell was asked a few questions relating to his stay and he expressed his enthusiasm at being on Phuket and that he was very much looking forward to making a "few bob for charity", namely the Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation.

When asked about his playing career and most memorable moment, a question we know he's been asked a thousand times, Phil responded with an answer he's probably given a thousand times when he said "pulling on the English shirt with the three lions crest is always my favorite memory".

Not good enough for this writer. So he was reminded of his the Match, wicket

Man of eleven haul against Australia in 1997 and did that hold a special place considering the remarks made by Australian batsman, Mark Waugh suggesting that Tufnell was no good under pressure? Phil's face lit up, and that trademark gully-wide grin was followed by "Of course, mate! That was a special time and to get that bugger out twice [Waugh] in the same match was even better".

Former cricket umpire and Village Coconut Island executive, Bernie Tebb, sat with Phil over a large beverage and by way of a conversation took us through the highlights and humor of Phil's career.

It was a window into the changing room exchanges and touring travesties that make up the life of an international player. Many of which would be detailed in Phil's autobiography *What now?*, and a few that can only be told at a select gathering.

Bernie asked about his mentors



Phil Tufnell hands over a framed signed cricket bat after the charity auction with Bernie Tebb (center) at The Village Coconut Island.

and those players he enjoyed touring with. As Phil said "It wasn't a good start to my career when I had to share a room with Ian Botham on my first tour abroad".

Although Phil indicated that Graham Gooch was his most inspirational captain, he felt that Gooch had little respect for him. "We arrived in Australia one year and had to pass through this bug spray at immigration. When we had all gone through I heard Gooch say 'that stuff isn't very good - didn't get rid of Tufnell, did it?'". Phil did qualify Gooch's attitude toward him saying it may have had something to do with the 24 bottles of wine he and another player had consumed during the flight.

Bernie then drew Phil to speak about his high profile television career in which he won the reality show "I'm Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here" and described the consuming of large jungle slugs to the effect that very time he passed wind thereafter he expected a butterfly to appear. His lasting advice to anyone intending on participating in such a show is to always bring a chef.

Phil's appearances on the very popular BBC sports quiz "A Question of Sport" have also given him a household persona and his battles

on the show with former England rugby scrum-half, Matt Dawson have become legendary. Phil was quick to mention that he took part in another celebrity reality show "Strictly Come Dancing" in which Dawson also participated. Having politely refused an offer to share a drink with the flamboyant Bruno Tonioli, one of the show's judges, Phil never received a 10 for his performances, but Dawson, he pointed out, received three - "Go figure that one," he said with a cheeky smile.

Many more stories were told that evening which carried on into the wee hours before Dawn broke up the remaining few stragglers intent on hearing more of Phil's tales and banter. Dawn of course is Phil's wife and it was indeed a pleasure to have shared a glass of wine and hear her stories of how they met and their adventures since. Another time on these pages perhaps.

It was time to leave. When Mr Tufnell returns to Phuket, be sure to take advantage of nights such as that at The Village Coconut Island. There are very few characters in sport that can bring so much entertainment to such a wide audience, but Tuffers is one.

Yaowawit trauma releasing exercises

CHILDREN at Yaowawit school are now undergoing a new therapy to release trauma by participating in specific morning exercises.

The trauma exercises were introduced to teachers and a few children at a one-hour workshop held on Friday, January 6.

The workshop was run by Christine Von Aufsess, a psychotherapist from Germany, who was visiting her son, a volunteer at Yaowawit school.

The workshop started with Christine explaining the principles of the exercises, then participants were trained on how to conduct the trauma releasing exercises.

Christine also described how to identify children with trauma "For example, some are aggressive, a few leave school and don't come back; it is because they have no commitment, no bonding with

other people - they feel alone. Many are moody - their emotion changes all the time. These actions reflect their trauma and they don't know how to handle that."

The exercises are designed to bring benefit in the long term, a sudden improvement is not ideal. "Trauma doesn't badly effect small children, but if they carry this trauma through childhood, it is very possible the teenager could turn to drugs, crime or alcohol. But if they practice the exercise every day, they will learn to be a part of the school, a part of this society, not alone anymore."

Sabine Kraus, Yaowawit project manager is very happy with the exercises, and will run them as part of their daily routine for primary students.

For pictures of the workshop see page 25.
- Pimwara Choksakulpan



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HAVE A NICE DAY: "Flower" and "Big Bill" offer up the popular Philly cheese steak (top left) served with homemade pickles (below).

The Yankees are coming!

By Stephen Fein

PATONG'S already wide selection of international cuisines just got a little larger, with the opening of its first New York-style delicatessen.

Big Bill's Deli, which officially opened for business in early December, is run by Dokmai "Flower" Khamkheukong, long-time companion of one of Phuket's one-of-a-kind expats: William Sawyer.

Better known as "Big Bill" or "Large William", Mr Sawyer has lived in Patong for twenty years. He is perhaps best known to Phuket people as the "Wizard of Rock and Roll" from his many years as resident DJ and chef at the Rock Hard a-go-go on Bangla Road.

Big Bill's passion for food goes back many years. A true survivor and "old hand", over 20 years ago he was running the kitchen at Derby King diner on Patpong Road in Bangkok. His love of filling deli fare had not come without cost. As his many friends know, Big Bill has battled weight problems over the years. Fortunately, he recently managed to shed 50 kilograms and al-



DELIZIOSO: The Italian-American sausage hero sandwich.

though he is largely confined to a wheelchair these days, he is looking good and still getting lots of help from Flower, who tirelessly does all the cooking after years of apprenticeship.

Although Big Bill's Deli offers a wide range of classic deli fare, the layout of the single shophouse eatery is more like that of a small restaurant. At the front, where most delis would have a display case, is a small bar with a large television monitor where patrons

can enjoy a beer with their sandwich. All of the cooking is done out back by Flower.

One of the most popular selections on the menu is not a New York specialty at all. It's the Philly cheese steak. Priced at 175 baht, this huge sandwich is made of thinly-sliced rib-eye steak grilled with American cheese (mercifully, not Cheese Whiz), all served with Bill's homemade New York style deli pickles, lettuce and tomato. A wide range



The deli's range of mustards and sauces.

of toppings are also available, including real jalapeño peppers, at a small extra cost.

For those who can't get enough of the pickles, these are available for takeaway purchase along with a number of other reasonably-priced deli classics like spicy brown mustard, Polish sauerkraut and homemade mushroom demi-glace sauce. The also carry a wide selection of frozen microwavable dinners, which can be found at Big Bill's or The Deli Supermarket in Patong.

Other bestsellers on the menu include the 250-baht Reuben, made with homemade corned beef, Swiss cheese and sauerkraut and served on caraway rye bread with real butter.

On my visit I tried the Italian-American sausage hero sandwich. Served on a baguette and smothered with tomato sauce, mozzarella and Parmesan cheese, this is one deliciously hearty sandwich — though it might be one to avoid if you have cholesterol problems.

For such a small venue, Big Bill's has it all: smoked salmon, bagels and lox, hot pastrami, shrimp PoBoy and the Turkado Delight: roast turkey, avocado and Swiss Emmentaler cheese, plus

Russian dressing if you desire, all served on a baguette (225 baht).

For a Boston fan like this reviewer, the only hard thing to stomach at Big Bill's Deli is the profusion of New York sports team paraphernalia: Giants, Jets, Mets, Knicks and Rangers memorabilia, not to mention the dreaded New York Yankees insignia covering everything from kitchen plates to Flower's apron. The only nod to the mighty teams from Red Sox Nation to the north is a blasphemous reference to the most iconic structure in all of baseball: the Green Monster at Fenway Park in Boston.

Despite this, Big Bill's Deli is well worth a visit. Regular business hours are 11am to 10pm daily, except Mondays. "As soon as I find some staff we will open seven days a week, but for now Monday is closed," Flower said.

Big Bill's Deli is located at 162/11 Phang Muang Sai Kor Road, which runs behind the Jungceylon shopping complex. To get there from Jungceylon, travel south about one kilometer till you see the yellow sign on the left, then enter the residential estate where the deli is located. Parking is available and the restaurant is air-conditioned as needed.

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NEW BRANCH 'SAMUI'

One night in Siam



SPECTACULAR: There are over 100 set pieces, 150 cast members wearing 500 costumes during this extravaganza with sets that look like gorgeous paintings.

By Bruce Stanley

FOR anyone interested in the cultural diversity and complex history of Thailand, an evening at the new Siam Niramit complex on the bypass road, will be an enlightening and enjoyable experience.

There are three different attractions to be seen. At the entrance, a Thai temple fair is being built around the popular crafts and games played within the country including dunking-the-maiden-in-the-barrel-of-water, a standard amusement in all small village festivals. There are displays of martial arts and the various examples of Thai dance. Nearby is the entrance to the Thai Village which is an enchanting visit to how rural people worked and lived their daily lives in a quieter and less frantic era.

The Thai Village stretches over an enormous area filled with floating markets on man-made lakes and demonstrations of Thai crafts such as weaving, batik painting, and cooking set around authentic architectural models of housing styles found around the country. The Village is softly lit as by torch which would have been the only way possible before the Thais discovered their love of the fluorescent light tube. It's a very charming experience wandering about this village where the vendors gently offer their products including original and powerful recipes for Thai whiskey, *lao khao*, the liquor preferred by Thai farmers and laborers.

I would have happily spent my evening in the Thai village as it was so interesting and enjoy-

able, but the announcement that the spectacular main stage show at Siam Niramit was about to begin drew me along the canals and by the large lake into their massive theater.

The show is divided into sections. The first concerns the different history and lifestyles between Thailand's four regions. Another section is a visual demonstration of the three options that wait in the afterlife depending upon one's behavior and karma. The last section is a joyous celebration of popular Thai festivals. At the end, one could only feel happy to be in such a wonderful place as Thailand.

It was a total pleasure to just sit back in the comfortable cushioned theater chair and let the beauty of the various cultural scenes wash over the senses. There are over 100 set pieces, 150 cast members wearing 500 costumes during this extravaganza.

Some of the more startling scenes from the show include a charming underwater panorama that looks like the world's biggest aquarium, a river that flows across the stage with floating boats, and soaring Thai angels who fly through the air in the sequence about Thai heaven.

The 80 minute show was stunning and far exceeded any expectations or preconceptions I may have had about a Thai cultural show. I've seen a lot of them in my 20 years living in Thailand, but the Siam Niramit show is an experience far above what is normally presented. This is due to the attention to detail and substantial investment in costume

design, sets and lighting.

The show's magic is enhanced with the handiwork of John A. Williams, the world famous Hong Kong based lighting designer whose clever use of color gives the production depth and continual interest.

The production team at Siam Niramit has built sets that look like gorgeous paintings. They have spent a lot in making this show spectacular and one that will inspire people to return to have another unforgettable evening.



The old Thai village is authentically reproduced which includes the lighting.

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The 400mtr zip line (above) lasts 45 seconds.



NO BORED WALK HERE: Sky bridges offer a sedate crossing.



A PLATFORM FOR EXCITEMENT: Adrenalin junkies get ready to fly.

ZIPPING along with the sea on one side and forest on the other is something residents and visitors do everyday on the roads interlinking Phuket's beaches.

Now they can do the same thing while flying over 40 meters in the air, propelled by nothing more than gravity. The island's newest adventure attraction opens a door into Phuket's often overlooked forested hillsides and delivers a guided tour that is as exciting as it is beautiful.

Flying Hanuman officially opened on December 27, but the course itself has been painstakingly prepared for over six months

on a 50 rai (80,000 square meter) plot of land near the Kathu Waterfall. The attraction's head guides played a pivotal role in designing the layout and then constructing each platform and the zip lines or games that connect them.

The guides are trained professionals who specialize in activities high above ground and are masters of the equipment at their disposal.

Every group (maximum nine people) will have a minimum of two guides with them, even if there is only one guest. One guide

will send guests from one platform to his partner guide waiting at the next platform. Even if you need to be rescued from the middle of a zipline, our guides make it fun.

Guests are welcomed in the purpose built reception area, which features a classy open-air design with thatched roofs. After registration and a refreshing welcome drink, a short introduction and safety video are shown before guides help with harnesses and equipment, all of which are sourced from Petzl, a premier French manufacturer of special-

ized work-at-height gear. After a final safety brief by the guides on a small zip line mock-up, guests embark on a short trek to the first platform.

Zip lines are definitely the focus of Flying Hanuman but the excitement and pacing is suitably varied by other ways of moving through the treetops. There are two sky bridges, three spiral staircases, two abseil points, a skateboard style gimmick called a "Sky-Rail" and a dual zip line. Two of the biggest highlights come in the latter half of the journey, when guests are

launched down a 400mtr zip line that moves them across the whole site in 45 seconds. Speeds exceed 60 kilometers per hour at over 40 meters above ground. Then right before the end, a 40 meter abseil provides one last adrenaline spike before customers can relax in the sitting area with refreshments and a complimentary t-shirt.

Flying Hanuman is located near the Kathu Waterfall on Wichitsongkram road in Kathu. For More information visit W: flyinghanuman.com or call 0819792332.

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First Green Globe for Phuket resorts



LOOKING GREEN: Overview of Mövenpick. Photo Anna and Andy

MöVENPICK Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket recently achieved the Green Globe Certification, an internationally accepted standard for sustainability and the first Green Globe certified Hotel & Resort in Phuket, Thailand.

The award highlights Mövenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket's commitment to conducting business in an environmentally, socially, and culturally responsible and more sustainable manner.

"We believe that economic growth and the well-being of society are inextricably tied to the health of the environment. Through collaboration with our team, suppliers and business partners, we have been actively working to reduce the en-

vironmental impact of our business activities, and to continually improve and innovate on practices while at the same time meeting current needs", said Mr. Hansruedi Frutiger, General Manager of Mövenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket.

"We are also very proud that we are the first resort in Phuket and the first Mövenpick Hotels & Resorts in Asia certified by "Green Globe" with a score of 78 per cent." added Mr Frutiger.

Green Globe is identified around the world as representing quality in sustainability practices within travel, tourism and related industries. Being awarded with a Green Globe certification means that an extensive list of requirements has been

fulfilled. From key indicators on energy usage, water consumption and waste output management to employee training and implementation of customer satisfaction measures, the resort achieved outstanding results.

Mövenpick Hotels & Resorts is aiming for all properties to be stamped with Green Globe credentials within two years. The strategy is part of a company-wide program to establish a common and global approach to environmental, employer and social sustainability.

For information visit moevenpick-phuket.com or contact by email phuket@moevenpick.com.

– *Phuket Gazette*

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From tin to tourism

Looking Back

By Anand Singh

COMPARED to industries such as tin and rubber, tourism is relatively new in Phuket, although its growth over the past few decades has been phenomenal.

The island has come a long way from the backpacker's haven it once was and today has found its place amongst the world's leading tourist destinations. Its white sand beaches and top class hotels attract millions of visitors every year.

It was in the late 1960s that Phuket's tourism industry began its extraordinary growth. Sarasin Bridge was officially opened in July of 1967 and for the first time there was a road link between Phuket Island and the mainland. Until the mid 1960s, Phuket had been largely underdeveloped, but the opening of Sarasin Bridge effected changed for the better. It allowed foreign and domestic tourists the option to visit the island by bus, albeit a gruelling 17 hour journey from Bangkok. In that same year the Tourism Organization of Thailand, predecessor to the current Tourism Authority of Thailand, drew up a master plan to transform Phuket Island into a haven for tourists.

Fast forward 10 years from the opening of Sarasin Bridge when the Bangkok Post published a newspaper article in June 1977 about the hundreds of small bungalows, rooms and shelters that had at the time sprung up along Phuket's sandy beaches. According to the article, there were eight bungalows on Nai-Harn Beach overlooking the shore in 1977.

An elderly lady and her daughter owned the eight bungalows and business was thriving. In their own words, not only were the rooms full, but for every room occupied, there were at least five couples waiting their turn. The beach-front bungalows were rented out to tourists for 20 baht a night.

Tony Wheeler's book *South East Asia on a Shoestring*, published in 1975 described Patong Beach as long, white, clean and lapped by picture postcard clear waters. Dozens of hotels and numerous restaurants had already been established along the beach. Although it was described as being very pleasant, it had already developed a reputation as a center for nightlife. According to Wheeler, Patong beach restaurants were offering patches of



BON ISLAND: How Phuket would have looked before tourism took off in the 1970s and 1980s. Photo: Dawn in Phuket

floor space to backpackers for as little as three baht a night. Tourists who wanted a mat to sleep on could rent one for an extra two to four baht per night.

According to research from David Kirk, bungalows with double beds on Kata Beach cost about 60 baht per night. Visitors also had a cheaper alternative.

They could simply rent out some floor space for 10 baht a night provided they brought their own sleeping bag. According to Kirk, in the

1970s the nicer hotels were to be found in Phuket Town rather than near the beaches. ing to Governor Sribhong, a typical backpacker holidaying in Phuket would only budget for soap, toothpaste, a mat to sleep on, the room rent and perhaps a plate of fried rice or noodles for each day. These holidaymakers were actually spending very little in the tropical paradise. The local government and tourism businesses wanted to attract a higher class of tourist who would be willing to spend big money. However, the multitude of backpackers had done the island a huge and unexpected favor by spreading the good name of Phuket all over the world.

By 1982, the island's tourism accommodation sector was still growing. John's Bungalows, a group of 10 small huts on the beach were being rented for 35 baht a night. The bungalows had been set up by a local Phuket man named Pradit Sae Liew. The bungalows were just simple huts with sandy floors for tourists to shelter in. If rental prices are any indication in this case, it seems that accommodation prices increased rapidly during that time.

In June of 1986 however, Phuket's reputation as a tourist paradise was shattered after an-

gry rioters set fire to a controversial tantalum plant and the Phuket Merlin Hotel. The tantalum plant was due to begin test runs in August. The locals feared that tantalum production could cause toxic wastes to emerge from the plant, which would destroy the environment and ruin Phuket's tourism industry. For weeks, some 50,000 people protested the opening of the tantalum plant. When the government failed to step up negotiations, the angry mob burned down the 1.2 billion baht plant. The Phuket Merlin hotel, then known as a five-star hotel in Phuket Town, suffered damages worth 50 million baht. The government declared a state of emergency in the province and

forty-seven people were arrested.

Phuket's transition from a tin mining center to a world class tourism hot spot has taken place over these few decades. Since then Phuket locals have seen drastic changes to the industries that they once knew and worked. In 1985, tin prices fell drastically due to falling global demands which caused around 90 per cent of tin mines in southern Thailand to shut down. Through incidents like the tantalum riots, Phuket locals have shown that they did not favor polluting industries that may threaten or harm the environment and tourism. Ever since, Phuket's mining industries have become a thing of the past. Tourism is here to stay.



Crossing to Phuket before Sarasin Bridge

1970s the nicer hotels were to be found in Phuket Town rather than near the beaches.

In the late 1970s, accommodation in Phuket was quite cheap and therefore it attracted mostly backpackers and low budget tourists. Back then, Phuket Governor Sribhong Saravarsi voiced his concerns at the type of tourists that the island was attracting. Accord-

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A short but happy life

THE Spanish novelist Susana Fortes has won many literary awards and her latest novel entitled *Waiting for Robert Capa* (HarperCollins, New York, 2011, 201pp) is set to be made into a film by director Michael Mann.

On the book cover is a photograph of a slender blond woman in beret and military fatigues crouched asleep upon a road marker

labeled "PC" – an inside joke for "Partido Comunista", the communist party of the Spanish Civil War. The woman, the central character of the novel, is war photographer Gerda Taro who would be killed outside Madrid a few days before her 27th birthday.

Gerda Taro was famous in her day. With her lover Robert Capa she took many iconic photos of the Spanish Civil War. They had met in Paris, both Jewish refugees fleeing from Nazism, she from Germany, he from Hungary. They would embark upon the world stage with false professional names, his based on the American movie director Frank Capra, hers on Greta Garbo and Japanese artist Taro.

Susana Fortes hews closely to the facts about the two young lovers. She is very good in tracing their first meeting and growing attraction for each other. Their lives in Spain are full of bravery, dash and romance.

"They were nothing more than photographers, people dedicated to looking. Witnesses. And unaware that they were living between two world wars. A good majority were already used to clandestinely crossing borders. They were no longer German, or Hungarian, or Polish, or Czechoslovakian, or Austrian. They were refugees. They belonged to no one. Not to any nation. Nomads, stateless people who gathered almost every week somewhere to read aloud passages from novels, recite poetry, act out plays . . . A certain romanticism united them. Give me a photograph and I'll build you the world."

Given such characters and such drama, this novel should be a small masterpiece. But the English prose is just awful. This may well be the fault of the translator Adriana V. Lopez.

The great Latin American writers Jorge Amado and Gabriel Garcia Marquez had the services of the master translator Gregory Rabassa. Susana Fortes has no such luck. Nearly every page sports a clumsy howler of a sentence.

Here is Gerda's wildly overwrought reaction to Capa's jealousy:

"Perhaps it wasn't entirely jealousy, but complete animal possessiveness. A need to erase the past, an absurd macho pride, a thousand-year-old instinct dating back to when men in hordes howled at the moon at midnight alongside their tribe's campfire. Selecting their female, separating her from the rest to make her exclusively his. So he would bring her to one of those huge prairies of grain and nail a child into her entrails." Nail? Entrails?

The author also has a nasty habit of pulling away from her Spanish Civil War narrative to pontificate about the future. Thus we have Capa giving a speech in New York about war photography 10 years later "when Gerda was already within the black outer limits of ether. And she listened to him millions of light years away, out on the balcony of her star."

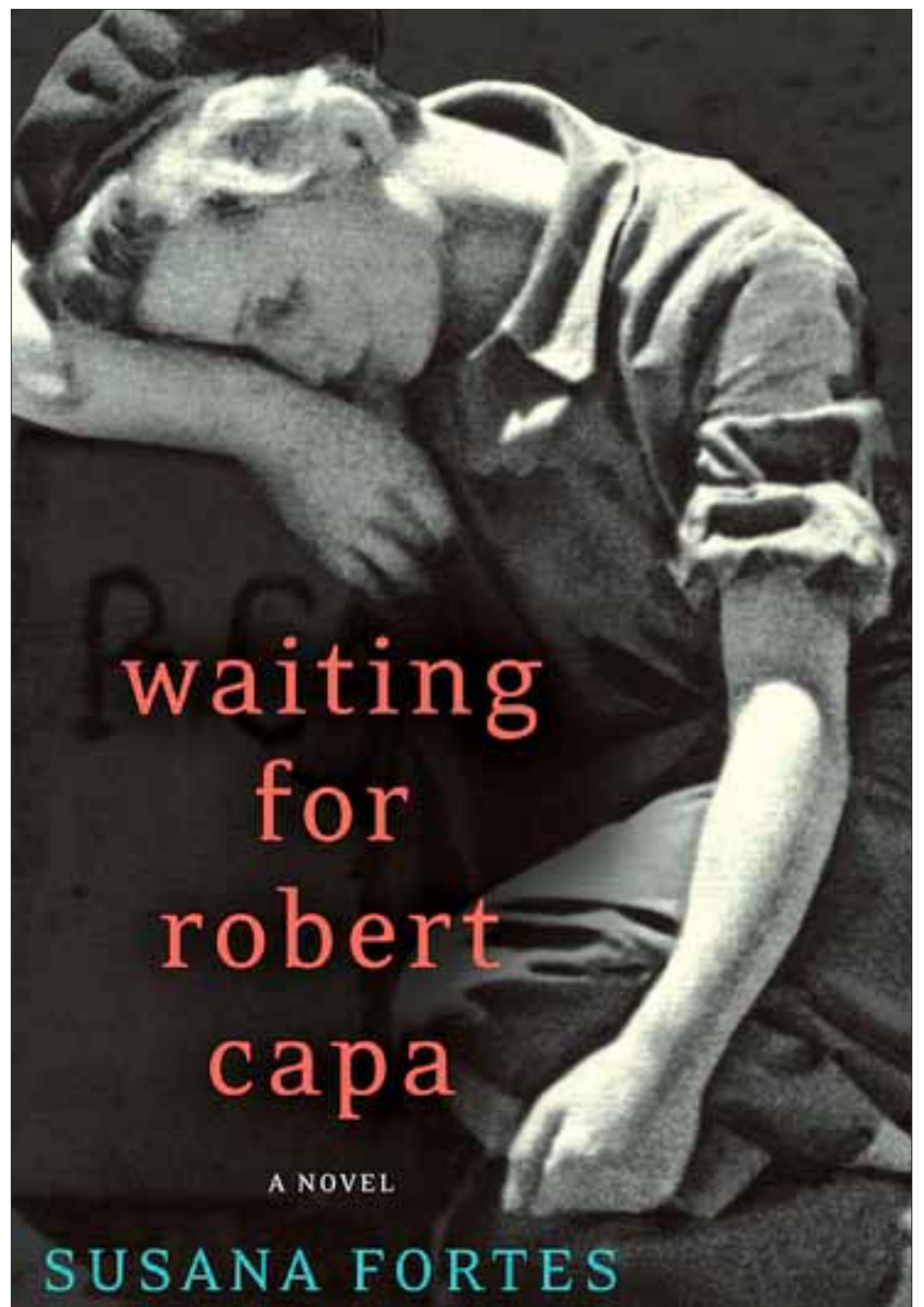
Grand passages like this tend to push away the intimacy of two lovers in their final days when she refused his offer of marriage. More clumsiness: "It was impossible to get her out of his head; he was thinking obsessively about every centimeter of her skin, her voice. . . the way she crawled into his tent and pressed up against his body, pouting softly like a saint or an Andalusian virgin."

The bad writing continues to grate even in great climax of Gerda's final battle which she covers with another colleague, the Canadian Ted Allen "who would have given her the moon on a silver platter if she had asked him to."

How much such screaming clichés are the fault of the author or the translator, it is hard to say. But definitely an editor should have been summoned to weed them out. They finally prove a crippling distraction to what should have been a great story.

Books

By James Eckardt



Leaving a lasting impression

Director: David Fincher
Actors: Daniel Craig, Rooney Mara, Christopher Plummer
Genre: Crime, Drama, Mystery
Phuket release: January 12

THE Millennium Trilogy has been a publishing sensation, selling millions of books and was adapted into film in its native Sweden in 2009.

The original film adaptation was one of the most successful Swedish films ever made. Now Hollywood has made its own English-language adaptation with David Fincher (*Fight Club*, *Seven*, *The Social Network*) directing.

Based on the Swedish novel by Stieg Larsson the story follows a disgraced journalist, Mikael Blomkvist (Daniel Craig), as he investigates the disappearance of a wealthy patriarch's niece over 40 years ago. He is aided by the pierced, tattooed, punk computer hacker named Lisbeth Salander (Rooney Mara). As they work together in the investigation, Blomkvist and Salander uncover

Film



immense corruption beyond anything they have ever imagined.

The story of uncovering layer after layer of a serial case is told flawlessly by Fincher along with excellent cinematography that

adds to the cold, bleakness of the story. Despite the bleakness, Rooney Mara's performance does shine through as exceptional. She brings total passion, fear and strength as she struggles with her own demons of social flaws and insanity to solve this horrifying case of a WWII serial massacre. Daniel Craig also puts in a fine performance and though normally cast as the tough hero, Craig is more subdued here.

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo is not a feel-good film, by any means. It is a harsh, gritty, and a rough cinema trip that answers the question whether or not to leave the kids at home with the babysitter. Also, if you're squeamish, you will not like it. However, those who have read the book, and even those who have not read it, should check it out and then maybe read the book.

The Swedish movie was good, but this version possesses more polish and style and is even better.

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Janpen Arno

UNDER the brightest moon of the twelfth lunar month forty eight years ago, Janpen Arno was born into a family of large-scale fruit farmers in the beautiful province of Nan in northern Thailand.

Janpen, meaning 'Full Moon', was the only daughter of four children and by default became her father's favorite. Their home was on the river, and father and daughter would often go fishing there together.

"I remember walking behind him with my fishing basket. My father was a skilled craftsman. He would make a spear out of bamboo and taught me how to use it. You need a deft hand, wits and patience to catch fish. But it was so much fun and the happiest time of my childhood," remembers Janpen.

She admires her father's ability to switch effortlessly between vocations – fruit farmer, craftsman who built his own boats, and also entrepreneur managing his farms' produce. His business acumen and work ethic have influenced the way she leads her life now.

After graduation from the private Nan Christian School, she studied at a teachers college in the nearby province of Utharadit, then chose to work in whatever caught her fancy – everything from coaching sports, to running a convenience store, to driving her own school bus, to traveling to

THAI
gallery
By Nanthapa Pengkasem

other provinces to develop wholesale markets for her father's harvests.

In 2000, this very sense of adventure and curiosity brought her to Phuket where she met and later married John Magee, publisher of the *Phuket Gazette*. The first 10 years of their marriage was spent tending to family affairs and charity work. A keen sportswoman, she plays golf regularly at Laguna Phuket Golf Club and has a handicap of 19.

With her two children now grown up, Janpen set up a construction company, MJP Contractors, in 2010. It's a job that suits her personality and it's not unusual to see her in a hard hat and boots, inspecting her project sites, among which were the stunning new *Gazette* offices in Koh Kaew.

As if managing her company were not enough, she is also studying for a degree in business administration from Sukhothai Thammarat University through its distance learning program. This endeavor is not without reward for she is able to apply her newly learned skills to her work. She says she particularly enjoys psychology and personnel management, but is not so keen about accounting.

If all goes well, she will graduate and receive her degree this year.

Janpen's day starts at five with a 45-minute morning prayer followed by a rigorous workout regime on the jungle bars and other equipment she has installed behind the family home.

At least one hour is set aside for studying and the rest of the day is devoted to her business. Being a workaholic, somewhat to the dismay of her husband and kids, Janpen works long hours and only allows herself two days off per month. She admits that it's hard being mother, wife, businesswoman and student all at once, but is quite determined to make a success of everything she does.

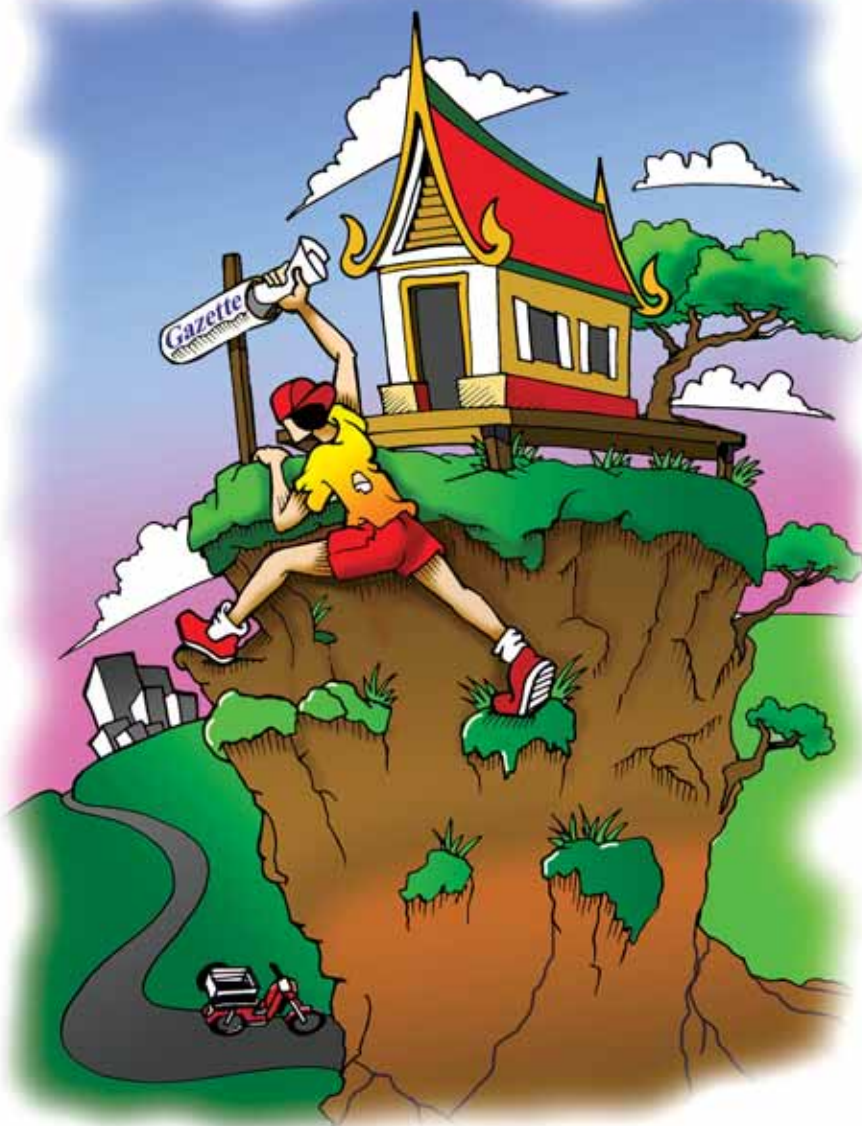
It's not all grit and determination, though, as Janpen is a devout Buddhist who finds time each year, usually during Songkran, to renew her spiritual values and make merit at the family temple in Nan. This is also a time to honor elder relatives and revisit her roots, a tradition she would like to see upheld by her two sons.

"Nan is a beautiful mountain and fresh air province. It's still quite unspoiled. Even the princess (HRH Sirindhorn, His Majesty's third daughter) has a palace there. And do you know that Nan also has a flower found nowhere else in the world? It's called *Chompu Phupa* ('Pink of the Mountain')," she says with characteristic enthusiasm and pride.



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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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]. However, 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.

YOUR AD HERE contact us!

Phuket TV

Regatta to start in early December

Phuket Regatta, Asia's biggest and most popular Regatta, will start in early December in the south of Phuket from the third to the 10th.

YOUR AD HERE contact us!

FC Phuket to battle Warriors in Saraburi on Saturday

FC Phuket returns to action tomorrow evening when they will face the Warriors of Saraburi FC.

A 6pm kickoff at the Saraburi Provincial Administration Stadium, the match follows a 41-day hiatus from league football for the Phuket team, which was affected by flooding in the 26th Southeast Asian Games in Indonesia as well as give players and coaching staff who were affected by flooding an opportunity to tend to their homes and families.

It is because of the floods that Phuket Coach Somporn Wattana will not be heading the team this weekend.

In his place will be Assistant Coach Apichart Mosika Apichart, a 57-year-old native of Nakhon Si Thammarat, started training the team on November 18.

Club Secretary Soranun Sanae explained, "Coach Somporn's house in Bangkok has been flooded and he needs time to take care of this, and has asked his friend, coach Apichart, to help."

In 2010, Apichart was head coach for Division Two side Rayong FC.

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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

December 15 to March 31. International Buffet Dinner

International Buffet Dinner: Free-flow of house wine, Thai whisky, draft beer & soft drinks. Everyday from 6:30 to 9:30pm at The Imperial Adamas Beach Resort, Nai Yang Beach, Phuket. 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

January 12 to 14. Guest Chef Guillaume Salvan

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



January 21 to 24. Ashtanga Yoga Retreat

Join us for four days of yoga and meditation practice with Kimberly Roberts in the serene setting of Khao Sok National Park from 7am to 6pm at Thanyamundra Organic Resort. Morning will be an invigorating yoga sessions, while evening practice consists of restorative poses and sitting meditation. No prior experience is necessary; everyone is welcome. Single Occupancy: 30,950 THB*. Double Occupancy: 36,750 THB*. Package includes: Accommodation for 3 nights in the Superior suite at Thanyamundra Daily brunch and dinner Round trip airport transfer from Phuket International Airport Twice daily yoga sessions Organic farm tour* Rates are subject to 10 per cent service charge and seven per cent government tax. Contact Kimberly Roberts at 076-336000, reservations@thanyapura.com or visit thanyamundra.com.

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 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 Homemade Indian Buffet will be prepared and served by our very own in-house Indian Chef, Padum Kahtri. Only 495++ baht per person. From 7 to 10pm at Les Anges 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, sm@karonseasand.com or visit karonseasand.com.

January 14 and 28. Saturday Brunch

Saturday brunch from noon to 3pm at Two Chefs Kata Center! Every Saturday we are setting up our brunch buffet, filled to the limits with home made delights. In our smoke house, we smoke all of our fish and meats by ourselves, and in the bakery we bake all our bread. With very well trained chefs and a Swedish head chef, we can promise you that you won't leave hungry or thirsty. All this for only 395 baht, and if you add an extra 300 baht you can choose to drink what you want from our free flow alternatives. Reservation at 076-330065, katacenter@twochefs.com or visit twochefs.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@phuketiwc.com or visit phuketiwc.com.

January 20. Opera Night

Royal Phuket Marina is proud to present "Count Snape" for an operatic extravaganza debut at Les Anges restaurant. Live performance on the boardwalk from 8:30 to 10pm. Free Admission. Dress: Colorful. Upon request a Snack Buffet is also available. Contact Murat at 081-7973364, muratc@royalphuketmarina.com or visit royalphuketmarina.com.

January 21. Jazz Night

Royal Phuket Marina and Simpson Marine are delighted to invite you to our jazz evening at Les Anges. Live Band Performance on the Boardwalk. Dress code: Colorful. Free admission. Upon request a Snack Buffet is also available. Contact Mario (Simpson Marine) on 086-2734149 or Murat at 081-7973364, muratc@royalphuket

marina.com or visit simpsonmarine.com.

January 22. Phuket Classic Car Trophy 2012

The Phuket Classic Car New Year Trophy will be our first event for 2012 on January 22 from 11am to 5pm at Thalang Road, a road rally around the northeastern part of the island. We will drive along an exciting route, take some relaxing breaks to eat and chat, and conclude with an ultimate championship. We will test your knowledge about classic cars and your driving skills with funny games. We welcome anyone who owns an original classic car, a youngtimer car or an new exotic car. Just send us an email to register. Contact Narindet Changdee (Tar) at 084-7342711, ClassicCarClubPhuket@hotmail.com or ClassicCarClubPhuket.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 run from 7:30 to 10pm. Happy Hour prices and prizes! Reservation at 076-271583, pahay@netvigator.com.

January 28. Salsa Night

After the overwhelming success of our Salsa Evening and by popular demand, we are delighted to invite you to our Salsa Event at Royal Phuket Marina. Dance the Cha-cha, Bachata, Samba & Rumba with the sound of Dj Maskaro & Oy Live on the Boardwalk outside Les Anges restaurant. Upon request, a Snack Buffet is also available. Free Admission. Dress : Colorful. Contact Anna at 084-0517455 or contact Dider at 084-3062016 or contact Murat at 081-7973364, muratc@royalphuketmarina.com or visit phuket-dance.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



SWEETIES: Anantara visited The *Phuket Gazette* recently with a basket of goodies. (from left) Treechada Kantacha, Assistant Director of Sales at Anantara, Panika Korsakul Sales and PR, *Gazette* MD Oranee Hildebrand and Janejira Saywipas Retail Services Manager.



HOGAN'S HEROES: Chris Hogan and Jerry Johns at the Angsana Kids Club prepare the new mural.



IT'S A JUNGLE OUT THERE: A media party entitled 'Party in the Jungle' was organized by Bangkok Hospital Phuket. Deputy hospital director Badin awarded the first prize of 10,000 baht to Channel 9 media.



Channel 3 reporter Yakobe Triphan won the best costume prize at the 'Party in the Jungle'.

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SPLASHING OUT: Irish expat Liam Stewart (back left) organized a trip to Splash Jungle for all the mothers and children of Life Home Project (LHP). Also present at the fun day out were his brother David (back right) and in front of him (left to right) Kathy Manthei Coulson and Peter Wood and Hélène Fallon-Wood of LHP.



FROM CENTARA WITH LOVE: Dhanita Chueachit, Executive Secretary to the GM (left) and Sales Secretary Nattaya Khanjanajitti enjoyed New Year at the Centara Grand Beach Phuket.



LAW AND ORDER: General Preecha Premasawad, (third on the left) presided over the grand opening of Haris & Hawryluk Attorney-at-Law office opening. Haris Boonsop and Michelle Hawryluk are second and fifth left.



REACHING OUT: A workshop to release trauma was run at Yaowawit school recently by Christine Von Aufsess, a psychotherapist from Germany.



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

- Which British comedy duo have as some of their characters "Brabbins and Fyffe", "The Inappropriate Dentist" and the "RAF Pilots" who speak in street lingo?
- This American hotelier, who died in 1979, was actress Zsa Zsa Gabor's second husband. Who was he?
- This actor starred as Boromir in *The Lord of The Ring* films. Who is he?
- This American playwright, actor and TV and film director was nominated for an Academy Award for his performance in *The Right Stuff*. He is also the former partner of Jessica Lange. Who is he?
- Who was the designer of the Battle of Britain aircraft the Supermarine Spitfire?
- The title track of the film *The Sting* was based on the piano rag *The Entertainer*, written by which composer and pianist?
- This Manchester United defender joined the club in 1990. He won 56 international caps for the Republic of Ireland. Who is he?
- In the 1980s, British television characters Mike, Rick, Neil and Vyvyan were collectively known as who?
- Who is the President of the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club?
- What connects the answers to questions 1-9?

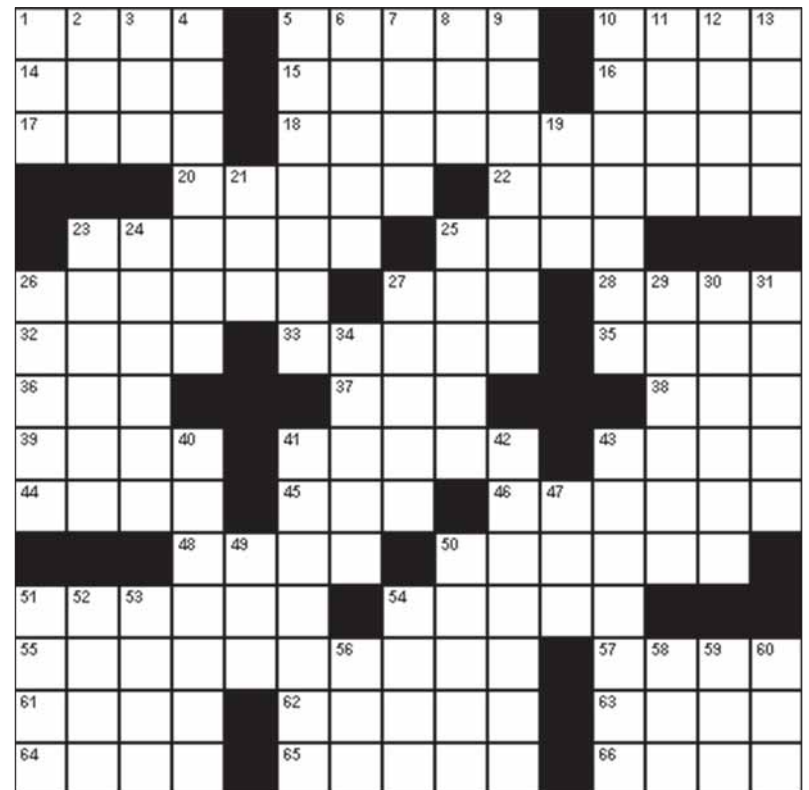
Quiz answers on page 41

Across

- Sgts., e.g.
- Book of maps
- X-ray units
- Loud yell
- Thievery
- Pianist Gilels
- Wood: prefix
- Full of fun
- Descendant
- Twinned
- On dry land
- Look after
- Continues a subscription
- German article
- Humorist Bombeck
- Toward the mouth
- Adjusted pitch
- Authenticating mark
- Little drink
- Orch. section
- Hair goo
- I could — horse!
- The ones here
- Director Wertmuller
- Gradual
- That girl
- Tropical American crocodilian
- Large jug or pitcher
- Kaput
- Roman general
- Castle water pits
- Instant
- Designer Schiaparelli
- Fedora feature
- Best
- Acquire through merit
- Give up
- Stench
- June 6, 1944

Down

- Greek goddess of night
- Bashful
- Nocturnal bird
- Drunk
- Initially
- Pang
- Boxer Spinks
- CIO's partner
- Salary



- Dwells
- Cupid
- Thin change
- Dog-powered snow vehicle
- Able to
- Female bovine
- Of flight
- Shape up
- Layers
- Thorny flowers
- Computer key
- System of rule
- Frenzied woman
- Detective Pinkerton
- Doorkeeper

- Inspiring awe
- Of that
- Republic in South America
- Paint oil
- Small island
- Has been
- Musical composition
- "Power Lunch" network
- Bern's river
- Children's author Blyton
- Feminist Lucretia
- Billiards rod
- Boy
- Madrid Mrs.
- At all

Provided by BestCrosswords.com
Puzzle solutions on page 41

CAPRICORN (December 22-

January 20): Capricorns feeling overloaded with responsibilities are advised to set more definite limits for others who are taking advantage of their good nature. Tuesday is the most auspicious day for a discussion. Those celebrating a birthday in the days ahead are forecast to be more in tune with their feelings in the coming year. This should allow you to make better decisions in all areas of your life. Your lucky number this week is nine.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19):

Aquarians are advised not to rock the boat where business is concerned. Your opinions will be respected as long as they are offered tactfully, particularly where fire signs are concerned. Finances are well starred during the second half of January. Where possible romance with a water sign is concerned, the plot thickens when you learn of someone else's experience with this person. The number five has luck written on it this weekend.

PISCES (February 20-March 20):

Pisceans are predicted to be caught up in a kettle of fish at work during the days ahead. The situation can be as complicated or

simple as you choose to make it – it may be necessary to allow an earth sign to have the last word, even if you know they are wrong. The stars suggest that unaccustomed physical effort should be avoided later in the week. Your lucky number this week is eight.

ARIES (March 21-April 20):

Arians have opportunity to extend an olive branch to another fire sign this week. The stars advise that doing so gracefully will ensure that bad feelings are left behind. Your luck in love is shaky until the end of the month – this is not a good time to take chances with romance. Where finances are concerned, the opportunity to invest in a new business catches your interest. Number three can bring good fortune this weekend.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):

The stars indicate that nit-picking could waste your valuable time early next week. Taureans are advised to concentrate on important matters, one of which probably involves imminent travel plans. Your luck during the second half of January is mostly good, with an investment set to come up trumps. A budding romantic affair with a water sign continues to be well-starred. Number two can be fortunate this weekend.



GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

Too much day-dreaming could prevent Geminis from seeing what is really happening in their lives this week. There are signs that family members are feeling left out as your social life becomes busier. In the realm of romance, another air sign could overwhelm with their determination to win your heart back this weekend. Auspicious days for finances are Tuesday and Wednesday. Your lucky number this week is seven.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

Your energy levels should be running higher this week and the stars suggest that you put this advantage to productive use by planning ahead. In the world of work, the germ of an idea sown now can reap rewards in February. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, a trusted friend offers clues about an earth sign's contrary behavior. Number one can be lucky for Cancerians this weekend.

LEO (July 24-August 22):

Mistakes are highlighted this week. Those born under the sign of Leo are advised to double check personal administration, particularly related to finances. In the realm of romance, a game of cat and mouse with an earth sign is forecast to liven up your weekend. If you are already spoken for, a partner's desire to take a vacation comes at an inconvenient time. Leos' lucky number this week is nine.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23):

Virgoans should reflect on experiences last year that caused them to change tactics. Where work is concerned, there are signs that you could lose out by forgetting a lesson learned. Another earth sign is forecast to try to lead you up the jungle path midweek. Affairs of the heart are well-starred during the second half of January – romance with a water sign is closer than you think. The number four can open a lucky door this weekend.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23):

Librans looking for a different employment situation should have positive results this week. The astral atmosphere will support your attempts to move on, with an influ-

ential earth sign forecast to put in good words on your behalf. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, a water sign is ready for deeper commitment, but another air sign may want to spread their wings. Your lucky number this week is six.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22):

Adventure lies in store for those Scorpions who are ready to go with the flow. The astral atmosphere will encourage you to try different things during the second half of January. Those with a romantic partner may find that this creates ripples in the relationship. If you are single and seeking, another water sign responds well to flirtation. The number two can bring good fortune this weekend.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21):

Those born under the sign of Sagittarius who resolved to concentrate harder on positive thinking this year are forecast to see results. Your chances in business or at work become stronger this week; some extra effort should ensure that rewards are within your grasp. Where romance is concerned, putting a partner's needs first would be wise during the second half of January. Sagittarians' lucky number this week is three.

PROPERTY Gazette

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Phuket property market is strong despite floods

Drilling for a response

GROUNDWATER drilling operators have not received any response from the government to help solve the conflict with Natural Resources and Environment (NRE)'s.

Udomsak Naddasena, managing director of Surat Badaal, a groundwater drilling service company, said, "We have not received anything back since I handed the official letters to Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha and the senate Pol Gen Sunthorn Saikwan, whom I'm close to, for the documents to be transferred to Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra."

"The rule set by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE)'s chief, Chaipadung Promsawadi is that our clients have to see him first. Some of my clients have time and are happy to see the chief, but some don't have time, therefore they will cancel their contracts."

"We were supposed to arrange a protest, but we canceled this because the governor said he would try to help us two weeks ago. The governor also held a discussion with chief Chaipadung, but everything is still the

same in that the project owners have to see him first before the project can be approved," said Mr Udomsak.

"However if my clients can see the chief, the projects always get approved."

He added, "We are forwarding the complaints to the other related organizations to help try and solve the problem and we expect it will reach the prime minister eventually."

Mr Udomsak said, "Since having the problem, I've lost more than 10 clients and about one million baht."

The Department of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) office's chief Chaipadung Promsawadi said, "The groundwater drilling operators can use a power of attorney, but I still need to meet the project owner first. We have an example of one operator not following regulations which caused a lot of damage and the case is currently in the courts."

Chief Chaipadung said, "I have requests to help prevent further damage in Phuket. Meanwhile, I would like Phuket to have water to use forever, but by doing it in the right way." — *Atchaa Khamlo*

SAMMA Kitsin, director-general of the Real Estate Information Centre (REIC), said recently "The floods last year are having a lingering effect on home-buyers' decision-making this year."

But demand for homes in tourist destinations, especially Phuket, is still strong, according to a survey by the Agency for Real Estate Affairs (AREA).

Samma said most home-buyers who are considering projects in the capital and its suburbs are concerned about location.

Their target may change from single family homes or townhouses to condominiums at places that have never experienced flooding. Those neighborhoods that escaped the floods will be their first choice.

Developers with land in flooded locations will have to revise their projects before introducing them to the market. That will take three to six months.

Developers who do not own land in flood-hit locations will not buy land close to those locations.

The property market in the first half will show stable or slight growth, but will recover in the second half after adjustments are made and the government comes out with a clear policy to manage



STILL POPULAR: an aerial view of Patong

floods, he said.

Last year, 340 residential projects were launched with 84,000 units, of which more than half or 44,000 units were condos and the remaining 40,000 units were low-rises. The low-rises were divided into 19,000 townhouses, 16,000 single family homes and 15,000 duplexes and shop houses.

REIC estimates that transfers of both new and resale residences in Greater Bangkok last year would reach only 135,000-140,000 units. That would be a drop of 21-24 per

cent from 178,000 units in 2010.

President of AREA, Sopon Pornchokchai, said that although the Greater Bangkok market was soft, demand for vacation homes in resort areas like Phuket was robust, especially from foreign investors interested in owning a second home.

The company surveyed residential project launches in Phuket last year and found 114 projects with 6,216 units worth 91.41 billion baht. The average price was 14.7 million baht.

— *Nation/Phukette Gazette*

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WINTER has hit the northern hemisphere and somehow the "Occupy Wall Street" movement looks to have lost momentum.

Was it the chilly weather, or fractured interests of an aggravated monster with no head proverbially chasing its own tail? Round and round we go, and where we land, no one knows.

It's like bursting into a crowded room and shouting out with an authoritative grunt – "Who's in charge here?" – only to be met with deadpan silence and no single individual to meet your probing stare.

Sometimes I stare at my golden retriever, wondering anxiously what do pets think? Can she speak or even just hum a familiar tune. But no, my gaze is met with a turned head, eyes darting away despite a wagging tail.

Occupy Wall Street led me to think of the seasonal annual owners' meetings held at villa and

condominium estates across Phuket. These loosely based organizations, somewhat like a disenfranchised family scattered across the globe, are like walking down to the beach and throwing a handful of sand into the howling wind, the grains scatter to the four corners and beyond.

The only ties that bind a family are by blood but for property owners the common interest is their own piece of real estate on what many term an island of desire.

For many the word family boils down to an often eclectic mix of different personalities, agendas and certainly a number of quirks. It's the epitome of dysfunctional – as may be defined by many a tattered soul.

Thailand's foreign property ownership laws arguably remain ill-equipped to handle both the volume of overseas investors' risk mitigation concerns, and provide a fairly low level of modern consumer legislation governing common ownership interests.

One glimmer of hope is the Condominium Act which has continued to be upgraded over the past four



COLD FEET: Occupy Wall Street protestors also blame the management. Photo: David Shankbone

years, though this has been in reaction mainly to domestic demand.

For leasehold projects, be they apartments, villas or houses, oftentimes a set of estate rules are annexed to purchase agreements although in reality enforcement ranges from difficult to nearly impossible.

Moving into ownership groups or committees again gets some 'facetime' in contracts be they

informal organizations or else written into statutory bylaws and articles of incorporation frequently in offshore regimes.

Local practices tend to "follow the leader" and for many owners a legacy of slim picked, short form contractual obligations simply don't fully address long term issues.

Who's to blame? Buyers who don't invest in legal representation when they purchase units, developers who just wish to exit on profit and leave the owners' groups to fend for themselves down the line and certainly the lack of government recognition of that fact that, yes, foreigners do own property in Thailand in a significant way.

Short term thinking and long term facts of ownership have steered into uncharted territory and in reality some of these growing pains are steps on the maturation ladder.

Unfortunately management companies are often the soft targets for frustrated owners to vent their spleen over rising costs that, in many cases, are affected by Thailand's hyperinflation. Going back to the family analogy, it's a bit like poor whacked out 80 year old Aunt Edith arriving on your doorstep one day and knowing you have to nurse her through old age.

On the cost front, harsh tropical climates; the lack of skilled manpower and limited resources often result in owners being unwilling to invest into capital projects in the long term. Estates are somehow similar to hotels and remain capital intense operations. Oh, all that lovely wood which pushed you into buying in the first place, has now come back to

bite you on the big toe.

Management often simply continues to throw more manpower at issues. From a cost basis, staff and energy costs are two large big ticket expenses and it's often easy to simply increase these year after year and add double digit common area charges to owners.

What about retrofitting emerging saving devices or rationalizing efficiency of labor? Again these remain arcane sciences that ultimately must become an agenda item for estate management. More staff does not mean better maintenance.

Another key issue is long term capital replacement for roadways, pool re-tiling, large equipment and major upgrades. The use and misuse of the entire sinking fund concept has to change. Expense planning must be a long term tool and not a dirty little secret that only comes up when an entire estate is crumbling into neglect and decay.

That given, property ownership groups the world over all have similar serial traits and like it or not Phuket simply tracks the trend. Ownership involvement is on the rise and looks to be a relevant topic for the next decade as properties start to grow older.

If you are an owner, stand up, make yourself known and participate in the process of proactive ownership with a practical long term view. The state of an estate can large affect the market value of your own investment.

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

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All images are artist impression

In brief...

New commercial center for Laguna Phuket entrance

THE site of the former Giant Supermarket in Cherng Talay is being developed into a commercial mall by the developers of Boat Lagoon.

Located at a prime intersection leading into Laguna Phuket the "Boat Avenue" project is already underway and the larger

'for sale' units will be completed in early 2013.

A combination of single story units for rent and three-and-four-story buildings, which can be connected, will be sold.

Rentals for the initial units are already being snapped up quickly with only eight spaces with sizing for 50 square meters left.

Sales for the larger units are expected to commence at the end of this month.

Both pedestrian and car parking allocations have also been upsized according to the project office.

– Bill Barnett

Hotel industry keeps growing in Phuket

THE hotel and retail business in Phuket grew significantly and most property firms expanded their investments in the province, according to Knight Frank Phuket. Among the new projects are Patong Promenade, developed by Baan Sukhothai at Patong Beach

Co Ltd, located on Bangla Road. It will be a shopping, dining and entertainment complex, with room for 150 retail shops over 40,000 square meters and a parking area un-

derground of 2,000 square meters capable of accommodating more than 700 cars. The project is expected to be completed soon.

Benzy Mall is another interesting project, located on Wirat Hongsyok Road in Phuket Town, which has great potential to emerge as a new business quarter. The project covers 15 rai of land. The retail building will be developed as one two-story and five single-storied buildings, containing a total of 250 units. A 60 x

20m water park will be in the middle of the project. Banana Walk will be a chic mall with construction elements that include stone, wood, glass and bamboo. Its concept is sustainable retail practice. The project will provide 30 retail outlets, five restaurants and a rooftop nightclub. The project is situated on a 4,500sqm plot in Soi Bangla, just 100 meters from the beach.

N a t h a Kahapana, director of Knight Frank Phuket,

said that not only retail development, but even the entertainment business has taken off in Phuket recently. A mega-project in Phuket is from Ratchada Niramit, operator of Siam Niramit, on Tiamruammit Road, where a second Siam Niramit Theater has been built on 50 rai of land with a seating capacity of 1,750. The project is located on Ratsada-Samkong Road, off the Bypass Road. The Splash Jungle Waterpark is being developed in the new northern Centara Grand, probably better

known as the West Sands Property Development. There will be 12 waterslides, a huge Superbowl slide and a 335-metre lazy river.

Phuket has a lot of hotel rooms so the new facilities will encourage tourists to go and chill out during their holidays.

Risinee Sarikaputra, associate director of research and valuation of Knight Frank Thailand, said four-star hotels in Phuket achieved occupancy rates of about 75 per cent in the period between January and October, a 64.83 per cent increase over 2010. Patong is outperforming the rest of the island with occupancy rates of about 82 per cent January to October.

"We also expect budget/economy hotels to perform better than four-star hotels as travelers tend to be cost-conscious. The total completed four-star hotel supply in Phuket increased by 1,170 keys to 12,493 keys at the end of 2011. The additional supply came from the opening of eight hotels located in different locations of Phuket.

According to the Department of Tourism, the first 10 months of 2011 proved that Phuket is increasing its share in mass tourism.



Phuket has many new attractions.



VIEW WITH A ROOM: Hotels in Phuket are facing increased competition from rental properties offering competitive rates. Photo: Vijiit Resort

The emerging markets are the Middle East, Asia and Russia, which increased by 63.2 per cent, 41 per cent and 14.5 per cent respectively.

Risinee said research indicated that the average daily rate of four-star hotels in Patong increased in 2011, from just 2490.76 in 2010 to 2,510.35 during the first 10 months of 2011. With 12 hotels in the pipeline in Patong, the competition is estimated to be intense in this area. The rate is estimated to decrease in Patong in the near

future. The average length of stay is diminished as the average length of stay of Asean tourists is only a few days, while European tourists normally take longer holidays from a week to a month at a time.

She added that hotels in Phuket are also facing increased competition from rental properties which are offering competitive rates, particularly for longer-stay visitors, as well as competition from other resort destinations in the region.

— Nation/Phuket Gazette

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Construction commences Q2 2010 and Completion during Q2 2012

Small fruiting trees: Enter the Dragon's Eye

FROM blocked canals to poor flood management, the debate rages as to why Thailand suffered the floods of 2011. And while the arguments continue, the plight of many fruit farmers has attracted little attention, even though their livelihood has disappeared with the receding waters.

Fruit trees, like most plants, suffocate through lack of oxygen if submerged for any length of time: hence the lifeless orchards of *pomelo* or *rambutan* in Nakhon Pathom.

I mention this because Phuket has mercifully been spared the inundation. So there remains every incentive to cultivate small fruit trees in your garden. What happened to orchards in the plains of central Thailand will not happen here. Unless of course you choose a fruit tree that is unsuited to Phuket's conditions. For example, it would be great to grow the edible fig (*figus carica*). In the Mediterranean region, these trees are not only extraordinarily hardy, but produce masses of succulent and delicious fruit. But Thailand's hot and humid climate, though entirely congenial to almost every other variety of fig, including the notorious strangler, causes root rot, or mildewed foliage in edible figs.

This week's choice has no such



Gardening
By Patrick Campbell

problems. *Dimocarpus longan*, referred to in some books as *euphoria longan*, and known here as *laam yai*, is a prosperous native of Southeast Asia and thus a good choice for your garden. To start with, it is an evergreen tree, so collecting dead leaves is less of a chore. Moreover, it is of manageable proportions, rarely exceeding eight meters in height, has dense, dark-green foliage and grows evenly and symmetrically. It prefers sandy, slightly acidic soil and can be grown readily from seed.

However, its main attraction is the fruit, colloquially known as dragons eye because when peeled, the large jet black seed shows through the translucent flesh like a pupil and iris. The reddish-brown fruit hang down in loose, grape-like clusters from which the thin, bark-like shell is easily removed. Many Thais have a knack of squeezing out the ripe fruit like cracking a sunflower seed. In taste and texture, the *laam yai* is sweet and juicy, a favorite in soups and especially in desserts. It can also be smoke dried and preserved.

The plant is a member, like



The evergreen tree rarely exceeds eight meters in height and prefers sandy, slightly acidic soil. Photo: Pouletic

the *lychee* and *rambutan*, of the soapberry family and its seeds can be used for shampooing hair, apparently.

Deservedly popular in Thailand, the fruit has never become as well-known in Europe and the New World as its cousin the *lychee* (*litchi Chinensis*), though to my taste buds, when eaten fresh from the tree, it has a better flavor. *Lychees* do produce more spectacular fruit with a pink or strawberry red rind which are larger (5cms) than those of the *laam yai* and slightly perfumed. They prefer slightly cooler conditions so perhaps this explains why *lychees* are more widely grown in sub-tropical Asia, especially in China, where they have been a delicacy for more than 2,000 years. Indeed, I suspect the canned fruits are familiar to most Westerners, even though the distinctive perfume of the fresh fruit is lost in the canning process.

But for my money, I would choose to cultivate the *laam yai* rather than the *lychee* in my garden.

There is something more distinctively Thai about it.



The lychee (left) is better known than the longan (inset) Photo: Surukuku

Laguna

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Tip of the week

Pruning Larger Trees



THE FINAL CUT: Photo: Judy Augatti



END RESULT: Photo: Keith Williamson

IF A tree in your garden needs frequent pruning, it is probably too large for its environment. However, if you *do* have to prune heavily, try to avoid topping reducing the height of a mature tree by sawing off all its top limbs. The tree will not grow back in a natural way.

When sawing off a large limb, shorten it to a stub. To do this, select a point a foot or so along the branch, and

make a cut from the underside, about a third of the way through. Then, about an inch further out on the branch, cut straight down from the top until the limb splits cleanly between the two cuts. Finally, saw through the remaining stub close to the trunk.

This method will avoid ripping and splitting the bark. Such wounds leave the tree open to infection.

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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

PHUKET / PA KHLOK

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

KATALUXURY 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/

RAWAI POOL VILLAS FOR RENT

3 and 4 bedrooms, fully furnished. Tel: 087-893 8747.

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: jospe der@live.no

NEW HOME FOR RENT
2 storeys, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 5 mins from Phuket Town. 19,500 baht per month. Tel: 080-521 7370.

RENT 2,500 BAHT PER MONTH

Single house with big garden. Rent 2,500 baht/month. Long term: 3 years. 5 mins to airport. Tel: 083-649 1218.

OFFICE FOR RENT



Located close to town and tourist areas. Tel: 081-693 5424.

SURIN BEACH CONDO

1 bedroom poolside condo, 300m to the beach. Email jgstryker@gmail.com for details.

LAYAN BEACH, 3 BEDROOM APT

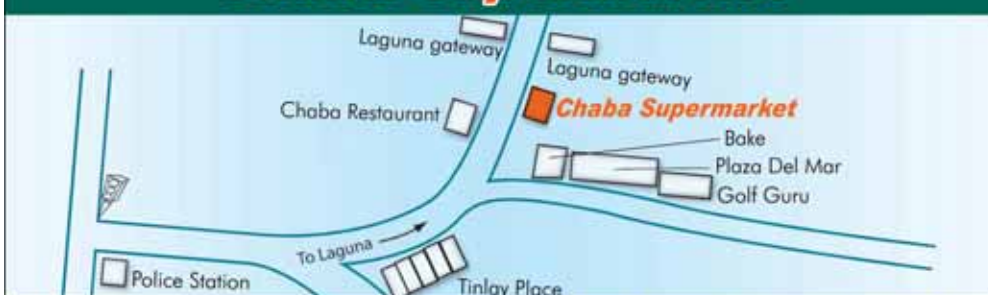
Layan Gardens – luxury, large ground floor apartment. Swimming pools, jacuzzi, tennis court. Two minutes from Layan Beach and Laguna Resort. 85,000 baht per month, 6 months minimum. Tel: 082-605 6406 (English), 080-342 4253. Email: claire@imarketingonly.com For further details, please see our website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

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

Live in Cherg Talay?

Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at **Chaba Supermarket**



Simply write out your ad, pay for it and leave it with Khun Na. Tel: 076-325586 or 081-3977307.

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Property Services

ZION PROPERTY SERVICE

House repairs, renovations, construction. English, Swedish and Thai speaking personnel. Tel: 083-394 8337 (English), 080-141 4577. Email: mattias@zionproperty.com

OFFSHORE WORKER

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

Property Wanted

SERIOUSLY LOOKING

Seriously looking to buy a hotel/plot of land in Phuket. Seriously looking to buy a hotel of 25-50 rooms/3-4 stars in Phuket on elevated land overlooking the sea, prefer Patong, Kamala, Kata or Karon within about 15-20 minutes with drive (without traffic) to Patong Beach. Please contact Khun Ree. Tel: 08/1-901 4801, 081-803 5830. Email: noreekattiyaa.ree@hotmail.com

Accommodation Available

KARON OCEANFRONT LUXURY APARTMENT

5-star, 1-bedroom apartment with pool in a quiet area. Price: 30,000 baht per month. Available now. Tel: 087-531 1124 (English). Email: dfenocchio@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at <http://karonhill.altervista.org/>

RAWAI HOUSE FOR RENT

2 bedrooms, master aircon. Friendly area, must view. 9,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-592 8905. Email: wbramley2000@yahoo.co.uk

KARON CLIFF BUNGALOW

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

SURIN BEACH: HOUSE & GARDEN

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

HOUSE FOR RENT

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

LAND & HOUSE FOR RENT

4-bedroom house and a 20 sqm. showroom on 700 sqm land, main road to Cape Panwa. 15,000 baht/month. Tel: 089-4862747, 086-568 1744. Email: sapmanee@gmail.com

CONDO FOR RENT/ SALE RAWAI



Good price for long term, clean and quiet, 300 meters from beaches. Tel: 080-078 0931, 080-246 2906 (English). Send email to: rawai.reservation@yahoo.com

SALE/ RENT CONDO RAWAI

Quiet area, nice and clean, 300 mtrs from the beaches. Tel: 080-078 0931 (Thai). Email: rawai.reservation@yahoo.com

2-BEDROOM FURNISHED HOUSE

Convenient and safe location in Kathu, just 2kms 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 15,000 baht per month with big discounts for long term. Email: petersoffshore@hotmail.com

CHEAP ROOMS

From 350 baht per night or 6,000 baht per month for a fan room. From 500 baht per night, 10,000 baht per month with aircon. Quiet mountain location near behind Nanai Road (50 Pee Road). Five minutes by bike to downtown Patong. Free WiFi, cable TV. Fully furnished double rooms. Bar. Restaurant open shortly. Tel: 082-286 5171, 087-078 6379. Email: nanaisauna@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at: www.sunsetspatong.com

SURIYAPORN PLACE HOUSE

on Choa Fa East Rd, Soi Trongkul, 2 bed, 2 bath, 40.5sq wah, 3 aircons, cable TV, fully furnished, kitchen, long-term rent (min 6 months). 16,000 baht/month. Or Sale. Tel: 087-689 9679. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com Please see our website: www.suriyaporn.com/sappaisarn.html

Accommodation Wanted

LOOKING APARTMENT 1,500 BAHT/NIGHT

Looking for apartment/condo for 2 adults. Must be fully furnished, including WiFi. Dates: 5-19 Feb 2012. Below 1,500 baht per night. Email: s_bulavin@hotmail.com

POOL VILLA

Villa in Rawai, Nai Harn, Chalong or Kathu wanted between from June 6 to July 1. 25 days. Private pool, internet. Email: a.ekvall@gmail.com

Holiday Homes & Villa Rentals

LUXURY SEAVIEW VILLA BANG TAO

Holiday rental, villa sales, land sales. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-267 0157. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com See our website: www.villasomeday.com

SEA FRONT HOUSE 22,000 BAHT

Thailand's best year round sea front location. No weekly or monthly rentals. 55 and older wanted or quite people. Newer 2 and 3 bedroom seafront furnished houses. 180 sqm starting price 20,000 baht. Tel: 089-591 0840. Email: remotekan@yahoo.com

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Household Items

FURNITURE ON SALE

Showroom samples available at special Prices!

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

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

Household Services

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Looking for some household items. No longer use. Email: robertalansmith@hotmail.com

TABLE-TOP PLATE GLASS

Needs base to sit on. Cost 15,000 baht, will take 1,000 baht. Space needed. For more details. Tel: 089-675 3861.

GREENHOUSE

Construction adviser, renovation, shop fitting, electric, metal and wood work. For more details. Tel: 085-654 2244.

Classified Advertisements

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

_____ (heading)

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

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

Deadline for Property Gazette page: Friday 3 pm.

Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.

Live in Rawai?

Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at
'The Network' property office

Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it
with Khun Anna 076-388144, 086-4780201, 088-1685032

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

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

PART TIME (FLEXI TIME) REAL ESTATE MARKETING PROFESSIONAL

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

Want to know more?

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

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

EXPLORE



A NEW CAREER WITH THAILAND'S AWARD-WINNING DEVELOPER

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

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

PRIVATE RESIDENCE CLUB SALES EXECUTIVE

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

NAIL TECHNICIAN IN AUSTRALIA

The successful applicant will be:

- ▶ Fully trained and qualified with certificate and contact details of issuing organization (full contact details of organization).
- ▶ Speak English well
- ▶ Have experience of at least 4 years.
- ▶ Up dated on new trends
- ▶ Good presentation and personality.
- ▶ Legally working in Australia with Working Visa
- ▶ (Australian Award Wages) will be paid with full entitlement

When applying please include recent photo

Contact : Rosalie
E-mail: de_rosalie@hotmail.com

Asia Sensations Travel Ltd.,

is a dynamic and progressive inbound ground-handling agent offering the most comprehensive and professional quality service for tourists. To be well prepared for the continuing successful expansion of our client base we require highly qualified and energetic staff. The company is currently looking for experienced professionals as

Qualifications required:-

Operations / reservations officer

- Fluency in spoken and written English (Some knowledge of other language is an advantage)
- Computer, Internet, E-mail and MS Office literate essential
- Self-organized and willing to accept the challenge of a very demanding position.
- Articulate with good interpersonal skills to work in a team.
- Able to work under pressure, tight deadlines and flexible work hours

The remuneration package will be commensurate with the successful candidate's qualifications and experience. Interested applicants should send their curriculum vitae indicating their work experience, present and expected salary with a recent photograph to:

Asia Sensations Travel

7/3 moo 2, Soi Parlai 83130 Phuket
Tel: 076-282906 Fax: 076-282867 Mobile: 081-893 9925
Email: travelasia@3bbmail.com



Secure Wealth Management Portfolio Analyst (full time)

A unique opportunity to join this pioneering wealth management boutique in Phuket. We are looking for a highly-motivated employee, who has a passion for client service and the investment profession. Candidates will grow with our company and must be able to multi-task numerous projects. The role involves regular contact with our high net-worth clients around the world.

Remuneration: thb 30k - 35k / month + annual bonus

Working Place: Office in Phuket Boat Lagoon

Applicants must:

- ▶ be female and of Thai nationality;
- ▶ speak and write excellent English;
- ▶ 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;
jaruan@securewm.com

www.secure-wealthmanagement.com

"Independent advice for the new financial era"

PATONG CENTER CO LTD

Urgently invites candidates for the following positions: Marketing department, Accounting, Foreman, Architect, System engineer, Civil engineer. Tel: 076-343494. Send resume with recent photo to: patongcenter@gmail.com

SHOWROOM REPRESENTATIVE

Showroom in Panwa. Ability to Speak English, Artistic background a plus. Have transportation. Tel: 081-927 4954, 080-270 9366 (Eng & Thai). Email: nacmmail@aol.com

ECO POWER MARKETING PHUKET

Sales and Marketing Executives (Thai) are required to join our newly established Thai/American Company. Fluent English (speaking, writing, computerskills) required. Offering great opportunity to grow with the development of the business; excellent benefits, bonuses and profit share salary. Please submit CV and one recent photo to: recruitment@ecopowermarketing.com

THAI STAFF WANTED

Work in Jungceylon and Ocean Plaza. Good salary plus bonus. Contact Mike. Tel: 081-270 1370. Email: mike@bayshoreprojects.com

SALES MANAGER

We are a developer based in the south of Phuket and seeking a Sales Manager. Candidate must be qualified in Real Estate or Marketing and hold a strong sales track record of residential properties. High salary and commissions. Email: angius@villasuk-san.com

STAFF FOR HOTEL FRONT DESK

We need 2 Thai staff with fluent English for the hotel reception. Tel: 076-343169, 088-345 4944. Fax: 076-343168. Email: vimal13@yahoo.com

RECEPTION/WAITER

Hotel requires a full time experienced Receptionist and also a Restaurant Waiter, both positions requiring persons that are fluent in English. Must have a friendly personality and be able to work as part of a team. Tel: 076-364720, 081-090 1346 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-364721. Email: info@lemongrasspatong.com For further details, please see our website: www.lemongrasspatong.com

THAI LADY

Live in to take care of house and give massage to farang. 14,000 baht/month. Age 35-50, speak English. Email: ltresneg@aol.com

TOUR GUIDES NEEDED

For popular speedboat charter and events company. Thai nationals only. Tel: 076-383125. Email: info@coralseekers.com

TELEMARKETING POSITION

French/Italian speaking. Tel: 081-968 5963. Email: cc@bayshoreprojects.com

LOOKING FOR BABYSITTER

Age 25-35, must have experience with 3-month-old baby, knowledge of English language is a must. Starting salary: 15,000 baht. Tel: 086-270 7506.

SALES PERSON

A&B Design Agency brings high quality graphic design, corporate image, web design and branding services. We are looking for a self motivated person, part-time or full time, we offer salary, freedom/flexibility and incentives. Tel: 087-264 9695 (English). Email: eb@ebnetwork.it

TELEMARKETING STAFF WANTED

Thai staff only, good salary and bonus. Tel: 081-270 1370. Email: cc@bayshoreprojects.com

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

We are seeking for graphic designers to provide solutions to communicate client messages with high visual impact. We do advertising, magazines, displays, corporate communications and corporate identity. High salary and incentives for the right persons. Tel: 087-264 9695. Email: eb@ebnetwork.it

JOB WITH A SEA VIEW

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

MASSAGE SHOP STAFF

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

Looking for a job?

Looking for a better candidate?

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at www.PhuketGazette.Net/

amanpuri

Multi award winning Amanpuri and Amanresorts' flagship property is currently looking for young, energetic and enthusiastic new team member for the following position:

Personal Assistant to Financial Controller

Key Criteria:

- Minimum 3-4 years experience in Secretary
- Demonstrates strong leadership skills to lead, train, motivate and manage a team
- Self-motivated and disciplined
- Speaks, reads and writes English fluently
- Good Computer Knowledge (Micros, Excel) and experience with monthly inventory
- Quality service oriented
- Effective communicator
- Flexible working hours

Interested candidates please submit Current CV, Recent photo, Current and Expected salary with other related documentation to: pn@amanpuri.th.com

or contact Personnel Department,
118/1 Moo 3, Soi Pansea, Srisoontorn Rd., T. Cherno Talay, A. Thalung Phuket 83110
Tel: (66) 76 324 333 ext 731,787 Fax: (66) 76 324 100/200
www.amanresorts.com

INTERNATIONAL LAW OFFICE

สำนักงานทนายความ บริษัท อินเตอร์ และ เอเชีย

International Law Office, Patong Beach Co. Ltd.

OPEN POSITION (Patong Office)

• Office Assistant

Qualifications:

- Female with bachelor degree
- Administrative background and fluency in English will be advantages
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Ability to work well under pressure and to strict deadlines
- Computer skills

Please send English resumé with work experience, references, recent photograph and expected salary to the following emails:
bernd@ilo-phuket.com; sam@ilo-phuket.com

International Law Office Patong Beach Co., Ltd.

55 Rat-U-Thit 200 Pee Road, Patong sub-district,
Kathu district, Phuket province
Tel: 66-76-344180 to 1, 340 731
Fax: 66-76-340767

Location Patong Branch, Phuket, Thailand

STAFF WANTED

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.

FINNISH STAFF

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

WANTED:

GARDENER AND MAID

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

THAI STAFF WANTED

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

CABLE SKI WAKEBOARD CLUB

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

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

FOREIGN STAFF WANTED

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

Employment Wanted

JOB WANTED

French butcher, 25 years old. Well experienced. Want job. Tel: 082-517 0544. Email: patrickmeo@gmail.com

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

REPORTER

- ▶ Thai national (able to read, write, speak fluent Thai)
- ▶ Ability to communicate clearly in English
- ▶ Clear thinking in order to identify what makes a good news story
- ▶ Initiative and enthusiasm to track down the story
- ▶ Photography skills
- ▶ Able to manage own time effectively
- ▶ Knowledge of Burmese an advantage
- ▶ Driver's license

Good salary for the right candidate.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to Oh@PhuketGazette.net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew
A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-273555 Fax: 076-615240

Windy Boats

(Thailand) Co LTD)

Position: Office Administrator & Marketing Executive
Summary Responsibilities:

- ❖ Assisting Manager in executing a wide variety of details that involve the direct mail, email broadcast campaigns, outbound calls, marketing trade shows and events, public relations, other marketing plans. Interfacing with counterparts and building up relationship with marketing suppliers, agents and customers.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Manage petty cash and ensure accurate, timely and cost-sheet for charter and boat management. Perform a series of secretarial functions for the Manager.

Salary: Negotiable + intensive + allowances

Bachelor degree in related field, a background within the marketing field will be an advantage. Good command of English language both speaking and writing and computer skills. Good communication skills, out-going personality, self-motivated, and capable to work without close supervision.

Contact khun Bow: jariya.sungdong@windyboats.asia

Mobile: **080-529 6928**

Pinetree Development Services

We are principally engaged in the development and management of a large-scale mixed property development project in Phang-nga, Thailand. The site, located within the Thai Muang district, is planned to develop as an all-season resort with high-end residential real estate, hotels and other facilities. To achieve this aim, we invite high-caliber professional individuals to join our site team based in Thai Muang (30km north of Phuket).

(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
- Knowledge of full project lifecycle incl. design and procurement and planning software
- Experience in handling translation between English and Thai
- Excellent command of spoken and written Thai with good spoken and written English

We offer attractive remuneration package and fringe benefits to the right candidate. If you have the ambition to create an exciting and rewarding career, please send us a cover letter highlighting your expertise and strength together with your detailed resume and expected salary immediately via email to recruitment@pcpd.com.

Gazette Online Classifieds – 10,000 readers every day!

Articles For Sale

CHINESE TEA

Quality Chinese tea for sale. Contact Peter to arrange a free tea tasting. Tel: 082-278 1575.

USED CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT

Used construction equipment for sale. Bobcat skid steer, with attachments, cement mixers, form work, scaffolding, generators, drills, jack hammers etc. Please contact for full list and photos. Tel: 088-441 3583 (English). Email: john watson4258@gmail.com

BOX MACHINE

Box machine for sale. 33,000 baht. Tel: 082-535 5482.

AS NEW BOOKS, MODERN FICTION

15 once-read books for sale at 150 baht each, or all for 2,000. Andy McNab, John LeCarre, Irvine Welsh, Vince Flynn. etc. Also many other fiction books at 100 baht each. Moving out so need to clear. Tel: 089-216 7220. Email: julianburgess@myway.com

SAMSUNG 10KG WASHING MACHINE

Brand-new (2 months old) Samsung AG (Silver Series) 10kg washing machine. Paid 9,500 baht. Will sell to best offer. Tel: 086-619 3475 (English). Email: scottfiske@hotmail.com

BABY COT & CAR SEAT

Nice white cot: 5,000 baht. Car seat for baby up to 2 years old: 1,500 baht. Please contact through site or ring 081-891 9826 and ask for Joe. Email: jb@jbxel.net

HANDCRAFTED TEAK WOOD

Futon sofa beds. Unparalleled comfort and durability. Shipping door-to-door anywhere in Thailand. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-043 2482. Website: www.bangkokfuton.com

CARRYBOY ROOF RACK

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

BRAND-NEW HONDA PCX HELMET

Got it with my new bike but too small. Unused. White with integrated sunglasses. New 1,500 baht. Make me an offer. Email: giothailand@aol.com

Bar & Restaurant Equipment

MEAT SLICER

"Iceberg" heavy duty. 30cm (12") blade, fully adjustable with built-in blade sharpener. As new, 18,000 baht ono. Photos available. Tel: 076-284310, 081-606 5805 (English). Email: couttsd@gmail.com

Bulletins

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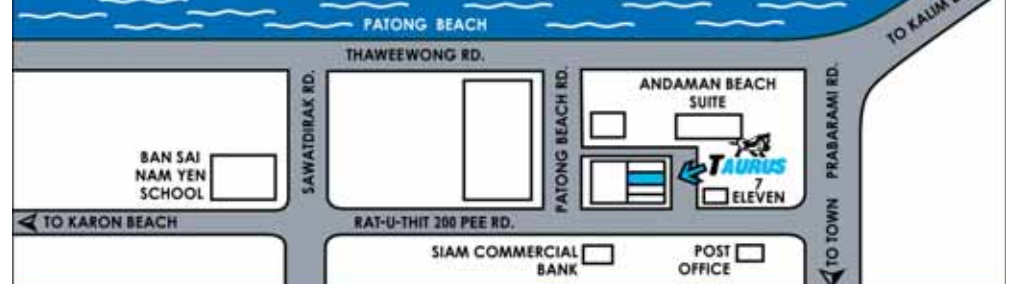
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SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES

Crossword puzzle:



Impossibly Possible Quiz answers:

1. Alexander ARMSTRONG and Ben Miller (Neil Armstrong Apollo 11)
2. CONRAD Hilton (Pete Conrad Apollo 12)
3. Sean BEAN (Alan Bean Apollo 12)
4. Sam SHEPARD (Alan Shepard Apollo 14)
5. R J MITCHELL (Edgar Mitchell Apollo 14)
6. SCOTT Joplin (David Scott Apollo 15)
7. Denis IRWIN (James Irwin Apollo 15)
8. The YOUNG Ones (John W Young Apollo 16)
9. The DUKE of Kent (Charles Duke Apollo 16)
10. They are all men who have walked on the Moon.

International Sport

Chelsea favorite for FA Cup

CHELSEA have been made favorites by bookmakers to secure their seventh FA Cup title following their victory over Portsmouth.

The scoreline flattered the Blues who struggled in a dour first half to breakdown determined defensive play by the visitors.

Just after the break however, Juan Mata received a low cross from Florent Malouda and swept the ball past Stephen Henderson.

Pompey had chances to level terms after an error by David Luiz, with Petr Cech saving Marko Futacs' effort and John Terry blocking the scrambled rebound.

It was not until the 85th minute through an Fernando Torres assist did Chelsea double their tally and put the game beyond doubt with a Ramires score.

Torres, hoping to take advantage with Didier Drogba away on international duties, lacked any real service during the game and his only genuine chance of the night was well saved by Henderson.

In the dying moments of the game Torres again became provider for Ramires to grab his second, and Frank Lampard rounded matters off in the 93rd minute.

Manchester United overcame the possibility of going out in the third round for only the second time under Alex Ferguson's tenure

beating Man City 2-3.

Referee Chris Foy's controversial decision to dismiss Vincent Kompany for a two-footed challenge on Luis Nani could have ruined what was a pulsating FA Cup tie.

Man Utd already a goal to the good through a Wayne Rooney header scored two more before the break.

Welbeck executed a brilliant volley after a Patrice's Evra cross was deflected, past the outstretched hand of Costel Pantilimon, deputising for a resting Joe Hart. Rooney got his second headed goal following up on his own saved penalty after a foul by Aleksandar Kolarov on Welbeck.

Whilst most teams down 0-3 and a man short would capitulate, Man City went on the attack with David Silva and Sergio Agüero both in fine form. City managed to grab two goals through Kolarov and Agüero, however United clung on for the last quarter to progress, and will now face Liverpool at Anfield.

Thierry Henry's legendary status was confirmed when he came off the bench and scored the only goal to beat Leeds. Henry received the ball on the edge of the box and stroked it past Andy Lonergan into the bottom-right corner of the net taking the Gunners through to meet Villa.



THERE IS ONLY ONE: Arsenal's Thierry Henry on loan from the New York Red Bulls celebrates scoring the only goal of the third round tie against Leeds United. Photo: AFP/IAN KINGTON

Aussies rule India



RECORD BREAKER: Michael Clarke drives the ball on his way to 329 not out the best score by an Australian Test skipper on home soil. Photo: AFP/Greg WOOD

MICHAEL Clarke's 329 run record breaking innings at the SCG gave Australia an unassailable series lead against India and will retain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy if they can win or draw in either of the remaining matches in the four test series.

India crashed to an innings and 68 run defeat despite the team's high expectation to gain their first

ever test series win on Australian soil at the start of the tour.

An unlucky Sachin Tendulkar on 80, yet again failed in his personal bid to get his 100th test century, edging a delighted Clark initially onto the pads of wicketkeeper Brad Haddin, with the ball then ricocheting to a grateful Mike Hussey in the slips.

A middle order batting collapse

followed when Australia took the new ball as soon as it became due, and used it to devastating effect. Three wickets were taken for a paltry 15 runs, which left the task of mopping up the tail, which the Aussies did in clinical style.

India have now lost their last six games overseas following the 4-0 whitewash at the hands of England in the summer last year.

FA CUP REPLAYS & 4TH ROUND		
FIXTURES		
TUESDAY, 17 JANUARY 2012 02:45		
Millwall	VS	Dag & Red
QPR	VS	MK Dons
Wolves	VS	Birmingham
Wrexham	VS	Brighton
Bolton	VS	Macclesfield
03:00		
WEDNESDAY, 18 JANUARY 2012 02:45		
Leicester	VS	Nott'm Forest
SATURDAY, 28 JANUARY 2012 22:00		
Arsenal	VS	Aston Villa
Blackpool	VS	Sheffield Wed
Brighton	VS	Newcastle
Wrexham	VS	
Dag & Red	VS	Southampton
Millwall	VS	
Derby	VS	Stoke
Everton	VS	Fulham
Hull	VS	Crawley Town
Liverpool	VS	Man Utd
Macclesfield	VS	Swansea
Bolton	VS	
Milton Keynes	VS	Chelsea
QPR	VS	
Nottm Forest	VS	Swindon
Leicester	VS	
Sheffield Utd	VS	Birmingham
	VS	Wolves
Stevenage	VS	Notts County
Sunderland	VS	Middlesbrough
Watford	VS	Tottenham
West Brom	VS	Norwich

PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES		
SATURDAY, 14 JANUARY 2012 22:00		
Aston Villa	VS	Everton
Blackburn	VS	Fulham
Chelsea	VS	Sunderland
Liverpool	VS	Stoke
Man Utd	VS	Bolton
Tottenham	VS	Wolves
West Brom	VS	Norwich
SUNDAY, 15 JANUARY 2012 20:30		
Newcastle	VS	QPR
Swansea	VS	Arsenal
23:00		
MONDAY, 16 JANUARY 2012 03:00		
Wigan	VS	Man City
LA LIGA FIXTURES		
SATURDAY, 14 JANUARY 2012 24:00		
Granada	VS	Rayo Vallecano
Zaragoza	VS	Getafe
Sevilla	VS	Espanyol
Mallorca	VS	Real Madrid
Valencia	VS	Real Sociedad
02:00		
SUNDAY, 15 JANUARY 2012 18:00		
Atletico Madrid	VS	Villarreal
Osasuna	VS	Racing
Athletic Bilbao	VS	Levante
Sporting Gijon	VS	Malaga
Barcelona	VS	Real Betis
02:45		
03:30		
SERIE A FIXTURES		
SATURDAY, 14 JANUARY 2012 03:00		
Catania	VS	Roma
SUNDAY, 15 JANUARY 2012 18:30		
Lazio	VS	Atalanta
Cesena	VS	Novara
Chievo	VS	Palermo
Fiorentina	VS	Lecce
Genoa	VS	Udinese
Juventus	VS	Cagliari
Parma	VS	Siena
AC Milan	VS	Inter Milan
02:45		
MONDAY, 16 JANUARY 2012 02:45		
Napoli	VS	Bologna

Sports briefs...

FOOTBALL: Crystal Palace will take a 1-0 lead into the second leg of the Carling Cup semi-final against Cardiff.

OLYMPICS: Great Britain's men gymnastics team beat France to qualify with a full team for the first time since Barcelona in 1992.

CANOEING: British canoeist Paul Wycherley kayaked across the English Channel, setting a new record of two hours 28 minutes.

sports briefs...

GOLF: Australians Aaron Townsend, Nick Cullen and Ashley Hall qualified for the 2012 Open Championship at Australasia International Final Qualifying on Wednesday.

NFL: Tim Tebow's overtime touchdown pass for the Denver Broncos shocked the Pittsburgh Steelers to take victory in the AFC wild-card play-off.

The 11-second play was the quickest ever ending to an overtime play in NFL history.

sports briefs...

SKIING: Austrian Marcel Hirscher has won the first three World Cup slalom events of the year by sealing victory in Adelboden, Switzerland.

After the first run Hirscher shared the lead with Cristian Deville, though errors by the Italian in the second run gave the Austrian gold.

FOOTBALL: Mark Hughes has been named as the new manager of QPR, following the sacking of Neil Warnock.

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Phuket football prevails



HUDDLE: Staff and players put their hands together before the match.



Phuket fans were overwhelmed with joy on Saturday, even though the team lost. Photos: Pimwara Choksakulpan

By Pimwara Choksakulpan and S Layne

Despite losing their final home match of the season 1-4 to Bangkok FC last Saturday, FC Phuket and their supporters left Surakul Stadium in jubilation knowing that the team's future is now secure.

Thai Premier League (TPL) powerhouse Muang Thong United, Phuket's 'big brother', has promised financial and administrative support to ensure that FC Phuket can survive and succeed in TPL Division 1 for the coming season.

The good news was delivered before the start of Saturday's match, through a joint announcement made by Team Director Soranan Sanae, Club Consultant Paitoon ('Ko Men') Chutimakornkul, and FC Phuket President Narubas ('Ko Lek') Aryupong.

Mr Paitoon, also president of the Sports News Photography Association of Thailand, made the following announcement.

"I am pleased to bring you all some good news. Over the past few days, many rumors have been spreading that FC Phuket would cease to exist due to financial problems. But good news has just arrived. At 4pm today, executives

of Muang Thong United met at their Yamaha Stadium and agreed to support FC Phuket."

The announcement was returned with exuberant screams and cheers by FC Phuket supporters who thought they were attending the team's final match.

Initiating Phuket's rescue was Wilak Lothong, the director of SiamSport Syndicate PCL and son of Muang Thong United's chairman Rawi Lothong, the fans were told.

"Next season, we will aim for promotion to the TPL. Thank you to everyone for your support," Ko Men announced.

Fans' euphoria were not diminished by the less-than-spectacular match that followed.

Threatened by relegation, Bangkok FC got an early lead with a goal in the seventh minute by Samerpak Srinon. Thirty minutes later, FC Phuket equalized on a nice goal by Niran Panthong and the two teams went into the locker rooms even at 1-1.

After that it was all Bangkok FC, however, as Samerpak scored again at 77 minutes and UK import Lee Tuck put the icing on the cake ten minutes later.

Tuck, fouled by Sarach Yooyen and Poramat Krongborisut in extra



STILL ON: Sarach Yooyen shows his moves. Photo: Apinun Saithaong

time, converted the spot kick to score his second and put his side up 4-1 before the final whistle.

Meanwhile, FC Phuket President Ko Lek announced that he would no longer be forming a 'Phuket Town' team to compete in the Thai Division 2, as reported previously.

Speaking at a training session earlier this week, Ko Lek said, "I will now only head FC Phuket in Division 1. The Football Association of Thailand (FAT) have set a new regulation which prohibits two [professional] football teams being run in one province, effective next [2012] season."

As for the coming season, Ko Lek said "Muang Thong United will send staff to look after the club's accounts and marketing, while I will continue to manage the team including the recruitment of coaching staff and players."

"I've already started to receive many calls from major players interested in joining FC Phuket," he added.

He noted that the new coach and official team roster should officially be announced by the end of January.

"The new season will start in March, so I am in hurry to find the new coach and players to strengthen our team. We will

make an announcement and call all the players to begin training at the start of February," he said.

According to an online report on the Nok Sanam Phuket fan website, the team is considering the following high profile players: Chayene Santos, the star-Brazilian striker who played for Songkhla FC; Amorn Dhamnam a midfielder from Suphanburi FC; Anon Sangsanon, striker from Muangthong United and Nontapan Jiansatawong, a defender – also currently playing for Muangthong United.

Meanwhile, Krabi FC executives have confirmed that the team will be able to compete in Division 1 in the coming season, working with a base budget of 25 million baht.

According to reports by SiamSports, Krabi FC and Pattalung FC (both recently promoted from the Division 2 Champions League playoffs), like Phuket, had faced financial trouble that put their 2012 Division 1 prospects into question.

Pattalung FC will likely take on a new name to honor their sponsor, which is expected to be announced in the coming week.

Songkhla FC, the other Southern Thai powerhouse will not be



FC Phuket President 'Ko Lek'



FC Phuket consultant 'Ko Men'

joining the three Southern teams in Division 1, but will instead compete in the elite Sponsor Thai Premier League.

Though the club was not able to secure promotion from Division 1 for the third year in a row, developments in Buri Ram have proved a blessing for the Southern Fighting Bulls.

Following FAT's new restriction on multiple teams in a province, Buriram PEA and Buriram FC head, Nevin Chidchop sold the promotion rights of 2011 Division 1 champions, Buriram FC to Songkhla. The current Buriram FC players will go on to play in the elite league under the newly formed Buriram United team, replacing the 2011 TPL Champions, Buriram PEA.

FAT has yet to make a decision which team will be awarded Songkhla FC's Division 1 right, though unconfirmed reports are circulating that it could likely be another Southern Thai team.

Meanwhile, in their final fixture of the season, the new-look Southern Sea Kirin will travel to Chainat to play the high-flying Hornbills, who have already secured passage to the elite Thai Premier League.

That match is scheduled for Saturday with a 3:30pm kickoff.

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King's Cup silver jubilee a landmark sporting event

THE 25th anniversary of the Phuket King's Cup Regatta (PKCR), one of Asia's most prestigious yachting competitions, will be remembered as a landmark event.

Not only did the PKCR celebrate its quarter centenary to coincide with His Majesty the King of Thailand's 84th birthday, but the Regatta welcomed its biggest ever fleet comprising 91 keelboats and multihulls, 38 dinghies, and 19 kiteboards, representing one of the greatest gatherings of international vessels ever at the PKCR.

It was no surprise that the racing thrilled from beginning to end. UAE entry *Team Premier* skippered by Hannes Waimer eventually proved to have the fastest and most consistent form, but of more regional significance was the level of competition seen from Asian entries. IRC Zero Class welcomed Frank Pong's custom *Jelik II* racer from Hong Kong which competed with regatta regulars *Team Premier*, *FreeFire* and *Hi Fi*.

Thailand emerged victorious in the IRC 2 Class after a solid win by *Royal Thai Navy 1* skippered by Chief Petty Officer First Class, Wiwat Poonpat. In the tough and open IRC 1 Class, Japanese boat *Karasu* skippered by Yasuo Nanamori reaffirmed Asia's growing influence in this legendary regatta by becoming the first Japanese entry to win in the PKCR.

The 2011 event also welcomed the magnificent *Swan 82* from China, *Chao Ren Plus One*, skippered by Wang Bin, who was competing with two more Swans in the Premier Class – *Silandra V*, captained by Riccardo Denoni, and *Titania of Cowes* crewed by a team from the Royal Thames Yacht Club, which ultimately won.

The Regatta kicked off with an official opening ceremony, presided over by President of the Organising Committee, Kevin Whitcraft, who welcomed representatives from Phuket Province, Yacht Racing Association of Thailand (YRAT), the Third Fleet of the Royal Thai Navy, sponsors and participants. The joint ringing of the ship's bell and hoisting of the flags at Kata Beach Resort & Spa formerly signalled the commencement of the PKCR.

Highlights included the candle-lit ceremony and sail past of the Royal Thai Navy fleet ships on the first day, which completed a salute to His Royal Majesty the King of Thailand. Additionally, H.E. Admiral M.L. Usni Pramoj, Privy Counsellor to the King awarded final honors to each Class of winner at the end of the week.

Kevin Whitcraft said, "This particular regatta was truly an auspicious occasion. It's our silver jubilee which is a unique milestone,



DRESSED FOR SUCCESS: PKCR winners at the Royal Award Ceremony. Photos Guy Nowell



RISING SUN: Karasu, the first Japanese winner at PKCR. Photo: Guy Nowell



Wiwat Poonpat of Royal Thai Navy 1 is received by Privy Counsellor Admiral M.L. Usni Pramoj.



NAVAL SALUTE: The sail past in honor of His Majesty's 84th birthday.

and this year we saw one of the most impressive collections of boats in the competition's history. We saw strong levels of competitiveness in the International Dinghy Class, a class in which Thailand has very good representation.

"We were also proud to welcome professional kiteboarders from the KTA Pro Tour who added yet more visual spice to proceedings.

We are happy to be the first major regatta to feature kiteboards as a unique class. We have received excellent support from all our sponsors which helped to make the on-shore activities something that people will remember for a number of years to come. Our challenge now is to continue innovating, to build upon the progress we have made over the last quarter century, said Kevin.

The social scene is a big part of the lure for many participants and the PKCR is famed for its beachside happenings. There were six nights of parties with partygoers enjoying great hospitality, diverse food and live music at Kata Beach Resort & Spa, Boathouse, Katathani Phuket Beach Resort, Phuket Orchid Resort & Spa and Centara Grand Beach Resort Phuket.

Ultimately, the 2011 Regatta was notable for the boats and teams from all over the world with the event welcoming over 1,000 participants with a strong showing from Asian sailors in the international fleet.

The Phuket Gazette and PGTV are sponsors of the Phuket King's Cup Regatta.

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Flying start to Flynn's 2012

By Neil Quail

PHUKET'S Annissa Flynn started her 2012 surfing season in superb style with victory in the Women's Division of the 6th annual Monsoon Mayhem International Surf Challenge held at Desaru Beach in Southeast Malaysia.

At 13 years old, Annissa was the youngest of the women finalists that included pros such as runner up Nur Herwani from Malaysia, third place Michaela Partin from the USA, and Brenda Lee from Malaysia who finished in fourth place.

The women's final was held in windy, two to three foot surf, just after round one of the Men's Open had been completed as it was expected that the following day's surf would bring significantly larger surf conditions that could have made it impossible for the women to compete, so organizers elected to finish the Women's Division event a day earlier.

On finishing her final run, Flynn was surprised and delighted to learn that she had won.

"Really? I couldn't hear anything but the wind and the pounding waves!" She was promptly hoisted up on the shoulders of fellow Thai surfer Chatchai "Man" Samporn who carried her up to the judge's tower. After Annissa had a moment to relax and enjoy the congratulations from her supporters and other competitors, she was asked about her strategy during the challenging final.

"I didn't know what would happen out there, it was hard to know which waves were going to be the good ones. It was part luck



BALANCED PRO: Annissa Flynn, 13, put her win down to the experience gained on Phuket beaches with the same break.

and part skill I guess, and I'm lucky I got a couple where I could make a few turns. My beach break at home in Phuket can be like this, so maybe my experience there helped me out today."

This is Annissa's second win at an Asian Surfing Championship (ASC) event in Malaysia following victory at the ASC event in Terengganu on December 4, 2011. She also finished the inaugural ASC season as the runner up Asian Women's Surfing Champion. When asked about her plans for the 2012 season, she replied, "I'm going to surf as many ASC events as I can, as I want to be

the women's champion for 2012!"

Nine women from the countries of Indonesia, Thailand, the USA, and Malaysia competed for four spots in the final, including 2011 Women's Asian Surfing Champion Yasnyar "Bonne" Gea, who did not qualify from the semifinals.

The Men's Open Final was won by current Asian Surfing Champion Raditya Rondi from Indonesia. Rondi, who also won the 2011 Quiksilver Thailand Surf Competition in Phuket, battled for 25 minutes against Mohd Nazrin "Super Yen" from Malaysia, Abdullah Areef from the Maldives, and Gilang from Indonesia.



SHOULDERING A STAR: Chatchai "Man" Samporn of Thailand carries a triumphant Annissa to the judge's tower. Photos: Tim Hain

Surfing conditions on the final day lived up to the moniker of "mayhem" and were as expected the previous day, but for the Men's Open finals the conditions eased and allowed for a thrilling finale to the three-day competition.

Rondi was all smiles and very pleased to have started the 2012 ASC tour season with a win. "This is my first time to Desaru and it's been lots of fun, so to take the win today just caps it off. It's a great way to start off the year. We were really lucky that conditions got better in the finals, with the wind all but stopping so it got pretty good, which made it easier to find a couple

of nice waves," he said.

When asked about the significance of his win today Rondi replied, "Yes it's great to win the first event of the season, but there are a lot of good surfers on the ASC tour now and there will be lots more events, so I'll have to work hard and travel if I want to retain my title in 2012," he added.

A great start to the year for the incumbent Phuket surfing champion and for Annissa Flynn's aspirations to become the number one surfer in Asia. The *Phuket Gazette* will keep readers updated on both their progress throughout the 2012 Asia surf calendar.

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Junjita takes 5th at world golf tourney

PHUKET golf is certainly in the upswing especially with a wealth of young players from the island now competing at international level.

The latest Phuket addition to the global golf ranks is Jinjuta Thongtan, a Matthayom 5 (grade 11) student at Satree School.

On January 5, 2012, Mr Thammawat Wongcharoenyot, the president of The Youth Golf Club of Phuket met with Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha to report on the club's achievements.

Mr Thammawat explained to Governor Tri that Jinjuta was selected to represent Thailand at the Callaway Junior World Golf Championship in Florida, USA.

Jinjuta placed a remarkable fifth in the girls section of the compe-

tion against a selection of the world's finest young golfers.

"It was such a great honor for me to have a chance to be part of the tournament. There were 27 competitors from 10 different countries," said Jinjuta.

"I was selected from the Sports Authority of Thailand's 'Sport Heroes Thailand Project' to represent Thailand in the World Junior Golf Series," she said.

"Even though this is not the first time I have competed in another country, I still was very excited about it. I have played golf tournaments in Poland and America before and I have gained a lot of good experiences from the competitions I have attended, and I believe they will help me improve as a golfer," she added.

Being a student and a top level junior golfer takes a lot of time away from a teenager, but a mature Jinjuta recognises that these important aspects of her life have to be managed efficiently.

"My life schedule is not like my other friends. I have to go to the fitness center in the morning before going to school. Following that I attend classes, and when I have no class I usually go to the golf course to practice," said Jinjuta.

"I have also just been selected from the Sport Heroes Thailand Project again to compete in Poland. I still don't know the exact date yet, but I have to practice hard in order to prepare myself for this big tournament as well as the upcoming Phuket Youth Games," she added.



HIGH FIVE: Jinjuta Thongtan is aiming for another tournament in Poland.

Jinjuta, as well as five other golfers from The Youth Golf Club of Phuket will represent Phuket in the National Youth Games which will be held on May 28 to June 5, 2012.

— *Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai*

Young throttles up for GP3

By Neil Quail

PROSPECTS of Phuket-based Dylan Young reaching Formula 1 accelerated with news of an offer for the 22-year old to drive in the 2012 GP3 Series.

Potential savior of Young's career ambitions is the Marussia Manor team, junior squad of the Marussia Virgin Formula 1 team, who have handed Young a lifeline which could also see the Australian achieve a test with their Formula 1 team this November.

GP3 is two levels below Formula 1 and features two races at eight of the European Formula 1 Grand Prix events which brings 16 races to nine million people in 170 countries via TV broadcasts.

The car in which Young will compete is powered by a Renault engine designed by the Renault Formula 1 team and produces 280bhp. It accelerates from 0-100km/h in 2.4 seconds; 0-200km/h in 7.4 seconds and can reach a top speed of around 270km/h.

Having competed in the 2010 Formula BMW Pacific series and then in 2011 under the rebranded

version titled the JK Racing Asia Series, Young's performance at the Singtel Singapore Formula 1 Grand Prix for the Atlantic Racing Team sparked interest from the Marussia Manor GP3 Series team.

At the 2011 Singapore F1 Grand Prix, Young qualified in a remarkable fifth position having missed the previous eight races in the series and was faster than the championship leader. Unfortunately, a technical error in qualifying resulted in Young having to start from the back of the grid. However, Young's determination saw him battle through the field to finish eighth in race one and sixth in race two.

With this opportunity at the ready, Young's handlers are selecting a core group of long term European based sponsorship interests to support the career plan to F1. However, Dylan is keen to reserve a place in the core sponsorship group for members of the Phuket business community who can see the future potential of this opportunity now.

"It's a big confidence boost to receive this

offer and know that despite the financial setbacks we have suffered for the last two years, people are still recognizing my talent. I'm doing everything I can to secure this GP3 seat as I would then be so close to being able to get behind the wheel of a Formula 1 car this November.

All I have to do is finish ahead of the other two Marussia team drivers and I'm confident in my ability to do so. An F1 test this November would make me hungrier to achieve my goal of breaking into the pinnacle of motorsport and would also assist me to develop myself as a driver to the next step in GP2 before finally banging down the door into F1."

The first pre season test of the year takes place from February 21-22 and Young advised that if there is any interest on the island, sponsorship partnerships need to be in place around the testing dates.

Of particular note is a percentage of future earnings agreement that is being structured. Formula One drivers are some of the highest paid athletes in the world and people investing in Young now while they have the

chance to do so can reap the rewards in years to come. It is this very incentive that has already proved successful for many racing drivers who break into Formula 1 on the back of investors essentially owning shares in their racing careers and their future earnings. Further tests are also scheduled in March and April before the

commencement of the GP3 Series season at the Spanish

Formula One Grand Prix in May. "I'm proud to represent Phuket and I'm thrilled to offer businesses on the island an opportunity to experience the exhilaration of this level of motorsport which is directly linked with Formula 1. I'm hoping that I can carry the Phuket name right into F1 in coming years. As we are getting closer to Formula 1 it means we have some really exciting offers for anyone wanting to come onboard."

Young was backed by Phuket luxury car dealer Auto Express in 2011 and is an ambassador for the Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation. For more information contact on info@dylanyoungracing.com or visit dylanyoungracing.com



Photo: Sutton Images

League win slips through Lizard's hands

TWO former Island Furniture League champions faced off last Sunday when Island Cricket Club (ICC) and Liquid Lounge Lizards took to the ACG for the seventh match of the 2011-2012 season.

Both teams looked to secure their first win of the season and to both improve their IFL standings and to gain a degree of confidence moving towards the business end of the season. A tight scuffle eventually saw the Island boys take the win in the final over.

The adage "catches win matches" has all but been dismissed this season by a number of teams and the Lizards will remember this game for exactly their failure to employ this coaching cornerstone.

Lizards won the toss and having decided to bat got off to a steady start, surviving the first 10 overs without loss. Immediately after the drinks break, Ian Lenton (19) was bowled by D Vaigankar with the score on 38. Steady progress continued until fellow opener, Neil Thatcher (16) was run out shortly before the second drinks break with the score on 65. Ian Henry (44) then took on the anchor role of the innings, while partner, Neill Culpan (40) improved the run rate for a 78 run partnership before Henry was



dismissed in the 35th over with the score on 143. Culpan and Lizard's captain Catts (11) then pushed the score along to 163 before Culpan was dismissed in the 38th over with the score on 164. After 40 overs, a defendable total of 188 runs had been posted for the loss of 5 wickets.

ICC's innings began tentatively in an attempt to see off the Lizard's opening pace attack of Culpan and Catts. However, Catts struck in the seventh over bowling V Kumar (11). Culpan sought to outdo his captain by striking twice

in the next over, clean bowling ICC opener I Khan (10) and then removing ICC captain Chand (0) for a duck. Culpan struck again immediately before the 10 over drinks break bowling D Vaigankar (1) and with 4 wickets down for 32 runs, ICC looked defeated.

Lizards struck again in the 12th over, removing H Yalamkar (1) and their tails were certainly up. After S Kumar (59) was dropped on nought, he and B Dessai (39) put on a match-winning 97 run partnership. Dessai was eventually dismissed in the 31st over with the score on 138. A Khan (25) came to the crease and he too was dropped early in his innings before being adjudged lbw off the bowling of Catts with the score on

175 for 7 wickets down in the 36th over. Lizards were still in with a chance if they could remove Kumar, but they were unable to do so, and ICC eventually picked off the runs to achieve their target of 189 runs in the final over of the innings. Best of the bowlers were Neill Culpan (4 for 41) and Nifty Catts (2 for 29).

All teams have now played two matches in the IFL which sees Laguna and The Village sitting atop the table with Patong, TNT and ICC in close pursuit.

The next match at the ACG sees Patong against the Leopards on January 15 at 9am.

The Phuket Gazette is the exclusive local media partner of the ACG.

Golf Guru

THE PGA tour 2012 kicked off last week with professional golfers on Hawaii for the first two stops on the PGA tour.

Last week's event was for the Hyundai Tournament of Champions at Plantation Course, Maui, Hawaii. Only tournament winners from last year are eligible to play, which gave this tournament a limited field of 27 competitors.

The Plantation course is very undulating and the trade winds make this golf course a handful to deal with. Jonathon Byrd had an opening 67 to lead the limited field with four others on 68 including Steve Stricker. Second day saw Stricker blow the field away with an outstanding 63, 10 under par giving him a two round total 15 under par with

further rounds of 69, 69, for a 23 under winning score.

After the final round Stricker said his two goals for the year are to win a major championship and be in the winning Ryder cup Team. We say, good luck with that, Steve! Martin Laird from Scotland finished second at 20 under par having holed a vital putt on the last to finish solo second.

It's interesting to note that Stricker was the number one player in lowest putts (average 28.5) followed by Laird (average 29.3) for the week. By the way, don't feel sorry for the last placed player Jonattan Vegas in this event – he still scooped 63,000 dollars for his trouble.

More Hawaii next week moving on to the island of Waialae for the Sony open with a full field of 144 players.

– Martin Platts



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Bay regatta beckons

By Neil Quail

PHANG Nga Bay's dramatic scenery will provide the spectacular setting for The 2012 Bay Regatta which is scheduled to run from February 1 to 5.

Limestone karsts, cliffs, sandy beaches and tropical vegetation offer a superlative visual tour for sailors as well as natural objects to navigate around, but it is the parties and companionship and the down-to-earth nature of this regatta that brings racers back year after year.

Celebrating the 15th running of this very informal regatta will see boats roaming through the provinces of Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi. Between 40 and 50 boats skippered and crewed by entrants from Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia, The Philippines, USA, Canada, the UK, Germany, France, Denmark, Russia and of course Thailand will participate. Classes this year include Racing, Cruising A, Cruising B, Bareboat Charter and Multihulls.

Affectionately billed as "the fun regatta", the Bay Regatta appeals to the serious as well as the not-too-serious racers with most participants sleeping on boats as the courses lead them to a new anchorage and party venue each night. Camaraderie and fun are cornerstones of the event where light wind cruises or heavier race days inevitably lead to post-race beverages and lively conversation to be followed by a casual dinner, prizegiving ceremony and

entertainment on shore. Low on breakages, low on protests and sometimes low on wind yet always high on enjoyment, the nature of the Regatta speaks for many.

For 2012, the sailing will adopt a varied route once again and includes registration and the opening party at The Village Coconut Island, Koh Maphrao, a course which follows a northeast course to Koh Yao Noi with presentations and party at The Paradise Koh Yao Boutique Resort & Spa, and then racing to Krabi for days 2 and 3.

On day 4, February 5, the fleet will race from Krabi to the southeast end of Phuket where final award presentations and party will be hosted by organizers at the Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC).

The Bay Regatta is a non-profit event and thanks to the support of sponsorship, the Regatta can continue to provide varied and interesting race courses through breathtaking maritime scenery to reach unparalleled anchorages and party venues - all factors which contribute to this exciting event.

The 15th running of the event sees both new sponsors and several who have been long time sponsors. This year's co-sponsors include DaVinci Yacht Charters, The Paradise Koh Yao Boutique Beach Resort & Spa and The Village Coconut Island. *The Phuket Gazette* and *PGTV* are local media sponsors of the Bay regatta.

For more information visit acyc-phuket.com or emailbayregatta@acyc-phuket.com



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