

Phuket Gazette

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Over 2,000 school officials gather to listen to Dr Smith.

Earthquake threat 2012

DR SMITH Dharmasaroja, former Director of the National Disaster Warning Center, spoke with secondary school directors and deputy school directors on February 9.

He spoke on the likelihood of an earthquake and tsunami disaster and urged the administrators to "prepare, but not to panic".

"Earthquakes have occurred in many countries lately, and our [National Disaster Warning Council Foundation, a non-government organization] warning center has detected some movement from [tectonic] plates in the Indian Ocean and Andaman Sea that indicates an earthquake could happen here soon," he said.

"Although 2012 could be a year when many natural disasters occur, I would like everyone to prepare for the worst, but not to panic about the possibility," he told the educators.

Strangled son identified

By: Stephen Michael Fein

THE PARENTS of Mark Robson, a 27-year-old who went missing on Phuket last month, have confirmed that the body of an unidentified victim of strangulation discovered in Karon on January 25 is that of their son.

Mr Robson, who held both British and South African passports, entered Thailand using his British passport on December 5 and arrived on Phuket in mid-December, when he was joined by both of his parents.

After they returned to their home in the South Africa, Mark stayed in regular contact by email until January 15, when his messages ended abruptly.

Mrs Robson's growing concern heightened when she was contacted by school staff in Taipei asking why Mark never reported for a teaching job he was scheduled to begin on February 8.

After confirming that he missed his flight to Taipei, Mark's parents contacted authorities in South Africa, as well as the Phuket Tourist Police Foreign Volunteers.

Frank Tomenson, the volunteers group leader, contacted the media on February 9 with a missing person poster bearing an image of a clean-shaven Mark, along with the basic details about his last known whereabouts. His last



The late Mark Robson, with his mother and father, during their December holiday in Phuket. Photo: Facebook

known action was a bank withdrawal on January 23.

The break in the case came the following day, when Mr Tomenson provided the media an updated photo of Mark, with a mustache and beard, taken by his parents while on Phuket.

That night, a *Phuket Gazette* news editor noted the resemblance between Mr Robson and images of the body recovered near Freedom Beach, which were too

graphic to be published.

Realizing the body was recovered on January 25, two days after Mr Robson's last known bank transaction, the *Gazette* contacted Mr Tomenson to ask if police had compared photos of the unidentified body with those of Mr Robson.

Learning that they had not, images were sent to Mr Tomenson, who contacted the family and mentioned that a body was found

on January 27. Mr Tomenson was reluctant to forward the photos, but sent a single image at the family's request. The parents confirmed the body as that of their son based on appearance and, after viewing more photos, the clothes he was wearing.

Mr Tomenson said he was unhappy with some media reports that seemed critical of the police.

Continued on page 3

Monorail solution for British drunk driving concerns

PHUKET Provincial Office will seek central government approval for a Korean-funded light-rail system with service from the airport to Patong, Kamala and Rawai, the governor told a visiting British Embassy officials on February 17.

The news was revealed during a courtesy visit to Phuket Provincial Hall by British Embassy Deputy Head of Mission Steven Chandler and Honorary Consul for Phuket Martin Carpenter.

The pair visited Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha to discuss public transport and drunk driving issues that affect mil-

lions of British tourists in Phuket annually.

Consul Carpenter noted that the number of British nationals involved in road traffic incidents in Phuket had increased from previous years. He went on to suggest that alcohol was probably at fault in many cases.

"In the past we've lost many British nationals, particularly to motorbike accidents, many of them drink related. We would like it if the Phuket Police could run a 'don't drink and drive' campaign," he said.

Mr Chandler added that of some 19 million British people who visit Thailand, many include Phuket in their itineraries. He agreed

that a "don't drink and drive" campaign could save lives.

After promising to discuss the idea with his officers, Gov Tri revealed that he intends to seek government approval for a light rail service linking Phuket Airport to points in Patong, Kamala and Rawai.

The request would come during a mobile Cabinet meeting next month, he said.

Mr Chandler observed that improved public transport system would be good for the tourism industry and said he was aware that such projects had been under consideration for a few years.



British Embassy Deputy Head of Mission Steven Chandler. Photo Atachaa Khamlo

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This Week

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Policing Phuket's elephant business

THREE elephant camps in Phuket are being investigated after concerns were raised about the origins of the baby elephants in their possession.

Officers of Central Investigation Bureau of the Royal Thai Police in Bangkok investigated Phuthai Souvenir Market in Chalong, ATV Elephant Camp near the Big Buddha image in Karon and Sheraton Camp in Cherno Talay to determine if the baby elephants were born in the wild or not.

"We came down to examine the elephant camps in Phuket as part of our investigation of Sai Yok Elephant Park, where there are 51 elephants. We got search warrants for the camps and found one baby elephant in each of the three camps," said Col Watcharin Phusin, the superintendent of the regional Natural Resources and Environment Crime Suppression Division.

Tassanes Petkong, an officer with the National Park Department Wildlife and Plant Conservation Center, told the *Phuket Gazette*, "The mother of the three baby elephants from Sai Yok Elephant Park is also being investigated be-



The raid followed reports by Dutch wildlife activist Edwin Wiek.

cause they do not have her identification document."

"If the mother elephant is working illegally in the tourist trade, so are the baby elephants," Mr Tassanes added.

DNA from the three baby elephants will be checked against the DNA of the supposed mother in a laboratory in Bangkok. The results will take about two weeks, said Mr Tassanes.

"If the test leads us to believe the elephants were illegally bought, they will be taken to Lampang's



elephant rehabilitation camp," said Col Watcharin

"Meanwhile anyone found guilty in this case can expect to get up to four years in jail, a 40,000 baht fine, or both in accordance with Wildlife Preservation and Protection Act," he added.

While the testing is being done the baby elephants will stay with the present owners, who have been told they are not allowed to move them from their present location, said Col Watcharin.

- *Atchaa Khamlo*

Gone in 60 secs, back in 30 mins

IT TOOK Police just half an hour to arrest a suspect for the theft of a pickup in Thalang District on February 9. They think the man may have been deranged or under the influence of drugs.

Cherng Talay Police were notified of the theft at 10:30am by Sakhon Chalermwanphenyo.

Mr Sakhon said he parked his pickup in front of his home then left the keys in the ignition and went behind the house to eat.

As he was eating, he heard the truck engine revving. By the time he ran back to the front of the house his pickup was gone.

Mr Sakhon notified Cherng Talay Police immediately and within half an hour Thalang Police spotted the vehicle parked a few kilometers away in front of



The thief, who would only give his name as 'Maan', is now in custody.

the small RorPorChor Reservoir, opposite the entrance to the Ban Bang Jo Remand Prison.

They eventually found the suspect, a man aged 25-30, dressed only in a loincloth and walking around the area "like a man in a deranged state or under the influence of drugs".

PHUKET Police are searching for a man-and-wife team of alleged major drug dealers who are on the run after officers unearthed a trove of methamphetamines outside their home in Mai Khao.

Phuket Provincial Police Commander Chonasit Wattanavrangkul provided details of the operation at a press conference on Monday.

Acting on a tip-off, Tah Chat Chai Police on February 10 served a search warrant at the Mai Khao home of suspected drug dealers Yusobe Laiban and his wife Patcharee Klomsanoh.

The couple were not home, but police detained 41-year-old Kawee Maliwan when he tried to flee the dwelling. A search of his person uncovered 152 *ya bah* (methamphetamine) pills and two packages



Transported by boat and buried, but now police evidence.

of *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine) weighing 14.4 grams in total.

Also present at the house was Kawee's wife Halia Waharak. Searching the premises, police found a package containing under one gram of *ya ice* hidden in a flashlight in the kitchen.

During police questioning Mr

Kawee revealed that Mr Yusobe and Mrs Patcharee had visited him in Phang Nga the day before with a plastic bucket. They asked him to fill the bucket with *ya bah* and *ya ice*, and return by boat across the Chong Pak Pra Straits, to avoid the prying eyes of officers at the Tah Chat Chai road checkpoint.

Once ashore he was to bury the drug-laden container in a specified location near the couple's house.

At the location, police recovered 758.3 grams of *ya ice*, 7,800 *ya bah* pills and a digital scale.

Mr Kawee and his wife were charged with possession of a Category 1 drug with intent to sell.

Police have requested arrest warrants for Yusobe and Patcharee and are already tracking them, Maj Gen Chonasit said.

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'Ae Inside' murder suspect negotiates bail



'Pod' wanted but currently in hiding

POLICE are in telephone negotiations with murder suspect Atsadakorn "Pod" Seedokbuab, a Phuket businessman they believe was behind the killing of Wisut "Ae Inside" Tangwitthayaporn early last month.

Mr Atsadakorn, owner of KPP Cable TV and a vice president of the Phuket Chamber of Commerce, is demanding immediate bail release in return for his surrender, police sources have said.

Maj Gen Pisan Chuldilok of the Region 8 Police and Mr Atsadakorn have yet to reach an agreement, but the negotiations are continuing, the source said.

Land owner fights back

By Atchaa Khamlo

THE 65 rai of land along Freedom Beach, which came to the attention of the National Counter Corruption Commission (NCCC) after an attempt to sell it for 4 billion baht, was on February 10 visited by one of the owners wanting to assert her right to the land.

Benja Sawetwaan was joined in Phuket by her son Ekkachai Saeyu, investigation committee chairman Viroj Pao-in and Pheu Thai Party spokesman and party list MP Prompong Nopparit.

"I have the documents necessary to prove that I rightly own the land," Ms Benja stated.

Ms Benja raised the issue that the ongoing investigation, especially claims that the "Ae Inside" killing was connected with Freedom Beach land titles, was tarnishing her reputation and casting her as a social pariah.

She was frightened of being extorted, as some people had threatened that she would be "in trouble" if she did not pay them, she said.

To clearly establish herself as the rightful owner and prove she had the proper documentation for the property, Ms Benja and Mr



Gen Viroj listens as Ms Benja explains the history of the land. MP Prompong stands beside the general. Photos: Atchaa Khamlo

Ekkachai explained the history of the land and land title deeds.

"Originally the land belonged to Prateep Wutthithammaphorn, but was later transferred to his son Thaweeep Wutthithammaphorn, who paid taxes on the land in 1973.

"In 1977, part of the Narkkerd Hill range, which overlaps with some of the property, was declared a forest preserve.

"But Mr Thaweeep filed a complaint citing that he was the rightful owner of some of the land.

"Then, in 1978, the government announced it would survey land nationwide, so Thaweeep requested his land be surveyed. But the government never came to examine the land.

"In 1990 he presented the Forest Department with the proper documentation for the land and requested a title deed be issued, but the process was not finished.

"There were some issues in 1990, when people were trying to get hold of the land, but those

matters were settled in 1996.

"I finally bought the land from Thaweeep in 1997 and own it, along with his wife, Siew-iam.

"In 2008 Siew-iam defended her right to the land after her husband's death, when the issue was brought to court," Ms Benja said.

Without a *Sor Kor 1* being issued before the 1994 ministry declaration that no land on an island can be issued a title deed that does not already have the proper proof of ownership, the NCCC had doubts about the legitimacy of Ms Benja's title deed.

However, the Administrative Court dealt with a case similar to Benja's in 2005 and ruled in favor of the landowner.

Another issue raised earlier by MP Prompong was that much of the land exceeded the 30 per cent gradient limit. Under a law enacted in 1954, no one could claim ownership of such land.

Ms Benja pointed out that law allowed for a title deed to include steep land, provided that the claim had been made before 1954, which was why the land was covered in her case, she said.

Lt Gen Viroj said his committee would consider all issues and rule objectively based on the facts.

Truck driver from Swedish horror crash arrives at court

THE truck driver who killed four young Swedish holiday makers and their Thai driver in Khok Kloy, Pang Nga on February 1, appeared in Phang Nga Provincial Court on Valentine's Day.

Muhummadyukee Jehyusoh, 27, who surrendered to police the day after the accident, was charged with dangerous driving, being unfit to drive, causing the death of five people and leaving the scene of an accident.

He admitted he caused the accident, but could not explain how he came to be in the wrong lane. Police alleged that the only plausible reason was that he fell asleep while driving the six-wheeled refrigeration truck, as forensic examination of the truck ruled out mechanical failure.

Mr Muhummadyukee was reportedly released on bail, guaranteed by his employer at the Chotapatama Company, who put up the 300,000 baht. As part of the bail conditions he was to report to the court every 12 days.

However, following his court



Roadside flowers laid near the scene of the accident in Phang Nga.

appearance on Tuesday, Mr Muhummadyukee had been returned to Phang Nga Provincial Prison, Khok Kloy Duty Officer Capt Santi Prakobpran told *Phuket Gazette*.

"More evidence needs to be presented to the court for them to make a decision. We will have to wait for results from the investigation," he said.

— *Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai*

Parents claim the body of SA Mark Robson

From page 1

"I don't like what I am reading in some media, not just here, but also in the South Africa. The police weren't aware of Mark's disappearance until I informed them late last week," he told the *Gazette*.

Mark's parents could see no reason why he would take his own life as he had "everything to live for".

Garry Halpin, a foreign police volunteer based in Chalong, is now working with the family to repatriate Mark's body. He confirmed on Wednesday that plans to bury Mark's body in Surat Thani are now on hold.

Mr Halpin said he intends to visit a hotel in Thalang, Mark's last known whereabouts, to see if they could provide any clues as to what happened to Mr Robson's belongings or how he spent his final days.

As for the body being in a "sitting position" upon discovery, he said that in his experience this was more common than people realize in suicide by hangings. Cuts across his lower back could have been from the

body falling after he died, he said.

Unless further evidence emerges, Chalong Police had little choice but to keep the cause of death listed as "suicide by hanging," he said.

Mr Robson appeared to have several friends on the island. Anyone with information about the case should contact Chalong Police, he said.

Chalong Police duty officer Nitikorn Rawang told the *Gazette* he was aware of reports that the parents had identified the body, but said final confirmation would have to be made directly to him by the parents.

Provincial Police Deputy Commander Chalit Kaewyarat said autopsy results found no injury to internal organs, upholding the Patong Hospital report that Mr Robson's death was the result of suicide by hanging.

"However, we will continue the investigation because we are still not entirely convinced that he hanged himself," Col Chalit added.



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Volunteers continue search for missing Carmel Brooks

FRIENDS of an Australian woman who fell overboard from a yacht sailing to Phuket late last week are not giving up hope that she may still be alive and are calling on volunteers to continue the search off the coast of Trang.

Australian national Carmel Brooks is known to have fallen overboard from the sailboat *Moondancer* on February 2 near Koh Rok, about 40 kilometers due south of Koh Lanta in Krabi waters.

After being alerted of the situation, the Royal Thai Navy and other maritime agencies in the area conducted a search for Ms Brooks, but called it off February 8.

Michelle Black, a friend of Ms Brooks and her sailing companion Dr Gerald Goeden, still hold some hope that Ms Brooks might have swum to safety on one of the many islands or rock outcrops in Koh Lanta Marine National Park.



Friends are holding on to hope that Carmel Brooks managed somehow to swim to a nearby island.

"I don't think she is a very strong swimmer, but she is very fit and healthy," she said.

Ms Black said Dr Gerald has continued the search with help from friends in Phuket.

"I am sure they will continue to search for her as long as they can. I still want to believe that she will be found. Maybe another boat saw her and helped her, or she managed to swim ashore some-

where, in which case she would have been totally exhausted. Has anybody checked the hospital or medical centers in that area?" she asked, raising the possibility that she might be suffering from amnesia.

Ms Black also spoke to Ms Brooks' brother, who has been in touch with Dr Gerald.

"From what Carmel's brother said, [Dr Gerald] did not see it happen. He was down in the cabin having a sleep and it was her turn at the helm. They

were taking turns. When his alarm went off, signaling it was time for him to take over, he went up on deck. But she wasn't there. Apparently she had a sailing safety harness on, but it had been unattached from the boat."

"It is just too terrible for me to think what she went through. I just need to know something so we can have some peace," she wrote.

— Stephen Fein

Tourism finds

Having caused problems in other regions of Thailand, the growing number of swiftlet barns in Phuket came under scrutiny at Phuket Provincial Hall last week. Officials have decided to set up 'zones' for the business - despite the fact that it is illegal. The *Phuket Gazette's* Stephen Fein and Warisa Temram report.

PHUKET Province will establish "swiftlet ranching zones" on the island following complaints that flocks of the birds that cough up the key ingredient for birds' nest soup are creating a public nuisance and health hazard.

Following a complaint filed with the province by the Phuket Chamber of Commerce (PCC), Phuket Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosutthirak last Wednesday chaired a meeting on the issue at Phuket Provincial Hall.

The PCC, represented at the meeting by their secretary Surachai Chaiyawat, complained that unregulated growth in the swiftlet ranching industry was harming tourism-related businesses on the island.

Driven by demand from the growing number of Chinese tourists to Phuket, restaurants specializing in bird's nest soup have sprung up all over the island - some large enough to accommodate many bus loads full of tourists in one sitting.

Bird's nest soup has been a delicacy in China for over 400 years, largely due to the belief that eating it strengthens the cardio-pulmonary system, increases metabolism, can cure the common cold - and even serves as an aphrodisiac. Tour operators specializing in the inbound Chinese market are well aware of Phang Nga Bay's reputation as an important source of the key ingredient for the soup.

Some of the larger restaurants that specialize in the dish - like the PP Bird Nest Ltd Company Restaurant at Saphan Hin and another large new establishment on Chao

Fa West road in Wichit - also serve as sort of museums, explaining how the nests can be collected from high up in the limestone cliffs on islands around Phang Nga Bay.

The reality of how the bird's nests are sourced nowadays is somewhat different, however.

The organized theft of bird nests is a good way to lead any avian species down the path to extinction. As a way of conserving the local white-nest swiftlet (*Aerodramus fuciphagus*) population, the government has long offered pri-

vate concessions to selected nesting sites on state land, such as in the Phang Nga Bay National Marine Park.

However, actual control of natural swiftlet nesting areas in the south of Thailand has led to violent confrontations and even murder in the past, with many "influential figures" allegedly involved. The conflict surrounding these nesting sites is mostly due to the price of the nests, which can fetch thousands of US

dollars in the prime export markets of Hong Kong and the United States of America.

Representatives from the Public Works and Town & Country Planning, Phuket Office, Phuket Treasury Office; Phuket Public Health Office (PPHO), Phuket Provincial Livestock Office, Phuket City Municipality, other local administrative bodies and Phuket Chamber of Commerce all attended the recent meeting.

An officer from the Phuket Provincial Livestock Office told the *Gazette* after the meeting that rearing swiftlets is clearly unlawful.

"People rearing swiftlets in Phuket are doing so illegally, because the bird is a protected species. Apart from the laws created and upheld by Livestock Department, there are numerous regulations from a variety of government agencies in place that restrict this activity," he said.

"For example, if you apply for a building permit for your home, then modify the structure to serve



V/G Somkiet Sangkaosutthirak.

'People rearing swiftlets in Phuket are doing so illegally.'

— Phuket Provincial Livestock officer

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swiftlet aviaries difficult to swallow



Management of Pak Nam Seafood Restaurant said the five large swiftlet barns near their establishment does not bother diners. Photo: Stephen Fein. Inset, edible swiftlet nests made with solidified saliva. Photo: Kowloonese

as a swiftlet barn, that's illegal. It is a zoning issue regulated by the Public Works and Town and Country Planning office," he said.

The Ministry of Public Health also has regulations about swiftlet rearing, because the birds cause noise pollution, air pollution and can carry diseases, she said.

V/Gov Somkiet told the meeting the birds can vector at least 11 different diseases to humans.

Since swiftlet rearing is illegal, there isn't a single license issued for this activity in Phuket, the source said.

Despite this, the reality on the ground – and also in the air – is that the business is booming and more and more people want to be a part of it.

Not all such investors are in remote, coastal areas. In October, one woman was given 15 days to remove a new structure built for swiftlets on the fourth floor of her commercial building, located in a densely settled area on Montri Road, across the street from the PCC office.

Those at the meeting agreed that it would be more realistic to zone the activity, keeping aviaries away from densely-settled areas and other locales where they might cause a nuisance, than to try to enforce existing regulations.

To this effect, Phuket Provincial Office assigned local government administrative bodies (*OrBorTors* and municipalities) to inspect all swiftlet aviaries in their jurisdictions as a first step in creating zones where the business would be tolerated.

"Phuket will create swiftlet aviary zones, after which time all illegal aviaries [outside designated zones] will be pulled down by Treasury Office officials in Phuket. At this point, *OrBorTors* must inspect and record how many aviaries are in their areas of control and make sure they are located in areas where they will

not bother anyone. Until the zones are determined, those making a living from raising swiftlets will be allowed to continue," he said.

"There are very few swallow aviaries in Phuket. Most are at Laem Nga on Koh Sireh and in Nabon [in Chalong]," added V/Gov Somkiet.

To see how people living near the aviaries were affected by them, the *Gazette* visited the new National Housing Authority project off Rassadanusorn Road in Rassada.

Building 7 of the sixteen-block complex sits about 100 meters away from one of the largest swiftlet aviaries on the island, which also abuts the popular Pak Nam Seafood Restaurant on Rassadanuson Road.

When the *Gazette* arrived, the mechanical squealing of artificially-produced swiftlet calls was clearly audible from speakers mounted at the nearby complex of five swiftlet barns. The calls are used to attract swiftlets, which nest in colonies.

Building 7 resident Sapon Maros, 27, said the bird calls fill the air from dawn until about 9am every morning, then again for an hour around dusk.

"It doesn't really bother me, but other people in this building complain about it," he said.

A manager at Pak Nam Seafood explained to the *Gazette* that the bird calls were directed out toward Phang Nga Bay and were hardly audible to their diners. The restaurant had no problem with the

aviaries, which were built about two years after the restaurant opened, he said.

However, PCC secretary Mr Surachai said that without zoning future conflict with resorts and restaurants was inevitable in Phuket.

The owner of a Nissan dealership in Surat Thani and Suzuki motorbike showroom in Phuket, Mr Surachai said other parts of the south have already been negatively affected.

"Parts of the coastal district of Pak Phanang in Nakhon Sri Thammarat were now so overrun with swiftlet barns that the people who used to live in these areas had been forced to move away," he said.

The biggest threat was the fact that the birds can carry diseases including avian flu, he said.

"What if there were an outbreak and the Public Health Ministry had to declare a quarantine? The publicity would badly

damage tourism," he said.

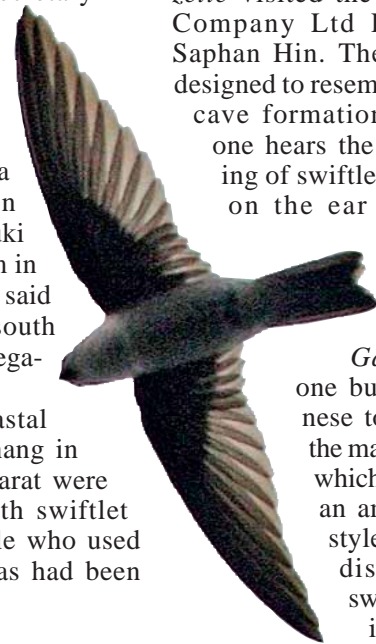
To experience first hand what was driving the industry, the *Gazette* visited the PP Bird Nest Company Ltd Restaurant at Saphan Hin. The restaurant is designed to resemble a limestone cave formation. Upon entry one hears the recorded cooing of swiftlets, much easier on the ear than what is played near the NHA residents.

When the *Gazette* arrived, one bus load of Chinese tourists were in the main dining room, which surrounded by an amusement-park style corridor with displays about swiftlet collection in the wild.

A *Gazette* reporter was barred at the entrance of the establishment for unspecified "copyright" issues after explaining the purpose of his visit.

(see page 8 for more)

Aerodramus fuciphagus.
Photo: Lip Kee



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Royal Thai Navy intercepts 27 Phuket-bound Burmese

By Warisa Temram

THE Royal Thai Navy Third Area Command arrested 27 Burmese en route to Phuket aboard a fishing boat off the coast of Ranong on Friday. The group were charged with entering the country illegally and sent ashore to be prepared for deportation.

The arrest was made by the staff of HTMS Chonburi under the supervision of Lt Commander Warawut Seerarak.

"We intercepted the Burmese immigrants along the southwest shore of Koh Chang Island, off the coast of Muang District Ranong," he said.

A preliminary investigation revealed that the group began their journey from the former Burmese capital Rangoon.

They left Koh Song Province

in Burma, west of Ranong, hoping to make landfall in Phang Nga. From there they were to meet an unnamed Thai "agent" who would take them the rest of the way to Phuket. Each was prepared to pay 3,500 baht for the service, he said.

A mobile phone used by the Burmese to contact the agent was seized as part of the ongoing investigation, he said.

All of the Burmese were transported to the Pak Nam Police Station in Ranong and prepared for deportation.

Two days before the capture of the Burmese, 85 Rohingya men and boys were intercepted off the coast of Satun.

The group was reportedly headed for Malaysia when they were spotted by national park rangers and arrested by local police.



Lt Commander Warawut Seerarak and staff aboard the HTMS Chonburi captured the boat of Burmese.

The Rohingya are stateless Muslim people whose homeland is between the borders of Burma and Bangladesh, neither of which claim them as citizens.

At this time of year, when seas are relatively calm, they often set out in boats toward Malaysia in search of a better life.

However, there is a small com-

munity of Rohingya living in Phuket and making a living selling Indian crepe known as *roti*, a source in the Special Branch Police told the *Gazette*.

Over a million victim to 'Banknote Ripper'

MORE than a million baht worth of torn up 1,000 baht banknotes was found in a trashcan in Hua Koonjae, Chonburi on February 3.

By the time the police received the report of the 1.3 kilograms of shredded up banknotes local residents were already making conjectures that the money was connected to a drug dealing business or to the robbery of former Permanent Secretary for Transport Supoj Saplom.

It was not until February 6 that Worrapan 'Bird' Rotsattarat, 30, and his father, who owns a



gold shop, met with Chonburi Provincial Police Commander Jamnong Rattanakul and explained the situation.

Worrapan, "The Banknote Ripper", felt neglected by his father's support of another son who ran a gold shop in Pattaya. He was

afraid that his father would spend all the family's savings, so in a "rash" and ironic gesture he took a pair of scissors to the 1.3 million baht of banknotes.

Mr Worrapong 'Yoo' Ratsattarat, 60, and his son arrived at the Chonburi Provincial Police Station to claim the money.

"He mentioned that our money was running low because I kept supporting the other gold shop. I didn't know how serious he was though," said Mr Worrapong.

The Banknote Ripper had been collecting money from gold purchases, 20,000 to 30,000 baht each time, for two years, explained Mr Worrapong.

"He was afraid that I would find out, so he decided to destroy that money," said Worrapong.

"I don't blame him for doing this. I used to work in a bank and I know the ripped notes can be reconstructed easily," he added.

Police said that the case was a family matter and no formal charges would be made.

An Officer from the Bank of Thailand said, "the destroyed banknotes can be exchanged for new ones if it is 100 per cent repaired. If it is not 100 per cent, then its value will be reduced based on how much is missing."

Police have collected The Banknote Ripper's finger prints, DNA and gave him a drug test, to be included in the case file.

"I didn't intend to do what I did. I was just rash. It won't happen again," said The Banknote Ripper.

Pharmacists to crack down on methylene blue



Phuket Pharmacists Club secretary Kiattisak Parnrungsri.

PHUKET pharmacists will restrict the sale of products containing methylene blue to minors, following reports of youths taking the compound to avoid testing positive for methamphetamine.

The announcement came during a meeting on Saturday led by prominent Phuket pharmacists.

The meeting followed a report that some youths were taking the ubiquitous compound to turn their urine blue, rather than the tell-tale purple that indicates a positive result for meth in the Government Pharmaceutical Organization's "Meth Cassette" test kit.

The Phuket pharmacists will now make it a priority not to sell any medication containing methylene blue to anyone under the age of 18, Kiattisak Parnrungsri said.

Isolated cases of blue urine coming up during drug testing had confused health officials in the past.

"Teenagers who think taking 'meth blue' will prevent them from being caught are wrong. If your urine is blue or green, as is the case after taking 'meth blue'. You will probably be detained until your results are cleared," he explained.

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Red-shirt leader fires coup claim

AROUND THE nation

PHEU Thai MP and red-shirt leader Jatuporn Prompan has claimed the Army is plotting a coup to overthrow the government in April, prompting Defense Minister Sukumpol Suwanat to deny that any such plan exists.

Mr Jatuporn's warning comes amid controversy over the government's plans to reform the Constitution, which it claims is illegitimate because it was drafted by the unelected military junta that overthrew the administration of former premier Thaksin Shinawatra in 2006.

Mr Jatuporn, who has made several such warnings in the past, claimed he was alerted to the alleged plot by US intelligence agents.

The United Front for Democracy against Dictatorship (UDD), better known as the "red-shirts", will stage a concert on February 25 as a show of strength aimed at dissuading Army officers from moving



Defense Minister Sukumpol denies Red-Shirt leaders accusations of military coup plan set for April. Photo: The Nation

against the government, Mr Jatuporn said.

Self-exiled Thaksin, older brother of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, will phone in to the concert via video link, he added.

Some members of the Pheu Thai party-led government were unimpressed by Mr Jatuporn's comments, however.

"Jatuporn talks too much," Defence Minister Sukumpol told *The Nation*.

Mr Sukumpol said he wanted Mr Jatuporn to be aware of the consequences of raising false alarms, particularly when the country was trying to bring about reconciliation.

He doubted the authenticity of reports Mr Jatuporn supposedly received from informants working for US intelligence, he added.

"I wonder why US intelligence chose to

inform Jatuporn, but not the government," Mr Sukumpol said, adding that in his capacity as defense minister he was duty-bound to foil any coup attempts.

The controversy comes as the Pheu Thai Party prepares to amend the 2007 Constitution, which includes clauses that allow the judiciary to dissolve political parties if they are found guilty of malfeasance.

Two predecessors, to the Pheu Thai party, the Thai Rak Thai and People Power parties, were dissolved by court rulings. This led to the formation in late 2008 of the Democrat Party-led administration of Abhisit Vejjajiva.

Pheu Thai claims the charter is undemocratic, since it was drafted by a committee appointed by a military junta. Proponents of the current constitution, the 17th charter since Thailand was established as a constitutional democracy in 1932, point out that it was approved by almost 60 per cent of voters in a nationwide referendum held in August 2007.

The party's opponents are likely to fight hard to prevent any amendment of the constitution. Such an attempt sparked mass street protests in 2008, leading to the seizure of Bangkok's two airports and the fall of two Thaksin-aligned governments.

Govt to compensate Deep South victims



A bomb-disposal team inspects the scene of a blast on a local road in Tambon Khuen Bang Lang, Yala. Photo: The Nation

THE government is to offer compensation to victims of terrorism and state violence in the Deep South, it has announced.

A committee appointed to look into the conflict decided to offer payments of up to 7.5 million baht to families of people killed in the conflict, as well as those injured in the violence.

Among those to receive compensation are the victims of the infamous Krue Se Mosque and Tak Bai incidents, 37 cases of so-called "enforced disappearances" by security forces, as well as the victims of other violent incidents.

The move may silence critics who attacked the government's decision last month to offer compensation to victims of the national political conflict that engulfed Thailand after the downfall of the last Thaksin Shinawatra

administration.

The Democrat Party accused the government of rewarding its supporters, since most of the compensation money would reach families of "red-shirt" members killed during the anti-government protests in April and May 2010.

At least 5,000 people have been killed in the Deep South conflict since 2004, when the conflict flared up, allegedly in response to the Thaksin government's handling of the situation there.

Insurgents operating in the southernmost provinces of Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat, as well as four districts in Songkhla, are believed to be fighting for autonomy for the region, which has a Muslim-majority population.

Much of the disputed area formed the independent sultanate of Patani until it was annexed by Siam in 1902.

Chuvit demands flesh-trade crackdown

CHUVIT Kamolvisit, an MP who made his fortune in the massage parlor industry, is demanding a crackdown on prostitution.

Mr Chuvit, leader of the Rak Prathet Thai Party, said government officials, other politicians and businessmen were running Thailand's sex industry.

"The sex industry earns more than 200 billion baht a year. It's [equivalent to] almost 10 per cent of the country's national budget," he said.

In particular, Mr Chuvit demanded that Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra take action against human trafficking.

"Up to one million Thai women work in the flesh-trade. Of them, about 100,000 are younger than 18 years old," he said.

Mr Chuvit handed out CDs containing video clips showing how



Chuvit wants to take action against the sex industry. Photo: The Nation

procurers negotiate prices with potential customers, as well as of scantily clad women waiting for customers in front of karaoke parlors and row houses.

Many prostitutes work the streets, while others are based at what appear to be conventional

massage parlors, as well as beer bars, spas and resorts, he said.

"There are prostitutes working on Phetchaburi Road," he said. "Their bases are very close to the Pheu Thai party headquarters."

Mr Chuvit was once the largest owner of massage parlors in Thailand. The establishments, mostly concentrated on Bangkok's Rachadaphisek Road, were later identified as fronts for prostitution.

In 2003, Mr Chuvit was arrested after hiring 600 men to raze several shops and bars on a plot of land he owned on Sukhumvit Road.

Enraged, he blew the lid on Thailand's prostitution industry, claiming he had paid millions of baht in bribes to senior police officers in order to operate.

Soon after, he launched his career in politics.

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Swift actions to regulate crime

EFFORTS by Phuket Provincial Office and related agencies to tackle the problem of unregulated “swiftlet ranching” are admirable in their foresight, but regrettable in approach.

As many residents of this island are aware, mainland Chinese are one of the largest and most rapidly growing segments of the inbound tourism market. The increase in this market has led to a growing number of bird’s nest soup restaurants, as well as heightened demand for the key ingredient: the saliva produced nests of *Aerodramus Fuciphagus*, also known as the “white nest swiftlet”, “edible-nest swiftlet” or *nok nang ane* in Thai (see pg 4-5 for detailed report).

To some it may seem premature to worry about a profusion of swiftlet barns in Phuket, which certainly has a number of more pressing tourism-related concerns.

As its name suggests, *Aerodramus* swiftlet (*Fuciphagus*) is spectacular in flight and, in addition to hacking up threads of saliva reportedly fit for the consumption of emperors, is interesting in many other respects. For example, it is one of the very few bird species to have developed echolocation to navigate through the darkness of caves, its natural habitat.

At the risk of sounding anthropocentric, swiftlets are much easier to have around than pigeons, crows, buzzards or seagulls. They sleep most of the day and feed by night on insects, populations of which they help to keep in check.

The *Gazette* was unable to find any tourism business operators in Phuket who had specific complaints about swiftlets, including the management at one of the most popular restaurants on the island that is a stone’s throw away from one of the largest swiftlet barn complexes in Phuket.

All that said, the government is right to restrict where swiftlet barns are permitted: many of us enjoy the birds’ aerial acrobatics in the twilight sky, but few would want to live right next door to a swiftlet complex.

Most of the regulations that forbid swiftlet ranching are based on the bird’s threatened status in the region, which is hardly the case anymore thanks to the ranching boom. Unfortunately, rather than try to change existing legislation to legalize swiftlet farming and then regulate the industry, the authorities have instead opted to take the easy route by setting up “zones” where an illegal practice will effectively be permitted.

In this sense, there is little difference between this and the way the jet-ski rental business and other technically-illegal industries are “regulated” in Phuket. Worse yet, is the fact that local administration organizations, not all of which have stellar reputations for transparency or fairness, will now be in the business of deciding who can ranch swiftlets, and where they can do it.



Traffic laws are for everyone

Re: *Gazette online*, 4 Swedes, 1 Thai dead in horror smash near Phuket, February 2

There are traffic laws in Thailand, but they are not observed by either Thais or foreigners.

What’s needed is a clampdown by the police on drivers, as well as much higher fines and penalties for breaking traffic laws – it’s the only thing that both Thais and foreigners will understand.

Now, the traffic is more or less lawless. Cops have checkpoints in the same places, so they’re easy to avoid for anyone who is drunk driving or breaking the law.

Please, Thai police, get out on the roads, issue heavy fines for reckless driving; driving on the wrong side of the road; driving over a solid line; running a red light; drunk driving; speeding and so on.

Do this now to prevent further disasters, and, ultimately, to escape the rest of the world no longer wanting to visit Thailand.

Johan
Gazette forum

Follow that taxi

Re: *Gazette online*, Transportation still the number one issue over Phuket airport’s expansion project, February 6

I became fed up with the whole business of catching taxis to and from the airport a long time ago.

It wasn’t just having to run the taxi driver gauntlet when exiting the terminal or the inflated fares, although I’ll admit they were factors in my decision to change my travel habits. It was the whole business. Having to find a taxi early in the morning, or if prearranged, making sure the driver knew the pick up point and then waiting, wondering if he was lost or had decided not to bother. Not to mention the couple of times when the driver has had to stop

Letters to the Editor

for gas or attempted to take you to a tourist shop so he can collect his commission.

Now I travel with a little as possible in the way of luggage. Just carrying hand luggage, I take a slow leisurely ride on my Honda Click, park for free and with the exception of the occasional rain, quite enjoy the slow ride. Amazing what you see when your not griping the seat in the back of a speeding taxi.

Matt
Gazette forum

Where am I?

Re: *Phuket Gazette*, Muddled map skills in Phuket, February 12

The inability to read maps is not just confined to Phuket – it is very common in many parts of Asia.

While most of us acquired this skill from our fathers, or by being a boy scout, or during our schooling, the map problem is just a fact of life in these latitudes.

So, please don’t be so hard on the locals. Why not start a campaign to have map reading as a voluntary subject at local schools?

Why am I not surprised
Gazette forum

Forewarned is forearmed

Re: *Phuket Gazette*, Protect yourself from ATM skimming, January 28

I must thank Woody for such a scary article.

That, and other recent horror stories concerning ATM skuldugery, have made me much more aware of my surroundings when

selecting, approaching, inspecting and, if happy, using ATMs in Phuket.

Having searched the internet for photos of all the different paraphernalia criminals can attach to a bona fide machine, I’m now more confident that I’m able to spot something amiss.

C James
Chalong

Flight of fancy

Re: *Gazette online*, Transportation still the number one issue over Phuket airport’s expansion project, February 6

The math here is unbelievable. The Airbus A380 is certified to hold up to 835 passengers, though most configurations carry only 500 (and they don’t fly into Phuket). So they’re saying that with 32,000 transiting passengers per day, we’re moving the equivalent of 64 full A380 flights in and out of Phuket?

Impossible. Phuket’s head is in the clouds again.

j in hkt
Gazette forum

Be my valentine

Re: *Gazette online*, Phuket to launch anti-AIDS campaign on Valentine’s Day, February 2

Surely, for a region that admits it has the highest incidence of AIDS in Thailand, the campaign should be running continuously. As was mentioned in the article, this sort of stigma if it continues to latch onto Phuket could, in the long run, seriously hurt the tourism business here.

Having said that, I am glad that steps are being taken. Perhaps they should also consider giving out free condoms.

Pete Godfrey
Patong

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Sea Gypsies' homes being washed away

FIRST PERSON

WE NEED help from the Rassada Municipality to re-build and protect our houses from the big waves. Since August last year, eight houses in the village have been constantly suffering damages by waves from storms. So far we have only received 2,000 baht for each damaged house, which is not nearly enough to fix them.

A month ago, while my family and six others were sleeping in the house a storm struck. It was so strong we were forced to flee the house. The waves destroyed the pillars that support the house.

A wall was built to protect us from the waves, but has started to collapse and needs to be fixed. We don't know why the wall was built, as before it was there the sand on the beach naturally protected us from the waves.

Seven of us went to Rassada Municipality to ask for help, but I haven't had a response from them yet. I had to spend 20,000 baht to fix the pillars myself.

We have to sleep in our house still, despite it being unsafe. When the house starts shaking we have to go to my mother's house, which is nearby. We've been carrying on like this since last August.

We will not move into my mother's house, as she also has people staying there and we don't want to bother her.

Since the eight houses were



John Pramongkij, 58, has lived in the sea gypsy community in Laem Tukkae, Koh Sireh since birth. His house is one of eight located on the beach being destroyed by waves during the monsoon season. His house, which also accommodates his wife, daughter, son-in-law, niece and two nephews, is the most damaged of the eight houses.



Sea gypsy community in Laem Tukkae. Photo Atachaa Khamlo

initially damaged by the big wave last year, the situation has just been getting worse. One house has lost its pillars and others have had the ground under them eroded away.

We have to stay here, because we don't have the money to build new homes. I earn about 250 baht a day from fishing, but I can't go out to sea when it's storming. On

those days I don't earn any money. My nephews are hired by a jet-ski operation and my children are threading shells for souvenirs.

We would like the government to help us by fixing our damaged houses. We have asked for help from Rassada Municipality a few times. The officers said they would help, but nothing has been done.

Snorkeler survives jet-skier aggression



The rocks off Laem Singh Beach, where Mr Hall was hit by the side of the jet-ski. Photo: Josh Hall

ON TUESDAY February 7 at around 2pm I was at Laem Singh Beach snorkeling around the southern portions of the rocks when a French-Algerian tourist ran over my legs with his rented jet ski. I was staying very close to the rocks (2 feet), as I'm an experienced snorkeler/swimmer who has been to this area many times, and I'm aware of the idiots who jet-ski. This incident was exceptionally dangerous.

I was lucky that he hit me with the side of the jet-ski and not closer to the jet fuselage. I complained that he had just hit me. He turned the jet-ski and came at me with intent to hit me again. In my country the skier could possibly be charged with attempted murder, and the jet ski company would be held partially liable for this sort of thing, which would give them incentive to watch their customers more closely. (Yes, I know, I am not in my country, and am not saying it should be that way, just giving an example of how serious

Island View

By Josh Hall

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

the situation can be.)

He stopped short and made gestures for me to come towards him (so I could fight him I guess?), and then he drove off to Laem Singh Beach.

I swam back to the beach and complained to the Kamala Jet Ski Club guys who operate the jet-skis there and they said "not my problem".

I am writing this to warn all swimmers who go there about some of the idiots who rent these dangerous jet-skis. I also want people to realize that the jet-ski companies don't seem to care if one their jet-skis almost kills you. They just tell their renters to go have fun so they can collect their money.

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

ATM Scam: Where's the limit?

How many people have been scammed when using ATM machines here? One moment you are loving life on this paradise island, and the next, 200,000 baht is gone in less than 12 hours – goodbye paradise island.

This happened to my friend, and after going through all the correct channels he was told he wouldn't get his money back, because the CCTV image of him and the scammers suggested he had consented to the situation. What happened to his 30,000 baht limit a day? Are Siam Commercial Bank (SCB) customers protected against this or not?

Siam Commercial Bank Phuket branch employee replies:

An ATM limit can be changed by customer request. It starts at a 20,000 baht per day limit for a savings account. Then our customers are welcome to change their limit up to 200,000 baht per day.

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

In this case, the card limit must have been changed to 200,000 baht per day by the customer.

If anyone needs more information or further advice please contact SCB call center at 02-777 7777

Prasit Suwansunthorn, the complaint center officer of Financial Consumer Protection Southern Thailand Office in Hat Yai, Songkhla replies:

The Financial Consumer Protection Center was established under the Bank of Thailand in or-

der to help consumers who have problems involving all kind of financial activities.

If there is something the local bank or police officers can't help you with, I suggest you to contact our office directly.

You can send us the letter of complaint that you filed with the bank or police.

By submitting all of the complaints you have filed with the police and bank to us we will be able to look up the issue in the database.

The contact number for Financial Consumer Protection Center is 1213. Any call made in Southern Thailand will automatically be transferred to the Financial Consumer Protection Southern Thailand Office in Hat Yai, Songkhla.

If you wish to file a complaint to Financial Consumer Protection Southern Thailand Office you can send the information by fax to 074-234-701 or by mail: Financial

Consumer Protection Office, Bank of Thailand Southern Thailand branch. 472 Petchakadem road, T. Hat Yai, A. Hat Yai, Songkhla 90110.



Daily withdrawal limits at SBC start at 20,000 baht.

Wholewheat flour, a disappearing act?

I bake my own wholewheat bread. I have now run out of wholewheat flour and cannot find any in Phuket. I used to get it at Makro, but the management there told me that they are no longer going to stock it. None of the major retail shops in Phuket stock this item. Is it such an exotic item that it cannot be found? Weird, because all bakeries sell wholewheat bread. Is there any shop in Phuket where I can buy wholewheat flour?

*Breadman
Kathu*

Tops Central Festival Phuket Food Section Manager Jantima Arab replies:

There was a shortage for a couple of months due to flooding in the north of Thailand. However, we received a new delivery of wholewheat flour on February 11. Now we have the usual brands such as Waitrose flour products in stock.

Local suppliers to extend reach

By Steven Layne

RED Bull's national distribution arm is looking to capitalize on local supply markets, a strategy which could extend the reach of Phuket-sourced products into greater national, regional and global markets.

Durbell, a key logistics affiliate of the Red Bull Beverage Company (the producers of *Krating Daeng*) aims to diversify its offerings and keep ahead in the expanding wholesale and retail business.

A report in the *Nation* recently revealed that the company is investing 500 million baht in domestic expansion projects, which include the purchase of 300 new transport trucks, as well as new warehouses in Chanthaburi and Phuket.

Confirming that report, a spokesperson from Durbell told the *Phuket Gazette*, "We

are prepared to invest in a new warehouse in Phuket to keep up with increasing demand."

"Phuket's current warehouse is at capacity and its location [next to the Metropole Hotel in Phuket Town] is inconvenient for our transport needs.

"We're looking for about 4 to 5 rai (6400 to 8000 square meters) somewhere outside of town and expect the construction budget to be up to 50 million baht," he said.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the spokesperson confirmed that Durbell is shifting its marketing strategy to be more decentralized and regionally integrated.

"One competitive advantage local supply markets have is lower production costs. What we can offer to local producers and suppliers is experienced logistics to move the product swiftly and efficiently," the spokesperson said.

Indeed, the regional wholesale and resale market is expanding, and Durbell's current business strategy reflects this remarkable trend.

Currently, 90 per cent of Durbell's national distribution lines are supplied with Red Bull Beverage products, while 10 per cent of their products come from non-Red Bull suppliers.

The company's target for 2012 is to double the proportion of non-network suppliers to supply 20% of its distributions, with the other 80% of products continuing to come from within the Red Bull supply network.



THUMBS UP: Durbell company executives have revealed a five year strategy to source more products from local suppliers. Photo: The Nation

At the end of five years, the company aims to source half of its supplies from its mother company, and half from local supply markets.

Durbell's main Southern region warehouse and office are located in Surat Thani – one of 13 regional offices nationwide – with regional sub-warehouses located in Phuket, Krabi, Phang Nga, Ranong, Chumphon, Nakhon Sri Thammarat and Prachuap Khiri Khan.

FC Phuketonomics: ball business

DESPITE having nearly been dissolved due to swelling debts, FC Phuket 1688 Co Ltd generated the fifth highest turnover out of 18 Division 1 clubs, statistics released by the Thai Premier League (TPL) have revealed.

Concluding last month, the 2011-2012 season's tallied receipts show that the Southern Sea Kirin had generated more than 2.8 million baht, which equates to 4.5% of total revenue generated in the league.

From 17 home league matches at Surakul Stadium, the club sold 83,261 tickets, which produced a

gross income of 1,905,230 baht.

The remaining 960,244 baht came from the sale of team merchandise, including jerseys, polo shirts, tee shirts, hats, scarfs and bumper stickers.

Meanwhile, another Southern Thai club, Songkhla FC (who have now changed their name to the Fighting Bulls United), who earned honors for the league's highest turnover and turnout.

Generating more than 17.4 million baht, or 28.4% of league revenue, the Southern Fighting Bulls led the tally for total number

of tickets sold (199,138), total revenue from ticket sales (9.84mn baht), and that for merchandise sales (7.65mn baht).

Division 1 champions Buriram FC (who have now been dissolved and merged with Premier League champions, Buriram PEA to form Buriram United) had the second highest turnover, raking in 14.71mn baht, or 24% of league revenue.

This came from the sale of 128,222 tickets which produced 7.5mn baht, and merchandise sales amounting to 7.15mn baht.

The third highest turnover was produced by the now relegated, Chiangmai FC, which made 7.12mn baht from 147,637 tickets, and 2.13mn baht from merchandise, equating to 11.6% of league revenue.

Marginally outdoing Phuket for fourth highest turnover, was league runners up, and subsequently promoted, Chainat FC, who made 3.44mn baht or 5.6% of league turnover, with just over 2 million baht coming from 60,611 tickets, and another 1.38mn baht from merchandise.

All in, combined revenue from 18 Division 1 teams last season was 61.2mn baht.

Of this, 36.4mn baht, or nearly 60% was generated from gate receipts with a total of 890,268 tickets sold, while 24.7mn baht, or 40% was revenue from merchandising.

The biggest turnover and turnout from a single match was when Songkhla hosted Buriram on August 7, 2011 at Tinsulanond Stadium.

A total of 36,715 tickets were sold to spectators for that match (which ended in a 1-1 draw), generating 1.5mn baht, which is in addition to 1.9mn baht from merchandising.

That record setting turnout is in stark contrast to the overall league's

mean match attendance of a mere 2,909 spectators per game, while mean income per game stood at 80,832 baht per match.

This is compared to FC Phuket's mean attendance at about 4,900 spectators per game, with each match producing on average 112,000 baht from tickets, and 56,000 baht from merchandise.

In spite of these enticing numbers, FC Phuket's profitability remains at this time, in a state of untapped potential.

Club executives recently disclosed that the team utilized a budget of 34.6mn baht to cover expenses for training, recruitment and remuneration of club executives, staff and players.

The club's biggest contributor was the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*), which dished out more than 17mn baht to the team.

The list of sponsors also included Yamaha (1mn baht), Leo Beer (1.5mn baht), I Mobile (1mn baht), Idea 8 broadcasting (200,000 baht), SiamSport broadcasting (400,000 baht) and sponsor advertisement (800,000 baht).

While a number of new sponsors have stepped forward to front at least 15mn baht to ensure that FC Phuket will be able to compete in Division 1 for the 2012 season, which begins next month, the management of funds

this merry-go-round will have to be closely monitored if the club is to avoid the financial turmoil of last season.

Meanwhile, up and coming teams in Division 2 can look forward to continued financial support from the Thai government, which has allocated more than 110mn baht from the National Sports Development Fund.

Each of the 81 Division 2 teams will be given 1mn baht, with the remainder of funds to go towards competition organization, and prize pots.

The budget is being administered and disseminated by the Thailand Sports Authority and Football Association of Thailand, with an additional amount of no less than 40mn baht also to be sourced from private sponsorship.

– Steven Layne

Club	Spectators	Tickets (baht)	Merchandise (b)	Finished
Songkhla FC	199,138	9,845,820	7,651,229	5th
Chiangmai FC	147,637	4,988,190	2,137,200	16th
Buriram FC	128,222	7,559,880	7,153,819	1st
FC Phuket	83,261	1,905,230	960,244	9th
Chainat FC	61,611	2,065,450	1,381,560	2nd
Suphanburi FC	42,918	1,464,466	1,320,630	10th
PTT Rayong	39,318	1,110,944	1,003,953	4th
Saraburi FC	35,960	1,793,750	1,002,180	7th
Chanthaburi	30,133	1,364,384	470,996	12th
Airforce Utd	23,133	1,173,250	648,218	14th
Bangkok FC	15,710	412,324	187,060	11th
Rajpracha	14,825	277,520	68,990	8th
BB Chula Utd	13,508	566,800	188,385	3rd
RBAC	13,145	238,730	58,475	17th
Customs Utd	11,705	302,200	97,750	15th
JW Rangsit	11,638	417,830	82,193	13th
Bangkok Utd	10,568	661,340	245,796	6th
Thai Honda	7,838	333,860	77,850	18th
Total	890,268	36,481,968	24,734,528	

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Inflated eats face scrutiny

IN LIGHT of the continuously rising cost of living, accounting books of rice and noodle vendors across Phuket and Thailand could become subject to increased audits this year.

As of February 20, the Department of Internal Trade (DIT) will issue official price cap suggestions for 10 common Thai menu items to be priced under 35 baht.

These include rice dishes served with omelet, curry, boiled egg, pork leg, basil stir fried or fried rice (with pork or chicken), as well as several common noodle dishes – with and without soup.

Price suggestions for such items will be divided into three categories depending on vendor type.

Blue Flag (“Tong Fa”) government certified vendors will be expected to charge as low as 15 baht for a basic rice and omelet dish and up to 30 baht for other items, while general food centers will be asked to charge 25 to 30 baht and as much as 35 baht inside shopping and business centers.

The move is a response by the Ministry of Commerce to a wave of complaints from consumers who have been dissatisfied with recent menu markups, despite costs for many base items such as eggs



JUSTIFIED JACK: Vendors must be weary of gouging.

and palm oil actually decreasing.

Confirming that the price suggestions will affect the island, Phuket Internal Trade Office Chief Supatcha Boonpalit told the *Phuket*

Gazette, “These will not be strict price controls, just suggestions. There are many factors we [authorities and auditors] will need to consider as to whether prices exceeding the government suggestions are justified or not,” she said.

It’s broad measure, aiming to guide the market, not control it, she emphasized. Nonetheless, food vendors nationwide will be asked to comply with the price suggestions, when possible, or else face the possibility of being audited.

An announcement on the Of-

fice of Commercial Affairs Phuket website states that vendors who refuse to comply with the price suggestions, and are suspected of unnecessarily maintaining high menu prices, would be subject to auditing by the Revenue Department.

Such audits would require vendors to provide detailed documentation of their expenses and tax records.

Anyone found in violation of the Prices of Goods and Services Act, B.E. 2542 (1999) may be subject to a maximum penalty of seven years in prison and/or a fine of 14,000 baht, the announcement also stated.

– *Phuket Gazette*

Flower sales bloom

AS EXPECTED, flower shops’ revenues blossomed in Phuket on Valentine’s Day, last Tuesday.

Many flower shops reported record orders for floral arrangements, from both inside Phuket and off-island. Classic red roses were the most popular items among the adults, while teddy bears and chocolates were increasingly popular among teenagers.

Flower shops in Phuket Town had displayed special flower arrangements in shopfronts in order to lure in customers seeking to buy flowers for loved ones.

Pran Suppasri, owner of the “Flowers by Metha” flower shop, said business began picking up at his shop the day before the day of love.

“We ordered most of our red roses from China. We already received 40 to 50 orders of 1,000 baht each. We also received 30 to

40 orders for carnation arrangements that start at 500 baht. Most of the people ordering flowers from us are adults,” said Mr Pran.

“Even though flower prices went up by 20 to 30%, it hasn’t affected demand. We still received a lot of orders yesterday [Monday] and expect more throughout Valentine’s day,” he added.

Another Phuket Town shop called “I am Flower” reported “very good” sales, with orders gushing in from Phuket and off-island.

“We arrange the flowers into bouquets at prices starting at 600 baht. We received 50 to 60 orders yesterday, and more continue to pour in today. Our customers are both Thai and foreigners, and about 10% of orders are placed from Bangkok,” said shop assistant Chayatrid Gurtsripeng.

“Red roses are the most popular flower here, with 90% of our customers ordering them. White roses and lilies are also popular. I think sales are stronger than Valentine’s Day last year,” he said.

Flowers are not the only popular items for the Valentine’s Day. While most adults enjoy roses, youngsters tend to prefer some sweets for their sweeties. Some flower shops are expanding their product lines accordingly.

The owner of the Buppha Flower Shop in Phuket Town said, “We began receiving an increased number of orders yesterday [Monday], but not as much as last year. Most adults order flowers, but the teenagers have been buying teddy bears and chocolates that we have made available as another option for our customers,” he said.

– *Warisa Temram*

Kata – Karon branded green

THANKS to the charitable initiative, if not clever product placement marketing, of Kasikorn Bank (K Bank), Kata and Karon beaches will be branded ‘green’, but not necessarily in the name of the environment.

K Bank, or the Thai Farmers’ Bank, last week donated 3,000 beach umbrellas and 50 beach tents to the Karon municipality.

All of the new umbrellas and tents are green and branded with the K Bank logo, and will replace the old and damaged ones.

The tents and umbrellas were presented by K Bank’s Executive Vice President Vasin Vanichvoranun, during a donation ceremony held on February 9.

Mr Vasin said that the new umbrellas and tents will be utilized by beach chair and umbrella

groups, as well as beach massage groups operating along Kata and Karon beaches.

“Since most of the existing umbrellas and tents were in deteriorating condition, the scenery wasn’t beautiful and the beach wasn’t orderly. In order to make it [the beach] beautiful and orderly with umbrellas all of the same color, Kasikorn bank has made this donation to the Karon municipality to be used by operators from now on.”

Karon Mayor Thawee Tongcham accepted the donations on behalf of the members, and agreed to distribute them to beach operators.

“The old ones made the beach less beautiful and needed to be replaced,” he said.

– *Warisa Temram*

Taiwan bar raised

TOURISM operators have increased expectations for the Taiwanese tourist market following a recent tourism promotion “road show” trip to Taiwan.

A number of Phuket senior officials and tourism business operators negotiated deals in Taiwan from February 7 to 11, focusing on markets in two Taiwan cities: the country’s capital Taipei, and its third largest city, Taichung.

Leading the entourage was Phuket Governor Tri Augaradacha, Phuket *OrBorJor* President Paiboon Upatising, Phuket Tourist Association President Somboon Jirayus and Bangonrat Shinaprayoon, the director of the TAT regional office in Phuket.

Speaking about the bigger picture of the Taiwanese tourist market, Somboon commented, “Before, Taiwanese arrivals on

Phuket were as much as 200,000, but declined sharply after the tsunami. However in the last two to three years, the numbers are showing good signs and there are now three more direct flights from Taiwan to Phuket.”

Mr Paiboon agreed and went on to outline the significance of Phuket tourism road show trips.

“Phuket’s tourism sector has benefited from the success of previous road shows, such as those in China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Dubai, Qatar and Australia. The success shows in the number of new direct flights from each of these markets, and we have the same expectations for Taiwan.”

“China Airlines now flies directly to Phuket and tour agents [in Phuket and Taiwan] have responded that [Taiwanese supply of] tourists will increase,” he said.

– *Phuket Gazette*

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Keeping malware at bay for free

CONTINUING the series answering questions I hear most often from PC users here in Phuket, I have a very unpopular choice for antivirus (AV) software. Here's the question:

"Woody, I got a copy of (one of the major antivirus products) when I bought my new PC. It worked fine for six months, but now it wants money. I tried installing a pirate copy, but it won't download updates – and as you know an out-of-date antivirus program is about as useful as an out-of-date bottle of milk.

What antivirus product(s) do you use? What do you recommend for people who aren't particularly interested in PCs, but know that they need to protect themselves?"

All of the major antivirus/antimalware products work very well. It's getting harder and harder to draw a distinction among them.

The one I like best is the one that costs the least: Microsoft Security Essentials. MSE is absolutely free, and it will never, uh, bug you to upgrade or spend more money. If you don't trust Microsoft to protect its own software, there's always AVG Free. I talk about AVG Free briefly in my Windows books. But for most people, most of the time – and for me, my PCs at home, and at the Sandwich Shoppes – Microsoft Security Essentials does it all.

Whatever you do, dump the bloated anti-everything-ware program that came with your



Live Wire
By Woody Leonhard

PC. There's no reason to pay for protection over and over again. Get MSE or AVG Free and break the pay-pay-pay habit.

Although it's a relative newcomer to the AV game, MSE consistently rates highly in head-to-head tests. It installs easily, runs like the wind. It never, ever tries to get you to spend more money on a different version. And it doesn't cost a satang. I've converted all of my PCs to MSE – Windows XP, Vista and Win 7 – and never looked back.

To get your copy, go to microsoft.com/security_essentials and watch the installation video. Click the Download Now button, and you're on your way to using one of the best pieces of software Microsoft has ever made.

If you're already running an antivirus products – even if it's out of date, or begging for more money – you'll have to uninstall it before you can install MSE. Here's how:

Step 1: Download Microsoft Security Essentials.

Step 2: Disconnect from the Internet.

Step 3: Uninstall your current antivirus program. Uninstalling a well behaved antivirus program is as simple as clicking Start, Control Panel, Add or Remove Programs, finding the program in question and double-clicking on it.

Some antivirus programs, though, are notorious for being hard to uninstall. Norton was one of the worst, up until a couple of years ago. If you have to uninstall Norton, download and use the Norton Removal Tool. Some people report having problems getting rid of McAfee completely. If you're using McAfee and want to switch to MSE, download and run the McAfee Removal tool.

Step 4: No matter how you get rid of your old antivirus product – with Windows Add/Remove, or with a specialized removal tool from Norton or McAfee – reboot your computer once the uninstall is complete.

Step 5: Run the Microsoft Security Essentials installer. It will ask to connect to the internet to get updates. Don't do it just yet.

Step 6: Reboot your computer once again.

Step 7: Hook your computer up to the internet. Click on the MSE icon down in the system tray – next to the clock at the bottom. Click the Update tab (see screen shot on this page), then click the Update button.

Step 8: On the MSE Home tab, choose the button marked "Full" and click "Scan Now".

Step 9: Your computer's going to slow down for a while – maybe ten minutes, maybe a couple of hours – while the scan finishes. Once it's done, you may have to click to delete any bad stuff that MSE has found. I suggest you be merciless, and delete anything that looks even vaguely suspicious.

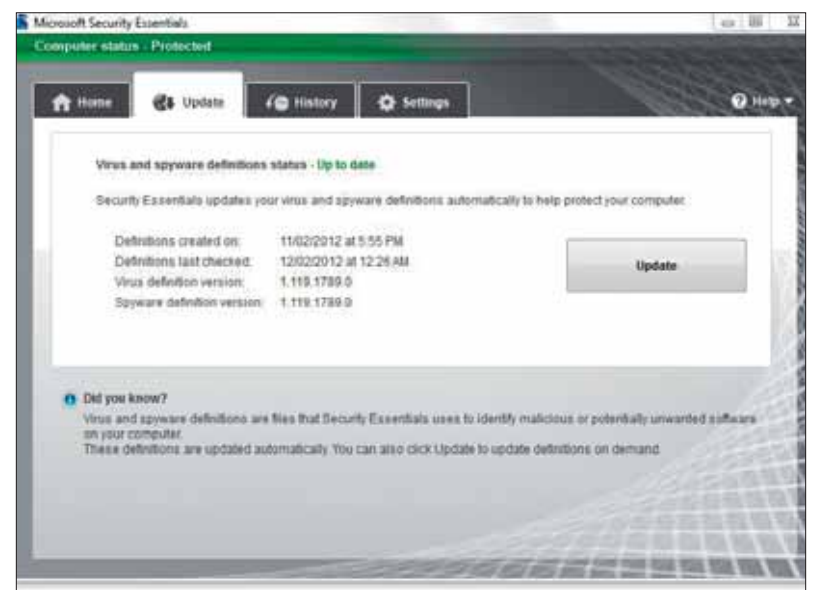
Step 10: That's it. You don't have to do anything more, and MSE will keep itself updated and running non-stop.

I've had many people ask if MSE will update itself, even if you turn off Automatic Updates for Windows (which I recommend at my website, AskWoody.com). The answer is yes: although MSE uses the Windows Update mechanism and programs to keep

itself updated, your Automatic Updates setting doesn't hold any sway over Microsoft Security Essentials. Microsoft Security Essentials checks to make sure you're running a "genuine" copy of Windows before it'll install. I've heard rumors that some of the "not so genuine" versions of Windows available in Phuket are good enough to trick the MSE installer. Thus, if you aren't quite sure about the pedigree of your copy of Windows, it'd be a good idea to download MSE and see if it will install. If it doesn't, the installer will tell you that you don't have "genuine" Windows. That's it. No



KEEP TROJANS AWAY FROM THE GATE: The combination of genuine Windows 7 and MSE really does work. Photo: Darcy McCarty



The best, free way to keep your PC safe is with Microsoft Security Essentials.

Pirate Police will appear at your door.

Locking down Windows 7 computers isn't all that difficult. You need a genuine copy of Windows 7 (which shouldn't cost much more than 2,000 baht). You need to use a "Standard" not an "Administrator" account.

You need to apply updates once a month (details and timing, which vary each month, are on my website), and you need Microsoft Security Essentials, which is free. If, in addition to all of that, you don't do anything stupid – like installing a program that says it'll remove 114 infections on your computer, or intentionally allowing a program to change your browser's home page – you should be quite safe.

I run about twenty different PCs that way, with users that span the gamut from grizzled veteran to abject newbie, and I've never had an infection under Windows 7.

Yes, some people have installed smiley icons and gotten their

browsers tied up in knots. Occasionally the default search engine gets changed, or the home page gets switched. Minor problems. I've never seen a keylogger, rootkit or data stealing program on any of those PCs. The combination of genuine Windows 7 and MSE really does work.

Seth Bareiss holds 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, or come to one of our free Sunday morning roundtables at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. 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. Shoot him mail at Woody@KhunWoody.com, follow him on Twitter @PhuketLiveWire, or "like" his page at facebook.com/SandwichShoppes.

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Skyscrapers and economic woe

THERE'S an economic-cycle theory based on the link between the building of skyscrapers and economic strife. Guess what it's called? Correct: the Skyscraper Index.

While many trends and theories these days are based on cycles, this economical theory is based on the completion of skyscrapers. So what is this theory and does it have any credibility?

Let's first unravel the theory and then you can make up your own minds.

A tall index: Barclays recently published the new Skyscraper Index which shows there is an unhealthy correlation between the construction of the world's next tallest building and an impending financial crisis. Sounds far-fetched, and is there any evidence to support this theory? All we can do is look at the historical time that Barclays is drawing this information from.

1873-1878 The long depression: The United States economic recession with bank failures that came to be known as the "Long Depression" coincided with the construction of the Equitable Life Building in 1873. At the time the building was the first skyscraper at a height of 142 feet.

1890, British banking crisis and world recession: The 309-foot New York World building, also known as the Pulitzer building and

Island Investor

By Anthony Lyman

Chicago's 269-foot Auditorium completed in 1889, coincided with the British banking crisis of 1890, and a world recession.

1893, US panic marked by the collapse of railroad over-building: The building of Chicago's 302-foot Masonic Temple; the 348-foot Manhattan Life Building; and the 353-foot Milwaukee City Hall, coincided with the collapse of railroad overbuilding. It also coincided with a string of bank failures and a run on gold.

Still don't see the link? Let's look at some more recent examples.

1973-1975, US and world economic crisis: The 1972 construction of One World Trade Center; the 1973 completion of Two World Trade Center; and the 1974 construction of the Sears Tower in Chicago, coincided with a period of speculation in monetary expansion from foreign lending. It also coincided with the collapse of the Bretton Woods system, a rise in oil prices which caused a global economic crisis, and speculation in stocks, property, ships and aircraft.

1997-1998, Asian economic crisis: The Asian economic crisis,

currency devaluation and speculation in stock and property, coincided with the completion of the Petronas Towers in 1997. The 1,483-foot Petronas Towers were the tallest buildings in the world, but also heralded the start of the Asian financial crash.

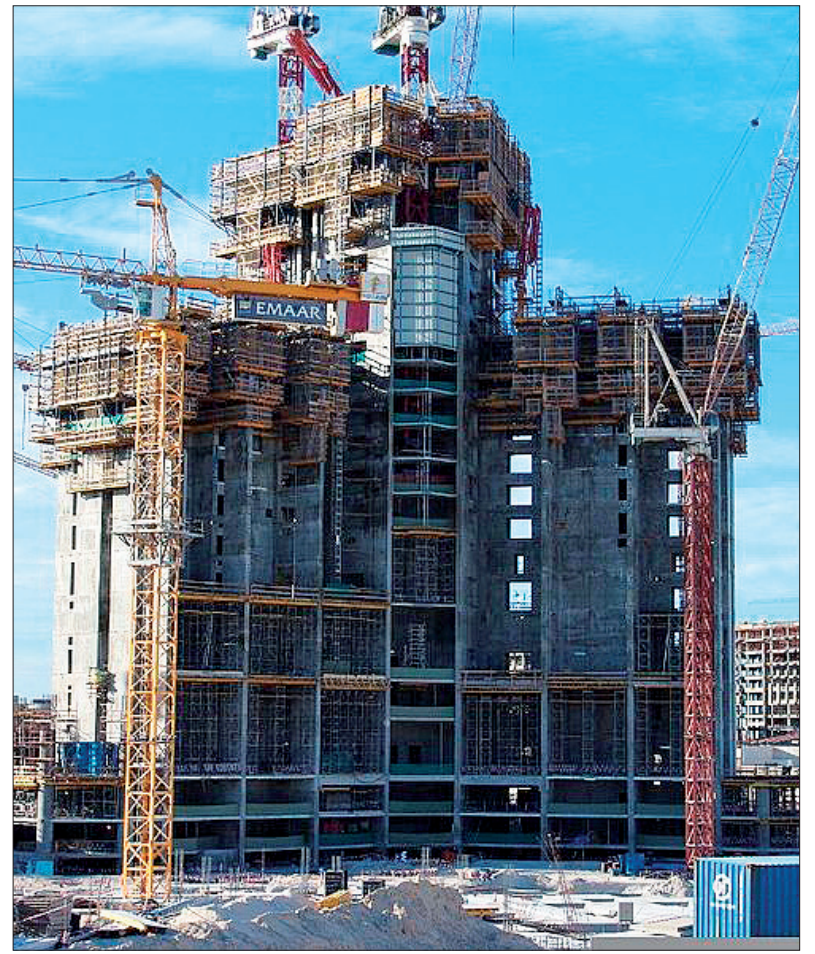
2000-2003, Dot com bubble: The construction of the 1,671-foot Taipei 101 skyscraper began in 1999 and was completed in 2004. The duration coincided with the recession in the early 2000s and the tech bubble.

2007-2010, The great recession: The 2010 completion of the tallest building in the world, the 2,717-foot Burj Khalifa, Dubai, coincided with the current global financial crisis.

So is this information reliable? When investing you have to take into account many factors, but I firmly believe trusting just "one" indicator, like the Skyscraper Index, is foolish. But there does seem to be an undeniable trend between the completion of skyscrapers and economic misfortune around the globe.

Investors look at everything from macro indicators like inflation, unemployment and GDP growth, to more bizarre ones like the diaper-rash indicator and the hemline index to measure the health of the economy.

Should we hold our breaths as



BUILDING SKYSCRAPERS: The Burj Khalifa in Dubai, completed in 2010.

the next world's tallest skyscraper is built? Well, looking to China where 53 per cent of the world skyscrapers currently under construction are, and India where 14 new skyscrapers are currently

underway; the economic prosperity in those regions don't look set to falter any time soon.

Contact Anthony Lyman at E: alyman@montpeliergroup.com.

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Signs you can't afford to ignore

How floating spots and flashes in your vision can quickly spiral into serious eye issues if left without treatment



BLACK CLOUD: A telltale sign of retina detachment.



SEE NO EVIL: Floaters in vision can be triggered by age.

By Doctor Captain Wiriyaluppa

WE TEND to think that if it doesn't hurt it must be fine, but ignoring irregular eye symptoms is a big mistake. Why? Because there are no pain receptors in the eye, so if you're seeing things but feel no pain it doesn't mean you're okay.

Today, we will talk about "floaters and flashing". These two are important warning signs which can lead to serious eye diseases. Floaters are tiny black spots, specks, flecks or cobwebs which drift aimlessly in your field of vision. Although they can be annoying, ordinary eye floaters are common and usually aren't cause for concern. In contrast, flashing, which is the sensation of flickering light or "lighting" triggered by eye movement, will require medical attention.

THE CAUSES

First we should understand the basic anatomy of our eyes. I usually tell my patients to think of their eye as a ball filled with gel. In medical terms we call this gel vitreous, which is mainly water and accounts for about 60 per cent of the eye's total mass, giving it form and shape. Lining the inner wall of the eye, like wallpaper, is the nerve tissue membrane called the retina.

As we age the vitreous consistency will liquefy somewhat, contracting and moving the form of the vitreous. It is as the vitreous liquefies which can cause the effect of floaters.

These changes are considered normal with age, and as much as we would like to help; eye professionals can't help you stop aging.

FLASHES AND LIGHTNING

In most cases the process described will cause no medical problems. In a small amount of cases, the contracted vitreous can generate a pulling effect on the retina, similar to the resistance of pulling wallpaper from a wall.

This pulling will send electrical impulses to the brain and will be interpreted as flickers or light and cause the person to see flashes, like lightning. When the tugging force is too strong, the retina can tear and blood vessels inside can start bleeding. In this extreme case, the person will see many floaters at the same time.

THE SOLUTION

Retinal tears can be successfully treated with the help of laser treatment applied to the retina to seal the tear and prevent the progression of disease.

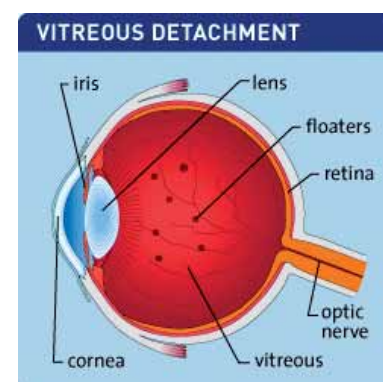
If the condition has gone too far and the retina has already detached, surgery will be required to push the retina back into its original position. The retinal detachment surgery is one of the most complicated eye procedures and requires a retinal sub-specialist ophthalmologist to perform the surgery. It is important to note, that not every patient who receives surgery after a detached retina can regain their full vision.

A study in the Journal of the American Medical Association in late 2009 found that the sudden presence of eye floaters and flashes means that one in seven people with these symptoms will have a retinal tear or detachment. About 50 per cent of people with a retinal tear will have a subsequent detachment.

When should you consult a medical professional?

- If you begin to see floaters in your vision.
- If the number of floaters in your vision significantly increases fast, immediately consult your doctor.
- If you see flashes in your field of vision.
- If black spots obscure your field of vision.

Doctor Captain Wiriyaluppa is an ophthalmologist and retinal consultant in Phuket.



If you do not consult with your medical professional immediately, the vitreous can pass through the retinal tear and start ripping the retina from the inner-eye wall. If retinal detachment happens then the person's vision will be seriously impaired.

If left untreated, retinal detachment can lead to permanent blindness in a matter of days or weeks.

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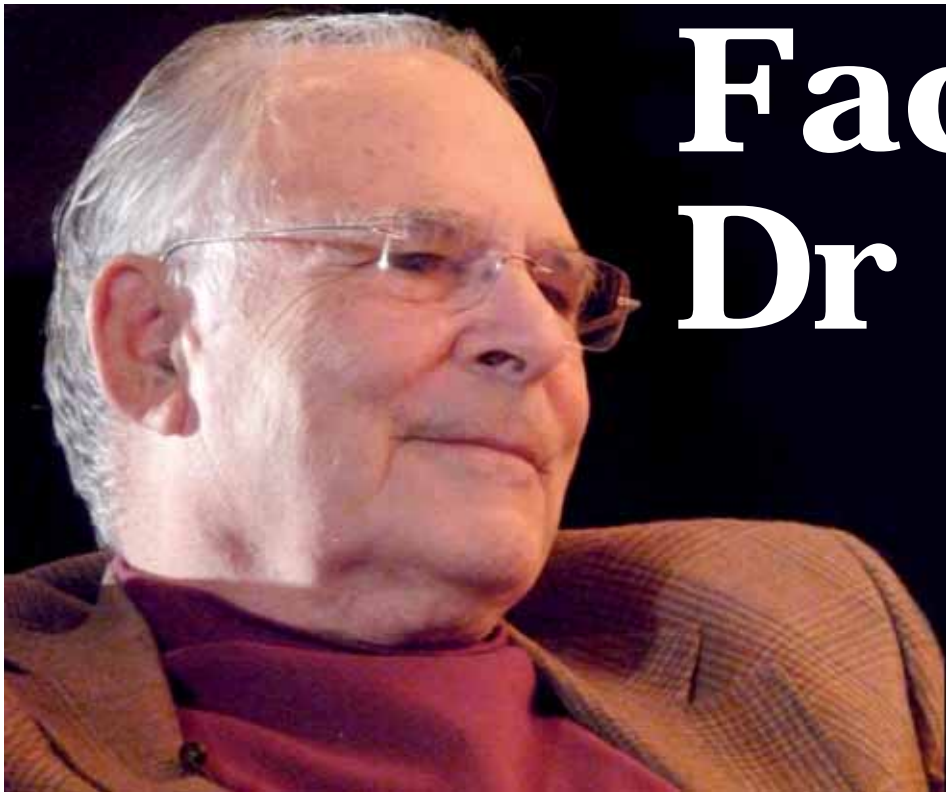
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Facetime with Dr Paul Ekman

By Bruce Stanley

DR PAUL Ekman has built an impressive career around research on the human face and the many subtle micro-expressions which expose emotions. He believes that regardless of geography or culture, mankind has facial expressions in common that even reach to the world of primates.

Recently he presented a lecture, Emotional Intelligence and Education: Reading Faces, Recognizing Feelings and Revealing Lies at the Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club at the Phuket International Academy where he described his research into human emotions and their expressions.

Speaking exclusively to the *Phuket Gazette* after his lecture, Dr Ekman offered further details about his life and career.

"When I was a student in the 1950s at the University of Chicago and New York University, I focused my research on micro-facial expressions which confirm whether a subject is telling the truth or not. The basis of my research was work done by Charles Darwin and his investigations while he traveled around the world making notes on various cultures. Darwin believed that human beings shared common facial expressions," Dr Ekman said.

Ekman graduated from Adelphi University in 1958 with a Phd and then spent two years in the American military as a clinical psychology officer. In 1960, he joined the faculty of the University of California San Francisco where he continued his research into human emotions until his retirement in 2004.

"I was satisfied with Darwin's research which was quite contrary to the prevailing popular beliefs at the time as expressed by anthropologist Margaret Mead who taught that human emotions were conditioned by experience rather than biology. I determined that I needed to go and test aboriginals where there had been no human contact to prove Darwin's theories," he added.

In 1967, Ekman headed into the jungles of Papua New Guinea to find a Stone Age culture that had had no contact with the outside

world. He was successful in locating the Fore tribesmen and began extensive photographic recordings of facial expressions that mirror what he has determined to be the seven basic human emotions of anger, sadness, fear, surprise, disgust, contempt and happiness. He returned to Papua New Guinea the following year to confirm his research.

Ekman's research tool is called Facial Action Coding System (FACS), which determines which of the faces 43 muscles are working to express an emotion.

Over the past 50 years, his research on reading the faces expressions, has been adopted by the American Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), who uses his Screening Passengers by Observation Techniques (SPO T) program.

"Through my training programs, I have been able to help assess the probability of deceptive behavior. I don't believe that lie detector tests are reliable. In my experience, I have found that Secret Service agents in the United States are the most accurate at successfully determining the credibility of a suspect's statement. This is because they have been trained to carefully observe human emotions

and movements," said Dr Ekman.

Ekman's work was the basis for a popular television show, *Lie to Me*, which had a three-year run on Fox television networks. He was named one of Time Magazine's Top 100 Most Influential People of 2009 and as one of the most influential psychologists of the 20th century by the American Psychological Association.

His trip to Asia was inspired by his recent visit with the Dalai Lama in New Delhi.

"I have had several meetings with

His Holiness the Dalai Lama where we have discussed the importance of emotions in human life. Of course we come to the subject from very different belief systems, but we do agree that emotions can be helpful tools to assist with issues such as stimulating human justice and reducing stress," said Dr Ekman. He is currently the manager of the Paul Ekman



FORETHOUGHT: A Papua New Guinea tribesman shows his emotion.

Group, a company that produces training devices to help his clients develop competence at learning how to read emotional expressions, and continues his research into training techniques for national security.

To learn more about reading the emotions behind facial expressions, check out www.paulekman.com



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Kata's hot spot to chill by the sea

Find out what all the cheer is about down at RE KÁ TA, the island's latest laid-back beach restaurant.

RE KÁ TA (doesn't that name shout out loud?) is the newest incarnation of the passed-away Oasis, next to Boathouse at Kata Beach. The base for the annual King's Cup Regatta, it's not hard to see how the place got its spiffy name.

Essentially, RE KÁ TA is a beach club: Simply lay your 1,000 baht down and you'll get full amenities, such as a swimming pool, a potentially amusing "walk-through" automatic shower that I'll lay heavy odds will be the demise of some cell-phone-toting, inebriated punter sooner than later (the gate-like structure lies directly on the way to the rest rooms), towels, sun deck and more. Oh, and the 1,000 buckaroos give you exactly that much credit at the bar and restaurant. Clever, or what?

It's a trendy, "look at me" sort of place, designed by Fredo Taffin, the same artist who created Ku De Ta, Bali's famous club-restaurant-beach bar. It's also the stomping ground of South African Executive Chef Bryan Burger. Now, before the obvious jokes and puns are wheel-chaired out it has to be recounted that Le Meridien Resort

On the Menu

By Sam Wilko

and Spa, up the coast in Karon, was once managed by a certain Monsieur "Hotelier", demonstrating that fitting names in the hospitality industry aren't *that* rare. And, even though you can score a burger at RE KÁ TA, the emphasis is firmly on healthy dishes that, having been purposely cooked below 42 degrees centigrade, retain their life-preserving enzymes and vitamins.

Our first impression of RE KÁ TA is of the music tumbling out of the German-designed sound system serving the pool and bar area (the restaurant and beach terrace are more conducive to conversation). Here, we take in a few Italian and Brazilian ballads with groovy hip-hop and at one point Charles Aznavour, for goodness' sake. Still, it's all set at an acceptable volume level, but don't count on napping through Happy Hour.

The alfresco lounge section features faux-water hyacinth sofas



KATA CREDENTIALS: RE KÁ TA is located at the southern end of Kata Beach, just a few yards from the waterline.



Chef Bryan Burger

and tables with innovative lighting, pastel-colored parasols and vivid throw cushions along with that automatic shower trap. Further towards the beach, you'll find a medium-sized restaurant fitted out in a blue-and-white theme that leads onto a beach terrace crowned by tropical almond trees daily housing the noisiest dusk-chorus of sparrows imaginable.

As you can imagine, it's all very jolly, holiday-like and distinctive, especially when a passing waiter flips over what had appeared to be a randomly placed balloon, presses a button and magically turns it into a light. He does the same with a chair; never a dull moment here.

So what of the food? RE KÁ TA's "Living Cuisine" concept is not a unique culinary movement as organic food and restaurants have been around for quite a while, but dining beachside in chic, modern surroundings with healthily prepared ingredients certainly scores plus points. Grilled sea scallops with rum jelly on a bed of diced mango works well, as does an incredibly *al dente* salmon dish. For mains, snow fish in a pastry crust that provides just the right amount of saltiness to complement the fish is almost near damn perfect; but then I'm a fish lover. For the carnivores among us, seared wagyu beef on vanilla



AT YOUR SERVICE: Staff at RE KÁ TA at work in the restaurant.



DESSERT AHOY: Just one naughty treat. Photos: RE KÁ TA and Sam Wilko

risotto with beef and mushroom jus is filling to the extreme.

Happy juice? An adequate 14-label list does the business with a spanking Languedoc complementing the evening's proceedings. And, being beachside, there is no shortage of mini-umbrella-adorned alcoholic

concoctions. RE KÁ TA's certainly the real thing and ideal for party groups who are looking for a beach experience without the vendor-hassle ingredient.

RE KÁ TA is Open from 9am to Midnight daily, T: 076-330421, E: info@rekataphuket.com.

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QSI Tigers unveil new den



QSI Phuket director Patrick Buckley

By Fraser Morton

QUALITY Schools International (QSI) Phuket unveiled its new and improved sports den last week, with students rushing the field after the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The US\$120,000 (just over 3.7 million baht) new facilities include a multipurpose basketball court, a football field enveloped by a 100-meter running track and a new garden and waterfall.

Emotions ran high at the opening ceremony last Friday, with large crowds turning out to hear school director Patrick Buckley give a heartfelt speech, which paid tribute to the efforts of all involved in the major facility upgrade.

"We are celebrating our new facilities, and also that at QSI Phuket, we don't give up on our kids."

"Our new facilities communicate to our students and their parents that we want to give them the best educational opportunities, and sport is a very important aspect of our curriculum."

In a fitting tribute to the home side, their new football pitch is made from a surface called "Tiger



TIGER TURF: The new upper football field is made from 'Tiger Turf', apt considering QSI Phuket are nicknamed The Tigers. Photo: Sarah Foster-Gross



LET THE GAMES COMMENCE: Members of the advisory board help cut the ribbon.



ON TRACK: Students take in an easy first lap of the track.

Turf", an apt name when your team logo, name and mascot is a roaring tiger. The new facilities will be used for T-ball, football, basketball, tennis, badminton, track and field activities and the football field will be used for the flag raising ceremony each morning before classes, a QSI Phuket tradition.

Facility upgrades have been a top priority at QSI Phuket since director Buckley joined the school in August last year. The majority of construction work was sched-

uled over the Christmas holiday break, and although work has been ongoing, students and teachers have been able to see the remarkable transformation at the school each day.

Before work began, the upper playground usually reserved for primary students, was a little more than a dusty patch of land with a climbing frame. Today the new sporting arena has ample space and safety for students to hone their athletic abilities.

Brad Kenny, advisory board member and whose company ESP oversaw project development, said the new facilities has given the school and everyone concerned with it, a huge boost.

"This is a fantastic achievement for everyone concerned."

Among the many people director Buckley thanked on the day, was CJ Prieur, director of Seara Sports southern Thailand.

Seara Sports were responsible for re-fitting the new "Swiss Flex"

800-square-meter basketball court. Mr Prieur said students decades from today will still be able to enjoy the ultra-durable Swiss Flex court. He added that Phuket interest in synthetic sports courts and pitches is in high demand, with artificial pitches popping up all over the island, including a brand new 5,000sqm soccer field in Patong.

For more information, check out W:qsischool.org or T:076-524243.

Get training for QSI's Fun Run

YOU still have time to get in shape for QSI Phuket's next Fun Run.

This is the 10th annual event for QSI Phuket and promises to be another fun-filled day for all involved.

The event has evolved from a community outreach project into a fully-fledged running event, attracting serious athletes and those hellbent on fun.

Races range from 1 to 12-kilometers and all members of the public can join. The all-day event is for the whole family, with carnival-like booths and games.

The event will be held at Bang Wad Dam on March 10, from 9:30am to 5:00pm.

The parents, students and teachers of QSI Phuket will continue their tradition of providing staff and materials for

the event, which means the only thing left for community members to do is enjoy themselves.

Entry fee is 200 baht per entrant, 100 baht per student, and pre-registration is possible at QSI Phuket until Friday, March 9.

Additionally, registration on the day of the event begins at 9:30am.

As part of the festivities, there will be live music and 91.5 Phuket FM Radio personality, DJ Dorris.

There will also be food and drink vendors, as well as a silent auction with top-notch prizes from sponsors around the island.

The *Phuket Gazette* sponsors this event.

For more information, check out W:qsischool.org or T:076-524243.



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Yoknapatawpha on the Hudson

WILLIAM Faulkner's novels take place in Yoknapatawpha County in Mississippi. William Kennedy's novels take place in Albany, New York. His Albany Cycle of eight novels include two of the very best in American literature: *Billy Phelan's Greatest Game* (1978) and *Ironweed* (1983) which was made into a movie for which both Jack Nicholson and Meryl Streep received Oscar nominations.

A recurring character in these novels is the newspaperman Daniel Quinn, William Kennedy's alter ego. In his youth Kennedy had worked for a newspaper in Puerto Rico with a young man named Hunter Thompson and later covered the Castro revolution in Cuba. He eventually settled back in Albany where he found fertile ground for newspaper exposés about the colorfully corrupt Irish-American political machine.

At 83, Kennedy had drawn a similar narrative arc for *Changó's*

Books

By James Eckardt

Beads and Two-Tone Shoes (Viking, New York, 2011, 328 pp). The novel opens in 1936 when eight-year-old Daniel Quinn is awakened by strange music in his Albany house: it's Bing Crosby and the local jazz piano player named Cody Mason.

The novel then jumps to 1957 in Havana when the reporter Daniel Quinn is pushing 30 and screws up the courage to approach Ernest Hemingway at the Floridita bar. In comes Renata Suarez Otero, young, beautiful and rich, a student revolutionary against the Batista dictatorship. She is escorted by her brother in law, a shady newspaper publisher. He promptly gives Quinn a job. Quinn is infatuated by Renata whose boyfriend is soon killed in an assault

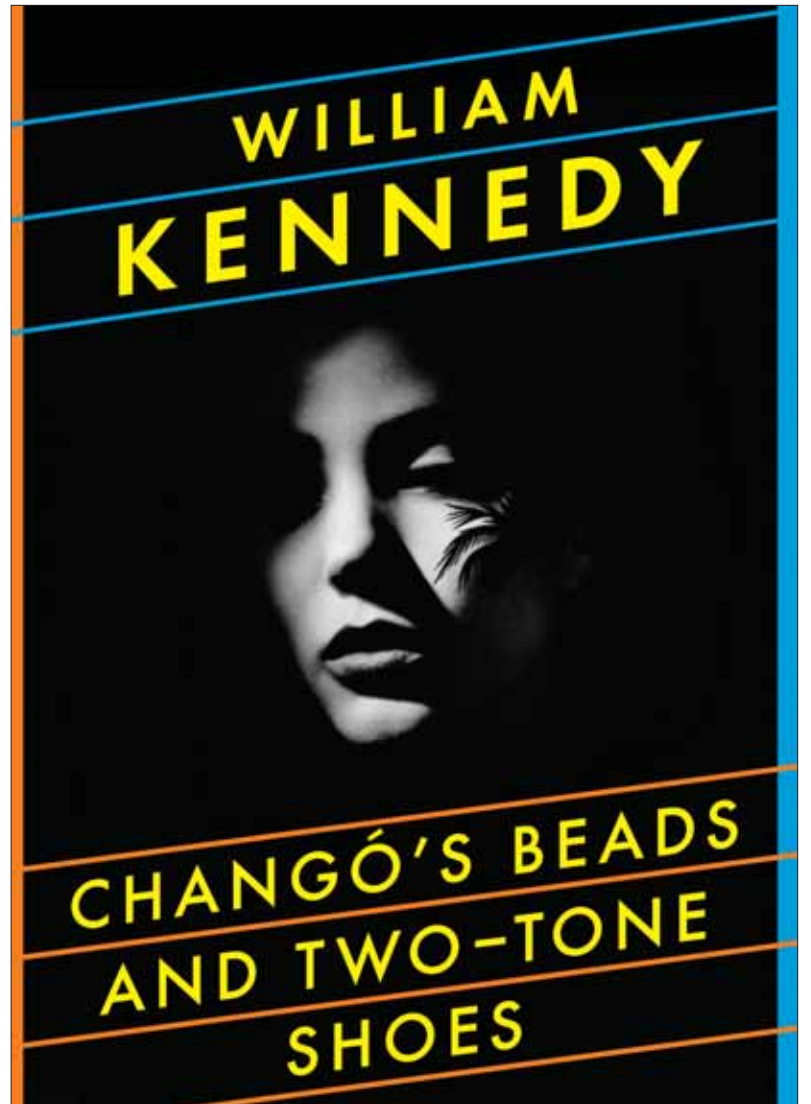
on Batista's palace. Quinn joins her in flight to the jungle, to secret Santaria rites and a meeting with Fidel Castro.

Hemingway is well drawn. Of him, Quinn writes: "Since he moved to the Finca in 1939 it had become a place where the grand and the great among writers, generals, movie stars, journalists, baseball players, sailors, drinkers, and women queued on the front steps to talk, swim, party, flirt with or just shimmer in the waves of mythic glow that emanated from this maestro of the word, the hunt, the deep sea, the saloon, the bull-ring, the wars, the self."

Unfortunately, many of the Cuban characters speak in a form of bad Hemingway, including Fidel Castro. This section ends with the return of Quinn from his Castro interview and the mysterious disappearance of Renata.

Now the action moves 11 years into the future, 1968, on the day after Robert Kennedy has been shot. Quinn is working for an Albany newspaper and rather prosaically is married to Renata. We learn that she had been saved from a Cuban torture chamber by the rather improbable intercession of the voodoo Santaria god Changó. Meanwhile, the streets of Albany's black neighborhood threaten to explode into riots at the death of Bobby Kennedy.

Much of this section is told through the comical misadventures of Quinn's father George who wanders the streets in a fog of forgetful dementia. There is a wide cast of noble black characters who are fighting a corrupt City Hall and



CUBAN CRISIS: The author strives to convey the struggle for dignity and freedom.

the battle lines are drawn starkly with Quinn and radical Dominican priest Matt Daugherty on the side of righteous community activists. They all rendezvous at a table for the last concert of jazz pianist Cody Mason. And here Kennedy kicks out the lyrical jams:

"There was a beauty in his ease, his sureness, no clunked notes tonight, and he switches keys and ups the tempo, just a little, and ba-boom goes that left hand, the power of it, he's on a ride, six choruses and counting, feel that beat, beat, beat, that goddamn beat, this is stride on high, stride the way it's supposed

to be, brilliant invention, the poor guy can't help himself, smothering the song with his gift, exploding it, and Quinn's pulse is up and cantering, those left-handed arpeggios, the glissando that surprises and he notches the speed upward . . ."

The novel takes Quinn from childhood to young manhood to the cusp of middle age and all the while he is faithful to his better nature and the strivings of the people around him for dignity and freedom. Though the cartoon colors are often too garish, the narrative plunges on towards resolution, much as Cody Mason's last song.



THE FLORIDITA: A statue of Hemingway is at the bar. Photo: Tony Hisgett

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Meryl Streep is The Iron Lady

Lead Actors: Meryl Streep, Jim Broadbent, Richard E. Grant, Alice da Cunha

Director: Phyllida Lloyd

Genre: Biography/Drama

PhuketRelease: February 9

EVEN before the nominations were announced, Meryl Streep was a favorite to win Best Actress at the Oscars on February 26.

The film *The Iron Lady* tells the story of Margaret Thatcher, a woman who smashed through barriers of gender and class to be heard in a male-dominated world and who became the Prime Minister of the UK. Meryl Streep's portrayal has no soft edges and Streep is astonishing as Margaret Thatcher, but director Phyllida Lloyd (who also directed Meryl in *Mamma Mia*) seems uncertain about what she wants to say about the woman.

The first half an hour works well. Streep is perfect as Thatcher, and while the plot seems a little clichéd, it at least entertains. The following hour,

Film

however, seems to progressively get worse as we watch Streep repeating the same motions, gestures, and facial expressions.

The story concerns power and the price that is paid for it, yet despite a surprising and insightful portrait of an extraordinary and complex woman it can be uninteresting at times and is disjointed, in the extreme. The flashback scenes are a bit muddled and can be confusing and the movie felt a little too safe, trying as it does not to be controversial. Margaret Thatcher herself was such a decisive person, that whichever side the film picked, it would be criticized so the film ultimately achieves its goal.

Yet this "Margaret Thatcher" is a two dimensional character and the action scenes in the latter half are largely irrelevant to the plot. The supporting cast is good, but other characters are practically caricatures,



including the aide who is always asleep from too much drink - a running gag that gets annoying.

Approximately two thirds of the film is spent on the post 2003 era (post Dennis Thatcher's death) with Thatcher wandering around her flat, talking with her daughter and hallucinating about Dennis as she succumbs to dementia.

Yet, the poetic humanity and the revelations of a strong woman is worth watching.

Overall the movie was really well done, but just shy of greatness and Meryl Streep's performance truly elevates the film into a great biopic.

Karudee Chotithamaporn

KARUDEE Chotithamaporn's love affair with the history of the Nyonya Baba culture started at an early age. In a boarding school in Penang, lonely and homesick, she found solace and security reading about her Chinese roots and her ancestors' migration to this part of the world during the 17th century.

Widely regarded as expert on the culture of this sub-group, the vivacious Karudee explains that the culture of Nyonya Baba, which originated from the port town of Malacca in Malaysia, is a melting pot of many influences.

Nyonya Baba refers to the Chinese migrants and their children, who settled down along the east coast towns of the Malay Peninsular – Medan, Singapore, Malacca, Penang and Trang in southern Thailand. Though deeply proud of their Chinese roots, the Nyonya Baba nevertheless adopted the cultures of the foreign traders and rulers of the region, namely the Dutch, Portuguese, British and the Malays.

Karudee is part of this culture. Born to a Chinese Malaysian father and an Indonesian mother, her family, originally from Penang, settled down in Phuket to manage and later own a mining business.

Upon her father's insistence that to get ahead in life all his children must speak English and



Mandarin, Karudee and her six other siblings were sent to various boarding schools in Malaysia and Singapore where, under the British rule, English was taught.

The nomadic upbringing was anything but easy as Karudee recalls: "I would cry my eyes out when the time came to go back to school, but my father wouldn't budge. I hated it, but now I am indebted to my father and his vision for making me who I am today."

With that she means her excellent language skills – English, Mandarin, Hokkien, Bahasa Malayu and Thai – and her love of history.

Karudee graduated with a degree in psychology from the University of Alberta. At 21, she came back to Phuket to help with the family's mining and gold trading business.

Karudee's expertise in Nyonya Baba culture became known during the late 2000s, when she played a key role in the revival of tourism after the tsunami devastation of 2004. As a spokesperson for the Phuket Tourism Association, part of her

job was to instruct local guides in the proper use of English terms concerning such esoteric a subject as Taoism, practised widely on Phuket. She also lectured at the Rajabhat University and Prince of Songkhla University on Nyonya history.

Having taken steps back from charity work and teachings, Karudee is now busy helping her partner Visit Eiemvirotrit with his hotel business in Patong, but she never strays far from her love of Nyonya Baba. She wants to preserve what she calls the core characteristics of the Nyonya Baba culture: architecture, costume, food, and the history of its people's maritime journey.

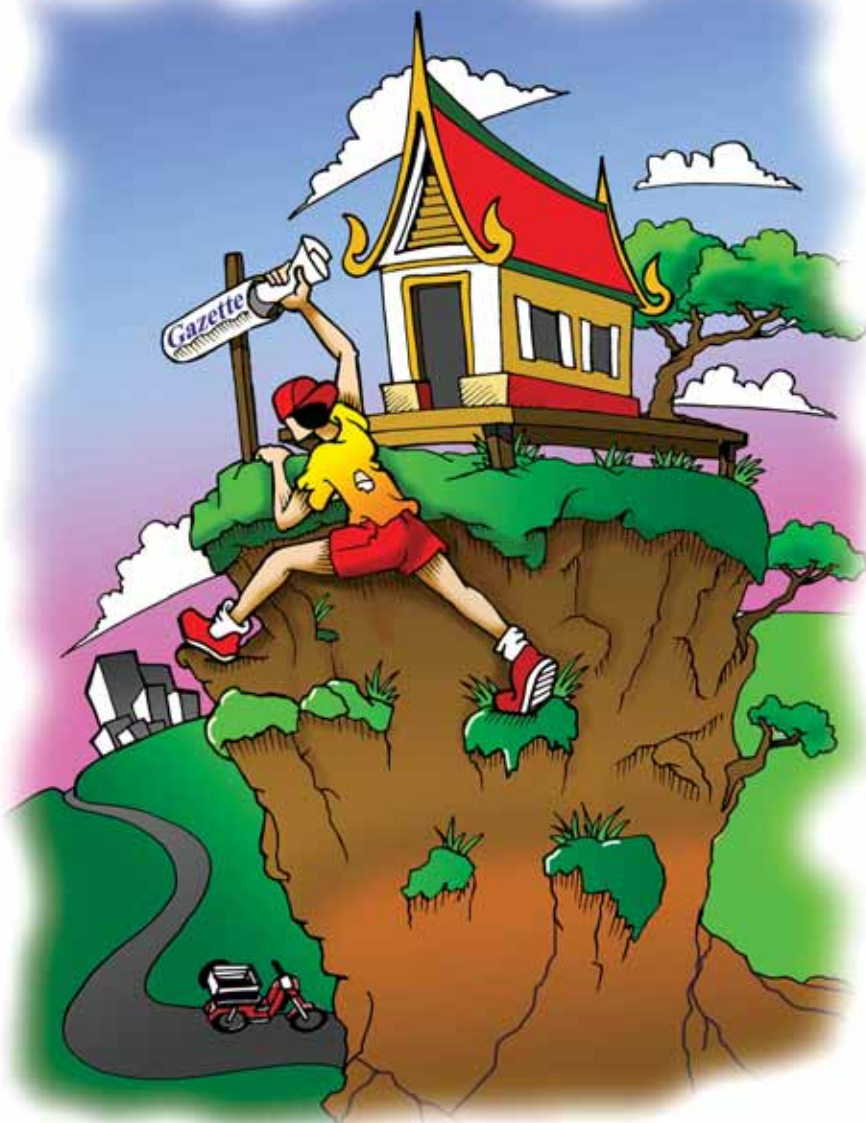
Her quest in this onerous task often has her scouring for original Nyonya laceworks in Indonesia for Thai embroiderers to emulate. Her own goldsmith at the family gold shop is coaxed into producing intricate jewellery based on ancient designs, at times against his protest.

So great is her mission zeal that she is willing to use her own demolished gold shop to demonstrate to the public the precise ways to renovate a Sino-Portuguese home. There will be a website, she says, charting the progress of the renovation and she will hand out architectural plans free of charge.



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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Birdman will jump from 13,500 feet and land on Surin Beach



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They said: We are afraid.
Come to the edge, Life said.
They came. It pushed them...
and they flew."

- Guillaume Apollinaire 1870-1918

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Birdman? Phuket resident Jari Kuosma, from Finland. (See bird-man.com)

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• Air show @ 5pm • Birdman Jump @ about 6pm for sunset landing

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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

February 17 and 24. Special Indian Feast Promotion

Royal Phuket Marina is pleased to introduce you to our new Special Friday Indian Feast. We are delighted to offer a 25 per cent discount on the Indian Buffet and 10 per cent off the listed menu on Friday nights. This authentic home-made Indian Buffet will be prepared and served by our very own in-house Indian Chef, Padum Kahtri. Only 495++ baht per person. From 7 to 10pm at Les Angeles restaurant, Royal Phuket Marina. Contact Murat at 081-7973364, muratc@royalphuketmarina.com or visit royalphuketmarina.com.

February 17, 24 and March 2. Navrang Mahal Curry Fridays

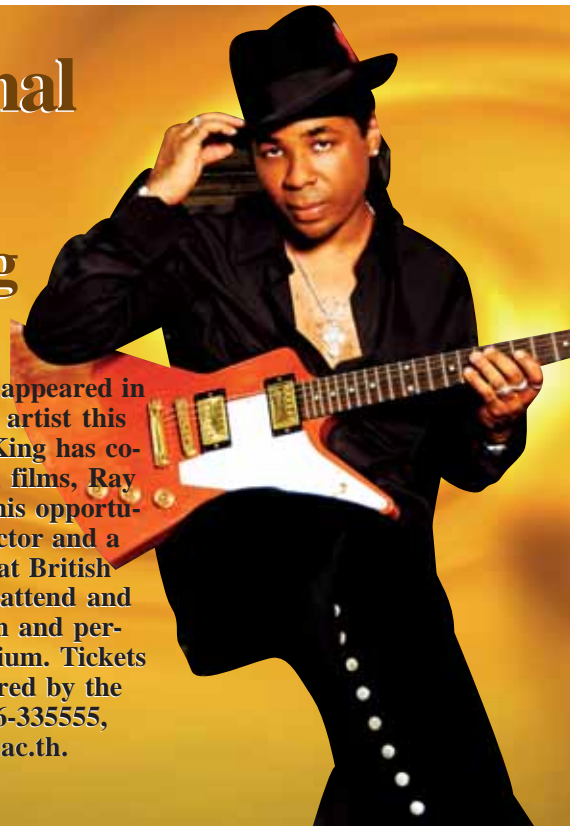
We present Curry Fridays at Navrang Mahal India Restaurant from 7 to 11pm in Karon Sea Sands Resort & Spa. Here is your chance to enjoy an authentic and lavish Indian Curry Buffet on Friday only 449 baht nett! Draught Beer by the glass: just 50 baht nett. Special discount on beverages. Reservations at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

February 18 to 19. Basketball Skills Camp at BIS

To be held on the first weekend of the February mid-term break. This is a great way to spend the first weekend of your break after the end of a hard-working school term! The camp will be run by former LA Lakers star Ike Nwankwo and his Top Flight Basketball Academy. Train with and

Up Close & Personal Workshop with Chris Thomas-King

Chris Thomas-King has sold more records and appeared in more successful movies than any other blues artist this century. There is a reason for it! As an actor, King has co-starred in several films, including two musical films, *Ray* and *O Brother Where Art Thou?* Don't miss this opportunity to get up close and personal with a top actor and a major industry professional from 3 to 5pm at British International School. Everyone is welcome to attend and young musicians will have the chance to learn and perform with a legend on stage in the Bis Auditorium. Tickets available now: 600 baht. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*. Contact Tim Pearson at 076-335555, info@bisphuket.ac.th or visit bisphuket.ac.th.



learn from the best in Thailand, and play with top current professional players from the Thai national team! This is the first of its kind in Phuket and one not to be missed. Open to all schools. From 9am to 4pm. Price: 3,500 baht for 2 days. Spaces are selling out fast so if you are interested. Contact Mr Tim Pearson at 076-335555, info@bisphuket.ac.th or visit bisphuket.ac.th.

February 18. Music Festival at Boardwalk RPM

Les Angeles restaurant is delighted to invite you to join our Music Festival from 8 to 11pm. Live Trio Performance on the Boardwalk, Royal Phuket Marina. Contact Murat at 081-7973364, muratc@royalphuketmarina.com or visit royalphuketmarina.com.

February 24 to 25. Phuket International Blues Rock Festival

The annual Phuket International Blues Rock Festival is back for the 7th time – now in its new home: Laguna Phuket, Asia's finest destination resort! Presented by 91.5FM, this year's headliner, Chris Thomas King of New Orleans, has sold more records and appeared in more successful movies than any other blues artist this century. Twelve acts from 10 different countries will make this year's Festival the biggest and best to date! See website for all details. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*. From 6pm to midnight at Laguna Phuket. Contact Andy Andersen at 086-6822639, or email phuketmusic@yahoo.com or visit phuketbluesfestival.com.

February 25. 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. Reservations at 076-330065,

katacenter@twochefs.com or visit twochefs.com.

February 25. Phuket White Sand /Blue Sky Air Show

The show will feature breathtaking aerobatics over Surin Beach by Veteran stunt pilots Les Vorosmarthy, in his Extra 300, and Markus Walther at the stick of his Pitts Special S2B. Another stunt flyer, Birdman Jari Kuosma, will not be using an airplane at all, other than to get up to 13,500 feet where he will jump out and fly at speeds up to 220 km per hour in nothing but a wingsuit. He will land on the beach and embrace his beloved fiancé Nina, who he will then marry in a private ceremony at another location in Phuket later that day. This is an event not to be missed. Free of charge, the stunt flying starts at 4:30pm, with the jump scheduled for about 5:30 to 6pm in order to achieve a sunset landing on the beach. The show

is presented by Phuket Airpark, the Phuket Flying Club and Birdman Wingsuits, and supported by Aero Pro, the *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV. As with all aerial events, this one is subject to weather and final clearance by aviation authorities. Contact Pat James, Phuket Airpark at 085-2580006, pat@aeropromgr.com or visit phuketflying.com.

February 29. Skippers Pub Quiz Nights at Royal Phuket Marina

Join our Wednesday Quiz Nights here at SKIPPERS – Royal Phuket Marina starting from 7:30 to 10pm. Here is a couple of teasers to get you in the mood. 1) In which sport do rules state that the water must be a minimum of 1m deep? 2) Who directed Hugo, Taxi Driver and Raging Bull? 3) What is officially called the study of rocks? Reservations at 076-271583, nungningskippers@hotmail.com.

February 29. Phuket Punchline Comedy Club

The Phuket Punchline Comedy Club returns with their biggest show yet, the live stage show of the original British TV hit, 'Whose Line is it Anyway?' with four of the show's stars: *Andy Smart, Stephen Frost* (as seen with *Mr. Bean*), *Steve Steen* and *Ian Copping*. For strangers to 'Whose Line is it Anyway?', four performers pit their wits against the audience by playing out scenarios in a style and setting of their choice. The whole show is totally improvised with the audience deciding what the performers say and sing about! This will be a total sell-out, so please book early! The *Phuket Gazette* is proud to be a long-term sponsor Phuket Punchline Comedy Club. From 8 to 11pm at Holiday Inn Resort, Patong Beach. Contact Boom at 089-6469278, info@phuketcomedy.com or visit phuketcomedy.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*.

February 22, March 14 and 28. – Chalong

March 7. – Patong

Starts at 1 to 3pm

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Woody@KhunWoody.com or visit KhunWoody.com.

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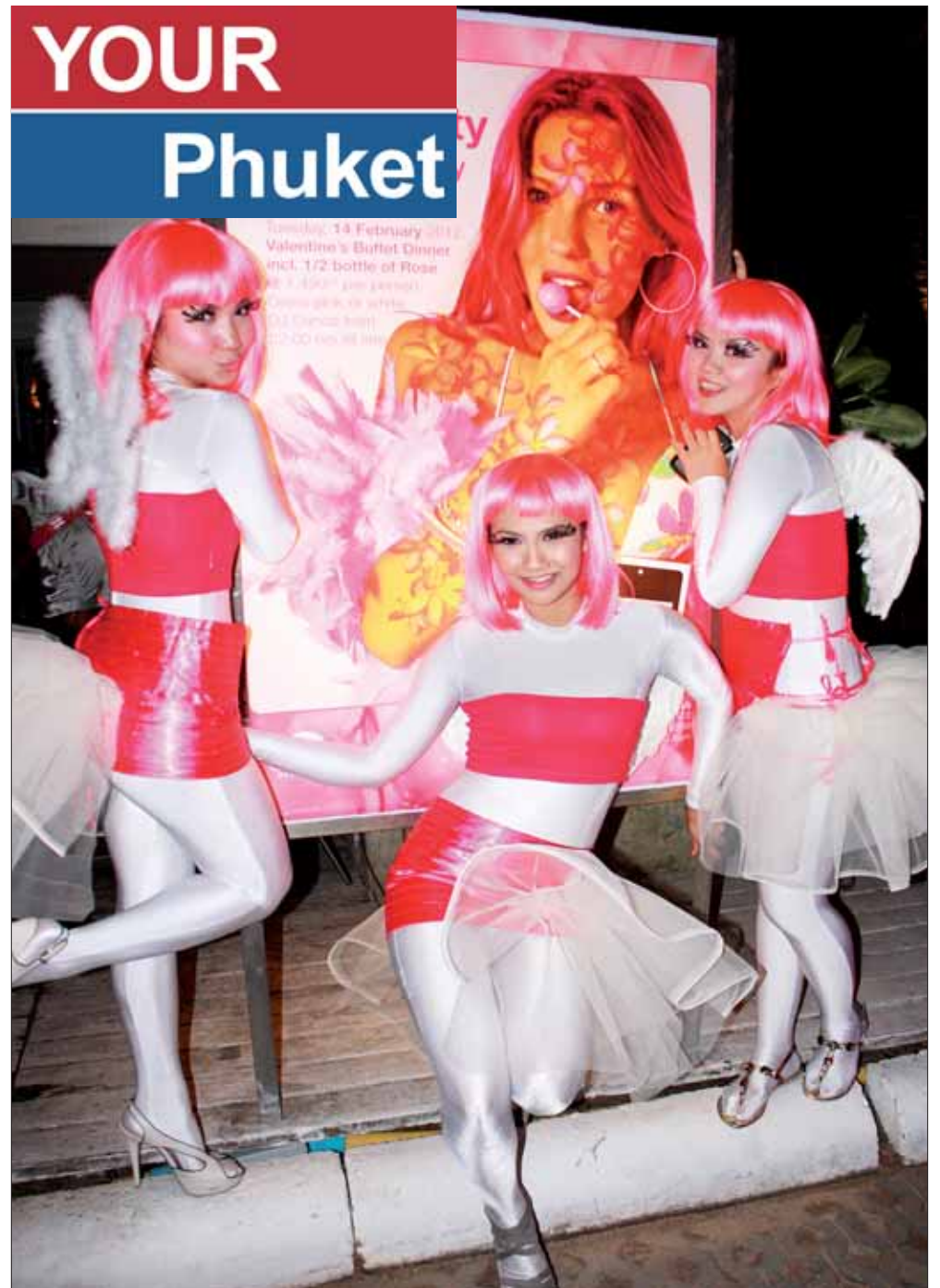
WINDS OF CHANGE: Summer Wind Club & Restaurant held its grand opening at Patong Promenade. (From left) Titi Phatanachinda - GM of Patong Promenade, Petchtumrong Longthong, Krisana "Kristi" Matzenberger - Manager of Advertising and TV Promotions at PGTV, Pannaporn Guinault - MD of The Guide Phuket and Summer Wind Club & Restaurant owner Dechpaiboon Pahupunto.



THE INN CROWD: The Holiday Inn Resort Phuket Mai Khao Beach recently hosted the South East Asia Director of Sales and Marketing of InterContinental Hotels Group meeting.



Q-TIES: Auto Express Phuket imported and sold Asia's first Audi Q3 last week.



CAUGHT IN THE ACT: Catch Beach Club threw a Pink Party for Valentine's Day.



LOVE ALL: A "Sweet Mixed Doubles" tennis tournament was held at Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club for Valentine's Day.



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Boathouse celebrates 23 years at Kata Beach

A FINE evening of classical music, opera and exquisite cuisine was presented by Boathouse Resort on the Beach to mark their 23rd anniversary.

Narong Pattamasaeve, owner of Boathouse, and Marie-Laure Fluery, Boathouse GM, invited Dr Nopanand Chanorathaikul, and Ms Nancy Tsui Ping, who

teach piano and opera at Mahidol University, to bring their talented students to perform for invited guests.

After completing extensive upgrades to Kata Beach's finest resort, Boathouse Resort on the Beach plans to continue its presentation of fine cultural events for guests and the Phuket community.



Guests Lori Ashton, Ian Coulson and Kathy Manthei Coulson.



MUSICALLY MINDED: (From left to right) Rasikamon Siyapong – Accompanist, Nattida Gumchai – Soprano, Miss Nancy Tsui-Ping Wei – Soprano Coach, Nopanand Chanorathaikul – Pianist Coach, Lalit Worathepntinan – Soprano, Dolpiti Kongviwatanakul – Pianist and Marie-Laure Fluery – General Manager of Boathouse Resort on the beach.



TALENTED TRIO: (From left to right) Lalit Worathepntinan – Soprano, Rasikamon Siyapong – Accompanist and Nattida Gumchai – Soprano.



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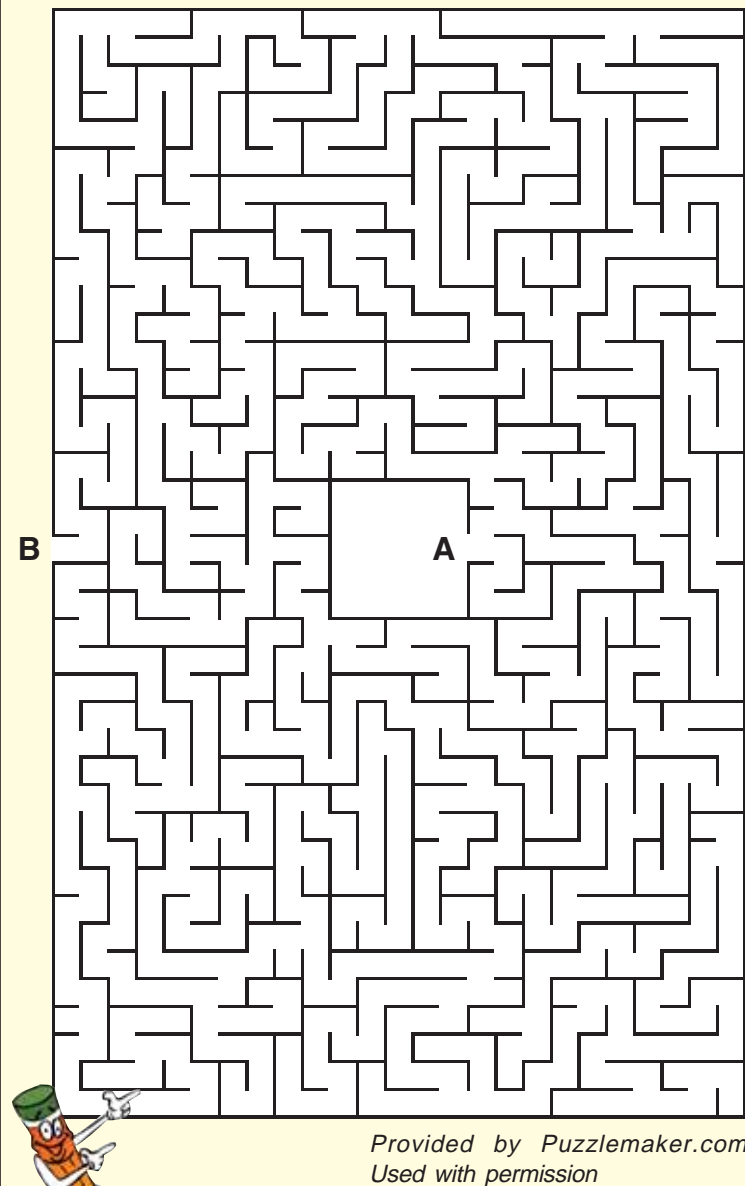


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A *Gazette* staff member completed this maze in 30 seconds. Can you beat their time? Make your way out of the maze.



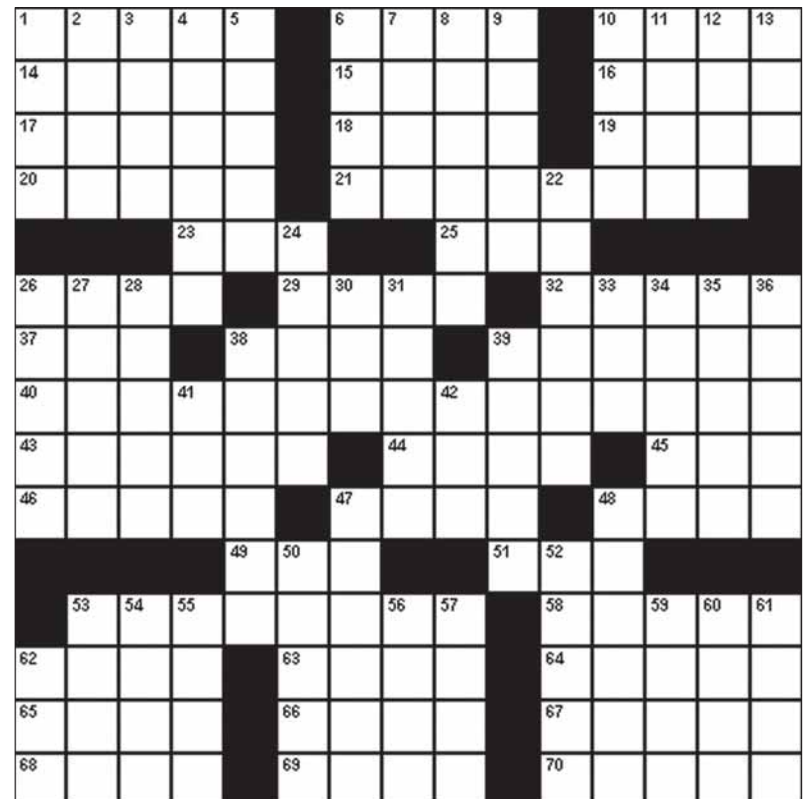
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Across

1. "Forbidden" fruit
6. Celestial body
10. Wharf
14. Capital of South Korea
15. Zhivago's love
16. Architectural pier
17. Curt
18. Toward the mouth
19. June 6, 1944
20. New York city
21. By airplane
23. Sephia maker
25. Altar in the sky
26. Tabula —
29. Internet writing system
32. Male deer
37. Euro forerunner
38. Belonging to us
39. Ski lodge
40. Describe fully
43. Goes with the flow
44. "The Time Machine" race
45. Male sheep
46. Fiddlesticks!
47. Held on to
48. Enlivens, with "up"
49. Son of, in Arabic names
51. Bambi's aunt
53. Doubt
58. Delight
62. Pipe
63. Switch ending
64. Actor Hawke
65. Actor Tamiroff
66. — breve
67. Distributed cards
68. Basic monetary unit of Ghana
69. Colored
70. Bears the ictus

Down

1. About
2. Rind
3. Go (over) carefully
4. Capital of Zambia
5. Nicholas Gage book
6. Swill
7. Skater Lipinski
8. Turkey's highest peak
9. "M*A*S*H" name



10. Muslim judge
11. Go back, in a way
12. — all-time high
13. Hurrah!
22. Queen of Ahasuerus
24. Grads
26. Summarize
27. Litmus reddeners
28. Twilled fabric of silk
30. Hesitant sounds
31. First name in cosmetics
33. Mai —
34. Having wings
35. Costume

36. Paces
38. Outsmart
39. Benjamin
41. No. cruncher
42. Climber's challenge
47. Gnarled
48. Haggle
50. Baked dough
52. — lift?
53. Ellington, e.g.
54. Footnote abbr.
55. Big rig
56. Boot bottom
57. Tailless amphibian
59. Cries of discovery
60. Anklebones
61. Tolkien tree creatures
62. Tic — Dough

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Puzzle solutions on page 37

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Opportunities could be missed in the heat of the moment this week. Aquarians who aren't on the ball are likely to miss out to others with keener attitudes. The stars suggest that you need to focus more strongly this is not an auspicious time for multitasking. The stars advise keeping negative thoughts to yourself as speaking your mind at an inappropriate moment is highlighted to land you in hot water.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): The stars shine on your attempts to make a lasting impression in the world of work. An air sign colleague could hold the key to helping you make progress, but decisions will need to be taken quickly. Those with a birthday in the week ahead will be more inclined to take chances in the coming year. In the realm of romance, a more confident approach to a relationship with another water sign is needed.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Having to be strong for others is highlighted to drain Arians' energy this week. The stars suggest that you should encourage people to help themselves; if your door is always

open, nothing will change. Where a possible romantic relationship is concerned, a plan is likely to backfire this week. Arians should be careful who they trust with intimate secrets. Those already committed appreciate a partner's spontaneous gesture this weekend.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Taureans who turned over a new leaf at the start of the year could be compromised when a water sign acquaintance tries to persuade you to step out of line. The stars suggest that remaining true to your goals will require a strong will this week. In the realm of romance, there are signs that mixed signals from a fire sign indicate that history is repeating itself. Best days for financial matters are Tuesday and Wednesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): A change of routine could be all that Geminis need to see life from a different angle. The feeling that you are stuck in a rut can be forgotten by approaching life in a more carefree way. The stars advise leaving work worries behind and joining a water sign friend in search of some fun this weekend. Your luck with money increases during the second half of February.



CANCER (June 22-July 23): Family affairs absorb much of Cancerians' attention this week. The stars indicate that a problem involving children requires careful handling — a quick fix solution will not work in the long run. In the world of work, success during the second half of February is indicated to boost your confidence. Your luck in love is affected by cloudy astral conditions an earth sign takes distance when you least expect it.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Where work or business is concerned, an earth sign is forecast to beat about the bush early next week. Leos who feel their patience is running out should set definite ultimatums. On the other hand, your faith in another fire sign is restored when you see that they are ready to compromise. This weekend is a sparkling time for romance. Contact from an old flame comes at exactly the right moment.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Money is forecast to slip through your fingers too easily this week. Virgoans are advised to set a tight budget, particularly those with a partner or family member prone to over-spending. Your luck with finances picks up at the end of February, but caution should be a keyword until then. Love is in the air this weekend if you are single and seeking, expect a promising response from a water sign.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Your load is due to lighten this week. There are signs that Librans with too much on their plates will soon have more freedom. If this relates to work, you might want to think twice before accepting more responsibility in the immediate future. The stars indicate that an offer made in the second half of February could require more commitment than is indicated. Auspicious days for financial dealings are Wednesday and Thursday.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): A more harmonious week lies in store for Scorpions. The astral atmosphere should encourage you to be less preoccupied with mi-

nor details and ready to enjoy whatever the social scene has to offer. In the world of work, your networking skills should encourage new contacts to be made during the second half of February.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Negative feelings that have been bubbling under the surface could emerge this week. Some Sagittarians will have to contend with jealousy in the world of work, and others learn that a friend has a hidden agenda. Romance should be played by ear as what you see might not be what you should believe. A financial situation that has been occupying your thoughts for too long should be sorted out by the end of February.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): A clash of cultures could arise at work this week. Those who have been finding it hard to communicate with a particular person are advised to seek advice from someone with more experience. Where romance is concerned, the stars predict that it will be time to admit that your heart's not in the romantic relationship another earth sign would like to have. Lucky days for money are Sunday and Monday.

PROPERTY Gazette

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

A stress-free island lifestyle

By Steven Layne

NESTLED along a virgin island cape is the Jindarin Beach Club & Resort, a minimalistic and authentically eco-friendly tropical retreat on Coconut Island off Phuket's east coast.

With the rare offering of stress-filtered island bliss at highly competitive prices, the new development is attracting moderate income weekenders and high profile investors alike.

Speaking with the *Phuket Gazette*, project owner Eugene McCain revealed Jindarin's central concept:

"Many people who come to Phuket or Hawaii envision a simpler lifestyle as an alternative to their more frenetic lives in urban centers. But when they frequently visit or move to these islands of tropical paradise, they find themselves replacing their former

stressful lives with more stress."

Born from 40 years resort experience, Eugene explains that the goal of Jindarin is to offer a lifestyle in which less is more, and to not overwhelm existing natural beauty with artificial stress stimulants from back home.

"We want to encourage our guests and buyers to adopt a simpler lifestyle, recognizing they can do with less 'stuff' and more nature."

Surrounded by the ocean, landscaped gardens and a simple farming and fishing community, the resort community comprises simple grass roof cottages connected by golf cart paths.

Set to be in full operation by the summer, the three-phase development features 40 lots, each spanning on average a quarter of a rai, or about 400 square meters.

The first phase, Jindarin Beach, is on the west side of the island's



SIMPLY STUNNING: The resort community comprises simple grass roof cottages connected by golf cart paths.

southern cape with direct beach access. Just behind the beach there is a 120sqm swimming pool, and the recently opened beach bar and restaurant.

On the southeast side of the cape is the second phase community, Jindarin Summit. With 12 slightly elevated ocean view lots, a key feature is its own private pier providing deep water access. The Ancient Spa, with its five treatment bungalows, are nestled on the hillside above the pier.

Opened six months ago, the third and final phase, Jindarin Gardens is 75 meters inland from Jindarin Beach and features an 800sqm lotus pond and tropical landscaping, while future plans are in the works for a meditation hall and huts.

As for the development's eco-friendly attributes, all the Beach Cottages being built are supplemented with solar panels and solar hot water

systems, installed by Phuket based, MonoSun Technology.

Compensating energy supplies, the resort's power grid is reinforced by two centrally located diesel generators, while much of the resort's facilities, including its spa and pier facilities are fed by a 1.6 kilowatt solar and wind turbine system.

"When the government installs electricity on the island, we plan to convert the generators to operate on a mix of diesel and cooking oils so that we can recycle our kitchen wastes. All rubbish from Jindarin Beach Club & Resort will be sorted and recycled," Eugene noted.

Lying at the foot of the island's largest hill, the property benefits from a natural underground water way, where ample, natural and fresh water is made available through three wells, year round.

"Laboratory testing has proven what the locals already told us; this is some of the cleanest water you will ever drink," Eugene said.

While many paradise retreats require an arm and a leg to access, another prime feature of Jindarin is its secluded, yet prime location.

A 24-hour boat taxi service links the resort to Phuket's shopping venues, Phuket Town, banks, schools, movie theaters and restaurants, all within 20 to 30 minutes.

And with prices equal to what shoe-box-sized condos in Phuket are going for, it's no surprise that all 12 Beach lots have already sold-out. At the time of going to press, four Summit lots, and about half of the Garden lots were still on the market, starting as low as 1.5 million baht.

For more information please visit www.jindarin.com.

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Asia's big two markets mature



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

TALK about “dream island destinations” in Asia and without a doubt Phuket and Bali rule the numbers game in terms of popularity.

If talk turns to resort real estate both are heavyweight contenders in the title fight. Round after round, punches or blows only end with the ringing of a bell. Practically speaking, when it comes to the life cycle of property, Phuket arguably has moved through the business milestones faster than its counterpart.

In what is often referred to as the “Golden Age” starting at Y2K (or in much simpler terms the 2000’s) up to the sub prime dilemma, the market went from a developing one to a monster on steroids.

Trends in the past are often the key to understanding the future so we have our work cut out for us.

From the early days, supply and demand were incredibly favorable as buyers flocked to our shores faster than developers could launch projects. First came direct sales, moving into a more sophis-

ticated model of brokerage agencies, which then sprouted wings and multiplied.

Next were investment buyers who supplanted the early end users. The calendar which many thought of as human years turned out to be compacted into a shorter term growth cycle closer to dog years (especially the bigger breeds who are likely to bite the bullet after nine or ten years).

Infrastructure for real estate also moved up and onwards – legal and tax advisors, designers, interior fit out specialists, landscapers, and a host of others arrived. Then glossy publications, mass movement road shows and international profiles took the message far and near.

Later, secondary sales (re-sales) went, with an incredible growth stint, from infancy to now dominate broad resort grade transactions. Short-and-long-term rentals, vacation lets, fractionals, condo and villa resorts - the hybrid products now took the industry to one that was coming of age, mature and mimicking a traditional western model of diversity and depth.

Bali on the other hand, perhaps



Thai mask. Photo: Vee Satayamas



FUTURISTIC: The new Bali airport is going ahead. But what happens if there is a slowdown in tourist arrivals?

due to the bombs in 2002 and 2005, came to the party later. While the island always had a large villa market – what was missing were the estates, master planned communities and multi-million dollar ultra villas trading hands.

Strangely enough when the global financial crisis was in full meltdown mode, Bali was just cranking up the volume signaling that a party was going to be held - a real estate rave up. Indonesia's economic growth remains one of the success stories over the past few years and one key sector – hospitality-led residential or condo hotels – have become a defining characteristic of the market.

At that time, Phuket flattened like a pancake once foreign demand went into hibernation mode, but down south domestic buyers have flooded the shop of dreams over the past five years.

Bali has inched the industry forwards in the curve, just like Phuket had done, but that's where things start to get interesting. Will a parting of the ways be coming soon?

Phuket has seen an explosion of mid-scale hotels for longer than I can recall and is now hitting a serious tipping point of potential oversupply. A strong wind has pro-

pelled domestic investors to lead the pack, with a thriving economy fueling market capital and debt markets.

While the island has its share of mixed-use hotel and residential projects, in macro terms it remains in single digits when compared to the entire total accommodation supply. For the most part, in developments where guaranteed returns are offered, there remains a core hotel component and a secondary property offering. Risk remains mitigated.

On the flip side of the coin, Bali has not only embraced mixed use projects but a substantial number of developers sell out the entire inventory of units, contracting them to a hotel management

company, offering a limited period of guaranteed returns which later revert to a revenue or profit split with unit owners.

The buying pool is made up primarily of Indonesians from Jakarta, Surabaya and other key cities across the archipelago. Over the past year, as we have done an increasing amount of work there, I often ask the question – how deep is the market and how long can this last?

Returning from a week there speaking to agents and developers, most anticipate a general slowdown over the next six to 12 months. From our analysis, the long-term effects of this investment-driven product cycle could have a wide-ranging impact on the

hospitality sector.

As Bali will eventually see a slowdown in tourist arrivals (the same as Phuket will), and guaranteed returns diminish, hotel demand will retract and unit owners will see fewer returns. This will inevitably trigger units being placed into a newly found secondary market, but domestic investors who have leveraged their condos with the bank could be forced to price these down below current existing values.

An emerging secondary market will no doubt see primary or new sales displaced and flatten the pancake. Potentially the wild card difference between Phuket and Bali is that the latter has a larger proportion of domestic investment buyers which could create a wide scale decline on values.

The darker side is that with thousands of these units operating as hotels, unlike single asset owners who have to take a long term pricing approach, individuals will force managers to offer room rates at any price thus hitting the broader hotel market. Everyone loses. Everyone.

While this is not a doomsday prediction, warning signs remain for Southeast Asia's largest economy and certainly there are lessons to be learned for Phuket.

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



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Balinese mask. Photo: Rex Boggs

Mövenpick celebrates major global growth

IT WAS recently announced that Mövenpick Hotels & Resorts plan 11 new hotel projects across nine countries bringing the company's total number of operating and planned hotels worldwide to 100. The new hotels are in France, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Bangladesh and Thailand.

The upscale company of Swiss heritage now has 69 hotels in operation and 31 in development of which nine will open this year.

"We have always believed in growth, but at a sustainable pace. In every region from Europe and Africa to the Middle East and Asia we have carefully consolidated our developments to maintain a balanced portfolio distribution that ensures decision-making is effective, resources are efficiently utilized and development is sustainable," said Jean Gabriel Pérès, president and chief operating officer of Mövenpick Hotels & Resorts.

"A hundred hotels worldwide is a major achievement for our company, and I am delighted. Such a landmark is a credit to the hard work of everyone at Mövenpick Hotels & Resorts," he said.

"In a challenging economic environment it is vital to have a reliable business model that is stress resistant to constant change," said Pérès.

"This has been the foundation of our success in recent years and the philosophy that has helped us achieve the milestone of 100 hotel projects in a sustainable way," he added.

"In a challenging economic environment it is vital to have a reliable business

model that is stress resistant to constant change. This has been the foundation of our success in recent years and the philosophy that has helped us achieve the milestone of 100 hotel projects in a sustainable way," Peres said.

The new hotels in the region are:

A new 350-room hotel in Chifeng, Inner Mongolia, China, designed by Hirsch/Bedner & Associates will be opened by the upscale Swiss hospitality company in 2015.

On Hainan Island, South China, the 380-room Mövenpick Resort & Spa, Phoenix Island, Sanya, will be launched in 2013.

The 270-room Mövenpick Resort & Spa, Jimbaran, 200 metres from one of Bali's most popular beaches will be the Swiss company's first hotel in Indonesia when it opens in 2014.

In Malaysia, the company's new 250-room resort will be based on Pantai Pandak Beach on the South China Sea coast and will be launched in 2015.

The company's entry into Bangladesh will be heralded by the opening of a 280-room resort on the sandy sea front of Cox's Bazar, the longest beach in the world at 124 km.

Towards the end of this year, the company will open a 26-villa boutique-style resort, surrounded by lush tropical gardens, in Samoeng, Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Meanwhile, here in Phuket, Jones Lang LaSalle Hotels are brokering the sale of the 362 key Mövenpick Resort and Spa on Karon Beach according to Thephuketinsider.com.

— *Phuket Gazette*



The 26-villa boutique-style Samoeng resort will be opened in late 2012 by Mövenpick in Chiang Mai.

Budget hotel brand takes on Asia

THE 192-room Tune Hotel Pattaya starts receiving its firsts guests on February 17.

Group Chief Executive officer of Tune Hotels, Mark Lankester said: "The opening of Tune Hotel Pattaya marks a crucial point of Tune Hotels' expansion in Thailand. It verifies our strong commitment towards Thailand and its tourism industry. This follows the successful opening of Tune Hotel Hat Yai, and with more Tune Hotels coming up in Thailand we are proud to be playing an even bigger role."

The Tune Hotel Pattaya is owned and developed by the visionary Bangkok-based investment company Red Planet Hotels and Chief Executive Officer, Tim Hansing, said the great rate on offer for the opening won't last long as they will be snapped up by keen travelers.

"Pattaya will be one of the busiest hotels in the network, so we don't expect these great rates to be available for long but there will be more chances for travelers who love the brand to take advantage more great value rates across

the network as the year goes on," Mr Hansing said.

"Red Planet is opening Tune Hotels in Angeles, Cebu and Makati in the Philippines in the coming weeks before we open more hotels in Indonesia and Thailand (including Phuket) later in the year. The Tune brand is spreading in key cities across these countries where we will be presenting more rates offering superb value to our loyal customers."



FINE TUNED: The budget hotel chain will open in Phuket soon.

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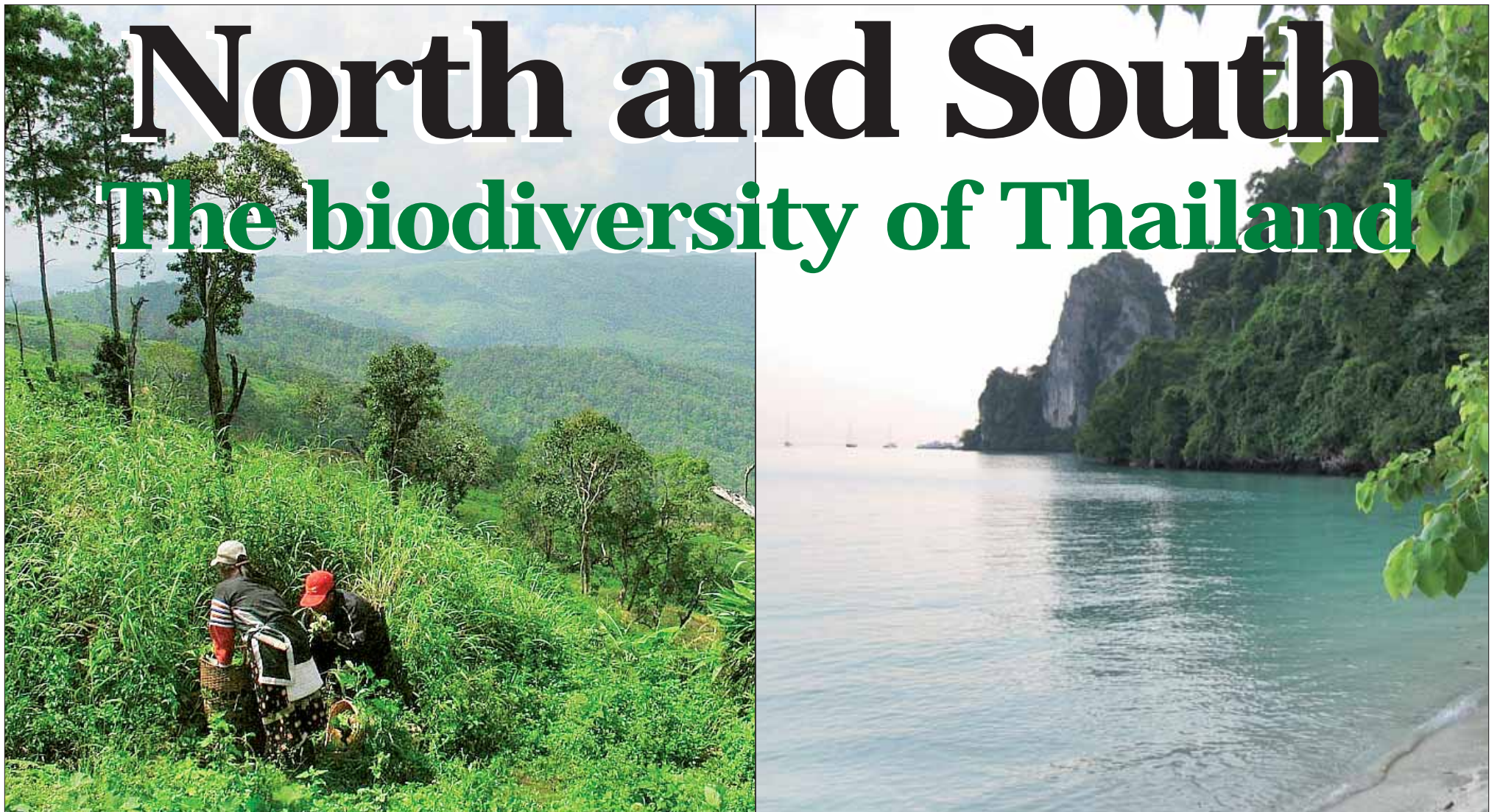
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FROM MOUNTAINS HIGH TO BEACHES LOW: Thailand's topography allows for diverse microclimates such as woodlands in the north (left) to beaches in the south (right). Photos: Takeaway and Pewee



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THAILAND is a large and varied country, especially in terms of its length from north to south (1600 kilometers), and its coastline of 2,600 kilometers. Because of the resulting range of micro-climates, it is able to produce an unending range of flowers, trees and fruit.

Put another way, Thailand's biodiversity is immense, the country is still the trustee of an extraordinarily rich natural landscape. On a small island such as Phuket, there is both coastal wetlands and tropical forest.

And while the wetlands, often the site of mangrove swamps, are being eroded, and the forest, which is a mixture here of rainforest and deciduous woodland, has been degraded by plantations and logging, these habitats still exist.

In the north, there are highlands clad in elevated woodlands, where trees such as teak and rosewood, pine and oak can flourish. Again, most have fallen victim to the commercially wielded chainsaw, but the Kingdom is still home to more than 10,000 species of plants, including over 100 types of wild orchid. Riches indeed.

While much of this floral cornucopia is nation-wide, some plants are limited in their distribution and are associated with different regions of the country. For example, the northern highland provinces can grow cold-climate shrubs such as oolong tea, and other fruits such as plums and strawberries. Doi Chang has been known for its Arabica coffee for decades, in fact, ever since the Doi Wawee Highland Research Center was established on nearly 3,000 rai of land in 1985. I wonder how many people are aware that Thailand is a producer of both major beverages of the world - tea and coffee.

Sometimes, I wish that there was more experimentation with plant varieties in the south.

Alright, there is one near insurmountable issue with any plants that need a cold season, or at least a cool period, something that the montane regions of the north are able to provide. I, myself, admit to failing with *brugmansias* and bird of paradise flowers, both of which thrive in

the higher and cooler regions of the north. But there seems to be a reluctance

to experiment with plants.

In the case of fruit trees, a prime reason for this is the high cost of arable land. It is, sadly, far more profitable to erect an apartment block than grow orchards of langsat.

However, some species could be commercially viable. Take the avocado. It grows extremely well in Phuket. I have two in my garden and I know of one expat here who loves the fruit so much he has more than 30 in his patch. Another friend has one mature tree that crops regularly twice a year. Yet visit the average supermarket and you will pay the earth for imported huss avocados.

In the case of many fruit, they tend to be cultivated in specific areas. For example, the langsat (*lansium*) is grown extensively in Uttaradit province. Or, they are simply too big for the average garden. Mangoes, sataws, mangosteens, jack fruit or tamarinds are all liable to get out of hand.

But guavas, pomeloes, rose apples, rambutans and Thai lemons (what we call limes), not to mention papaya and bananas, can all be grown in your garden.

It can be done and to the consequent benefit not only of people, but of birds, bees and butterflies too.



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AO POR APARTMENT

2 beds, 2 baths, large balcony with beautiful sea views. Few mins to Ao Por pier and marina. Close to Mission Hills Golf Club. Fully furnished. 5.4 million baht ono. Contact Dave. Tel: 076-317705, 790-196 0382 (English), 779-921 2558 (English). Email: davehogg1@ntlworld.com

LAND FOR SALE

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

LUXURY POOL VILLA

3 bedroom pool villas available for sale, 5 minutes from Layan Beach, just outside Laguna. Finance and rental returns available. Free furniture packages included. Tel: 081-891 1826 (English), 081-891 2926 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-238940. Email: kevinq@loxinfo.co.th For further details, please see our website at www.baanboosakorn.com

MODERN POOL VILLA



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

LAND NEAR KATA CENTER

Great location, road access, 5 mins to Kata Beach and main road, 1,450sqm with titled deed. Contact Lychee. Tel: 081-891 3048 (Eng & German).

CHALONG 2-BEDROOM HOUSE

New detached house for sale. 2 bedrooms, en suites. Large walled garden. Price: 2.2 million baht. Contact Jai. Tel: 089-817 4864. Contact Jai.

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Modern, fully furnished, 65sqm, 1 bedroom, freehold, great rental returns. 6.5 million baht. Tel: 081-088 8099. Email: finobkk@yahoo.com

LAND PLOT FOR SALE

Starting 6 million baht per rai. Location at Layan. Tel: 081-787 4383.

REDUCED PRICE VILLA 7.5 MILLION BAHT



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

CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

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

HOUSE IN KATA

5 mins to beach, large modern 3-storey house, furnished, 3 beds, 2 full baths, aircon, spacious living room, garage with laundry and overhead storage, security door/windows, large covered patios. Company transfer available. 5.5 million baht. Tel: 081-131 5751. Email: seadog5000@yahoo.com

HOUSE & FURNITURE

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

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- 1.5 million baht for one plot
- 3.2 million baht for cottage + plot
Tel: 080-467 7770 (Thai), 083-520 0020 (English). Email: eam1008@me.com Website: www.jindarin.com

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

NAI HARN LUXURY CONDO



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

HOUSE IN PHUKET VILLA 5 FOR SALE



46sq wah, furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 aircons, carpark. Only 3.5 million baht. Tel: 081-787 7675.

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

PRIVATE SALE OF HALF RAI

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

HOUSE FOR SALE IN BAAN PROMPHAN

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

LARGE SEAVIEW PROPERTY

for sale. Location at Layan. Tel: 081-787 4383.

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Amazing Ocean Views, Direct from developer, ready to build. Call for details. Tel: 086-267 0157. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

5-BED THAI STYLE POOL VILLA

On 1 rai of land. Luxury finishing, all with en-suite bathrooms. Tel: 087-893 4636. Email: annericphuket@hotmail.com

OCEAN VIEW LAND BANG TAO



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

HOUSE IN PHUKET VILLA 5

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

30 RAI IN TOWN

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

1 RAI LAND

Quiet area. Int school, golf courses and marinas all close by. 3.5 million baht ono. Email: jase.shanahan@virgin.net

2 HOUSES IN RAWAI FOR SALE

1 new house, 3 bedrooms, saloon, European kitchen, roof terrace. 1 luxury bungalow 2 bedroom, saloon, pool, European kitchen and etc. Tel: 087-889 4160. For further details, please see our website at www.naiharn-villas.com

LUXURY HOUSE IN GOLF VILLE



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

VILLA FOR SALE



Nai Harn, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, swimming pool, 1 rai. Price: 14.5 million baht. Soi Nanachat 49/90. Tel: 088-443 8704.

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Pool villa on 700sqm land, with option for the neighboring plot + 740sqm. Villa located in a small exclusive, quite development in Rawai. A spacious living and dining room, 3 large bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, European kitchen, maid's quarters, a guesthouse, a double-size garage, 12m pool, sala, jacuzzi. Built to highest standard. Full basement. Chanote title. Price: 17 million baht. Contact Yupin on 081-817 4805 (Eng & German). Email: residler@gmail.com

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Fully furnished, 3 bed, 2 bath plus maid's quarters, on a 640 sqm plot. With private pool, Jacuzzi, security alarm, car port with electric gate and mature garden with irrigation system. Great potential at only 10 million baht with Chanote title and Thai company if required - (rental terms on request). Tel: 081-958 6173 (English), 085-785 0314 (Thai). Email: bjsimpson7@aol.com

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6.3 million baht. 115sqm, 2 bed, 2 bath, freehold, furnished, fully renovated, 4 floors. Palm Breeze. Tel: 087-897 0501 (English), 089-588 1919 (English & Thai). Email: aleksa79@inbox.ru

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Large house short or long term rental with maid. 85,000 baht per month. Tel: 082-557 9018.

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Pool villas, 1, 2, 4 bedrooms, fully furnished, sat TV, ADSL. Tel: 085-674 6786.

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Swimming pool, fully furnished. Promotion rate from March. Tel: 081-894 4730 (English & Thai), 081-892 5983 (Thai). Fax: 076-292149. Email: nanaivillaphuket@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.nanai villa.com

POOL VILLA RAWAI

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished. Tel: 083-984 7546 (English), 081-037 3229 (Thai). Fax: +49-321-2101 4327. Email: ruediger@hinsch.org For further details, please see our website at www.hinsch.org/haus

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A new 3-bedroom pool villa available for rent, long or short term, fully or partly furnished. 5 minutes from Layan Beach, just outside Laguna. Tel: 081-891 1826 (English), 081-891 2926 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-238940. Email: kevinq@loxinfo.co.th For further details, please see our website at www.baanboosakorn.com

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PATONG LUXURY APARTMENT

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HOUSE IN PATONG



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

KATA SEAVIEW WESTERN APART



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HOUSE WITH LARGE GARDEN



For rent at Thalung. 80sq wah, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished. 20,000 baht/month. Tel: 081-607 8567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuket-apartment-house.webiz.co.th

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At Land & Houses Park Chalong. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, TV, internet, 4 aircon, Western kitchen, solar hot water, 24hr security. Clubhouse with large swimming pool. Tel: 087-273 6218, 081-085 3583.

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Tel: 090-492 2375. Email: cc@bayshoreprojects.com

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Phuket Fish Boat Co, Ltd, Owner of Luxury Sport Fishing Yachts, requires a Full Time Operations Manager. Expat Ok, Work Permit Provided. Responsible for operations of boats, booking schedules, maintenance schedules, crew supervision and reporting. Normal working hours: Mon-Sat, 8am to 5pm. However, must carry phone all the time to react to emergency. Starting pay is 30,000 baht a month. Apply at martin@phuketfishboat.com

FREELANCE MODELS

Looking for male and female European models. Height: 170-185 cm. Job period: 13-24 Feb 2012. The shooting will be set on Andaman sea, Phuket, Phang Nga, Krabi with Power Catamaran. Tel: 081-797 3323. Email: pattiya@bluanda.com

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Roxy Bar in Phuket Town seeking bartenders with experience and good English. Full-time and part-time. Start immediately. Tel: 086-001 6138 (English). Email: katnwillows@yahoo.com

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1. In-house Sales Representatives (English, Finnish speaking)
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Please submit your resume or CV to david@clubmangosteenphuket.com

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Needed by property management company. Must have good knowledge of Quick Books and be able to multi-task. Thai applicants only, please. Tel: 076-384691, 081-978 7489 (English & Thai). Email: enrico@easyhomephuket.com

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20,000+ a month. At least 1 year experience, know PHP, Javascript, CSS, HTML, Ajax, JQuery, XML, MySQL. Wordpress an advantage. Good command of English (Thai only). Tel: 076-324184, 082-255 7507 (English & Thai). Email: om@imarketingonly.com For further details, please see our website at www.i-marketing.asia

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

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WEB DEVELOPER PHP/MVC

PHP Developer with strong MVC framework (Yii, CI, Symfony, ZEND) and JQuery. Tel: 082-283 8902. Email: Shayne.Micchia+ADS@gmail.com

ASSISTANT/ SECRETARY

Available for foreigners only. Office and field assistant, background and knowledge with construction administration is an advantage. Tel: 081-968 5963. Email: cc@bayshoreprojects.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 chaiyot@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

ACCOUNTANT WANTED

Need accountant that can Multitask. Must have good understanding of P&L and Balance sheet reconciliation - ERP Software Data Entry (Data Express) and Report Running. BS in Accounting from accredited Thai, UV required. Must be able to read, write and speak English fluently. Contact: jintana@phuketfishboat.com
Tel: 089-500 6676.

COMPANY IN KAMALA

Looking for driver/ delivery man. 12,000 baht per month, motorbike + insurance. Apply to 076-322663.

MAID/ BABYSITTER

Need Thai lady take care my son. 1 year 9 month. And clean house. Koh Kaew area. Stay in. Tel: 080-690 6487.

BOOTH STAFF (THAI ONLY)

Work 6 days a week, good salary. 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.

WANTED: THAI CAPTAIN

For boat in Chalong. English speaking. Salary 10,000 baht + 200 baht each day. Need immediately. Tel: 087-277 7395.

SALES MANAGER

Property Sales Consultant. Thai national, 3-5 years experience. Good Thai and English, proactive and organized. Computer literate, have own car and laptop. The Charm residence. Tel: 076-344499. Email: info@thecharmphuket.com

LIVE IN MAID

Elderly couple require a Thai house maid. Must live in. Tel: 085-790 2241.

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

Female over 32 years, good English communication: speaking, reading, writing. Knowledge of employment law and company policy. Leadership, service minded, work under pressure and move on site. Tel: 076-527633, 087-881 0003. Email: hr@phuketvillasandhomes.com

ATSUMI HEALING JOBS

Atsumi Healing is looking for full time Thai nationals for administration, reception, cleaning, laundry, kitchen staff. Salary negotiable depending on experience. Tel: 084-051 7455, 081-272 0571. Email resume to info@atsumihealing.com

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Looking for a Phuket-based assistant to consult, assist and help manage a new Beauty Tourism company. Thai/English speaker with good communication & marketing experience. Tel: +61-4-1611 3424, +61-4-161 1342. Email: amy@esteembeautyretreats.com For further details, please see our website: <http://esteembeautyretreats.com>

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Phuket Gazette

As the result of a major expansion in its **Classified Advertising** business due to the launch of the newspaper's Nationwide Edition, the *Phuket Gazette* seeks to add a **Receptionist** to its existing team of five.

Qualified candidates will be:

- ▶ Thai nationals, aged at least 24
- ▶ Service-minded with an outgoing personality
- ▶ Able to work well with large numbers of advertisers, both foreign and Thai

and should have:

- ▶ A Bachelors Degree from a recognizable university
- ▶ A good sense of organization and respect for details
- ▶ Knowledge of basic office software

Knowledge of InDesign, Pagemaker or Quark Express would be a plus.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Khun Porntiwa, Assistant Manager-Classifieds, at Jeab@PhuketGazette.Net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasatri Rd, Koh Kaew
A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-273555, ext 207 Fax: 076-615240



Assistant General Manager

- ▶ Previous experience as a Resident Manager, Executive Assistant Manager (EAM) or Front Desk Manager a plus
- ▶ Must be fluent in spoken English & Thai (Thai National or Foreigner OK)
- ▶ Previous Hotel experience required
- ▶ Strong organizational and people management skills essential
- ▶ Customer service orientated

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Kathu, Phuket Thailand 83150 Tel: + 66 76 364 703-8,
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We are currently looking for enthusiastic candidates to join our team:

1. Guest Relations Manager
2. Guest Relations Officer (2 positions)
3. F&B Manager
4. Asst. F&B Manager
5. Restaurant Manager (2 positions)
6. Waiter/ Waitress (4 positions)
7. Asst. Human Resources Manager
8. Secretary to Human Resources Manager
9. Executive Housekeeper

Interested candidates can apply by submitting their application letter, resume with a recent photograph and expected salary by email to: hotelmanager@horizonbeach.com

Horizon Karon Beach Resort & Spa
63 Soi Karon, Soi 2, Karon Beach, 83100 Phuket
Tel: 076-284 555 website: www.horizonbeach.com

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Trainees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management Trainees (12 month program) • Mandarin speaking trainees 	Villa Department <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Villa Attendant

If you are interested to apply for the above roles to join our team, please submit a letter of application, list the position you are applying for, attach your resume and a recent photo with your expected salary to:

dtlphrmgr@dusit.com OR dtlpjobadv@dusit.com

Human Resources Department
390 Srisoonthorn Road, Chermatalay, Thalang,
Phuket 83110, THAILAND
Phone 076-362999

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- Teamwork and cooperating with related departments

Qualifications:

- Male/female, Thai national only
- Fluent German language in reading + writing
- Good knowledge of computers (Windows or Macintosh)
- High responsibility and punctuality
- Able to work as a shift with team or independently

Salary & Welfare:

- Salary, Social Security Insurance, Tax, Food, etc.
- Incentive bonus: depends on quality, skills and experiences.

Interested applicants apply at:

VS Asia Co., Ltd. (Human Resource Department)
42 Moo3, Palai2, Chalong, Muang, Phuket 83130
Tel. (00)66-76-380600 Fax. (00)66-76-380605
Email: info@vsdma.com

Asia Sensations Travel Ltd.,

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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
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- Articulate with good interpersonal skills to work in a team.
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Email: travellasia@3bbmail.com



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is a leading importer / exporter & distributor of Scuba Diving Equipment with branches throughout Thailand. We are operating from our 1500 sqm custom build warehouse in Phuket / Chalong which also includes our fully equipped service center & Dive Supply head office.

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Requirements:

- ~ Previous export experience / shipping procedure knowledge is a must
- ~ Good English; spoken and written / fluent in Thai Language spoken and written
- ~ Good working knowledge of MS Excel, Outlook, Word
- ~ 28 years +, Thai nationality,

Sales Representative (Travelling sales person – male or female)

Requirements:

- ~ Foreigner (Western Nationality)
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- ~ Excellent English, spoken and written; other languages would be advantageous
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- ~ Foreigner with Car Driving License + Own car

For details please check: www.divesupply.com / Jobs. Interested candidates are invited to send their CV in English with photo, present and expected salaries and date of availability to:

Dive Supply Co., Ltd.
Phuket Attention: Director Sales & Marketing
Email: stefan@divesupply.com

INTERVIEW BY APPOINTMENT & INVITATION ONLY

SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES

Crossword puzzle:



Gazette Online Classifieds – 10,000 readers every day!

Articles For Sale

PLARFSKIN 2.8

Top version with snood tracks, USB and proton neutralizer. Used correctly in combination with infrared and a keypad blaffer, ASCII text is quickly converted to clean, crisp JPEG files hi-speed transmission. Original, made in Switzerland. Only 2 months old. Paid 13,500 baht; will sell for 9,500 or nearest pork basket.

FURNITURE AND MORE

Furniture, sofa, TV and bookcase, chairs, lamps and more. All in good condition. Call or email for photos. Khun Arno. Tel: 087-827 4991 (English). Email: arnyfirst@hotmail.com

CHINESE TEA

Quality Chinese tea for sale. Contact Peter to arrange a free tea tasting. Tel: 082-278 1575.

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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

CARRYBOY ROOF RACK

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

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HI-DEFINITION MEDIA PLAYER

Digital home entertainment just took a giant leap forward. Internet, Android and a Media Streamer on your TV. Bursting with features that allow you to engage with social media, Android apps, online streaming, and casual games, movies and music. Tel: 076-248698, 081-895 7097 (English & Thai). Email: hdmediaphuket@gmail.com

CD PLAYER & SPEAKER

Hi-end CD Player: AMC CD90, good condition. Asking 5,000 baht. Multichannel Centre Speaker: Phase Technology Teatro 6.5. Asking 3,500 baht. Audio Grade Receptacle: Wattgate Model 381 (new) for just 5,500 baht. Tel: 081-420 3873 (English & Thai). Email: t_pranot@hotmail.com

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

Business Opportunities

BAR FOR SALE BANGLA ROAD

Soi Tiger. Price: 650,000 baht. Tel: 082-810 9670.

BAR SOI CROCODILE

Lease 22 month, rent 20,000 baht. 1.6 million baht. Tel: 086-940 3535.

HAIR STUDIO FOR SALE

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KAMALA BAR

Established High Street Bar with pool table and accommodation for staff. Re-advertised due to time wasters. Price reduced for quick sale. 250,000 baht. Tel: 085-473 1693 (English & Thai), 083-339 6837 (Thai). Email: mark.tilsley@yahoo.co.uk

GUEST HOUSE DEAL PATONG

Great location, 20 rooms, rent only 66,000 baht per month. 2 sub leases pay 59,000 baht per month. Call now. Tel: 076-345238, 084-078 2753. Email: info.realpro@gmail.com For further details, please see ref 0009 on our website at http://www.realpro.realestatephuket.com

SALE: MESSAGE SHOP

Center Patong. 450,000 baht. Tel: 089-544 3555. Email: farfar1979@hotmail.com

NIGHTCLUB FOR SALE

Busiest corner Nai Harn Beach. 2 million baht. Remodel just completed. 1.75 million baht. 3-years lease, 6-year option terms negotiable. Tel: 080-881 2169.

MASSAGE SHOP RENT OR SALE

Naiham, Sai Yuan, great location. 3 rooms, fully equipped, 7 beds, 2 foot massage chairs, have staff. Rent: 15,000 baht per month. Sale: 500,000 baht. Tel: 089-985 7428 (English & Thai). Email: karenbeardsley1@gmail.com

SUNSET PLAZA KARON

Condos for rent/sale. 1-2 or 4 bedrooms, fully furnished. Tel: 081-968 8849. Email: assistancemanager@aloha.residence.com

BAR SOI CROCODILE

Lease 23 month, rent 25,000 baht. 2.1 million baht. Tel: 086-940 3535.

GUESTHOUSE FOR SALE

Brand new Patong modern 3 storey, kitchen, restaurant. Must see! Tel: 080-603 2949. Email: markfog13@hotmail.com

BAR FOR SALE IN BANGLA

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MINI GOLF FOR RENT

Khaolak Jungle adventure Mini Golf is for rent, located in a natural jungle ancient style city. Tel: 076-344543, 081-891 2273 (English & Thai). Email: rajrktailors@gmail.com

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SMALL BAR RESTAURANT

for sale. Patong. 230,000 baht. Call Alan. Tel: 087-264 1133.

FARANG PARTNER WANTED

Business partner wanted for bar / restaurant / guesthouse. Must be cashed up. Tel: 087-896 5219 (English). Email: striker_1957@hotmail.com

BAR/RESTAURANT

Top spot in Kata. 1 unit, newly built, good income. Must see. Contact Alex. Tel: 082-053 7613.

RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Low monthly rent includes all equipment. Very small key money includes all stock. Tel: 088-650 7076, 080-143 5541. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

KAMALA HIGH STREET

Bar for long established High Street bar with pool table and accommodation. Current owner moving away. 400,000 baht. Tel: 085-473 1693 (English & Thai), 083-339 6837 (Thai). Email: mark.tilsley@yahoo.co.uk

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Lease 19 months. Rent 36,000 baht per month. Asking 2.9 million baht neg. For a quick sale. Call Danny: 086-943 6574. Email: fstailslide@hotmail.com

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International Sport

French farce resolved

By Neil Quail

NOT since 1986 has a Six Nations (as it is called now) rugby match been postponed when, coincidentally, Ireland were due to play France at the old Parc des Princes, but a quarter of a century later on Saturday night in Paris it happened again.

Referee Dave Pearson determined the pitch unplayable just before the 9pm kick-off, due to freezing conditions and concerns over player's welfare, leaving almost 80,000 eager rugby fans stranded and bemused by the travesty.

Forecasts had indicated the likelihood of below zero temperatures days earlier, but in a bewildering move, Stade de France ground staff had covered the pitch as the 'modern' French stadium has no undersoil heating system.

For anyone that has never played outdoor sports in northern Europe during winter, covering a grass pitch to prevent freezing and then uncovering the surface during freezing temperatures ensures...yes, you guessed it – a frozen pitch in a very short space of time.

It was a gutsy call by Pearson, and one which earned him the respect of players and coaches. However, French Rugby Federation chief Pierre Camou was not impressed and compounded the foolhardiness of the organizational

debacle with a statement that arrogantly attempted to divert culpability

"We take responsibility for the pitches, but we are not responsible for the decision to call it off. I'm not sure the argument of safety is suddenly a good one. Today a Six Nations game in Italy was played in the snow and the referee was French," said Camou.

As this paper went to print Camou had called for an even more farcical solution – to have the game rescheduled for next season. Fortunately reason has prevailed and the game will be played on March 4 – even if Camou takes his ball home to throw out of the pram.

At the Stadio Olimpico in Rome, Italy hosted England in similar conditions as those in Paris – which the astute Camou noted – that made handling difficult and both sides opted for a kicking game to gain yards. Two penalties from Owen Farrell gave England a 6-0 advantage, but the first try came from the home side when Giovanbattista Venditti poached a loose ball for his first international try. Tommaso Benvenuti went over only a minute later after he intercepted a pass and Kristopher Burton converted to send the Azzurri into the break 12-6 ahead.

Burton extended Italy's lead to nine points with a penalty awarded for English indiscipline shortly after the restart, but Charlie



THE FACE OF FRENCH RUGBY: France's Rugby Federation chief Pierre Camou prepares to face the press after the Ireland-France Six Nations game was cancelled over concerns for players' safety. Photo: AFP

Hodgson's second charge-down try in two weeks followed by Farrell's conversion put England within a score at 15-13. England took the lead minutes later when Marco Bortolami was deemed offside and Farrell added the three points. Another penalty for England came off the back of a solid scrum and Farrell made no mistake, unlike Tobias Botes who missed two kickable opportunities – a lost chance to secure a maiden victory for Italy over England.

Wales continued their impressive form with a 27-12 win over Scotland at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff. Leigh Halfpenny took center stage once again scoring 22

points with two tries, three conversions and two penalties while Alex Cuthbert was the only other name on the Welsh score sheet.

The first half ended with honors even from the boots of Greg Laidlaw and Halfpenny who scored a penalty each, but Scotland were the dominant side for the closing 10 minutes. Cuthbert touched down shortly into the second half and Halfpenny made no mistake with his kick for a 10-3 Wales lead.

Scotland were reduced to 14 players after DeLuca was sin-binned for a late challenge and Halfpenny punished Wales by collecting three points from the resulting penalty. Laidlaw replied

with a penalty of his own to cancel out the advantage gained, but it was quickly recovered by Halfpenny latching on to a pass from Cuthbert for the simplest of finishes and a standard conversion.

Any hope for Scotland evaporated when Rory Lamont was sent to join DeLuca in the sin-bin and Wales exploited their advantage with another try from Halfpenny. The Scots would have felt hard done by when Stuart Hogg scored after coming off the bench had it not been for Laidlaw, back on the pitch, hit the line moments later. His conversion boosted Scotland's score, but the scoring had ended and Wales now top the Six Nations table.

Tottenham spurred by Adebayor

TOTTENHAM Hotspur blasted five past Newcastle United last Saturday with Emmanuel Adebayor as maestro to the carnage.

Emmanuel Adebayor assisted in four of the goals as he set up both Benoit Assou-Ekotto and Louis Saha to score inside the Toon's box within the opening six minutes.

Adebayor provided Saha again in the 30th minute, who slotted the ball into the bottom left corner. Niko Kranjcar blasted in from close range following up an Adebayor effort, initially saved by Tim Krul to go into the break four goals to the good.

Adebayor eventually got his own to complete the rout with Saha taking over as provider.



FETCH: Louis Saha scores his first of two against Newcastle. Photo: AFP

Thierry Henry's extra-time winner at Sunderland was a fitting parting gift to leave the Gunners fourth place in the league before returning to the New York Red Bulls.

Chelsea's poor form continued losing 0-2 away to Everton. The Blues have managed only three points out of a possible 12 as they slid into fifth.

SPORTS briefs...

FOOTBALL: Zambian football fans were delirious in their celebrations when the "Chipolopolo" stepped off the plane in Lusaka as African Cup of Nations champions.

The final was played in Gabon, where 19 years ago the entire Zambian squad died tragically in a plane crash. The current squad admitted they drew strength from the occasion and location's poignancy.

Scores deadlocked after 120mins of play an enthralling shoot-out followed with the Ivory Coast. Stophila Sunzu scored the 18th spot-kick to seal the title for Zambia.

FOOTBALL: All eyes were on Old Trafford last weekend to see Luis Suarez and Patrice Evra reunited after the racial abuse incident that saw Suarez handed an eight-match ban.

Prior to the game, it was stated Luis Suarez would shake Patrice Evra's hand to put an end to the divide.

Suarez has since been lambasted for failing to shake the United player's hand, but a replay shows Evra dropping his, as Suarez reaches to grasp.

Evra also appears to incite the Liverpool support with wild celebrations at full-time directly in front of the departing crowds.

FOOTBALL: The prodigal Argentine striker Carlos Tevez has returned to Manchester City after three months of illegitimate leave.

We say prodigal because his absence has cost the 28-year-old £10 million in fines and salary losses.

Tevez has been fined £1.2mn plus a salary forfeit of £200,000 per week and looks set to have another hefty fine slapped on the bill after making more inflammatory remarks before leaving his homeland saying that "Mancini [City's manager] treated me like a dog". However, Tevez is back, with his tail between his legs.

PREMIER LEAGUE TABLE			
WEDNESDAY, 15 FEBRUARY 2012 13:00 UK			
	TEAM	P	GD PTS
1	Man City	25	45 80
2	Man Utd	25	36 58
3	Tottenham	25	24 53
4	Arsenal	25	13 43
5	Chelsea	25	13 43
6	Newcastle	25	0 42
7	Liverpool	25	6 39
8	Norwich	25	-4 35
9	Sunderland	25	8 33
10	Everton	25	-1 33
11	Swansea	25	-4 30
12	Fulham	25	-5 30
13	Stoke	25	-14 30
14	West Brom	25	-6 29
15	Aston Villa	25	-5 28
16	QPR	25	-17 21
17	Blackburn	25	-19 21
18	Wolves	25	-21 21
19	Bolton	25	-22 20
20	Wigan	25	-27 19

THE FA CUP FIXTURES	
SATURDAY, 18 FEB, 2012	
Sunderland	VS Arsenal
00:15	
Chelsea vs Birmingham	
SATURDAY, 18 FEB, 2012	19:30
Liverpool vs Brighton	
SUNDAY, 19 FEB, 2012	23:30
SATURDAY, 18 FEBRUARY 2012 22:00	
Millwall VS Bolton	
Norwich VS Leicester	
Everton VS Blackpool	
SUNDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2012 19:00	
Crawley VS Stoke	
SUNDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2012 21:00	
Stevenage VS Tottenham	

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Sport

Paddling Lanta to Phi Phi

By Fraser Morton

RELIEVED but exhilarated five paddleboarders successfully finished their 32-kilometer paddling challenge from Koh Lanta to Koh Phi Phi earlier this month.

In a time of 4 hours and 32 minutes on February 3, the "Stand Up Paddle" (SUP) team successfully laid their boards to rest on Phi Phi Don.

Team members were Starboard team rider, Lina Augaitis; Owner of Lanta Paddlesports, Pete Compere; Swedish SUP ambassador, Richard Bilter; Starboard team rider, Andrew Dye; and Swedish SUP ambassador, Stefan Druve Regen.

Compere said the success of the event would mean that the Lanta-Phi Phi challenge would become an annual event, saying it was a hugely enjoyable day's paddling.

And the course length of 32-kms could also be a contender for a long-distance race on the SUP professional tour.

"The distance of the course is great, and Thailand is a perfect destination for people to travel to as a warm water event," Augaitis said.

While team member Druve, who had only paddleboarded once before, said he "couldn't believe" he made it, Bilter said the last four



LONG SLOG: It took the team 4 hours and 32 minutes to make the 32-kilometer crossing from Koh Lanta to Koh Phi Phi.

kilometers were very tough.

"It was a great day and will form a lasting memory for me," Bilter said.

The event was organized by Lanta Paddlesports with help from

Starboard and Amara Watersports.

The next Lanta-Phi Phi challenge is planned for March 2013.

Paddleboarding has its roots in Hawaii, and although only six



WE MADE IT: The Stand Up Paddle Lanta-Phi Phi team members Pete Compere, Lina Augaitis, Andrew Dye, Richard Bilter and Stefan Druve.

years young, is the world's fastest growing sport. Easy to learn and providing a full-body workout are reasons why the sport is experiencing a surge of interest. It is also evolving from

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For more information contact Pete Compere at pcompere@gmail.com.

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Keeper's ball!



FEARLESS: Budding goalies will have a chance to develop their game with BSS head coach Martin Hill at TSLC later this month. Photo: Neil Quail

GOALKEEPERS are a breed unto themselves. Both hero and villain, as with any position on the playing field. But one characteristic of a goalkeeper that can never be doubted is that of bravery. The last line of defense, the last hope when all seems lost, that is a goalkeeper.

It may sound daunting, but the thrill of making a save to keep your team in the game is a feeling like no other. Of great goals there are many, but great saves are few and far between. So if being a goalkeeper is a dream of any youngster here on Phuket, then Brazilian Soccer Schools at Thanayapura Sports and Leisure Club is where those dreams can be realized.

On February 21 and 24, from 4-7pm, BSS will provide an opportunity for aspiring goalkeepers to be coached on the key aspects of goalkeeping and help develop tech-

niques in this important position.

Leading the course is BSS Phuket Head Coach, Martin Hill, who is a vastly experienced goalkeeper with hundreds of games played in goal throughout his career. Martin will encourage the players at the camp to become comfortable and confident between the posts using specialized coaching games.

There are four different size of goals ranging from the smaller U8 Goals up to full-sized professional goals. This ensures that players from 6-16 years of age can participate in the sessions with all the correct equipment. Based on TSLC's full-sized synthetic pitch, the players will have plenty of space to practice and enjoy their new skills.

To register, contact Martin at bss@thanayapura.co.th.

Village go coco-nuts over Patong defeat

By Neil Quail

IN A crucial Island Furniture League match, Patong and the Village faced each other on Sunday at the ACG with both teams needing a win to boost their hopes of a showdown with title favorites, Laguna CC.

Undefeated so far this season, the Village knew that taking points from Patong would effectively end the reigning champions' expectations of at least making another final and place themselves in strong contention to become champions.

Village support has been extraordinary all season, and this game again brought out the crowds whose vocal presence suggested that a portion of the 'Barmy Army' – England's traveling cricket support faction – had left Dubai, where England are playing Pakistan, to take up temporary residence at the ACG.

It certainly made for an interesting afternoon of cricket with Village players saluting their support in the clubhouse, on taking wickets, in styles reminiscent of modern day footballers celebrating a goal. Had the ground not been so dry, a few shirtless body-slides towards the pavilion may also have been witnessed.

Having won the toss, the Village decided to take advantage of the cooler morning conditions and bat first. Kevin Quilty and Justin White opened for the Village, but Patong's paceman, Anil Rawat sent a stump-shattering wake-up call to Quilty with his second delivery that sent alarm bells ringing throughout the Village side.

Crucial to these games is lasting the 40 overs and Martin Foster, who next came to the crease, was determined to anchor the innings. His defensive tactics prevented any further loss, and with White (22), a partnership of 36 was forged.

However, both batsmen were unable to advance the partnership or their score when a catch on the boundary by Patong's captain Richard Folds, silenced the crowd who thought Foster's (10) hike to square-leg off a Kishor Jhagta delivery was on its way for six. A few minutes later, White too was dismissed when Maneesh Sadarangani found a gap to bowl the opener with the score at 36 for 3.

A brief visit by Paul Stamp yielded three



VILLAGE PERSON: Tim Ross finds the middle of his bat during an unbeaten stand of 42 under the watchful gaze of wicketkeeper Dean Noble (center) and Seemant Raju. Photos: Neil Quail

runs before Joshi Naresh, returning after an extended absence, trapped him lbw. This brought Tim Ross into the fray and along with Diwan Mydeen, the pair added 58 to the score. Ross blasted his way to 42 off 40 balls before being caught by Folds, again in support of Jhagta's bowling. Ross should have been dismissed earlier, but a fumbled catch at mid-on by Mike Khan allowed his innings to continue. Mydeen's run was ended when he was on 16, caught by Naresh off a Seemant Raju delivery.

With the score at 98 for 6, the game seemed to be in Patong's hands. But like their dismal catching display, it soon slipped from their grasp.

Patong could have put the innings to bed at 130 had they held even later catching opportunities, in particular that of Chris Gordon who was dropped on 10. However, the tail-end not only wagged, but thrashed like a

crocodile's in a feeding frenzy, with young Gordon racing to 32 off 38 balls. Craig Patterson (11) was dropped when on 2, but recovered, and with Mark Ashman (9 not out) they both got in on the buffet to help reach a score of 172 by the end of the 37th over. Raju topped the Patong bowling figures with 3 for 36, while Jhagta took 2 for 30 and Naresh posted 2 for 32.

Slightly demoralized, Patong very soon slipped into despair when the top order collapsed for just 17 runs with Patterson and Mydeen bagging a brace each in under 20 minutes from the start of the Patong innings.

Sadarangani (15), Rawat (27) and Folds (22) hinted at a recovery, but Patterson and this time White, combined to send Patong's hopes plummeting to a resignation of defeat.

The Village tail-end being compared to



CHASING THE TAIL: Tom Gordon follows the example of Ross to hit 32 against Patong.



Craig Patterson pins down Richard Folds during his six-wicket haul.

voracious predators, Patong's lower order would have taken the role of helpless prey such as waterfowl, with Noble, Jhagta and Naresh all recording ducks and Patong capitulating on 90 runs all out.

Patong's misery ended in the 23rd over with Patterson claiming six wickets and only 17 runs conceded, his wild celebrations reflecting the importance of his contribution to the team's win.

The Village's 82 run victory over Patong now sees them at the top of the table with a four from four winning streak.

On Sunday, February 19, Laguna CC take on Island CC.

For more information on cricket visit phuketcricketgroup.com.

The Phuket Gazette is the local media partner for the ACG.

France leapfrog into first

THE 2012 Fair Play League hit the midway point last weekend at Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club (TSLC).

In the U14 division, Germany Green took on France after their first defeat of the season last week. In an exciting display of football, both teams attacked relentlessly which created plenty of goals and action. In the final five minutes, France ahead by one goal, scored two unanswered goals to win the game 9-6 which also jumps them to first place in the league. The U11 match saw

Germany Green keep pressure on the leaders, Brazil, by claiming a hard fought 3-1 victory over a dogged France team. The second group of matches saw Brazil against Thailand, again in both age groups. The U14 match was another tight affair. Thailand capitalized on more opportunities than Brazil and ran out 5-3 winners. The U11 Brazil team continued on their determined march towards the 2012 title by claiming their fifth win out of five games in a 4-1 defeat of a developing Thailand team.

The final matches saw Argentina

take on Germany White. Argentina's U14 side grabbed top spot in the league for the first time this season with a victory after a game that showcased their goalscoring capabilities. Germany White recovered well, but eventually succumbed to a 8-4 defeat. The U11 draw saw two teams hoping to reboot their season after losses in the previous week. In an extremely competitive match Germany White's superb defense held against a creative Argentina attack for a 2-1 victory, a result that has lifted them into third spot on the table.

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Sport

Goals galore in Super Six league



Pos	Team	P	GD	Pts
1	Pita Bar Phuketeers	1	11	3
2	Ristorante Rugantino	1	10	3
3	Shakers FC	1	7	3
4	Phuket Serenity Villas	1	5	3
5	Morning Star	0	0	0
6	Russia United	0	0	0
7	The Lounge	1	-5	0
8	Nanai Boys	1	-7	0
9	Eden FC	1	-10	0
10	Babynoname	1	-11	0

Phuket Super Six League table (above) after week one.



Action from PSSL first round.



PEACEFUL MOMENT: The Lounge (left) and Phuket Serenity Villas (right) pose before their match, which ended 7-2 in favor of PSV.



CIAO: Ristorante Rugantino.



HEARTY LADS: Pita Bar Phuketeers.

By Neil Quail

PHUKET'S new Super Six League (PSSL) exploded into action with 41 goals recorded over just four games on opening night at Football Island.

Alberto Mancuso's Ristorante Rugantino began the net-busting frenzy by knocking Joseph Arimathea's young Eden FC team

out of the park on a 10-0 scoreline. The experienced Italian team took an early lead from a goal by Jacopo Jajo, and from there the Italian side gorged themselves at the goalscoring buffet.

The second match of the evening saw Shakers FC and Nanai Boys mix it up on the flood lit pitch. A strong start from Shakers was rewarded by

goals from Ross Robinson and Tom Davies, and although the Nanai Boys fought back, Shakers FC team eventually ran out 9-2 winners.

The Lounge, managed by local football stalwart Billy Chima, met Phuket Serenity Villas (PSV) in the third game. Pre-match favorites, The Lounge players were stunned early on by powerful strikes from

PSV's German wunderkind Sascha Wondruschka. Norwegian midfield maestro Kyrre Amundsen clawed one back for The Lounge, but PSV held firm and took the points with a 7-2 victory.

In the final game of the evening, Pita Bar Phuketeers played the all-Thai Babynoname team. Despite early chances for

both sides, the Phuketeers found their momentum with Yannik Christll and Carl Brain pillaging goals from the start. The onslaught continued and the Phuketeers ravaged a horde of 11 unanswered goals to put them top of the league.

For more information visit phuketfootball.com/supersix.

Sweet sixteen in AFL round four



BANK ON IT: AFL teams enjoy a pre-match get together for the cameras.

CANCELLED and postponed games meant only two matches were played in round four of the Adult Futsal League presented by Thanachart Bank on Thursday evening.

Despite only two games on

the card, sixteen goals were scored to ensure an exhilarating night of football.

TSLC and SGS faced off in the first encounter with the home side looking to keep their unbeaten record having won their previous

three games. A nervous start from both teams eventually gave way to a scoring spree by TSLC who opened their account midway through the first half.

SGS pushed for an equalizer and created a few chances, but the TSLC goalkeeper foiled them at every opportunity. As the half drew to a close, TSLC punished SGS with three breakaway goals in as many minutes to take a commanding four goal lead into the break.

TSLC continued the 'guerrilla' tactics throughout the second half, content to sit back and absorb the pressure before hitting SGS on the

break with two more goals added by TSLC in this fashion. SGS did manage a consolation score, but TSLC were far stronger on the night, victorious on 6-1 scoreline.

The only premier division match played, saw season eight division one champions Thalang Tigers play the premier division season eight champions, Portrait FC.

Depleted squads for both teams meant little respite for players who 'made the ball do the work' at the cost of their usual dynamic exertions. Portrait started the more lively side, attacking Thalang at every opportunity. It was again a

telling tactic as the reigning champions powered into a three-goal lead. Thalang worked tirelessly to keep pace with the game, but struggled to match Portrait FC's movement and fluidity. Portrait control of the game was consolidated with four more goals. Thalang Tigers grabbed a brace, but at the final whistle Portrait took the win on a 7-2 score line with Somsak bagging a hat-trick to bring his season's tally up to 10.

For information on the AFL email football@thanyapura.co.th.

— Phuket gazette



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STRETCHED: Portrait FC pulled out a 7-2 victory in round four of the AFL against Thalang Tigers with both teams missing players. Photo: TSLC

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Full details at

PhuketBluesFestival.com

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