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Phuket Gazette

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Road to Freedom

By Atchaa Khamlo

THE Patong Municipal Council has agreed to fund a study to look into building a new road to access Freedom Beach, crossing over public forest land in the area.

The road was among several proposals unanimously approved by the council during its budget meeting last week.

Patong Mayor Pian Keesin presided over the meeting, which was attended by 15 of the town's 18 council members, more than enough to meet the quorum requirement of 14.

The council agreed to fund a study to upgrade the existing Ratprachanukrok Road, which heads north off Sirirat Road towards Patong's southern headland before entering public forest land



The proposed new road in red.

and turning into a dirt road.

The new road would connect with Muen Ngern Road near the Merlin Beach Resort. The cost of the study should not exceed 4 million baht, Mayor Pian said.

If the project's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is approved, the municipality will then move to find funding for the project, which would require the acquisition of over six rai (about one hectare) of protected forest land.

Upgrading the road would improve access from the south to Freedom Beach, Tri Trang Beach and Paradise Beach, which can currently only be accessed from the congested south end of Patong Beach via Muen Ngern Road.

It would also increase security for tourist and local residents by serving as a new evacuation route in the event of a tsunami or other natural disaster, Mayor Pian said.

Councilor Sahut Jarungklin, who voted to approve the study,

Continued on page 4



People line the roads up in the hills between Surin and Kamala safe from any potential harm from an impending tsunami. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

Tsunami scare

PHUKET was back to normal on Wednesday evening only hours after an 8.6-magnitude earthquake off Sumatra sparked the National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC) into issuing a tsunami alert, which at just after 4pm became an evacuation warning.

Hotels in Patong evacuated guests and staff as a precaution, while phone lines jammed and traffic backed up on Patong Hill after the Phuket Department of Disaster Mitigation and Prevention (DDPM) office stopped traffic from entering Patong.

However, the only noticeable wave to reach Phuket measured "only centimeters", reported Patong DDPM officer Sampawan Wannasangkam, who was stationed literally on Patong Beach all Wednesday afternoon.

He was finally ordered by the NDWC to leave the beach at about 6:25pm and to remain on standby until 8pm as there had been an 8.2-magnitude aftershock off Sumatra about an hour earlier.

"The time had passed for when the tsunami was expected to arrive. I did not see any larger-than-normal waves, but my superior officer reported seeing a wave measuring only centimeters higher than the normal waves and he believed that was the tsunami," said Mr Sampawan.

Paiboon retains OrBorJor presidency

PAIBOON Upatising has been returned to office as president of the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor) after a landslide election win last Saturday, when he gained more than triple the number of votes tallied by his only challenger, according to unofficial results.

The snap election received a poor turnout. Despite fair weather, only 28.8% of 233,696 eligible voters cast ballots. Mr Paiboon garnered 41,541 votes (60.8%) compared with 11,952 votes (17.5%) for the challenger Chayot Wisartpong, the only other candidate to contest the presidency.

There were also 11,907 "no votes" (17.4%) and 2,783 spoiled ballots (4.2%).

Local political analysts have suggested the poor turnout was based on a popular presumption that Mr Paiboon re-election was virtually guaranteed. Mr Paiboon forced the early election by resigning before completion of his term, thus requiring the election be held within 60 days, instead



Paiboon Upatising is back.

of 45 days had he finished his term of office. The shrewd political move left hopeful candidates with very little time to organize an electoral campaign.

Wisut Santikul, a former OrBorJor vice president, declined to register as a candidate specifically on that issue.

In his victory speech, Mr Paiboon repeated his concerns for Phuket, stating that there were many urgent issues to be addressed including traffic, water supply and wastewater management. "There are other issues that must be worked on. The OrBorJor hospital for one. We have to find a team to manage the hospital as the current contract ends in May," he said.

HAPPY SONGKRAN!



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Police aim for 'zero' holiday road deaths

By Chutharat Plerin

POLICE in Phuket are gearing up for the annual Songkran "Seven Days of Danger" road-safety campaign over the holidays, which officially start on Friday, April 13.

This year's campaign will still have as its main deterrent a network of police checkpoints set up on main arteries around the island. Drivers will be pulled over and inspected for possible infractions, ranging from failure to produce a valid license to drunk driving.

"This year we will be especially strict on drunk driving, speeding and the use of safety helmets by all motorbike riders," said Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Peerayut Karajedee.

The enforcement effort would be most rigorous between the hours of 6pm and 4am, he said.

Unlike previous campaigns in which a "target number" of deaths was based on the previous year's results, this year authorities have set the goal at zero.

To help the campaign, the Kusoldharm Rescue Foundation donated 10 breathalyzer kits to the police to use during the Seven Days.

As in previous years, police have announced the locations of



SAFETY CHECKPOINTS: 'The only acceptable number of deaths during this year's campaign is zero,' Col Peerayut said.

all main checkpoints, as follows:

Muang District:

In front of the Isuzu dealership on Thepkasattri Road northbound, near Koh Kaew Soi 33.

In front of Wichit Municipality Office on Chao Fa West Road

In front of Ake Anda village on Chao Fa West Road.

In front of the Ramada Hotel on Patak Road in Karon

Kathu:

At the start of Sirirat Road, at

the south of Patong

Prabamee Road in Kathu, near Thung Thong Police Station

Na Nok Junction on the Surin-Kamala road, near Phuket FantaSea

Thalang:

Tah Chat Chai checkpoint, Thepkasattri Road

In front of Cherng Talay Municipality Office on Srisoonthorn Road.

Tah Reua Police Box on Thepkasattri Road Southbound, near Heroines' Monument.

Russian man, 66, found hanged at Kalim park

POLICE are treating as suicide the death of Russian national Boris Falkovskiy, 66, who was found hanged from a tree in a park near Patong on April 3.

"Mr Falkovskiy was not murdered. There were no wounds or bruises on his body and his sandals were left lying next to his feet," Patong Duty Officer Jongserm Preecha told the *Gazette*.

Mr Falkovskiy was found hanged by a thick rope in a park behind a small restaurant in Kalim, just north of Patong Beach.

Police were informed of the

body at 8:30am.

"We believe he died four to five hours before his body was found," Lt Col Jongserm said.

Found near the body was Mr Falkovskiy's passport, 26 baht, a black bag and a bottle of drinking water.

"Mr Falkovskiy, who came to Phuket for a month, probably had financial problems," said Lt Col Jongserm.

Mr Falkovskiy's body was taken to Patong Hospital where it is being kept. The Russian Embassy has been informed of the death, said police.

Alleged kingpin still at large

ALLEGED drug kingpin and recent firebomb survivor Mongkol Benjaphan is the subject of a police manhunt in Phuket and Phang Nga, police have confirmed to the *Gazette*.

Officers from the Phuket Provincial Police Investigation Division, as well Thalang and Tah Chat Chai Police Stations in Phuket and Khok Kloy in Phang Nga, are all on the lookout for him, Thalang Police Investigation Inspector Pisit Chunpet told the *Gazette*.

Mr Mongkol, a 33-year-old with outstanding arrest warrants for drug offences, was the target of a bomb attack at his home in Thepkasattri on March 29.

"Information gained from the police interview of Sanit Yotharak, a 33-year-old relative of Mongkol's



Officers at the bombed house.

wife, indicate that Mr Mongkol suffered an injury to his left foot from the explosion," he said.

Mr Mongkol and his wife, Darin Sawagsup, were picked up by a pickup truck and a car, he explained.

"We don't know the names of the drivers or the license plate num-

bers of the cars," said Lt Col Pisit.

Police admit they do not have a permanent address for Mr Mongkol, but believe he periodically visited the home in the Bo Din Villa residential estate where the explosion happened.

Who actually owns the dwelling is unknown, however. The last person listed as the owner of the house registration form vacated in 2010, apparently abandoning it.

"Right now we suspect that Mr Mongkol may be hiding somewhere in Phang Nga. We have questioned Ms Darin's and Mr Mongkol's relatives, but they are evasive with their answers, so we are now collecting more evidence and witness statements to further the investigation," he said.

— **Orawin Narabal**



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CENTARA GRAND BEACH RESORT PHUKET

Violent crime rises in Patong

By Atchaa Khamlo

VIOLENT crime, traffic congestion and lack of public parking were among top concerns raised by Patong Municipality council members during their budget meeting on April 5.

Councilman Weerawit Kruesombat said skyrocketing land prices and monopolizing of available parking spaces by taxis, tuk-tuks and car rental outfits had left tourists with no place to park.

"I would like reserve parking areas along the beach road exclusively for use by tourists. I think people will agree with this plan, but we need to set clear regulations otherwise the situation would quickly revert back to the status quo," he said.

Moving drivers out of areas where they had established a base would no easy task, he admitted.

Fights among rival groups of taxi drivers competing for fares as well as reports of violent attacks on tourists continue to besmirch Patong's reputation, but there are only a few groups that

get involved in such behavior, he said.

Tuk-tuks and taxis weren't the only sources of woe in the sea-side town, Councilman Weerawit said.

"There are about 30 food carts parked along the beach road every evening. Police should solve this problem rather than directing all their efforts on fining motorbike riders caught riding without safety helmets," he said.

A source told him that municipal officers were suspected of "getting benefits" for allowing them to operate there in violation of municipal regulations, he said.

"I would like the municipality's administration department to look into this allegation," he said.

Council member Prasarn Nuchet said Patong is overdeveloped, with "a social mix of people with good jobs and bad jobs" that results in numerous conflicts.

"A few days ago there was a shooting near my house behind the Government Savings Bank on Phra Barami Road. Last week a tourist's bag was snatched right



With Patong tuk-tuk drivers armed to the teeth and violent attacks common, Prasarn Nuchet tells fellow council members he no longer ventures out after dark. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

in front of the Esso service station. Just today there was a fight between local tuk-tuk drivers and others from outside the area. Local people are sick of it. There is so much crime in Patong now

that I no longer go out after dark," he said.

The town is awash in dangerous weapons, he said.

"I would like to tell Patong Police that many taxi drivers carry

firearms, and when fights occur they always use gun and knives. Local people always complain, to both the police and the municipality," he said.

The project to reverse the one-way flow of traffic should start as soon as possible because too many accidents are occurring involving tourists who are unfamiliar with the idiosyncrasies of the current system, especially the need to keep right on some connecting roads, he said.

Patong Mayor Pian Keesin thanked the councilors for their support and for voicing their concern about the welfare of local residents.

He said he would raise issues of concerns with new Patong Police Superintendent Col Sermpan Sirikong, who replaced Col Arayapan Pukbuakao in the latest reshuffle.

Col Sermpan returns to Phuket after serving as superintendent of the investigations division at Chumphon Provincial Police. He held several different postings in Phuket earlier in his career.

Police refute Chuwit gambling den claims

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

A SENIOR-ranking police officer from Provincial Police Region 8 headquarters in Surat Thani this week dismissed allegations by MP Chuwit Kamolvisit that police were being paid off to allow gambling dens to operate in Phuket.

In his highly televised allegations late last month, MP Chuwit said gambling dens were still operating at Tiger Discotheque in Patong as well as in Chalong, in Thung Thong in Kathu District, and near a Siam Commercial Bank branch in Phuket City. Mr Chuwit, a former massage parlor tycoon, also alleged that a gambling den in Thung Thong raked in up to 70 million baht a month.

However, a police raid of the Tiger nightclub in Patong on March 28 failed to prove any gambling was held there. The club's management even threatened legal action against Mr Chuwit over the claims.

Pisun Chuladilok, Deputy Commissioner of Provincial Police Region 8, on Tuesday said, "All the major gambling dens in Phuket were shut down long before Mr Chuwit made his allegations, since myself and the Commander of Phuket Provincial Police went to check and control the areas [identified by MP Chuwit as hotbeds for gambling] already."

Maj Gen Pisun's dismissal of the corruption allegations against police came just days before MP Chuwit was scheduled to visit Phuket on Thursday and Friday (April 12-13) to personally verify whether or not the information he



Maj Gen Pisun Chuladilok

has received about major gambling dens operating in Phuket is true.

Expected to join MP Chuwit on his visit were other members of parliament and representatives from the Police Commission.

However, Maj Gen Pisun also warned Phuket police to make sure there were no gambling operations in their respective areas. "If I find any Police Superintendents have ignored this [warning] or is involved in a gambling den, I will levy a serious penalty."

"Some superintendents have already been transferred out of Phuket," said Maj Gen Pisun.

Bombs spark tourism security boost

A DELEGATION from the Royal Thai Police Police Region 8 headquarters in Surat Thani met Phuket hotel staff, shop owners and officials last week to discuss appropriate security measures to be taken to counter the potential threat of a terror bombing.

The meeting, held at Phuket City Police Station and led by Region 8 Police Deputy Commander Weerapong Chuenpakdee, follows the devastating terror bombing of the Lee Gardens Plaza Hotel in Haad Yai on March 31 in which 14 people died and hundreds more were injured.

"News measures [collection of raw information] and Information measures [processing that information] are considered urgent defensive measures," Maj Gen Weerapong said.



Maj Gen Weerapong

"Region 8 police, Tourist Police, Immigration Police and Marine Police must work together in sharing information from their own resources with a view to developing an 'all sources' geographic information computer system."

"The system will focus on criminal gangs and individuals, both foreign and Thai. When linked to Global Positioning System [GPS] technology, it will make the investigation process more streamlined," he said.

Enhanced investigation skills was another measure to be built on, he said.

"We plan to develop those skills within the police both at an individual level as well as team level."

"For suppression [contingency] measures, the police will be well trained and ready [to deal with an emergency situation] and reassure residents and tourists," Maj Gen Weerapong added.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

See this week's Letter from the Governor 'Staying safe' on page 9

Mayor Pian vies for road to Freedom

From page 1

said, "I am quite amazed at the pace of development that Patong has undergone, even reaching as far as Tri Trang Beach. However, we also have to consider related problems that will arise such as water and electricity supply as well as trash collection."

Mayor Pian assured Councilor Sahut that all such issues would be addressed in due course if the project becomes a reality.

Another road project approved was the expansion of a 55-meter stretch of the narrow Nanai Soi 8, which runs along Klong Pak Lak connecting Nanai Road with Phang Muang Sai Kor Road, to eight meters wide. The budget approved was 2.5 million baht.



Councilor Sahut raised concerns.

Although approving the proposal, councilman Prasert Patkor expressed concerns.

"If the road is expanded, taxis and tuk-tuks should not be allowed to obstruct traffic flow by parking in columns along both sides, like they already do in many other areas.

"If that is allowed to happen, it will further inconvenience mo-



Mayor Pian vowed that issues affecting Patong's development will be addressed. Photo: Atachaa Khamlo

torists by narrowing the available road surface back down to what it was before, thus defeating the whole purpose," he commented.

Mayor Pian assuaged his concerns by saying a meeting would be set up with "taxi businesses" to gain their co-operation, with local police responsible for enforcement of parking regulations.

Such a meeting should not be

hard to arrange for Mr Pian, whose son Preechavude "Prab" Keesin is president of the Patong Taxi Federation and President of the Pisona Group of businesses that enjoys transport concessions throughout the town.

The end of term for the current council is June 26. New elections must take place within 45 days of that date.



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Possessed seeks justice for double homicide

THE restless spirit of a Chon Buri woman possessed her elderly mother, demanding justice for her murder and that of her 5-year-old daughter on April 5, according to a video report on a popular Bangkok-based blogsite.

The day after her daughter and granddaughter's death by electrocution, 56-year-old Somrak Kimsom began to act strangely, as if she were possessed by a spirit, witnesses said.

Mrs Somrak said that spirit of her daughter, Chanita Songchom, was angry and would not let her murderer escape punishment for his crime.

"She and her daughter will sit on the murderer's neck," said Mrs Somrak said, while in an apparent state of possession during a funeral service for the pair.

Just past midnight on April 5, 29-year-old Chanita Songchom and her daughter, Nada "Mink" Sanusan, 5, were electrocuted while hanging laundry on the back terrace of their apartment, said case detective Rattapak Sopha.

The clothesline was strung up between two television antennae. Police suspected an accidental electricity discharge from an adjacent room was responsible for the deadly shock, Lt Col Rattapak explained.

However, when police checked the clothesline and antennae after the tragedy no electrical charge was detected.

"I do not believe that my wife and daughter's death was an accident. There was no electric



leakage," said Saythong Sanusan, husband of the late Mrs Chanita.

"My wife earlier had an argument with a neighbor. I think they had another argument while she was out washing our clothes, then the angry neighbor intentionally connected the other end of the clothesline to an electrical socket," Mr Saythong said.

"Come to see me in my dreams and tell me who killed you. I will not let that one go without justice so that you and Mink may rest in peace," said Mr Saythong while lighting incense stick in front of photos of his late wife and daughter.

"We searched the rental room next door, which is occupied by 35-year-old Wutthichai Kenkok and his partner Tiphanthong Suebsuan, 32," said Lt Col Rattapak.

"We found about three meters of wire that was bare at both ends. We stretched the wire from a plug in the house to the clothesline in the victim's room.

"The wire was long enough to connect the two, so we kept it as evidence," he said.

The couple have denied any involvement in the deaths, he added.

— Chutharat Plerin

The buses are coming

By Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai

THE long-awaited Phuket Bus Terminal 2 north of Phuket Town will open on April 21, Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO) Chief Teerayut Prasertpol has announced.

All buses arriving from and departing to Bangkok and other provinces will operate from the new terminal, located on Thepkasattri Road in Rassada.

Buses serving Phuket and Phang Nga will continue to use Bus Terminal 1, located on Phang Nga Road in Phuket Town.

"The first bus will depart Bus Terminal 2 to Chumphon at 5am. The last bus of the first day will be at 10:30pm to Sungai Kolok, in Narathiwat province," he explained.

"Passengers arriving at Terminal 2 can buy tickets for taxis, tuk-tuks and motorcycle taxis from booths to reach their local destination," he added.

"Terminal 1 will be used for buses from Takuapa and other areas in Phang Nga, as well as local buses that run within Phuket Town and to Kata, Karon, Kamala, Patong and Pa Khlok only," he said.

Chief Teerayut observed that Phuket is an important economic location for trade and tourism within Thailand and an adequate public transportation is a necessary part of that.

"The current bus terminal opened in 1983 on two rai of land [on Phang Nga Road]. There are only 14 parking bays for buses, but currently all the buses to Bangkok and further north, as well as those operating throughout Southern Thailand and local buses serving routes within Phuket and



With Phuket Bus Terminal 2 open, the old terminal (pictured) will only run local bus routes. Photo: Pimwara



After a long wait the bays will soon be busy. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

to destinations in Phang Nga – 33 routes in total – are using the terminal," he said.

"We need a bigger and better facility like Bus Terminal 2," he added.

The new bus terminal in Rassada occupies 9.3 rai of land. The Department of Land Transportation spent 80 million baht on buying the land and more than 47mn baht on building the terminal and its facilities.

The project was completed at the end of 2009, but failed to open on time due to administrative complications between Rassada Municipality and the PLTO, explained Chief Teerayut.

The Phuket office of the Highways Department informed the PLTO on October 22 last year that they intended to modify the median strip in front of the new terminal and install traffic lights to control the traffic so buses could safely enter and leave the facility.

Former Rassada Mayor Surathin Lianudom publicly campaigned against the break in the median strip, which is directly in

front of his house. His wife filed for an injunction with the regional courts in Surat Thani. However, the work continued and was completed before the court was able



Chief Teerayut fought hard for the new terminal. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

to make a ruling.

Chief Teerayut also explained that local residents filed a complaint against the project with the Phuket Governor via the Dumrongtham Center on October 27 last year.

"The median strip has been removed and the traffic lights were installed on February 23. All we have to do now is complete the interior of the terminal, which will be done by April 21," said Chief Teerayut.



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Suicidal drunk takes plunge into half-full water-well

By Orawin Narabal

A MENTALLY disturbed man is recovering from a failed suicide bid last weekend, when he jumped down a water-well near Phuket International Airport.

Phuket Kusoldharm Foundation workers were informed of the incident at 7:15pm on Saturday.

At the scene, they found the man underwater, face down and unconscious in the abandoned well, estimated by rescue workers to be 10 to 12 meters deep.

The well was also estimated to be about half-full of water by rescue workers.

The man was still unconscious when hoisted out of the well by rescue workers.

Initially the man was sent to Thalang Hospital, but later he was transferred to the better equipped Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town.

Local residents told the *Gazette* that they only knew the man by his nickname "Aoi" and thought he was most likely in his early thirties.

He had a history of mental illness, with episodes of suicidal behavior when he went on a drinking binges which was often, they said.

The *Gazette* tried to follow up on the man's condition. Vachira Hospital staff cited privacy issues in declining to give his name, but they said he was out of the Intensive Care Unit and being cared for in the Men's Recovery Ward with his mother by his side.

At last report the man was semi-conscious and still breathing through a respirator.

Phuket honors HRH Princess Bejaratana Rajasuda

TOP Phuket officials on Tuesday held a ceremony at Wichit Sangkharam Temple, near Phuket Provincial Hall, to honor the royal cremation ceremony of HRH Princess Bejaratana Rajasuda Sirisobhabannavadi.

Leading the *tawai dok mai jun* ceremony in Phuket was Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha. He was joined by Phuket Provincial Police Commander Chonasit Wattanavrangkul, Phuket City Mayor Somjai Supasupana, Phuket City Police Chief Chote Chidchai and Rear Admiral Narudom Chawanasen, Deputy Commander Royal Thai Navy Third Area Command.

The ceremony began at 3pm with monks chanting blessings, led by Phra Kru Wisut Kittiyaporn, the highest-ranking monk in Phuket.

Governor Tri then led the officials in making merit by offering robes to the monks.

After the conclusion of the *tawai dok mai jun* ceremony in Bangkok, which was held at the same time, Governor Tri then led the proceedings with the traditional practice of presenting handmade artificial flowers made from sandalwood by placing them on a stand blessed by monks in front of an image of HRH Princess Bejaratana.

He was then followed by the monks present, ahead of the other officials at the ceremony.

HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej led the royal cremation ceremony in Bangkok, which coincided with the cremation of the sandalwood flowers in Phuket at 10pm.

— Atchaa Khamlo



Governor Tri Augkaradacha offers robes to the monks. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

Road mashup hospitalizes five

By Wichai Witthawat

FIVE accident victims were rushed to local hospitals last Saturday night following a collision between a tour van filled with Chinese tourists and a pickup truck.

Thalang Police at 9:45pm were notified of a two-vehicle accident on Thepkasattri Road northbound in Thalang, near the entrance to the Bang Khanon Forest Reserve.

Arriving at the scene they found a Toyota van with the front driver's side caved in, where a male passenger was trapped inside.

In the end it took four Phuket Kusoldharm Foundation units using metal cutters an hour to free the man from the twisted wreckage, during which time Thalang Hospital medical staff administered a saline drip and other accident scene emergency medical treatments.

The man, whose name was not released, was sent to Thalang Hospital and later trans-



Rescue workers used metal cutters known as the "jaws of life" to free the trapped man. Photo: Wichai Witthawat

ferred to Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town.

Rescue workers presumed the man, who suffered two broken feet and other injuries, was working as a tour guide at the time.

Remarkably the van's other occupants, mostly young Chinese women, emerged from the wreckage unharmed.

About 200 meters away was

the wreckage of the other vehicle, an Isuzu D-Max extended cab pickup that came to rest after crashing into a roadside tree.

The initial collision caused the cab to partially tear away from the chassis. Its four occupants, all males from Kanchaburi ranging in age from 16 to 33, were rushed to Thalang Hospital for emergency treatment for a vari-

ety of injuries, including at least one broken leg.

All four suffered head wounds, rescue workers said.

Witnesses told police the pickup was heading southbound in rainy conditions when it hit a wet patch of road and began to hydroplane, crossing over the median strip and into the path of the airport-bound van.



Easter Sunday, 8th of April, Evason Phuket and Bon Island is offering a special brunch buffet featuring Easter holiday treats, such as Easter baked ham, roasted stuffed lamb legs and Easter lamb pies. An Easter theme certainly prevails for dessert with chocolate Easter bunnies and hot cross buns. We welcome you with a complimentary "Mimosa" and there's also a 'make your own Bloody Mary' station. Savor this special day with your feet in the sand while listening to live Jazz.

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Censor washes hands of ban

AROUND THE nation

IN A move that has made world-wide headlines, the Thai Film Board has banned a new adaptation of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, saying it "could cause disunity among people in the country".

Manit Sriwanithpoom, a co-producer of the film entitled *Shakespeare Must Die*, says he will launch a petition to overturn the decision on April 17.

The film has been construed as a criticism of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and the red-shirt movement that arose after he was ousted in a coup in 2006, reported *The Guardian*.

"Most people cry for [freedom of expression] when they have no power. Once they have power they don't want to give the freedom to others. Every government and every political group is like that," Mr Manit told *The Nation*.

The Thai-language film, a loose adaptation of *Macbeth* set in a fic-



Shakespeare Must Die is an adaptation of *Macbeth* and has been banned in Thailand. Photo: The Nation

tional country, tells the story of a power-mad dictator who sets out to usurp the power of the king.

The film also contained a scene alluding to the 1976 Thammasat University Massacre, in which a mob of right-wing thugs murdered and raped several student protest-

ers, said Lara Day of *The Wall Street Journal*.

The film also sees the dictator attempting to suppress an adaptation of *Macbeth* and lynch the film director.

"There was no justification," said Mr Manit. "They said they're

worried about it because the country is in a reconciliatory mode."

Mr Manit said one of the seven members of the Film Board insisted to him that the film had to be banned because Thais can't separate reality from fiction when they see a film.

HM leads royal cremation ceremony



HRH Princess Bejaratana Rajasuda

HM KING Bhumibol Adulyadej made a rare public appearance last week to attend the funeral of his cousin, HRH Princess Bejaratana Rajasuda.

Wearing a white uniform and black armband, the monarch lit candles and incense during the ceremony at Sanam Luang.

HRH Princess Bejaratana was the only child of King Vajiravudh, also known as Rama VI.

The princess died in July last year and laid in state at the Grand Palace until her cremation on April 9, which was declared a public holiday.

Lawyers set sights on bomb suspects



Mohammad Hazaei, one of the bombers in custody. Photo: The Nation

THAILAND is preparing to prosecute five Iranian suspects believed to be connected with a plot to bomb Israeli diplomats.

Deputy national police chief Pansiri Prapawat told reporters that the case had been submitted to Bangkok's Criminal Court.

Two of the five suspects are in police custody following their arrest in February.

After an accidental explosion on February 14 at a house that the suspects were allegedly using as a bomb factory, several men fled the scene.

One of the men, Saeid Moradi, blew his own legs off by accident

after trying to throw an explosive device at pursuing police officers.

Mohammad Hazaei, 42, was arrested at Suvarnabhumi Airport while trying to board a flight to Malaysia.

Thailand is seeking the extradition of a third suspect, Masoud Sedaghatzadeh, who was arrested at Kuala Lumpur International Airport a day after the bombing.

The location of the remaining two suspects have not been announced.

Israel claims the attacks were orchestrated by the Iranian government as part of a campaign of terror against its diplomats overseas.

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Take off the gloves

THE recent ban on mixed martial arts (MMA) events by the Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT) is a sad but unsurprising development, one which will deprive growing numbers of MMA enthusiasts in Thailand from watching these exciting events live, while costing the country millions of baht in lost revenue.

Thailand is certainly not alone in its squeamishness when it comes to MMA. In the USA, the country where the sport flourished through television broadcasts and the formation of the Ultimate Fighting Championships (UFC) in the 1990s, the sport is still banned in a handful of states, ostensibly for safety reasons.

With the rapid expansion of satellite television coverage, there are few places where those interested in MMA cannot watch it. Here in Phuket, cable television operators frequently broadcast MMA programming. UFC events are also among the most popularly shared files online, with a flurry of download activity as soon as the most recent event is uploaded.

As its critics are quick to point out, MMA can be brutal, but it is precisely this aspect of the sport that makes it so engaging for viewers. Nobody is forcing those who can't stomach the violence to watch – and to our knowledge all the fighters who take part do so are adults who take part willingly.

This is in contrast to the nightly spectacles staged in places like Patong, where children as young as six years old deliver kicks to one another's heads for the amusement of the crowd.

From a safety aspect, concerns about serious injury and death were justified in the early days of MMA, but rules changes have made the sport surprisingly safe. Enough time has now passed to indicate the risks are probably less than in conventional Western-style boxing, and far less than in sports such as race car driving.

Thais are justifiably proud of the Muay Thai tradition, but it should be remembered that gloves were introduced to the sport only in the 1920s. While the sport is no doubt safer as a result, boxing gloves render traditional clinching techniques somewhat awkward and unnatural compared to MMA and *muay boran*.

The decision to ban MMA events probably has more to do with cultural pride and protection of the global industry Muay Thai has become. The irony is that the rise of MMA has probably been the single largest factor fueling this growth, because top MMA fighters need to master core Muay Thai techniques to have any chance of success. The proof is readily apparent here in Phuket, which is home to several Muay Thai camps. Although their input is largely unappreciated by the authorities, they play an important role in attracting long-stay tourists year round.

History provides us with a rich tapestry of violent "sports" that would never be allowed in the modern world: jousting competitions and gladiator tournaments spring to mind.

Yet the type of hand-to-hand fighting of the kind currently manifested as MMA far predates even these ancient combat sports. It has been around since time immemorial and it is here to stay – regardless of what the SAT says about it.

For more about the MMA ban see page 15



You get wet, I'm out of here

I would like to wish all of Phuket and Thailand a Happy New Year. I hope everyone has a wonderful time. I remember my first year getting plastered with powder and water – conveniently I'm on a visa run for the week. But just because Songkran isn't my cup of tea, doesn't mean it isn't an excellent excuse to get wet in the streets – have fun kids.

*Old timer
Patong*

Beer in a tea cup

I was recently informed through the *Gazette* that following the closure of bars for the Phuket presidential election, bars and night entertainment venues would be allowed to be open as normal. However, Bangkok would observe a three-day alcohol ban in honor of HRH Princess Bejaratana Rajasuda, but Phuket was spared because it is a tourist destination.

Since then, several bar owners have been overheard claiming that local police have been telling them to close. This sort of situation arises annoyingly frequently.

Nobody in authority seems able to provide accurate and comprehensive guidelines to bar owners and the general population in a timely manner.

Several times a year, bar owners and managers are left hanging while the "official line" is either passed down the chain of command, or, as we suspect, made up on the spur of the moment by a busy police desk officer.

*Andre Andrews
Rawai*

Let's see the low season prices drop

High season has passed and though some cities like Chiang Mai will see one last tourism

Letters to the Editor

boom this weekend, everywhere else is starting to settle down.

Despite this, prices have not dropped. When I was told by a smug shopkeeper that costs had jumped for high season, I didn't actually believe that they would fall again in low season. However, the increase in price on a plate of cheap pad thai was 14 per cent.

Will it go up another 10 to 20 per cent next year?

There is a serious temptation to matter-of-factly tell the same shopkeeper that it's low season and pay them five to 10 baht less than I have been paying in the high season.

*Andy Churt
Patong*

Suffering back pain

Re: Phuket Gazette, Bangkok Hospital Phuket opens a new specialist spine center

"Good news for sufferers of back pain..." When I see a similar article about a similar center opening in a state hospital, then I'll agree it's "good news".

Many people simply can't afford treatment at Bangkok Hospital Phuket.

*Michael Pollock
Swindon, UK*

Turn it around

Re: Phuket Gazette, Only one way to solve Patong's problems, April 7

I'm glad to hear that they are turning things around in Patong. The current direction of the traffic flow is miserable. However, I can't help but to agree with last week's editorial "Only one way to solve Patong's problems".

Meeting after meeting is held to

discuss when the next meeting will be, and then when something does come to fruition, it's just way to avoid the real problem – in this case the lack of public transportation.

I will gladly withdraw my criticisms when I see the light rail system up and running.

*Travis Johnson
Kata*

Want to lend you a helping hand

It's terrible that the laws in Thailand forbid foreigners from doing volunteer work.

I understand that it protects Thai jobs by not allowing employers to claim that someone is a volunteer and then slip them cash under the table, but at the same time there are so many foreigners out there who are fond of Thailand.

It seems like an injustice to create so much red tape to prevent them from helping out.

There must be a better way to both protect Thai laborers and to allow foreigners to help.

*Tina Swift
Patong*

Stay under the radar

Re: Phuket Gazette, Threat of crackdown looms for illegal taxis, April 7

Phuket Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada was reported in some length speaking about illegal taxis. He was joined by others linking the drivers with, among other things, violence against tourists.

It has been my experience that you are far more likely to run into trouble with the "legal" tuk-tuk operators than you are with a guy who's trying to stay under the "mafia" radar.

*Nice one Cyril
Patong*

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Staying safe

LETTER FROM THE GOVERNOR

PHUKET generates billions of baht each year and most of that income is generated from tourism, so we must work our hardest to make tourists in Phuket feel safe.

We normally have our eyes open for any possible terrorist activity that may occur in our province, but we raised our security measures after the bombings in Yala and Haad Yai on March 31. It forced us to be more aware of the situation.

The areas that the terrorists are likely to target outside the disputed area in the three southern border provinces (Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat) include the main tourist destinations of Chiang Mai, Samui and Phuket.

The Ministry of Interior has issued security procedures for us to follow and we are observing those measures implicitly.

We are monitoring the situation closely and routinely hold meetings with the relevant organizations, such as the police and other administration departments to discuss the safety measures.

I have also asked for Civil Defense Volunteers and civilians to help police monitor the situation. They know who to report to if something unusual happens.

It is necessary to increase security measures in high-risk areas such as government offices, the airport and venues where large numbers of tourists gather.

I have asked the Phuket



Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha, 60, started governing Phuket in October 2010. Not appearing on this year's transfer list, he now has until October 2012 to represent the island as Governor.

Here, Gov Tri talks about the current security situation in the wake of the recent bomb attacks in Southern Thailand.

Tourist Association to inform hotels and businesses in high-risk areas to monitor for any unusual or suspicious activity. For example, if they see an unusual object or bag in the wrong place, they should report it immediately to the police.

Most restaurants, bars, shops and hotels on Soi Bangla have CCTV cameras installed in front of their establishments, so if anything happens in that area we will have video footage as evidence.

Cameras also help psychologically. Those intending to do harm will be deterred by the fact that they know that every move they make will be recorded.

We had a meeting on April 10 with all government departments, including village headman, Civil Defense Volunteers, army, navy, police officers and representatives from municipalities to discuss security measures that we want to adopt during the Songkran Festival and for the foreseeable future.

The main purpose of the meeting was to inform people on what

to do and who to contact should a suspicious incident occur.

With these meetings and security measures in place, I hope tourists feel safe when visiting and local residents feel safe living here.

Finally, I would like to wish local residents and tourists a happy Thai New Year. Local people should be good hosts for our visitors in order to make a good impression so our guests come back again.

Also I want everyone to celebrate this festival in the Thai way. Songkran is about greeting and paying respect to each other by using water. Any equipment that might do the harm such as high-powered water guns should not be used at all.

Last, but not least, I don't want anyone to drink and drive. We want the death toll and accident rate to be reduced to zero. I want everyone to enjoy the festival and those who are travelling home for Songkran to come back safely to be part of a strong community and help us develop Phuket.



Retired lawyers, doctors, aircraft captains and active entrepreneurs looking to pull out of Patong if the "bombing" doesn't stop.

Stop the firework fiasco

MY FRIENDS and I, 17 people in total, have been coming to Patong for many years. We always stay for three months and all together we spend around 12 million baht each trip, including our hotel expenses. We stay in hotels around the Patong Tower.

Now, for the first time in all these years, we are discussing never returning to Patong – we have alternative destinations in Cambodia and Vietnam.

Why? Every night is a nightmare. From midnight to five in the morning people shoot off noisy fireworks along the beach; we cannot sleep. This noise is so strong that even the windows are vibrating! And this is every night.

We have even found two empty firework containers on the fifth-floor balcony – what a fire danger.

We see people selling these fireworks at night, mainly in three places: in front of the Banana Disco, behind the Beach Cafe and in front of the Port Restaurant.

I know many people are aware of this situation and the severe disturbance caused by the fireworks.

Many have already left Patong

Island View

By Peter Huber

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

before their scheduled departures because of the fireworks. We thought about doing the same – leaving early.

We are now asking someone to help tourists enjoy their vacation, to help the tourism industry in Patong. Maybe the wholesalers should be stopped.

If this does not stop, we will bring this unacceptable situation to the public through various media.

We will post it on Facebook, where millions will read it.

We will publish it on the internet, where millions will read it.

We will make it known on public vacation island ratings and hotel ratings.

We will bring it to the attention of tourism associations in Germany, Switzerland and Austria.

We will bring it to the attention of the press.

We know that stopping the fireworks will not be easy, but it isn't impossible.

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

Down the yellow book road

I just moved from Huai Yot to Phuket, and I want to change my address in my yellow book [house registration for foreigners] to my current address.

The first time I asked about this at the registration office, they said that they did not believe a foreigner can change a registered addresses from one place to another inside Thailand, but that they would look into the matter.

After three days, they called me and said that I had to go to Huai Yot and get a new yellow book there. Can this be true? Do I really have to travel 600 kilometers [there and back] to change my address?

Sverre Evensen, Pa Khlok

Penrudee Srirak, Administrative Officer at Thalang District Office, replies:

Foreigners can change their registered addresses from one place to another in Thailand.



It's along road back to Huai Yot.

To change the address in your yellow book, or "TR13", you must inform the District Office for the area of the address registered

in the book. The staff at that District Office will then issue you two documents citing your relocation and they will remove your name from the house registration book (the yellow book) for the house where you used to live.

You then must take those two documents to the District Office for the area where you now live in Phuket.

The owner of the house you now live in must be present so the staff can then enter your name in the house registration book for where you now live.

Once you have had your name removed from the house registration book for where you used to live, you have 15 days to have your name registered with the new house, or you may be fined up to 1,000 baht.

For more information contact the Registration Department at Thalang District Office at 076-313992.

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

How many Burmese in a truck?

Is it legal to transport as many as 80 people in the back of a truck? If an accident were to happen, many people would die.

You can see this kind of transport every day in Patong, as Burmese construction workers end their working day.

Once my wife and I counted at least 90 people in one truck. It is not unusual to find 20 people in the back of a pickup truck.

Leif Berggren Patong

Sarawut Chuprasit, Kathu Traffic Police Chief replies:

According to Land Traffic Act of 1979, Section 20, a driver is responsible for not letting human or animal passengers or loads to fall, leak, give out smell, reflect light or blow away from the vehicle in a way which may cause harm to the public health, put people in danger or damage property.

Anyone found in violation of this law can be given a fine of up to 500 baht.

As such, we are not concerned with how many passengers are in a vehicle, as long as they are properly protected and don't pose a threat to others.

However, even if a single passenger is sitting on the edge of a truck bed, or otherwise positioned in such a way that a body part is dangerously protruding outside of the vehicle, we are authorized to arrest and fine the driver of the vehicle.

For more information contact the Kathu traffic police at 076-342720.

Transit proposals keep coming

By C Plerin and A Khamlo

TWO more parties have engaged the Phuket provincial government about the prospect of developing the island's multi-billion baht light rail and tunnel mega projects.

On Tuesday, a multinational delegation from the Chinese construction giant China Gezhouba Group Corporation (CGGC) visited with Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha.

"We are the biggest company in China and the 80th largest company of the top 220 big construction companies in the world," said Mr Zhu Dongru, CGGC Southeast Asia Branch General Manager.

"We have projects in 49 countries worth more than US\$4 billion in investment. We even worked on a major waterworks project in Bangkok 30 years ago," he added.

CGGC has experience with dam construction, tunnels and light-rail projects, Gov Tri said.

"The company is also backed by the Chinese Government. Not many companies are underwritten by their governments," he added.

Mr Zhu told the press: "I know Phuket really needs a better transportation system. I saw the traffic on my way from Phuket Airport into town... Phuket is growing through its tourism industry."

"We can easily loan the budget from banks in China. We are sup-



Zhu Dongru GM of CGGC SE Asia.

ported by the Chinese Government," Mr Zhu affirmed.

This visit follows the visit of another multinational delegation of representatives interested in developing the island's light-rail system, and the Patong Tunnel.

Last Thursday, Woo Mei Bo Mable, finance director of Gold Phoenix Construction Consultant Co Ltd, said her group was in Phuket to collect details about the construction requirements of both projects. These would be studied in depth, after which time the company would confirm whether or not it is prepared to move forward.

Gold Phoenix, which set up offices in Bangkok last April, is the Thai arm of Zhi Shan Yan Construction Shares Ltd, a joint-venture firm with offices in Hong Kong and South Korea.

Ms Mable said the study for the light-rail project provided by Phuket Provincial Office was now 10 years old. It comprises three routes cov-

ering a total of about 70 kilometers at an originally estimated cost of 22.5 billion baht.

The team's engineering consultants in Japan would study the requirements from April 15 to 22 and determine how much it would cost. The original cost projection appeared to be "in the right ballpark", she said.

All of the needed funding for the project is already available and the company could begin work within three months of approval, she said.

"If everything is okay, we will come back to confirm our interest in investing in Phuket," she said.

The company's initial interest in the project stemmed from Phuket's designation as the world's fifth most popular tourist destination, she said.

Company representatives toured both project sites the day before, reportedly meeting with the Patong Tunnel's most ardent proponent, Patong Mayor Pian Keesin.

It was the second time Golden Phoenix representatives have visited Phuket, following a visit made in June last year with a multinational group of executives, engineers and investors from Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong and the US.

Among those making his second visit was Charles JS Wang of US-based venture capital firm JS Rock Capital Ltd.

He told Governor Tri that his company was interested in funding both projects, which were approved in principal during the "mobile Cabi-



Gov Tri (left) listens to JS Rock Capital engineer director Dale Andersen last Thursday at Phuket provincial hall. Photos: Atchaa Khamlo



PICK ME: A multinational delegation from Gold Phoenix Construction Consultant made the firm's second visit to Phuket in a year.

net" meeting in Phuket last month.

Gov Tri said both projects could be developed at the same time, but they had to be presented to his office separately, and that as soon as the company submits its report to his office he would forward it to the Ministry of Transport for review and possible Cabinet approval.

Mr Wang said that the light-rail

project would probably require about US\$500 million (15.5bn baht) investment, while the Patong Tunnel would cost about US\$200mn (6.3bn baht).

Tophon Kraianupongsa, Managing Director of Gold Phoenix, said the light rail project would most likely resemble the Bangkok Bus Rapid Transport (BRT) project in Bangkok.

Thai Visa penetrates neighbor markets

THAIVISA.COM, the leading English-language social networking website about Thailand, is expanding its operations to Myanmar and Cambodia.

"We have carefully studied internet traffic trends and we see a sharp rise in search traffic and interest about our neighbor Myanmar," said Barry Main, marketing director of Bangkok-based Thaivisa Expat Group Co Ltd.

"We believe it's pretty easy for us to get a good market share of forum traffic regarding Myanmar as we are good at retaining visitors coming in from the global search traffic. ThaiVisa's intention is to become the market leader in Myanmar as well."

"We have the logistics and infrastructure ready in the framework - we already have cloud hosting, support, market-

ing, sales and administration - and we are happy to announce the soft launch today of the Myanmar Forum," he said.

In response to visitors searching for and inquiring about visa issues, business inquiries, hotel bookings and information about travel and lodgings in Myanmar, the new forum includes a general forum, news, visa forum, a business section and an economy forum,

Mr Main explained.

"Together with our travel partners and news providers, we are certain that we will be able to provide a complete service for Myanmar in the same manner that made ThaiVisa.com so successful regarding Thailand-related content. We are also looking for new service providers who are willing to work with us," he said.

Thaivisa is also entering the Cambodia market later this month with a similar concept.

ThaiVisa.com, for which the *Phuket Gazette* is the news and events strategic partner for its Phuket Forum, is the largest expatriate website in the world with more than 45,000 unique visitors per day, serving more than 6 million page views per month, according to truehits.net and Google Analytics.

- *Phuket Gazette*



OPENING UP: Myanmar looks to be a lucrative tourist market with a world of opportunities.



NEW FRONTIER: A family of tourists visiting a temple in Myanmar. Photo by Wagaung

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NEW
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Wage rise not affecting costs

By Khanitta Rodpasa

DAILY minimum wage rises implemented in Phuket and Bangkok earlier this month will have a minimal impact on consumer goods and produce prices, local trade and agricultural officials have assured.

Supacha Bunthalit, Department of Internal Trade Phuket Office chief told the *Gazette* that prices of most consumer goods will remain the same since Phuket isn't a [major] manufacturing province.

"Most consumer goods imported to Phuket from neighboring provinces are produced by laborers who

earn less than 300 baht per day.

"Currently, the cost of production is not increasing or decreasing, but depends on how long government measures will be able to maintain prices," Supacha said.

Winai Kwankhaew, who heads the Phuket Agricultural Extension Office agrees.

"Produce prices should remain as usual since most farmers in Phuket already earn more than 300 baht a day," he told the *Gazette*.

"Phuket farmers follow the principles of His Majesty's 'sufficiency economics' model, which allows for a better quality life and more hap-

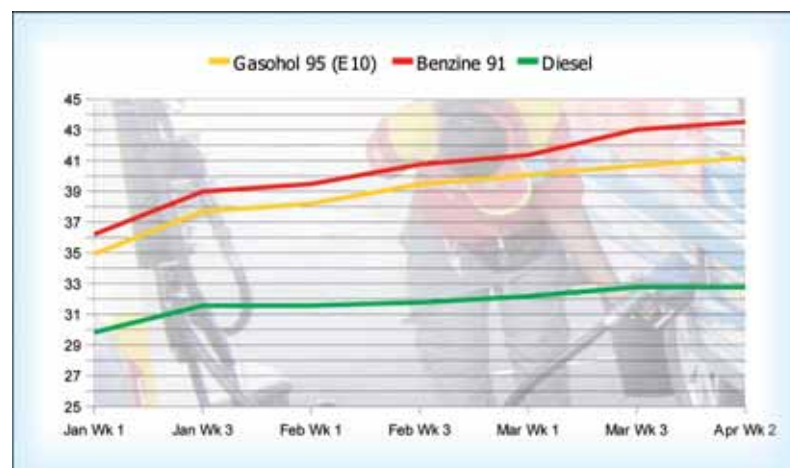
piness, [as opposed to being driven by profit margins]," he said.

Phuket Co-op Extension Office Chief Rungroj Songsanan echoed the reasoning of other officials.

He said, "We import most products from other provinces where laborers make less than Phuket wages so they should continue to sell at the same prices," he said.

"Phuket trade is subject to competitive pricing and varying qualities of products and produce.

"Thus consumers should be selective and choose the products with the most suitable price for themselves," Chief Rungroj added.



BIGGER CONCERN: A 20% petrol price jump will definitely have impacts.

Price trends showcased selectively

AMID growing complaints from consumers about the rising cost of goods, the Commerce Ministry has insisted that prices are under control.

Critics claim that only part of the truth has been reported to the Cabinet and the public, by intentionally showcasing some products, while ignoring others.

Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and Commerce Minister Boonsong Teriyaphirom have continuously reiterated that the cost of living has not risen during this administration.

Meanwhile, prices of a number of other consumer goods that were not reported to the Cabinet have continued to increase during this government's term.

For example, the retail prices of daily necessities such as shampoo, liquid dishwashing detergent, soap, laundry detergent and foods are 5-10 % higher than at the same time last year.

Recently, The Nation surveyed cooked food prices and found they had gone up from an average of 25-35 baht per dish to 30-45bt.

Although the government asked some retailers to sell cheap cooked food at 25-30 baht per dish, the move failed to account for rising daily expenses.

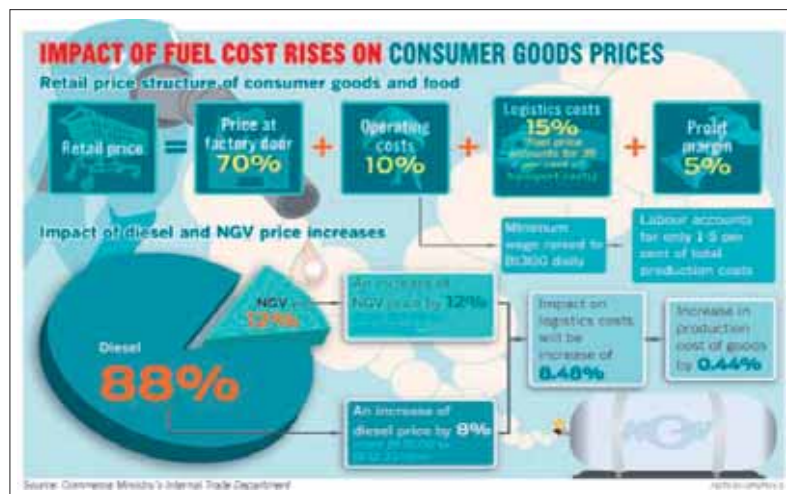
Despite the launch of price control measures by the ministry, suppliers of most essential goods have been hiking retail prices since last year.

Some companies cannot adjust their retail prices because their products are considered as staples and have been put on the government's price control list.

However, the survey found that those companies have shifted to producing more value-added products or changing formulas to allow them to lift retail prices above the ceiling.

Some packages have also been downsized.

For instance, the contents of a bag of liquid dish-washing detergent has been decreased gradually from 600-650cc to 500-550cc. The production of ordinary for-



CHAIN REACTION: Many are skeptical about the accuracy of analyses.

mula shampoos and soaps has been cut back, while new formulas have been created and promoted to attract consumers.

Boonchai Chokwatana, chairman of Saha Pathanapibul, a leading local manufacturing and trading conglomerate, said the company eventually will need to raise prices as it is facing cost pressures from petrol, wages and raw materials.

"The increase in the petrol price has severely impacted the company in the form of rising costs of imported raw materials and transportation. We however have delayed price increases while our raw material stocks last, which will be for two more months," he said.

When the government increased the minimum wage at the beginning of this month, it added about 1 billion baht to the personnel expenses of Saha Group, which employs more than 100,000 people in total.

The wage rise has caused some of Saha Group's manufacturing businesses which are labor intensive, such as its footwear makers, to be less competitive in export markets, he said.

However, some products, such as laundry and liquid dishwashing detergents, which rely more on automated machinery in their production process, have been less impacted by the new wage.

Saha and other manufacturers have been asked by the government to maintain prices since last year, but manufacturers have been forced to adjust their prices to cope with the new cost structure.

Some of them have also reduced product sizes to maintain

current prices and to be competitive in the market, he added.

Nophadol Siwabutr, corporate affairs director for Nestle (Thai), said price increases are the company's last option when facing cost pressures.

He pointed out that even during the extreme shortages of bottled water resulting from the massive flooding last year, Nestle imported bottles from its plants in other countries and sold them at original local price, and thus absorbed all additional costs.

"Looking ahead to the immediate future, Nestle has no plans to increase the costs of our products as a result of the new minimum wage," he said.

The Commerce Ministry's Internal Trade Department has estimated that the retail prices of goods should not increase substantially.

It said that the increases in fuel and NGV prices will only

boost the retail prices of goods by 0.44 per cent. The increase in the minimum wage to 300 baht per day will account for only 1-5% of total production costs. This should not be a major factor for retailers to raise prices (see graphic).

The ministry has reported on only the prices of 12 products, mainly fresh foods, saying they declined last month year on year.

The products with prices reported to the Cabinet were pork, chicken, eggs, morning glory, bitter gourds, tamarind, garlic, beans, Chinese cabbages, cucumbers, limes and cooking oil.

It was reported that the retail prices of most products dropped by 3.93-53.45% in March, year-on-year.

Only one product was reported as gaining in price. That was lime, which jumped by 30.3 % over the period.

— The Nation

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Mac attack

Computers running OSX hit hard by Flashback Trojan.



Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

IT WAS inevitable that somebody would create a Trojan – a botnet, no less – for the Mac OS X. But I don't think anybody expected the first major Trojan would hit as hard, or so many people, as the one we're witnessing right now.

According to numerous sources, more than 600,000 Macs have been infected – and most of the people who are infected don't know it. Two weeks ago, a Russian company called Dr Web reported the massive infection. Last week, Kaspersky Labs verified it. "We were able to log requests from the bots. Since every request from the bot contains its unique hardware UUID [a number that's different for each Mac - Ed], we were able to calculate the number of active bots. Our logs indicate that a total of 600,000+ unique bots connected to our server in less than 24 hours."

Yes, you read that correctly. Kaspersky set up a "honey pot" (that's the technical term for it) and within 24 hours, more than 600,000 infected Macs phoned home. While more than half of the infected Macs phoned in from the US, there were also infected Macs calling from Thailand. Most

embarrassingly, 274 of those phone home episodes originated in Cupertino, California, the home of Apple Inc.

If you own a Mac, or know somebody who owns a Mac, they need to run a check. Now. They also need to install antivirus software, just like us poor beleaguered Windows users. Now.

But first let me explain how Flashback works, and why it's so disconcerting. Flashback can infect in many different ways. The

people who created Flashback aren't sitting on their laurels: the primary infection method has changed at least three times in the past three months.

Most commonly, Flashback is placed on infected web sites. If you go to an infected web site using a Mac and Safari, the Flashback infector looks to see if you have a specific older, unpatched version of Java installed. If so, Flashback simply infects your machine: you don't need to do a thing. That's called a "drive-by attack" and it's the most lethal of all web-based infection methods. You get infected, and you have no idea that you're infected – and you didn't do anything to deserve it.

The second method involves a bit of social engineering. If Flash-

Apple side, though, have never seen a bogus certificate, and click through. If you click Continue, your Mac gets "pwned" (an expression that originates from "owned" used to describe when a hacker takes remote control of a server or another computer).

The latest version of Flashback, called Flashback.N, has a much "improved" social engineering trick. If you're using a Mac and Safari, and visit an infected web site, you'll see the spinning gear "busy" icon for an extended period of time, followed by a typical Apple Software Update dialog. There's no warning on the dialog about an invalid certificate: the dialog just says "Type your password to allow Software Update to make changes."

Many people do, and their machines get taken over.

This is only the beginning – just the infection mechanisms have been discovered and documented. It's hard to find unbiased reports. Mac lovers seem to react with "it's no big deal." Well, sorry, but it is a big deal: 600,000 subverted machines and counting, with a drive-by infection mechanism and a sophisticated rootkit style botnet – no matter how you define it, that's a big deal.

So once your machine is infected, what happens? Again,

it's hard to find reliable details, but it looks as if the infecting program downloads a much larger payload from the internet, then forces Safari to quit, and installs "root" programs that run underneath Mac OS X. That's what makes this program so hard to detect.

The root programs inject code into Safari that makes it a silent keylogger, looking for user names and passwords that you type into the browser. Those user names and passwords are stored up, and then periodically sent to a waiting web site. The exact name of the web site is calculated in a complex way, so if you look at the infected program, it is difficult to figure out where the stolen data is going next.

Kaspersky managed to reverse-engineer the naming routine, registered one of the domain names, Krymbrjasnof.com, and set up their honey pot on that domain. That's how they found 600,000 different Macs phoning home in 24 hours, with just one domain.

I can't find any definitive information about changes in Flashback, but most botnets are set up to look at multiple web sites, and download updates if they're available. Which means if



HACKED MAC: It was bound to happen one day. Photo: Micael Tattoo Faccio

you're infected now and don't clear up the infection, the next version of Flashback could start looking at everything, not just what you type on the web. And Flashback will upgrade itself, no intervention required.

What's Apple doing? Not much. The original Flashback – which doesn't seem to have infected nearly as many people – appeared at the end of September last year, where it masqueraded as an update to Adobe Flash. Apple is notorious for having dropped Flash on the Mac more than a year ago: you can't even get it to run on iPads and iPhones, and you have to install it manually on Macs. That's why the original Flashback didn't infect many machines.

But these later versions take advantage of Java, which runs on all Macs (but not on iPads or iPhones). Java was updated to fix the two security holes I mentioned, way back in February. But Apple keeps its own version of Java, and Apple didn't update that version until two weeks ago.

The Mac has a malware scanner called XProtect, but it's proved toothless. Apple's updated it twice recently to protect against Flashback, but the Flashback authors have found easy, quick workarounds.

If all of this sounds to you like Microsoft all over again – well, you're not alone.

So what can you – or any other Mac user – do?

First, run over to Dr Web's site and see if your Mac is in their database of compromised machines. The simple instructions are at public.dev.drweb.com/april. They're updating the list constantly, so if you're not on the list, check back again in a week or two.

Second, get patched! Download and install the latest Apple patch, at support.apple.com/kb/HT5228

Third, get some sort of antivirus program! The most recent version of Flashback won't even try to install itself on a Mac system running Little Snitch, XCode, Virus Barrier, iAntiVirus, Avast, ClamXav, HTTP Scoop, or Packet Peeper. Why? The guys who wrote Flashback are smart – they don't want to draw any attention to themselves.

Fourth, if you're running Mac OS Leopard or Tiger (OS X 10.4 or 10.5), move up to Snow Leopard (10.6) at least. Why? Apple didn't even bother to patch Leopard or Tiger. If you're running Leopard or Tiger you're completely exposed, and there are no patches.

Fifth, realize that Macs can and will get infected. If you're asked for a system password, don't blithely type it and forget it. Watch the dialogs and see if they make sense. If you aren't expecting to install a program, don't do it. The halcyon days are over.

Yes, I'm saying Mac users need to start acting more like Windows users. Sorry, but it's true.

Seth Bareiss holds computer sessions on every-other Wednesday afternoon, from 1 to 3pm. If you have a Windows problem that needs to be solved, drop by one of Seth's free afternoon sessions, 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.



One rotten apple can infect a whole bunch. Photo: Alex Murphy



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Securing your family's financial future

Living the life of an expat can be a rich and rewarding experience as long as you are able to work, but should things go terribly wrong will you and your family still be able to afford to live the Phuket lifestyle?

WHEN it comes to securing a family's financial future many people think about investments and pension funds and there is nothing wrong with this.

However building up investments are just part of putting the foundations down to ensure you are able to provide your family with the financial future you worked hard all your life to achieve.

Having spent a number of years based in Asia enjoying a lifestyle that I have become accustomed to, thinking that I would have to return to my home country does not exactly fill me with joy and many people who are enjoying our Asian shores feel very much the same way. So what can be done?

As said before, building up a solid financial position is all well and good through savings and investments, however, what is the point of building a house without making sure it is built on firm footings? We all work hard to provide ourselves and our family with a standard of living that we hope is superior to what we experienced when we lived in our own countries. So we have to think, what, if anything, could make us swap the sun baked shores of Phuket for a cold, wet Yorkshire winter (for me personally)?

One question that begs to be answered is what if I was unable to work? How would I be able to continue to subsidize my own and my family's lifestyle? Personally speaking, I know my wife would not be thrilled at the idea of moving back to the UK, spending the weekend on Cleethorpes beach (not that there is anything wrong with Cleethorpes beach) but it isn't exactly Surin beach is it? How many of us know for sure that should anything happen to us that our family's financial future would be secure? I would imagine not very many.

As expats do we have a firm benefits

system to fall back on? Can benefit systems be relied upon to provide us with a good standard of living should we be unable to work through ill health?

Do we know for sure that, if the worst was to happen, we would have enough life insurance or

critical illness insurance to ensure that the kids could continue with a good standard of education or if I was unable to work again that I have enough cover to supplement my standard of living? I think again the majority of us are able to safely say that this is very doubtful, so what can we do?

There are many different solutions out there from life and critical illness insurance to health insurance and income protection insurance. In many instances, covering yourself with the right level of protection does not cost an arm and a leg. One mistake that many people tend to make is believing that they have enough cover, and that policies that were taken out years ago will still suffice in providing the levels of cover required. For instance, if you have a policy that you took out 10 years ago at a point in your life when you had no children and now have two kids (many of us know that bringing up children is not exactly cheap) would this still be suitable for our needs?

In our lives we all go through changing events, be it having kids, getting a promotion or getting married. At all of these times we should sit back and re-assess the things that we have put into place. Being idle could cost us much more than we think and simple solutions are readily available.

For more information on health, life and critical illness insurance please contact Alyman@montpeliergroup.com.

Island Investor

By Anthony Lyman



The island lifestyle gets more complicated when bringing up children. Photo: Photon_de

Burma's gain could mean Thailand's loss

IN THE face of closer economic integration in Southeast Asia and the opening up of Burma's economy, Thailand may be confronted with a shortage of workers in the long term.

"What we are concerned about is the flow of labour that will take place after the market is liberalised [in 2015]. A labour shortage is among our top concerns," said Sutapa Amornvivat, chief economist at Siam Commercial Bank's Economic Intelligence Centre.

All Asean countries were likely to badly need workers, particularly unskilled labour, as the number of planned investment projects would increase.

"These unskilled labourers could flow back to those countries and Thailand could suffer shortages," Sutapa noted.

A number of investment projects expected in these coun-

tries, including Burma, would require intensive labour, mostly unskilled, she said.

With Burma poised to open up its economy, inviting more direct investment and creating more jobs, Thailand may face a shortage of unskilled labour from neighbouring countries.

"A number of unskilled labourers in Thailand could shift back to their own countries like Burma, which are about to open their economies," said Somprawin Manprasert, an assistant professor of Economics at Chulalongkorn University.

After Burma opens its economy, many economists and investors expect a surge in direct investment, particularly labour-intensive industries.

So far, the government had not provided a clear plan in response to a possible shift of unskilled labour, he said.

— The Nation



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Ajarn Jay on Deep South troubles, Burmese exodus

DR THITINAN “Ajarn Jay” Pongsudhirak is Director of the Institute of Security and International Studies at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. A former op-ed contributor for the *Phuket Gazette*, Ajarn Jay was in Phuket to speak at the International Business Association of Phuket (IBAP) meeting on March 31.

In an exclusive interview before that talk, he sat down with News Editor Stephen Fein and News Manager Chris Husted to discuss several topics affecting the island and its future.

Stephen Fein: How big a threat to Thai security is the Deep South and the recent bombings there?

Dr Thitinan Pongsudhirak: There has been an exhaustion of studies on the Deep South. The structure of the conflict and the insurgency has not changed over the past five years.

There is some insurgency involved, but there is also some domestic criminality involved. If you were engaging in smuggling, money laundering, trafficking – there are a lot of all these crimes as well – you would also want some instability, not peace. A lot of the people involved are officials, key police, local politicians.

But the car bombs were pretty clearly the handiwork of insurgents. There are a range of them led by the Barisan Revolusi Nasional, or BRNC. From studies there seems to be a consensus that they number from 2,000 to 5,000, in disparate groups. They don't have a clear line of command; they are not under one roof, one commander. There were some talks about negotiations, about resolution, but without progress.

The conflict has been confined to the Deep South: specifically Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat and a few districts of Songkhla. That tells us a lot of things. It tells us that this is not an international terrorist movement. If it were international they would not be confined to a specific geographical area.

Second, it should tell us that it could spread, possibly to [tourist destinations such as] Phuket and Chiang Mai and the ramifications would be dire.

One big car bomb in Phuket or Bangkok or Chiang Mai would be a game changer for Thailand.

SF: I think the Lee Gardens Hotel bombing sent serious chills down some spines here in Phuket.

TP: I think it is only a reminder. It's potent and deadly, but if you look back at the patterns of previous incidents, there were some very serious and grave incidents in the past. Lee Gardens is only the most recent reminder that this has not gone away.

SF: But the Lee Gardens device was on a different level than anything we've seen in the past.

TP: Yes. Over time the technology has been diffused. Many people can now make car bombs now, but the material required still requires some sophistication, some access, some logistics and organization. So, to sum up, it has been confined so far but we cannot take it for granted that it will not spread. We have to be vigilant.

We have also to look at the modalities for resolution. From a study of all the analyses done, it is clear that these modalities ultimately have to include negotiations. If the authorities cannot eliminate the insurgents completely, like they did in Sri Lanka, then the insurgents cannot really win and take over control of infrastructure such as power stations and then later move into Provincial Halls. So the insurgents must have an interest in getting what they want short of complete control.

It will also take a change of mindset in Bangkok. Some level of autonomy could be broached, perhaps a special administrative region or zone of the kind that already exists for Pattaya.



Dr Thitinan Pongsudhirak, Director of the Institute of Security and International Studies at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok.

BURMESE EXODUS?

Chris Husted: I am not sure if you are aware that we have at least 100,000 Burmese living here in Phuket, maybe about 30,000 of which are legally registered. After the elections in Burma, we are already starting to see a lot of them go back. They do much of the heavy lifting here in Phuket, providing cheap labor for the construction industry. They even built the Big Buddha image that is now a famous tourist attraction.

Do you think it is too early to predict what the long-term effect on the labor market here will be?

TP: This is a pattern nationwide, Burmese migrant workers doing the heavy lifting. Are they mostly Karen?

CH: No, they are mostly Mon.

TP: Ah, in central Thailand and Bangkok, they are mostly Karen. This is probably because of the

transport situation. There they come through Karen State. So in this case imagine they come in through Ranong. I'd like to know if their work here is seasonal.

CH: I think most of them stay for a long time. We recently interviewed one man who said, "After 20 years, it is time to go home."

TP: Well, There no doubt that there has been growing pressure on wages already, even before the explosion of progress we have seen in Myanmar over the past six to eight months. Without that there would be more migrant workers coming from Myanmar.

Labor is becoming more expensive, but the return to Burma of some migrant workers might not be for the long term.

It depends on how things shape up in Myanmar. There will be a lot of business there, of course, but it will take time. In the me-

dium term, I don't rule out they will go back and look for work there. But it is all about jobs, where the jobs are and where the pay is. If they can have some of that in Myanmar, then yes – we will see some return, but don't forget that we are looking at a more integrated labor market.

Mons can come and go. They'll make their calculations based on where the jobs are. In the ethnic minority areas, it is still no so easy. Many of the ceasefire agreements are quite tentative, and they have to start [economic production] from scratch. So give it six months and see what happens. I wouldn't be surprised to see many of them coming back here.

SF: What about the second-generation Burmese? There are some who were born here and have never even been to Burma.

TP: They are not going back. This happens in other countries too, where you have second generation and beyond. This is why I advocate that the Thai state should accommodate them through education and healthcare at the minimum, and some residency rights eventually leading to citizenship.

This is not uncommon in other countries. In the long term I think we will have to do that, otherwise what will they do here if they don't have healthcare and education and they don't want to go back to Myanmar? They need jobs, rights and so on. They have to be productive – and there are thousands and thousands of them.

MYANMAR RISING

SF: Do you think Myanmar will emerge as a serious competitor in regional markets that were previously dominated by other countries, such as Thailand?

TP: It's hard to start from scratch. Look at the case of Thailand, we have a "first mover" advantage, this critical mass. We have come a long way. For one to start from scratch with no easy template, it is going to be hard to compete. Thailand has a lot of problems and there are rising challenges as well, but it still has a lot going for it.

SF: What about in the tourism sector?

TP: If you ask a typical tourist 20 years from now if they would like to go to Dawei or some resort in Myanmar rather than here, some would choose to go there out of novelty, pristine water and so on. But many will still choose to come here still because of the combination of convenience, food, hospitality and so on. So I think the future will be okay, but Phuket will need to make some adjustments.

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TKO! Thailand bans Mixed Martial Arts



SAT believes MMA will hurt the image of traditional Muay Thai. (Above) fight in Bangkok. Photo: Martin Garrido

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

THE Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT) has banned Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) events, claiming the young fight sport is "too brutal" and could damage the image of Muay Thai.

SAT officials met late last month and decided that it was illegal under the 1999 boxing act to stage an MMA event in the country.

MMA, a combat sport that combines upright fighting with ground work, is one of the world's fastest growing sports. Fighters can use techniques from a variety of martial arts including boxing, wrestling, Muay Thai, karate, international kickboxing, taekwondo and judo.

So far, there have been two professional events staged in Bangkok, both organized by DARE, a promotion company that's attempting to, "create a new generation of internationally credited Thai fighters, who are not only champions in their native sport, Muay Thai, but also...in the most challenging and demanding combat sport in the world, Mixed Martial Arts."

If the SAT has its way, those fights will be the last.

SAT deputy governor Sakol Wannapong told reporters that MMA would "hurt the image of Muay Thai".

"If you want to do this kind of business, you should do it in another country," he said. "Organizing MMA events here could mislead the public into believing that Muay Thai is brutal."

However, the ban is only against organizing MMA events, leaving the door open for the many tourists who arrive year round on Phuket to train in Muay Thai as well as MMA.

William McNamara, owner of Tiger Muay Thai and Mixed

Martial Arts, spoke briefly with the *Phuket Gazette* last week about the ban.

William made it clear that he didn't foresee the ban having any adverse affect on the gym.

"We don't get involved in organizing [professional] events, and our bread-and-butter is really the Muay Thai program," he said.

Tiger Muay Thai is well known on the island for its end of the month "BBQ Beat-Down", which allows amateur fighters training at the gym to step into the ring, or cage, in front of a well-fed crowd.

William explains that since the fighters at the "BBQ Beat-Down" are all amateurs it might be possible to continue to host MMA con-

tests at the end of the night, after the Muay Thai fights, as they usually do.

However, at this point he is having his staff look into the situation and is prepared to follow the new law in full.

"I think we can still put on a fantastic Barbeque Beat-Down without MMA fights," said William.

Down the road from Tiger Muay Thai is another training camp well known for its MMA training, Top Team.

Boyd Clarke, the owner of Top Team, explained to the *Gazette* that the ban hadn't come as a surprise.

"When we built the gym we were looking into building a stadium attached to it, but held off knowing that there was a possible future threat to us holding MMA events," he said.

With many MMA events throughout Asia, Boyd, like William, doesn't expect the ban to have a serious impact on his business.

"It's a little bit of a shame that we can't have these guys fighting in Thailand, but it doesn't really affect their careers or our business," Boyd said.

We're also a Muay Thai gym, so we've always got that aspect

that's never going to be affected," he added.

Top Team MMA fighters fighting with DARE have been told that they will still be able to get fights, according to Boyd.

Thailand branding MMA as too brutal is the exact same thing as has happened in every other country, and that has just been proven wrong, explained Boyd.

In America when it first came out, it was "this is too brutal, this needs to be banned", then they proved the naysayers wrong and created one of the largest growing sports after the American branding, he continued.

As MMA has evolved, certain rules have been set in place, creating a greater distance between it and *Vale tudo* "anything goes", which MMA evolved from.

The introduction of weight-classes, time limits on rounds and light (4oz), open-fingered gloves has all been done to improve the safety of the sport and allow it to become more mainstream.

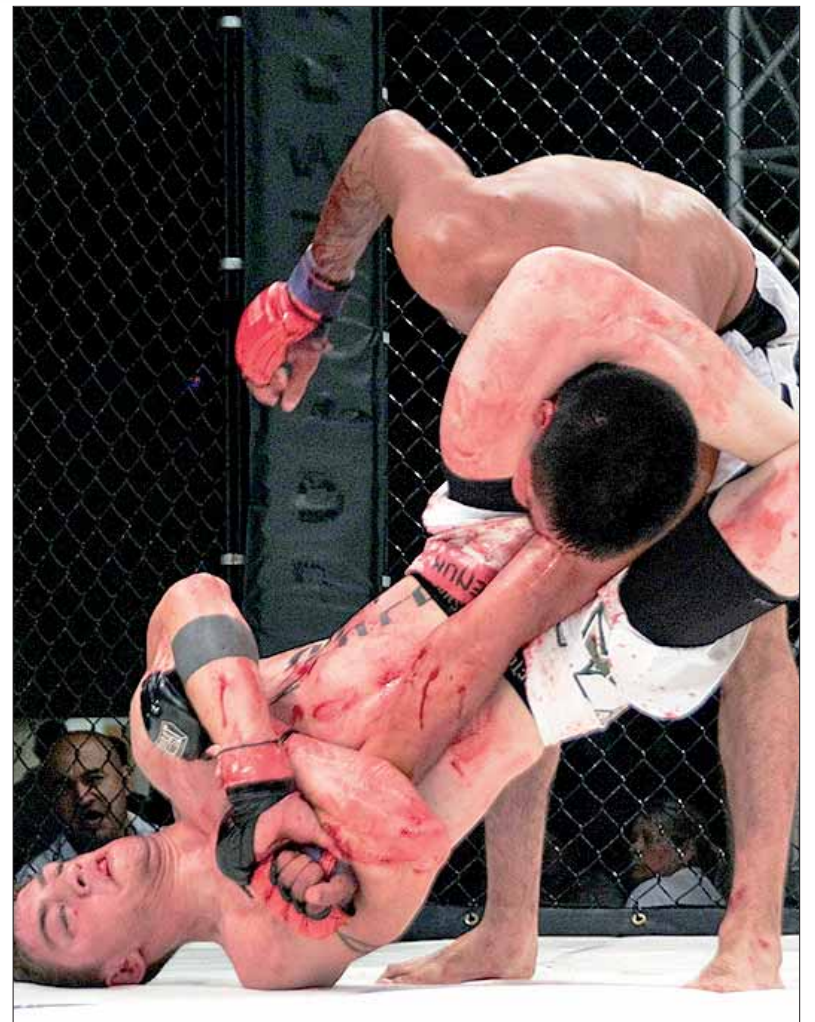
"It's a little bit of naivety... As far as I know the SAT officials that are making the comments have not actually been to an [MMA] event," Boyd said.

Many observers suspect the ban has less to do with its supposed brutality and more to do with protecting Muay Thai, a billion-dollar industry employing thousands of Thais, noted *Fighters Only*.


"The people who promote and invest money into Muay Thai are hugely passionate and it's the whole culture of the country," said Boyd.

As a business owner and a long-term expat. I think it could really benefit this country, because it already does, as far as tourism and people coming out here to learn and train mixed-martial arts," Boyd said.

However, he went on to explain that there was no need to rush into making changes to the recent ban. Acceptance of MMA in Thailand would have to originate from a grassroots movement involving individual Thai trainers and camps, not from foreigners, he said.



UFC (Ultimate Fighting Championship) league fight, "Carnage at the Creek 6", on June 6 2009 in Kamilche, Washington USA. Photo: Kelly Bailey



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Look out world, here we come!

The Asia Center Foundation celebrates its 10th anniversary this year and recently held a graduation ceremony at Prince of Songkhla University for 18 young academics who will progress into secondary education with hopes of achieving an actual university degree in the future.

By Bruce Stanley

I RECALL visiting the Asia Center's first facility in Patong soon after they began accepting children. It was just a couple of small rooms surrounded by muddy swamp, but was full of the happy sounds of children learning to read and others singing songs. Roelien Muller was the founder and continues now as Director of the Asia Center Foundation.

"I was living in South Africa working in various project-based industries and felt like I wanted to do something worthwhile to help children. When I learned about the need for children in Patong to have a safe place to stay in the daytime while their parents were working, I decided that would be a worthwhile project."

Roelien moved to Phuket with her young son and since then has spent the past 10 years building the school that started with a few students, into an educational center that now cares for

65 children from the ages of three to six years. The Asia Center Foundation also operates a safe house for 10 children offering full care and another building on Koh Sireh that provides support for 35 Burmese children.

"Thanks to the generous support of World's Children's Fund, we have been able

to expand our programs and hire teachers and assistants. Our Chairman is Eam Thavornwongwongse, who through the Kata Group is constantly providing us with help. And we get a lot of support from Patrick Cotter and his work with the international rugby tournament each year where athletes get sponsored on our behalf."

In addition to regular classes, students also participate in a skills-based youth development program where they learn music, water safety and train on computers with a

view toward a brighter future.

Recently, the Asia Center Foundation held a graduation for 18 of their students at the Prince of Songkla University (PSU), Kathu campus. These students have finished their education with the ACF and will enter government schools to further their learning.

"We held the graduation at the university because I want these under-privileged children to feel like they can study and

be successful in life and perhaps go to university. We also receive support from a community outreach program sponsored by PSU."

The graduation ceremony was attended by parents and friends who enjoyed watching the children dance and demonstrate their team building skills, which will help them develop successfully later in life.



An ACF student practices her valedictorian speech for a degree in the future no doubt.



Roelien Muller (seated center) with ACF staff.



THREE LITTLE KIDS FROM SCHOOL ARE WE: ACF students in their graduation robes pose delightfully for posterity in celebration of their achievement. Photos: Bruce Stanley



AVE ATQUE VALE: Graduating students from Asia Center Foundation with their certificates.



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Here's to good health

PHUKET plays host to a lot of festivals many of which involve eating and drinking but a festival with a difference is being launched next month with the first ever "Phuket Health and Fitness Festival 2012".

Organized through the Rawai-Nai Harn South Coast Experience the festival will run from May 11 through to May 13 and will take place in the south of the island.

During the festival participants will be able to attend seminars and activities held simultaneously at Atmanjai Wellness Center, The Golden Tulip Mangosteen Resort & Spa, Serenity Resort & Residences; The Vijitt Resort as well as Nai Harn Lake and the Big Buddha.

There will be numerous guest speakers including Dr John Hinwood, an international speaker, facilitator, mentor and chiropractic consultant based in Brisbane.



MIRACLE WORKER: Dr John Hinwood.

Seminar subjects include "Fit Heart, Mind and Soul", "Busting Negative Habits", "Acupuncture for Fertility" and "Expect a Miracle" among others.

Activities will include Yoga,

Hard Core training, Kandalini Yoga, Thai traditional herbal healing, acupuncture. Tai Chi, mediation, Zumba classes, raw nutrition, Muay Thai, traditional Thai massage and much more.

A blanket ticket covers admission to all events and will cost 2200 baht (1900 baht if purchased before April 30) and includes the dinner and party held at Serenity Resort & Residences on the Saturday night.

A complimentary shuttle service will also be offered to ticket holders who can attend as many events as they wish.

The *Phuket Gazette* is a media sponsor of this event and will provide more information on the event program and highlights in forthcoming issues.

For more information contact Michael Massey at 0814125652 or visit W:rawainaiarn.com.

— *Phuket Gazette*



Kata Reef's beauty under threat



Clockwise from top: Staghorn corals are particularly vulnerable to sedimentation. Juvenile harlequin sweetlips. Juvenile emperor angelfish. Playful cuttlefish.

Diving

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

GEARED up, without letting a tank touch the pavement, four of us waddle across the hot sand of Kata Beach to take a peek at the beautiful and "at high risk" reef-system just offshore.

Only a couple weeks ago Niphon Pongsuwan, a coral expert, warned Phuket that the amount of coastal development on the island would accelerate the sedimentation of coral reef-systems along its coast, citing the northern end of Kata has a high risk zone.

Determined to see the beauty of Kata Reef before it turned into a ghost town or the mudflats of Friendship Beach, I made a last minute booking for a dive with Oceanic Divecenter.

In the water, Martin Ruhoff, an instructor at the center, points out a juvenile harlequin sweetlips vertically dancing with its head down, like a shrimp fish. The little fish squirms and wiggles, its white spots accenting each move.

The reef is a nursery, there is a wide array of stunningly patterned juvenile fish. There is a young emperor angelfish, with the distinctive almost concentric rings of blue and white along its side, even a young yellow boxfish is nestled into the corals.

A reef as close to shore as the one off Kata Beach provides a great deal of protection for young

fish, and even juvenile white-tip reef sharks were spotted taking cover in the reef in years past.

However, the closeness to shore and the amount of development on the steep slopes around Kata threatens this nursery reef-system.

Though tropical reef-building corals are not plants, their distribution and growth is highly light-dependent, due to their symbiotic relationship with algae, which is why the sudden increase in sediment in the water is a serious threat.

Coral polyps do catch zooplankton at night, but many of them receive 50 per cent to 95 per cent of their energy through the photosynthetic process, as algae pass on carbon to the corals through sugars. In return the prey caught by the coral polyps supplies the algae with nitrogen, which is essential for their existence.

The effects of sedimentation on Kata Reef is obvious as we kick along its outer edge. Many of the stag-horn corals are brown, and vacant.

Though there are some vibrant corals and plenty of scorpion fish and other eye-catching sea-life, there is a run down feeling to the outskirts of the reef, like an American mining town whose mines have been closed.

Suddenly, our visibility is cut to only a couple meters as fresh sediment becomes suspended in the water. Beyond killing the visibility for our dive this sediment

can blanket a reef and "suffocate" it. Not only is the sediment an issue when it settles, but even suspended in the water it causes issues by decrease the amount light that can reach the corals and algae there is a reason that we associate diving beautiful coral reefs with pristine clear water.

Martin leads us away from the

edge of the reef, into the more protected middle area. The water instantly clears, it feels like we're in an aquarium.

A couple trigger fish charged past us and pairs of butterfly fish hid in the coral infrastructure. Relaxing at a depth of seven meters allows us a long dive, plenty of time to poke around the corals and discover nematodes,

such as a warty sea slug.

Hiking out of the water it's thrilling to think about the ease and cheapness of a quick shore dive from Kata. But despite the beauty of the dive, there is a feeling that the reef has fallen from its former glory and that developers are knocking at the coral polyps' door with an eviction notice.



Culinary Happenings Boathouse Wine & Grill



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World leaders and their dogs

It is with a heavy heart and lowered voice that we say farewell to the 'Dog Whisperer' column. Russell Distance Russell has sniffed out a wonderful career opportunity in the US and understandably no longer has the spare time to advise *Phuket Gazette* readers on canine related concerns. On behalf of all those who enjoyed and benefited from his column, the *Gazette* wishes Russell the very best in his Stateside endeavors. The following is Russell's final column – enjoy.



Dog Whisperer
By Russell D Russell

IT IS no great surprise that dogs play such an important role in our lives – well, for those of us that actually like dogs, I suppose.

The history of how our two great species become such close allies is well documented. However, throughout the course of history, numerous world leaders, presidents, prime ministers and royalty have had something in common. On this occasion it's not about war, pillaging, invasion or excessive taxation, but instead, their apparent love of dogs.

Vicious and cruel to the rest of the world, Adolf Hitler was a lover of dogs. This in no way absolves him of, or excuses his actions as a human being, but it's probably comes as no surprise that his pride and joy was a German Shepherd named Blondi. Despite owning various other dogs, including a stray Bull Terrier he looked after during his military service in WWI, images of Blondi specifically, were widely used in Nazi propaganda



President Obama has a bone to pick with Bo the current "First dog".
Photo: Charles McCain

depicting the Führer as an animal lover, which he regarded as important. But, like Hitler and the Third Reich, Blondi didn't survive the war. In order to ensure the potency of cyanide capsules he had at his disposal, Hitler tested them on her. After her death, Hitler was apparently, completely inconsolable. How's that for irony?

Around the same time as Hitler was dosing his dogs, Franklin D.

Roosevelt was running for his fourth term in office when rumors circulated that his Scottish Terrier, named Fala, had been left behind during a visit to the Aleutian Islands. Roosevelt was subsequently ridiculed and accused of spending thousands of taxpayer dollars after he sent a boat to retrieve his beloved pooch. However, during a speech following the event, FDR was quoted as saying, "You can criticize me, my wife and my family, but you can't criticize my little dog. He's Scotch and all these allegations about spending all this money have just made his little soul furious." Later termed the "Fala Speech", it reportedly helped turn the 1944 election campaign in Roosevelt's favor, which he subsequently won.

Sticking with US presidents – many have kept pet dogs while in office. Hoover, Truman, Reagan, Clinton, both Bush's and the current president Barack Obama. Perhaps one of the more notable First Dogs of America is Pushinka, a puppy of Strelka, the Soviet space dog, who spent a day in space aboard Sputnik 5 in August, 1960 before returning safely back to earth. She went on to have six puppies sired by a male dog named Pushok, who participated in many ground-based space experiments, but never made it into space himself.

One of the litter was named Pushinka and was presented to President John F. Kennedy's daughter, Caroline, by Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev in 1961. A Cold War romance then



POM: During Queen Victoria's lifetime, the size of the Pomeranian breed was reported to have decreased by 50 per cent. Photo: Alexandra Richmond



John F. Kennedy was allergic to dogs. Even so, the Kennedys had nine including two pupniks shown here in this 1963 photo. Photo: Cliff



IMMORTALIZED: Roosevelt's speech about his Scottish Terrier "Fala" may have helped him win the 1944 election.

blossomed between Pushinka and one of the Kennedy's dogs named Charlie, resulting in the birth of four pups that JFK jokingly referred to as "Pupniks".

Like them or loathe them, the honor or blame for the creation of Pomeranians lies squarely at the feet of Queen Victoria. After inheriting dogs from her predecessor King William IV, and following the death of Prince Albert in 1861, she focused some of her time on the royal pets. Unhappy with their size, she bred the dogs with smaller breeds and developed the breed we know of today as the humble Pomeranian.

While not widely known as a Pomeranian lover, the current Queen of England is still perhaps one of the most well known dog lovers in the world. For her 18th birthday she was given a Corgi as a present from her father King George IV, and since then has



Adolph Hitler with his German Shepherd named Blondi.

gone on to own over 30 Corgis. She currently looks after her own, and those of her mother, with 10 dogs said to be in residence at the palace.

For more information on dogs in general, E: canineworld@me.com or visit Tk9a.com.

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Six of the best



MEN IN WHITE: (from left) Executive Chef Ryan Arboleda – Paresa Phuket; Executive Chef Aaron Hooper – Joe's Downstairs; Executive Chef Chalermchai 'Kla' Prakobkit – Trisara; Executive Chef Silvano Amolini – Dusit Thani Phuket; Executive Chef Stefano Artosin – Amanpuri; Executive Chef David Hamilton – Banyan Tree Phuket.

HALF a dozen chefs from Phuket's premier luxury resorts and restaurants joined culinary forces recently to produce a six-course gala dinner hosted at "Millionaire's Mile's" hideaway, Paresa Resort Phuket.

This exclusive cartel of chefs each contributed one course to this remarkable landmark of fine dining and worthy causes.

Donations of 4,500 baht per person included the six-course menu paired and

served with six choice wines and all proceeds from the event went directly to The Good Shepherd School which is in need of funding.

In August 2010, The Good Shepherd charity set up a very basic school at the Phuket Fishing Port, one of the most unclean areas of Phuket. The premises comprised two pieces of concrete as a floor and chicken wire for walls to accommo-



HAMMING IT UP: Chef Stefano brings his own ingredients to the table.



MEAT AND GREET: Chef Silvano receives compliments from the crowds.



BIG MUSSELS: Chef Ryan adds the finishing touches to his dish.

date 20 children. There are now over 100 children registered with four grades of classes cramped into the same area.

Current funding is insufficient for even rudimentary resources such as tables, chairs and lunch for the children. But everyday the children come with smiles on their faces, their delight at being given the opportunity to learn and improve their lives entirely evident. A solid foundation is the

goal, both for the children and for a properly constructed school. Land has been donated by the local Thai community and financial donations generated by "Six of the Best" as well as other fundraisers will help realize a better learning environment for the students. Recently the chefs involved in the event visited The Good Shepherd School in Phuket Town, with each bringing food and beverages for the kids.

Anyone fancy a pint?



Bravo for baked Camembert.

By Chris hudon

"My trade is as a chef and I've worked as a chef all my life," says Phanpat Khanchanakub, owner of the Slug N' Lettuce restaurant in Chengtalay, not far from Laguna resort.

Mr Panpat or "Ott", as he's called by his friends, brings to Phuket not only knowledge of Western food but also Western-style ambiance.

Just the name, "Slug N' Lettuce" evokes images of a quaint English pub tucked away in the back corner of a cobblestoned street where friends are sharing a few pints.

Mr Panpat may know better than most about life in England and its' cuisine, having spent 10 years in the country before moving back to Thailand last year.

After returning, he and his wife opened the Slug N' Lettuce in August of 2011. He maintains a day job, though he's seen business steadily grow a following



Tantalizing tuna tartar.

among local ex-pats.

"I would say we have about ninety per cent Western customers; with a breakdown of about sixty per cent ex-pat families, twenty per cent Thai wives, 10 per cent business people and maybe 5 to 8% short-term tourists," said Mr Panpat.

The restaurant has indoor and outdoor seating - both offer a family friendly style of dining, but the difference being that the outside area is also a fully functional bar.

At the time of review there were around 20 customers quietly enjoying their food and company.

Urban-chic would describe the restaurant's background music. An acoustic version of Pink Floyd's, 'Another Brick in the Wall', the title track to an iconic English album, drew my attention, enhancing the feeling that I was as much at a pub as a fine dining restaurant.

Now, to the "meat and potatoes", so to speak.

The menu at the Slug N' Let-



Succulent slow roasted beetroot.

tuce ranges in price between 150 to 450 baht per entr e, depending on your preference. You'll find classics like tuna tartar and fish and chips; foods that can be found in many restaurants on Phuket. But, there's also some more exotic dishes available, like slow roasted beet root, a rarity here.

For dinner we started with the slow roasted beetroot (160 baht) and a baked Camembert (450 baht). Of course we enjoyed a proper pint as well (no ice necessary). The beetroot was roasted for an hour and a half and was much softer, sweeter and subtler than I might have imagined. The Camembert provided a french flair and the melted cheese with garlic bread was a treat.

Beef stroganoff (280 baht) was ordered as the main course and with it on first taste came a flood of childhood memories.

A night of great conversation and an equally great dining experience was had with Mr Panpat at the Slug N' Lettuce.



PUBLICANS: Owners Phanpat Khanchanakub and his wife Archara.

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About time and music

ROCK musicians have a huge global influence, so it's odd that there's so little good fiction about them.

Jennifer Egan's *a visit from the goon quad* (Anchor Books, New York, 2010, 340pp) is a wildly original novel about a rock band and most deservedly won the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.

"The goons" is the term one aging rocker uses to refer to the passage of time. Egan's plot pivots on the pathos of growing old as her tale takes hold grows in jumps and starts. A character introduced in one chapter will suddenly take over the next in a wildly disparate time and place. The effect is to constantly surprise the reader and grip his attention.

This is the story, roughly speaking, of a California rock band named The Conduits over the space of three decades as each member spirals off on his own fixations. The novel opens in present day New York, first from the perspective of Sasha, a kleptomaniac world traveler struggling with a boring date and remembering her wild youth with the band, and then from her boss Benny Salazar, the band's former bass player and manager, now a successful record executive nostalgic for the real sounds of time past.

In the next chapter, we are back in California and the days of the band's high school days, starting out as the Flaming Dildoes. The story is told by Rhea, a girlfriend of guitarist Scotty.

"1980 is almost here. The hippies are getting old, they blew their brains on acid and now they're begging on street corners all over San Francisco. Their hair is tangled and their bare feet are thick and gray as shoes. We're sick of them."

The band hooks up with a middle-aged

music hustler named Lou and winds up in his palatial home where Rhea examines a photo of Lou's teenage children Charlene and Rolph who had recently gone on safari in Africa with their father.

Next chapter, Charlene and Rolph are on safari in Africa. Next, 20 years have passed, Lou is on his deathbed and drug-ravaged Rolph has

committed suicide at 28. Next, Scotty Hausmann is a street sweeper in New York's Lower East Side, thinking of looking up his old friend Benny Salazar...

And so time goes, in skips and whirls. Drugs and foolishness have taken their toll and the slide from youth to middle age is not a graceful one.

In New York, Conduit guitarist Bosco is plotting a comeback.

"Bosco was unrecognizable as the scrawny, stove-pipe-panted practitioner of a late-eighties sound somewhere between punk and ska, a hive of readheaded mania who had made Iggy Pop look indolent onstage. More than once, club owners had called 911 during Conduit shows, convinced that Bosco was having a seizure..."

Nowadays he was huge – from medications, he claimed, both post cancer and antidepressant. His red hair had devolved into a stringy gray ponytail. An unsuccessful hip replacement had left him with the lurching belly-hoisting walk of a refrigerator on a hand truck."

Another chapter and time flips backward with Sasha meeting Bosco at the Lower East Side's Pyramid Club and then further back as a thief in Naples rescued by her Uncle Ted, an art professor, paving the way for her to become an ordinary housewife in the California desert.

Drugs and foolishness have taken their toll and the slide from youth to middle age is not a graceful one.

Books

By James Eckardt



ROCK OF AGES: The story of a New York rock band and the experiences of its individual members which began in the late 70s through to present day.

But time does not drag everyone down and to some it offers a form of redemption. Bennie convinces his old friend Scotty to play an open-air children's concert in the Lower East Side: "Time's a goon, right? You gonna let that goon push you round?"

Scotty assumes his shaky place on a stool and begins to play.

"Whatever the reason, a swell of approval as palpable as rain lifted from the center of the crowd and rolled out toward its edges,

where it crashed against buildings and rolled back at Scotty with redoubled force, lifting him off his stool, onto his feet, exploding the quivering husk Scotty had appeared to be just moments before and unleashing something strong, charismatic, and fierce."

It's an historic moment. Scotty belts out all the angry, fearful, bewildered songs he'd composed in his long obscurity and marks his indelible claim against time. Such is the triumph of music.

Film

Black Gold

Director: Jean-Jacques Annaud
Lead Actors: Tahar Rahim, Mark Strong, Antonio Banderas, Freida Pinto
Genre: Drama
Phuket Release Date: April 5

DIRECTED by Jean-Jacques Annaud *Black Gold* is set in the Arab states during the 1930s at the dawn of the oil boom.

The story centers on a young Arab prince (Tahar Rahim), who is torn between allegiance to his conservative father and his modern, liberal father-in-law. This Arab-financed movie cost a whopping US\$55 million to make and is the highest budget Arabian related film since *Lawrence Of Arabia* which came out in 1962.

Based on the book of the same name, the title of this film misleadingly gives the impression that it is going to be about oil. It is not. Even though it is set against the background of the Arab nations as emerging gold producers, it is actually about resistance to, and the embracing of, change as embodied in the leadership of two tribes at odds over an area of oil bearing land, and the son of one of the leaders, who is caught up in the middle.

The highlight of the film is the fantastic performance by Tahar Rahim. Mark Strong also plays a great bearded royal Arabian Sultan Amar (though he speaks with a distinguishable British accent). The roles that threw the film off were those of Antonio Banderas and Freida Pinto. It is almost impossible to watch Banderas play Bedouin Sheik Nassib without constantly being reminded that he is,



in fact, Antonio Banderas. And although Freida Pinto lends the film her stunning Indian looks as Princess Leyla, unfortunately her dialogue, or lack of, lets her down.

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The brothers Pachantabutr

THE Pachantabutr brothers, Chanintat and Panatnan, are both highly successful young entrepreneurs that form the core of Phuket's hospitality business today. Their family owns, on the last count, five business enterprises on the island alone.

Under the shade of a large old tree in Kan Eang@pier overlooking Chalong Bay, Chanintat, 28, and Panatnan, 23, both in smart white shirts, talk about their latest ventures, their inspirations, and what it's like working as a family unit.

"We are what I call a working family. All our projects are a result of a concerted effort. Our parents are our bosses, and we their project managers. My father built himself up from scratch, and his principles are the basis of our conduct, quality like thrift, the importance of building a business with many layers and the drive to succeed," explains Chanintat.

Both brothers graduated with hospitality degrees, Chanintat from Canada and Panatnan from Australia, and have become that rare breed of Thai business-owners who are deeply concerned about the environment and strive to conduct their business in an ethical manner.

"We didn't cut down a single tree in creating Flying Hanuman. We use bamboo which is local material, and our septic tanks and waste water goes underground and will not litter the environment. At Kan Eang we



separate trash while leftover food is given to villagers for their livestock. Nothing is wasted here. Everything is reused and recycled," Chanintat says proudly.

Both say that they are inspired by their father, 'the man of the land and sea,' who grew up in the Chalong area and cares deeply about nature and his community. He even leaves a part of Kang Eang's boundary fence open so the local fishermen have access to their boats.

However, the reality of working with people very close to you is never that easy. "Of course we have conflicts - of ideas, not interests. Our parents and we are from entirely different generations and therefore think differently. I may get frustrated, but in the end we see through all the frictions. At the end of the day, we are still a family who wishes nothing but the best for each other," Chanintat admits. "It's a very Phuket style of working," quips his brother, Panatnan.

Indeed, it seems a perfect working solution that blends the old with the new. This mixture is reflected in

the 30-year old Kan Eang@pier's laid-back arrangement and the recent addition of their stylish Vset restaurant serving designer cuisines, the latter being the brothers' creation.

The duo work very hard. Chanintat manages the running of the Flying Hanuman adventure park and the family's property business Patak Villa, but always ends up at Kan Eang, where Panatnan is based most of the time. Their sister May takes care of the company's book-keeping and finances. The whole family converges here everyday, and while their mother chats to the guests while their father's favorite station is in front of the barbecue stove grilling fish.

Their parents are their role model and inspiration, they say. Both brothers are equally driven although their approaches may be different. While Chanintat admits to being 'impatient', Panatnan has quiet determination, "we don't have the word 'fail' in our book," he says.

And both echo each other when saying: "Although our business has evolved so much to keep with the changing times and trends, we are still steeped in our roots. At heart we are still Phuket people who value our surrounding and culture. As children we played on this very beach that our restaurant now stands. Kan Eang is our pride and joy where we still serve traditional dishes offered by our parents 30 years ago. We have all come full circle."



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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'What's On' page x 1	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓				
Website Events Calendar, every week until event closed out !					✓	✓	✓					
PGTV – Daily spot – 30 sec					✓ ⁽¹⁾	✓ ⁽¹⁾					✓ ^{(2) (3)}	
PGTV – Post event – 1 min of News footage					✓ ⁽¹⁾	✓ ⁽¹⁾					✓ ^{(2) (3)}	
Radio promotion – Spots / Mentions / Interview					✓							✓
Tickets Sales Promotions	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓			✓

* THAI; Emirates; United; China Airlines; Air France; Delta; Lufthansa; Singapore Airlines; Cathay Pacific; Dragonair and Vietnam Airlines.

** The Gazette Online enjoys the highest Google traffic and 'page importance' rankings of any website in or about Phuket.

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Phuket Gazette

Contact K. Jane, Events Manager:
Kanjana@PhuketGazette.net

WHAT'S ON in Phuket

April 14-15, 5-9pm: Boat Lagoon Weekend Market at Phuket Boat Lagoon Marina, Koh Kaew

Buy, sell and barter on an ever expanding extensive variety of goods, food, etc. Or simply relax and enjoy the vast assortment of other fun stuff we're putting together for all ages whether you're 3 or 30, 6 or 60, 9 or 90. Nobody has more fun than at the soon to be number 1 Weekend Market & Meeting Place in Phuket! Located within the conveniently situated Boat Lagoon, with easy access, Toilet facilities and lots of free parking. Individual cover boat (2m x 2m) with power facility available for rent in dedicated Zone area, THB100 per day introduction rate. Contact: 088-7680471.

April 18, 6pm-1am: Tex-Mex at Two Chefs Karon

Now we start with our very popular weekly Tex-Mex again. Every Wednesday we present for you the biggest Tex-Mex buffet on this island. This year we also have a free flow option for you. As every night our Two Chefs house band will be there to entertain us. All this only 495 baht and for 795 baht you can drink as much as you want from our free flow options. For more info please visit us on the web kata@twochefs.com.

April 19, 11:30am: Phuket International Women's Club monthly lunch at Re Ka Ta, The Boathouse, Kata

Phuket International Women's Club monthly lunch at Re Ka Ta, at The Boathouse, Kata. All are

April 22, 6-10:30am: TSLC IronKids Phuket Triathlon at Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club



Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club will host the next TSLC IronKids Phuket Triathlon on Sunday, 22, April 2012 for children 6 years to 15 years. Juniors (6yrs - 8yrs) will compete in a 50m Swim, 3km Bike and 500m Run. The intermediate age group (9yrs - 11yrs) will compete in a 150m Swim, a 6km Bike and a 1.5km Run. The Seniors course (12yrs - 15yrs) is a 300m Swim, 12km Bike and 3km Run. Please find more information on our website: www.ironkidsphuket.com. Phuket Gazette is a sponsor of this event.

welcome, members B500, guests B650. Prior registration is essential. Contact info@phuketiwc.com

April 20, 10:00am: Chocolate Addict at Royal Phuket Marina

Learn to create your own chocolate – the first lesson @ Les Angeles in Royal Phuket Marina. The session starts at 10am to midday, with the best artisan patissier for only 750 baht. We require a minimum five people for the session. For reservations contact Mr Murat on 081 797 3364.

April 21, 8:30pm: Evening of Theatrical Entertainment at Royal Phuket Marina

Royal Phuket Marina is proud to present an evening of Theatrical Entertainment. Optional donations to Phuket Sunshine Village Foun-

dation Orphanage. For further information please contact Mr Murat on 081-797-3364 or email murate@royalphuketmarina.com

Cast
Count Snape - Director, Tenor & Accompanist
Vicky Pegram - Soprano & Comedian

Josh Roxas - Baritone & Dancer
Vanessa Chan - Dancer
Featuring Count Snape on the piano.

April 23, April 18, 6pm-1am: Surf-Night at Two Chefs Karon

Every Monday we are setting up a great BBQ-Buffet, with loads and loads of food. There will be juicy steaks and meat directly from the BBQs a big variety of sauces and so much more. There will be nice and pleasant live music performed by one member of the Two Chefs house band. The best is that it only costs 495 baht for all this. For more info please visit us on the web kata@twochefs.com.

April 27-28, 6:30pm-1am: Cocktail dinner at the Bliss Beach Ball

The chic Bliss Beach Club on Bang Tao is the setting for the "Bliss Beach Ball". Sip a cocktail as you watch the sun set into the ocean, eat a sumptuous dinner then dance the night away with Bliss's resident DJ Chedi. All this and free flow wine and beer from event

or Mr Murat (Events & Group Manager) on 081 797 3364.

May 12, 6pm-1am: Tex-Mex at Two Chefs Karon

Now we start with our very popular weekly Tex-Mex again. Every Wednesday we present for you the biggest Tex-Mex buffet on this island. This year we also have a free flow option for you. As every night our Two Chefs house band will be there to entertain us. All this only 495 baht and for 795 baht you can drink as much as you want from our free flow options. For more info please visit us on the web kata@twochefs.com.

May 17, 10:30am: Phuket International Women's Club monthly lunch at The Holiday Inn, Patong

Phuket International Women's Club monthly lunch at The Holiday Inn, Patong. All are welcome, members B500, guests B650. Prior registration is essential. Contact info@phuketiwc.com

May 19, 8:30am-15:30pm: Cambridge KET and PET examinations for UK visa requirements at British International School, Phuket

English language requirement for partners. If you are not a national of a majority English-speaking country or do not have a degree taught in English you must pass an approved English language test with an approved test provider. The KET A2 meets this requirement.

Visa for Adult Students. If you plan to study in the UK, your education provider must ensure that you are competent in English at a minimum of level B1 (CEFR). The PET B1 meets this requirement. Fees: KET 1,900 baht PET 2,400 baht. Closing date for entries is April 8, 2012. Results will be online by June 30, 2012.

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*.

Sandwich shoppe Chalong April 25 1-3pm

Sandwich Shoppe Patong May 2 1-3pm

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GUEST CHEF: Jordi Roca, the youngest of the internationally renowned Roca brothers and a celebrity of the culinary world was in Phuket last week where he showcased his talents at the Trisara.



GUEST CHEF BIS: Jordi Roca also served up his magic at the R E KA TA Beachfront restaurant. Pictured from left are Marie-Laure Fleury, GM of the Boathouse; Jean-Noel Lumineau Executive Chef of the Boathouse; Jordi Roca; Mr and Mrs Leon and Bryan Burger, Chef of RE KA TA.



IN THE FRAME: Ironman World Champion Faris Al Sultan recently presented his shirt to Thayapura's Hall of fame.



TRILOGY COMPLETE: Twin Palms recently celebrated the opening of its stylish new pasta bar, set between BAKE and FLAME, called PASTA. At the opening were (from left) Michael Marchbank, Michael and Nina Cowan and Sittichai Jitnatham.





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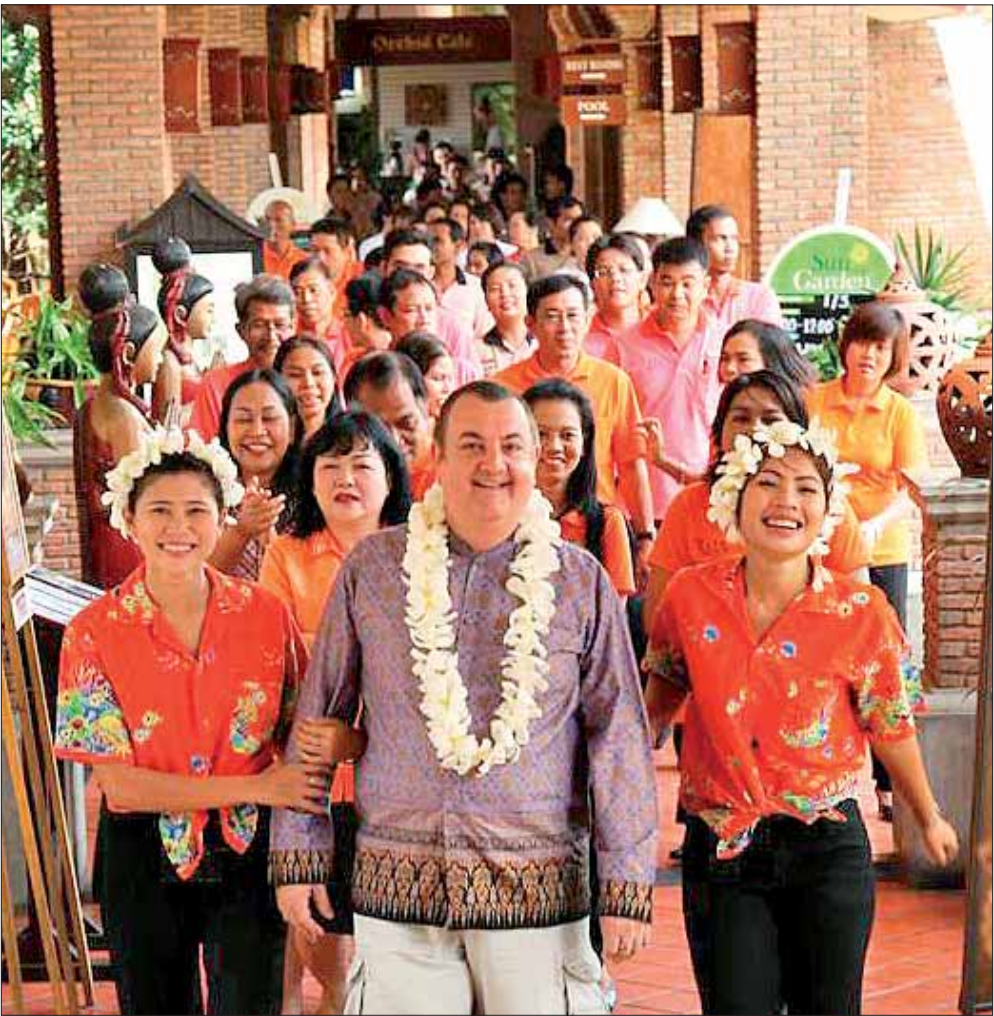
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FIVE YEARS ON: On March 31 Jungceylon held its fifth anniversary celebration under the theme of Amusea World. Phuket Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada presided over the ceremony which was also attended by Phuket Square President Suchad Chiaranussati and Phuket Square CEO Prawit Janyasittikul. A special performance by Kid Buak Sip group was followed by a mini-concert by famous singer Katreeya “Kat” English (above).



ALOHA: Hawaii based Outrigger Enterprise Group CEO and President, David Carey (right), visited Phuket recently to present awards to two Outrigger Laguna Phuket Resort and Villas hosts for outstanding service. Pongsak ‘Aey’ Thongwarothai (centre), Rooms Division Manager, and Monrudee ‘Jim’ Srijun, (2nd from right), Training Manager. Also attending the March 29 award ceremony were William Visser, Vice President Operations, Asia Pacific (left) and Apichart Asa (2nd from left), General Manager, Outrigger Laguna Phuket Resort and Villas.



WE DID IT: Philip Raiss, General Manager of Phuket Orchid Resort & Spa, leads his staff to the resort pool area to celebrate the achievement of beating sales targets for year-to-date revenue set by Kata Group Resorts Thailand.



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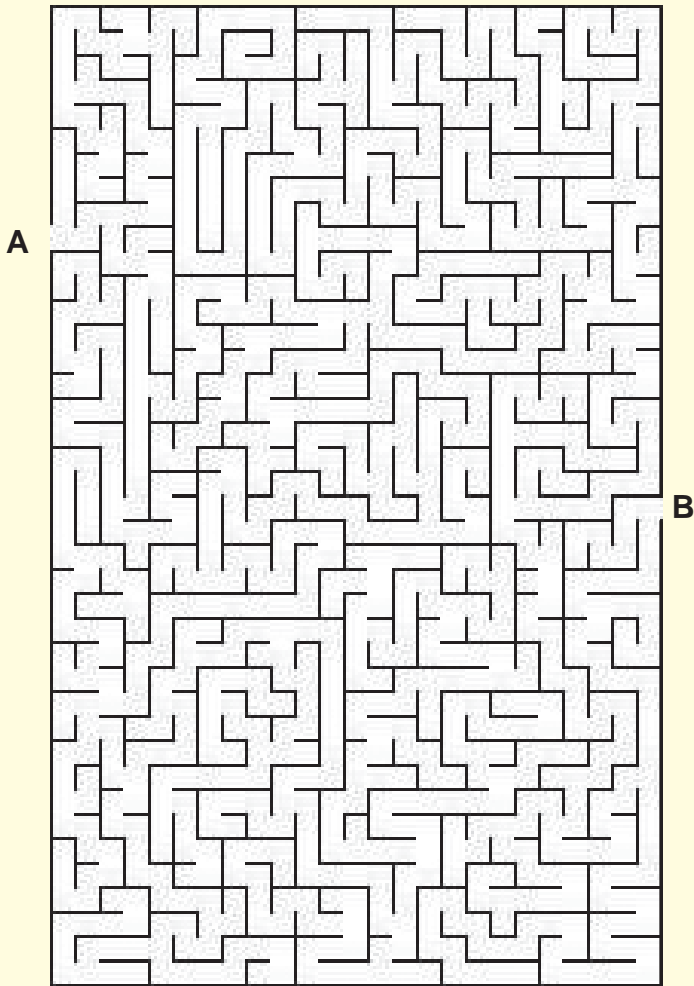
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A *Gazette* staff member completed this maze in 30 seconds. Can you beat their time? Make your way through the maze.



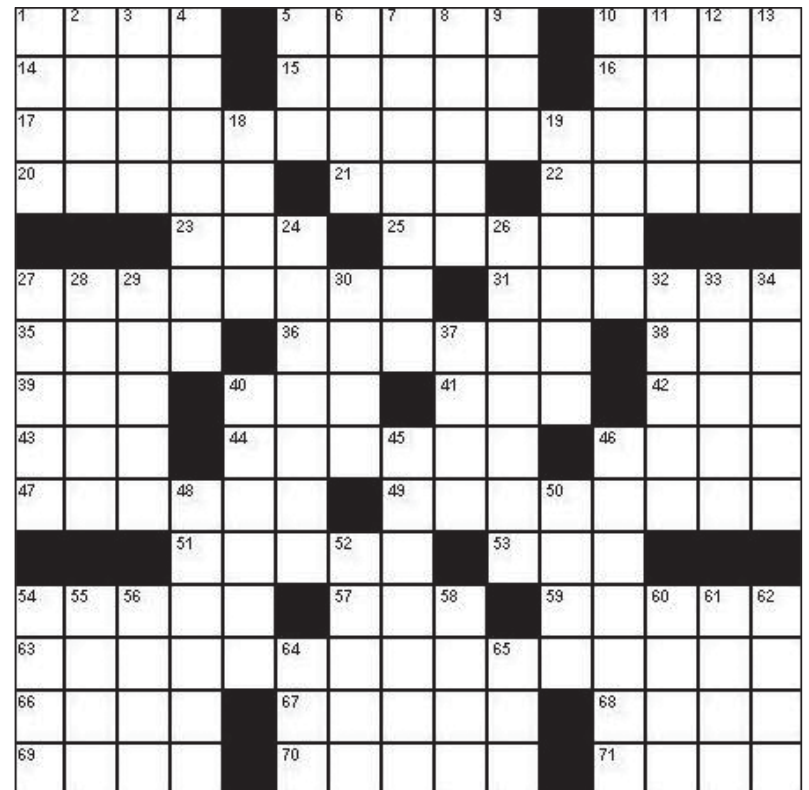
Provided by Puzzlemaker.com
Used with permission.

Across

1. Not fearful
5. Extreme
10. Mil. school
14. Ashtabula's lake
15. Lapwing
16. Soft drink
17. Church principles
20. Yogi
21. Citrus cooler
22. Taboos
23. Ed's pile
25. Mild oaths
27. Having a yolk
31. Japanese mat
35. Came down to earth
36. Ipecac, e.g.
38. _ _ _ Kapital
39. Floor covering
40. Hindu honorific
41. DDE's predecessor
42. 1950 film noir classic
43. Bolted down
44. Humbles
46. Aboriginal rite site
47. Continue
49. Germanic
51. Aquarium fish
53. Hesitant sounds
54. Felon
57. Metal bearing mineral
59. Severe
63. Swollen nodes
66. Dedicated to the _ _ _ Love
67. Not o'er
68. Will of "The Waltons"
69. Actress Rowlands
70. Untrue
71. Salinger girl

Down

1. Bone to pick
2. "Jaws" boat
3. Prepare a stamp
4. Mark boundaries
5. FedEx rival
6. Sci-fi princess
7. Silly talk
8. Vertical face of a stair



9. ABA member
10. Confront boldly
11. Quarter, e.g.
12. " _ _ _ _ _ " sprach Zarathustra
13. Beaver creations
18. Formerly, formerly
19. Whole
24. Fruit-flavored ice
26. Under discussion
27. Truman's Missouri birthplace
28. Delight
29. Quotes
30. What _ _ _ mind reader?
32. Extra
33. New Zealand aboriginal
34. Designer Mizrahi
37. How you used to be?
40. 15th letter of the Hebrew alphabet
45. Ogle
46. Thicket
48. System of social perfection
50. Pitfall
52. Cowboy display
54. Overfill
55. Baseball's Sandberg
56. Augury
58. Tolkien tree creatures
60. Salt Lake City hoopsters
61. Not us
62. Bronte heroine
64. Abby's twin
65. Cry of discovery

Provided by BestCrosswords.com
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Puzzle solutions on page 39

ARIES (March 21-April 20):



Your holiday celebrations are likely to be affected by a family member's last minute change of heart this weekend. The stars suggest that it would be less stressful to go along with this person's ideas. Those with a birthday in the coming days will enjoy more success at work during the year ahead. Hot days for romance are Sunday and Monday. Number four looks interesting for Arians this week.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):



The spotlight shines on Taureans gaining more understanding this week. A confusing situation in the world of work is eased when a water sign's behavior is explained. Those who have been searching for different employment should find something to suit their talents by the end of this month. Where romance is concerned, another earth sign proves that they can be trusted. Taureans' lucky number this week is one.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



The stars indicate that Geminis' charm will work wonders this week. Another air sign who has been hard to convince is forecast to fall under your spell and gain in

business is well starred. In the realm of romance, a heart to heart conversation can prompt commitment those already spoken for see a good moment to make a confession this weekend. Your lucky number this week is five.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):



Cancerians who aren't in the mood for a wet weekend should make the most of quality time at home by spring cleaning. The stars advise that sorting out your possessions can lead to clearer mental energy and ideas for redecoration. Personal relationships will benefit from a more creative approach there are signs that you may have been taking a partner for granted. Number nine can bring good fortune this week.

LEO (July 24-August 22):



Juggling work commitments with family responsibilities can leave Leos jaded. The heat is on for those with deadlines, but an air sign is forecast to provide more support than usual. Finances fall under auspicious astral conditions during the second half of April. There are signs that an earth sign may give helpful tips on Tuesday or Wednesday. The number three can be lucky this week.



VIRGO (August 23-September 23):



Change is strongly highlighted until the end of April for those born under the sign of Virgo. The stars hint that horizons can be expanded if you are prepared to let go of familiar situations, and possibly people. Romance can become affected by doubt. Certain Virgoans may have mixed emotions about a fire sign when a secret is shared this weekend. Number seven can bring some luck this week.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23):



Forgetfulness is forecast to dampen Librans' progress this week. Missing one appointment in particular could cause setbacks best avoided. Stronger focus will be needed to finalized a project by the end of April. Romance with an earth sign becomes more serious, but an affair with a water sign is affected by too many disagreements. Number eight can be fortunate this weekend.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22):



Where business is concerned, your chances improve when another water sign is no longer in the picture. Scorpions are predicted to see more opportunities during the second half of April and the stars show that you should end the month in more positive financial circumstances. In romance, a blast from your past is determined to prove that they have changed. Your lucky number this week is two.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21):



A fun-filled weekend will be just what Sagittariurs are ready for. After a busy start to April, your working life should become calmer during the second half of the month, but there is emphasis on one work-related issue demanding extra attention midweek. Sparkling days for romance are Monday and Tuesday. Number six is fortunate this week.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20):



Expenses can be higher than usual during the second half of April, particularly for those Capricorns who splash out during this holiday weekend. Avoid footing too many bills, particularly with a fire sign friend who

has the tendency to take your generosity for granted. Those experiencing troubles in the realm of romance may benefit from a cooling off. Number one can bring good luck this week.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19):



A culture clash could leave some Aquarians hot under the collar early next week. Remember that not everyone sees things from your point of view. Romance is well-starred. Cupid's intervention this weekend can help you connect with someone you have admired from a distance. Those already committed find that a relationship is enhanced by a new shared interest. Your lucky number this week is nine.

PISCES (February 20-March 20):



Positive news should put many Pisceans in a more cheerful mood this week. A problem involving money is about to be solved and your financial outlook becomes sunnier. Your romantic intentions can be misinterpreted this weekend. Those keen to impress another water sign should resist going overboard as a simple gesture will say it all. Number two can be important for those born under the sign of Pisces this week.

PROPERTY Gazette

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

No shortage in home market

By Warisa Temram

RESULTS of a recent survey conducted by the Real Estate Information Center (REIC) of the Government Housing Bank were presented at the Property Market Situation Analysis seminar held earlier this month.

REIC Director Samma Kitsin said that the survey focused on projects currently in the sales phase that have no less than six units.

All in, Phuket has 23,340 new homes, including 9,940 units in housing estates, 6,970 condominium units, 1,280 vacation home units, about 720 government housing units and another 4,430 flats in government housing projects.

Suthichai Phromchat, an employee at the Phuket land office said that a total of 22 new projects applied for building permits in Phuket in 2012, including two in Kathu, 8 in Thalang and 12 projects in Mueang district.

Homes priced between 1 and 2 million baht are in highest demand, while high-end projects have declined. 2011 saw 10 new condo projects targeting both Thais and foreigners. Of those 10 projects

276 units were ownership transfers made to foreigners. Estate housing units comprised 9,940 units in 65 projects, worth 36.7 billion baht.

Of these, 6,790 worth 22 billion baht have been sold, with the remaining 3,150 units worth 14.7 billion baht.

Of these, 5,890 units are in Mueang district, 3,320 in Thalang and only 730 in Kathu; 3,260 are detached houses, 3,280 town houses, 2,200 duplexes and 730 are shop houses. The remaining units are empty land parcels.

As for construction status, the survey found that 1,940 units have not yet begun construction, 2,680 are in progress and 5,320 have been completed. Of the completed units, 590 are unoccupied are still on the market.

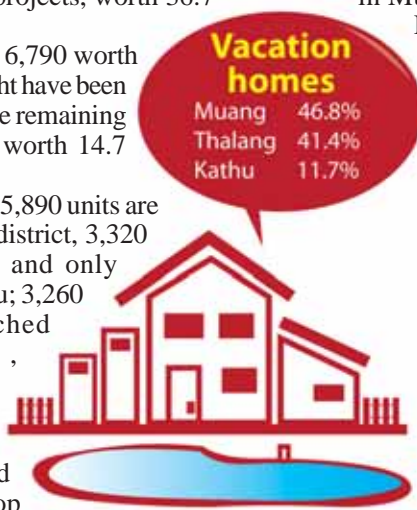
4,100 of the units, worth 18.1 billion baht have been sold, while

2,870 units worth 14.7 billion baht remain on the market.

All in, 4,380 condos are located in Mueang district, 1,720 in Kathu and 870 in Thalang; 2,500

Of these, 530 are in Thalang, 600 in Mueang and 150 in Kathu district.

As of December 2011, between two projects, both in Thalang district, comprised 720 units of which 680 had been sold and 40 still on the market.



40 projects: 1,280



65 projects: 9,940



49 projects: 6,970



4 projects: 4,430

are single room studios, 2,940 one-bedroom, 1,140 two-bedroom and another 400 are three bedrooms units.

As for construction, 720 remain unbuilt, 3,400 under construction, and 2,820 have been completed, with 1,010 of these still on the market.

Vacation homes included 1,280 units among 40 projects.

Of these 730 have been sold, while 550 remain on the market, 300 unbuilt, 140 under construction and 840 have been completed, of which 200 remain on the market.

The final home category covered in the survey was Government subsidised housing, including both houses and flats.

Government subsidized flats comprised 4,430 units among four projects including 3,730 units in three projects in Thalang and 700 units in another project in Mueang district.

All in, 2,770 units have been sold and 1,660 were still on the market. 3,170 were completed, while 1,260 were still under construction.

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In the lap of Natai luxury

Phuket's high-end property market may face some serious competition from our neighboring province.



Property Watch
By Bill Barnett

REAL life property success stories in the broad market of resort-grade real estate have been an endangered species over the past few years. The chances of winding up in some specialty restaurant in mainland China have been invariably higher, unless of course your last name starts with a "Z", as in Alan Zeman.

Aside from the more familiar lairs of the rich and famous, be they Amanesque, or in the "Millionaire's Mile", there remains another name to add to the list. This is Natai, located to the North, just over the Sarasin Bridge.

While it's still Phang Nga without a doubt, over the past seven years a long, slow burn in the area has now resulted in some of the most expensive real estate in the Kingdom.

Aleenta was a pioneering development with its hospitality-led residential, boutique Thai-based concept. Jivana, further on up the beach, was another and of course there's the big daddy, headline-grabbing, Villa Beyond. Eric Levine drew widespread



Luxury living Sava style.



One of the beachfront villas.

headlines on a double digit resale in the multi-million dollar penultimate ultra-villa.

Now the news that the seven-villa estate Sava, has sold out its final three ultra-properties over the past few months has created an undercurrent of new interest.

Developed by Avila Capital, using respected designer Adrian McCarroll of Original Vision the project stands out as a unique example of tropical modern architecture on a spectacular white sand coastline.

South of the Sava new upscale projects are also reportedly



UP NORTH: Sava on Natai Beach with its panoramic view of the Andaman sea and miles away from traffic.

on the rise, while going in the opposite direction, near to the Hot Springs, is one of our Greater Phuket top luxury projects to watch in the coming year. The boutique art, design and gastronomy led private hotel Iniala is taking shape.

Here the vision of UK-based entrepreneur Mark Weingard will see a 10-bedroom world-class offering open in June 2013. Bedrooms and salons are being individually designed in an eclectic nod to create a highly personalized experience.

Mark has also recruited leading top Chef Danny Drinkwater, whose previous life includes stints at the Park Hyatt in Sydney and the chic Luna2 in Bali's trendy Seminyak,

to oversee operations.

Some of the products include a stylized gastronomic restaurant, which will open in the second quarter of next year, and a freestanding Art gallery and cafe near to the hotel. Over 100 individual art pieces will be curated in the facility.

Expectations are running high for Iniala as private hotels are becoming increasingly sought after

by upscale travelers.

Take Bali for example, where properties such as The Edge, Istana, a large 10 bedroom mega villa at Alila Soore and Luna 2 all command daily rental rates from thousands to ten thousands of US dollars a day.

This is a world apart; with leading global personal chefs, an army of full time staff at your beck and call and big private for

As for Natai, certainly the property market of southern Phang Nga hit a speed bump a few years ago with the new commercial zoning restrictions from Thai Muang all the way down the Sarasin Bridge.

A number of branded hotel and destination developments were put on the back burner but at the same time the area has continued to create a bit of a Hamptons feel. It's

hard to describe but maybe more of a classy bedroom community in the land of Lux.

While Phuket finds itself embroiled in a growing concrete jungle, all along the watchtower those in the industry are taking a view point on the storyline which will unfold up in Natai. Will luxury start to make a great escape

to less crowded surroundings or is this an isolated example of a micro-market going wild?

Meanwhile start looking out for some very fancy cars heading up North over the new four lane Bridge of Sighs.

Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks and can be contacted through his website C9hotelworks.com.



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BuildTech Expo 2012 awards Phuket's 4G Infinity Concept

By Nick Davies

ORGANIZERS of the BuildTech Expo '12 awarded the Infinity 4G Architects Pavilion the 'Popular Vote' award at the annual international building and construction trade show held April 5-8 at Bangkok International Trade & Exhibition Centre (BITEC).

Featuring a gravity-defying 18m x 8m infinity symbol crafted from bamboo and lit with colour-changing ambient lighting casting a figure-8 shadow on the floor, the Infinity 4G Architects Pavilion was voted one of the most popular showcase exhibits by a panel of judges comprised of faculty



Architect Chaiwat-Teeratsakulchai

members from some of Thailand's major universities.

Judges handed out just five awards to the 500 local and international exhibitors at this year's trade show, which attracted more than 40,000 visitors by midday Saturday (April 7) and was expected to receive another 30,000 by Sunday.

The infinity symbol design was conceived by Chiangmai University architecture graduate and Phuket-based Able Architects team member, 26-year-old Mr Chaiwat Treeratsakulchai.

Construction of the exhibit was done in Chaingmai, where it was then de-constructed to be transported to Bangkok and put back together for the expo. Lighting for the infinity exhibit was provided by Bioarchitek and Philips.

Constructed from renewable raw materials and lit with energy-saving lighting, the environmentally friendly infinity symbol fit well with the BuildTech Expo's energy-saving theme.

Headed by Able Architects' Managing Director Mr Pakhin Aunggulant, the team of creative professionals at the Phuket-based

firm achieved their success through the collaboration of local and global partners.

"The 4G Pavilion is an example of the shape of architecture to come as the new generation of '4G' architects and designers lead the way forward; away from conventional concepts," said Mr Pakhin.

Well known as a leading figure in the building and design industry, Mr Pakhin has pioneered an approach that combines local

and global partners to produce the next generation of Asian conceptual designs.

"The way forward is through collaboration, rather than competition. For this

project we worked alongside a variety of professional organizations with a broad spectrum of skills," he said.

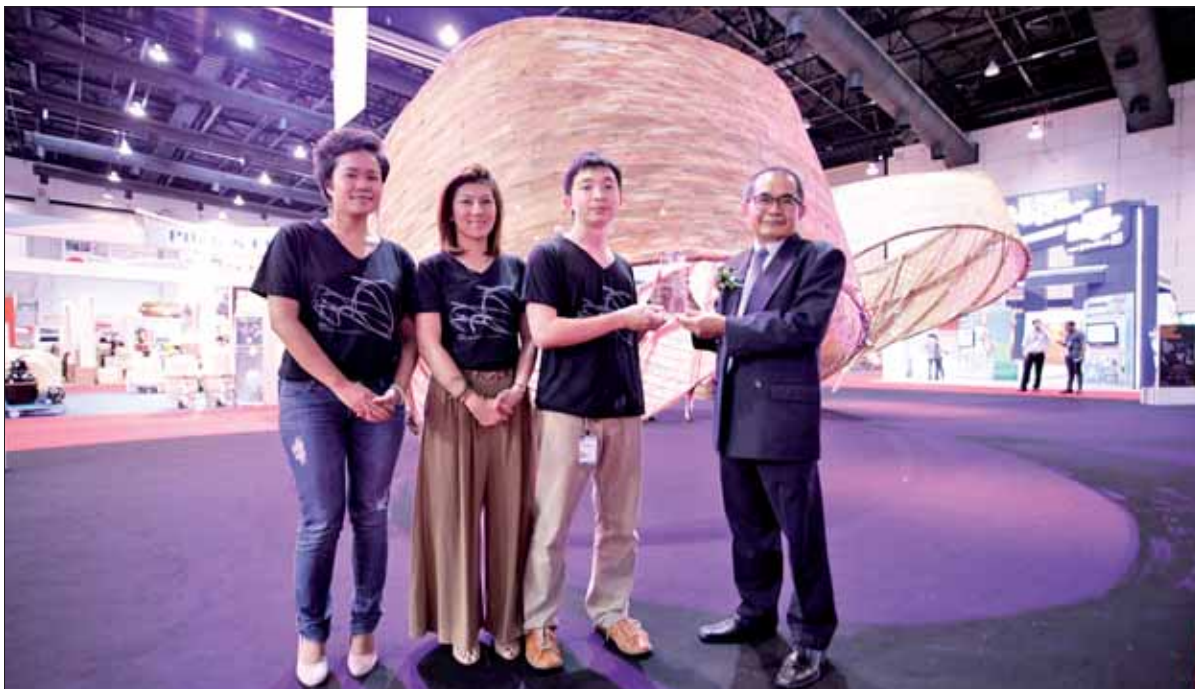
Accompanying Able Architects at the 4G Architects Pavilion was a collection of local and international building industry experts who together have been pioneering the design and building industry's evolution toward 4G.

Chiangmai Life Construction is responsible for turning the infinity design into a reality with clever use of bamboo, while interactive lighting technology was provided by Bioarchitek and Philips.

Other trend-setting developers at the 4G Architects Pavilion were nano-technology surface specialists Tiffany Decor, and contemporary furniture designer Agence Ouvray.

With their unique and collaborative approach to turning fantastic ideas into reality, industry specialists helped put Thailand on the map as a nation ready to take on the challenges facing architects of the future.

For more information about Able Architects visit their website ablearchitects.com.



READY, WILLING AND ABLE: TTF International Managing Director Chatree Munka (right) hands over the 'Popular Vote' award to architect Chaiwat Treeratsakulchai from Phuket-based Able Architects. Also pictured are Able Architect team members Phimpawan Phakdeesuan (left) and Thannada Ruangthong.



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Organizers of the BuildTech Expo '12 awarded the spectacular Infinity 4G Architects Pavilion as the most popular exhibit at the annual international building and construction trade show held April 5-8 at the Bangkok International Trade & Exhibition Centre (BITEC).

Beautifying your balcony



WE all know the island is awash with condominiums, apartments and shop houses.

Everywhere you look, concrete blocks are reaching skywards. And we all know why. As land prices in Phuket rise inexorably, developers in turn want to extract bigger financial returns.

Why build two or three villas on a one rai plot, complete with trees, shrubs and a lawn, when you can put 20, five storey office homes or apartments on the same site? No wonder Phuket is becoming an island of flat-dwellers.

Sadly, the expat who invests in an apartment, has limited options when it comes to turning his balcony into an oasis of greenery.

But since there are so many concrete terraces around the place, it is incumbent upon me to spend more time trying to address the issue.

Larry Flynn's query speaks for many of you. He writes:

"I have recently bought an apartment. The windows directly face another block and I was wondering about a suitable palm or plant that I could put on the balcony to create some privacy from the neighbors opposite."

So, Larry, you want a verdant, quick-growing screen, plus the bonus of a feature with decorative plants. Here goes. Obviously, you will need containers.

I would recommend



WHEREFORE ART THOU?: An example of a balcony garden using large glazed ceramic pots. Photo: John Athayde

glazed ceramic pots in as big a size as you can manage without overcrowding your balcony which, from your helpful photos is, I would guess about six feet wide. Glazed pots hold water better and look nicer.

Many nurseries in Kathu and on Chao Fa East and West sell containers. You could go for narrower troughs, but the range is limited.

Rectangular concrete pots or simulated versions in textured plastic also look attractive. But concrete is very heavy.

Put a platen or saucer underneath. It will help

conserve water and stop the pots from staining your balcony surface. Use potting mix (the stuff in white bags is adequate, but ideally needs to be mixed with nutrients and top soil).

Now for the plants. You mention one possibility, that is the traveler's palm.

Though this is a beautiful and distinctive tree, and will occupy only lateral space on your balcony because of its narrow, fan-like shape, it is too big to go in a pot and will quickly outgrow both the pot and its surroundings. In fact most palms, despite the lingering expression, 'potted palms', do not enjoy the cramped environment of a container and can easily succumb to over-watering.

If you really want palms, go for the lady palm (*rhapsis*) which is tough and grows in clumps of many slender trunks, each covered with dark, fibers. The leaves are attractively fan-shaped, but it only grows three – five feet. Fishtail palms are bigger, their size making a more effective screen as with golden cane palms. Fan palms (*livistona*) would be another possibility: *chinensis* has quite long fan-shaped foliage with lengthy drooping tips, *rotundifolia* has wide, almost circular 'fans'. All these plants can adapt to partial shade, though they prefer full sun. And I assume your balcony gets plenty of sunshine.

Among other potted plants, I



Plants in ceramic containers.
Photo: Andy L.



Indoor container garden.
Photo: Kim Woodbridge

am discounting ones that are not large or vigorous enough to provide a dense screen. So no crown of thorns, no desert rose. But I would definitely consider the bougainvillea, especially some of the newer, brilliantly hued cultivars, white-blooming orange jasmine (*murraya paniculata*), is an excellent screening shrub, *wrightia religiosa*, is especially popular among Thais, and the purple flowering *thunbergia*.

Foliage plants might include *sanchezia*, which has gorgeous variegated leaves and grows to about two meters, the hardy polycias, which also has variegated foliage, and the umbrella tree (*schefflera*). I have one in a pot by the pool that is now six feet by six feet.

All these are easy to find in nurseries. Happy hunting.

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



A balcony garden provides an ideal screen for privacy. Photo: Per Knudsen

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Tip of the week

Container gardening

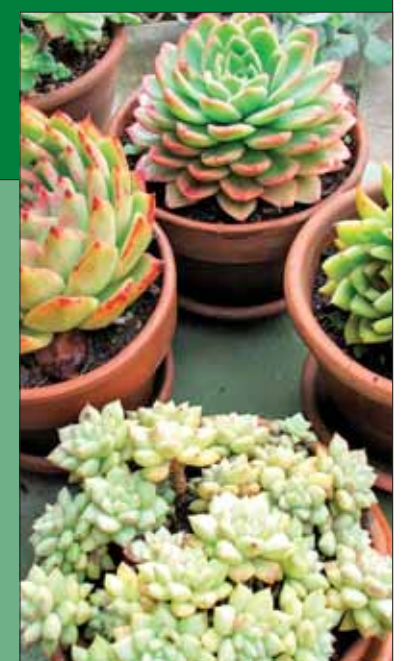
GAZETTE readers who live in apartments with little or no actual garden often ask for information on container gardening.

I have a large plot, but I do love the versatility offered by ceramic pots.

You can control the environment by using specialized soil for fastidious plants, experiment with new combinations, and move your pots around if you can.

A good potting mix should be soft enough to allow roots to thrive; it should be fast draining and yet moisture retentive.

Compost and coconut fiber hold water well and allow rapid root growth, but need to be supplemented by something more substantial, such as good top soil. You can add sand instead, but ensure you also remember to fortify the mixture with an appropriate fertilizer.



Potted Plants. Photo: Sean A. O'Hara

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Kitchen Manager/Sous Chef: Hotel experience preferred. Must speak and write English. Kitchen Staff: Thai/European food. Hotel experience preferred. Cold Kitchen, Hotline, Dishwasher, Counter/Wait Staff: English speaking. Tel: 076-367071, 081-832 2519 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-367071. Email: jude@tigermuaythai.com

FEMALE AND MALE CREW WANTED

on live-aboard 60ft yacht based at Phi Phi. Tel: 081-891 9726 (Thai), 082-839 7701 (Eng).

MANAGER-SWIMMING POOL CO

Service Manager, Thai national, required by Phuket's leading swimming pool management & maintenance service company. Experienced in: swimming pool maintenance & installation, ability to manage 30 plus staff, spoken and written English with a dynamic personality are all essential. A rewarding opportunity. Salary is not a factor for the successful applicant. Tel: 076-620193, 081-797 5545 (English & Thai), 081-958 6754 (English). Fax: 076-620194. Email: info@mobilepooldoctor.com

JUNIOR DESIGNER/WEB DEVELOPER

Photoshop, Dreamweaver, InDesign, html coding experience - Php a plus. Must have good command of English (Thai national only). Tel: 076-324184, 082-255 7507. Email: orn@imarketingonly.com Please send CV to orn@imarketingonly.com

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 Bachelor's 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 Pornniwa, Assistant Manager-Classifieds, at Jeab@PhuketGazette.Net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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

COPYWRITER

Need a great communicator who can understand complex issues and explain them in well written, fluent English. Must have excellent communication and organizational skills. E-mail your CV to truepediaorg@gmail.com

FLORISTS AND SHOP STAFF

Florists and shop staff needed. Please send CV and pic. Email: boutiqueflowersphuket@hotmail.com

RUSSIAN MANAGER

Russian staff with good English needed for restaurant manager position. Experience in same or similar position is required. Tel: 082-329 3207 (Russian).

MANAGER-SWIMMING POOL CO

Service Manager, Thai national, required by Phuket's leading swimming pool management & maintenance service company. Experienced in: swimming pool maintenance & installation, ability to manage 30 plus staff, spoken and written English with a dynamic personality are all essential. A rewarding opportunity. Salary is not a factor for the successful applicant. Tel: 076-620193, 081-797 5545 (English & Thai), 081-958 6754 (English). Fax: 076-620194. Email: info@mobilepooldoctor.com

MOUNTAIN BIKE TOUR LEADER

Seeking more bike guides to join our growing team. Must speak good English, be passionate about biking, and be a Thai national. Tel: 087-263 2031. Email: info@amazingbiketoursthailand.asia

E-COMMERCE MANAGER

Serenity Resort & Residences in Rawai is an up-scale private resort with 62 suites and residences. We are now looking for a qualified e-commerce manager to be part of our management team. Candidates must be fluent in English and have experience in on-line marketing, PPC campaigns and possibly SEO. This position enjoys a very attractive salary with benefits. Candidates should currently hold a similar position in another hotel or in the on-line travel industry. Please email CV with photo. Only short-listed candidates will be notified. Tel: 081-846 9981 (English). Email: ursaebi@gmx.net For further details, please see our website at www.serenityphuket.com

Looking for a job?
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Grace Garden Management Ltd.

Grace Garden Management Co., Ltd. is going to launch a top class dining restaurant on the east coast of Phuket, The breeze @ Cape Yamu

We are looking for competent, enthusiastic and highly qualified individuals for the following vacancies to join our business:

Cook 1 Position

- at least 3-4 years experience, fusion cooking, international cuisine.
- be able to manage of supplies and inventory

Bar Manager 1 Position

- 1 year experience in beverage section, control the bar system, mix drinks and create cocktails

Waiters or Waitresses 3 Positions

All above position should be able to communicate in English
Please send your CV to Human Resources Department

222 Moo 7, Paklok Sub-district, Thalang District, Phuket 83110
Email: annie@campbellkane.com
Tel: 089 4741268, Fax 076 529673

OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

Elite Yachting in Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket in looking for a Thai national with a bachelor degree and min 2 years experience. You need to work accurately with numbers (e.g. confirm payments to clients) and general office admin. Ability to write and speak English is required. Tel: 081-978 6086 (English). Please send your CV to jurg@phuket-yachts.com

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT KAMALA

For Trading Company in Kamala. We seek an experienced Senior Accountant. Must know Express software, English, and understand the import business. Salary starts at 25,000 baht + transportation+ accommodation+ BUPA health insurance. Work 6 days a week. Tel: 076-322663, 086-773 4538 (English). Fax: 076-322664. Email: skgf@skgf.asia

EXPERIENCED ACCOUNTANT

SPCE Co Ltd, a construction and development company in rapid development, seeks an experienced accountant to work at our new office in Bang Tao, Phuket. Ad hoc duties will appear, such as visits to various government offices and translation service for our foreign staff. Full or part time will be considered, salary is open to negotiation - depending on experience and working hours. Please send email: lpj@pryter.com

SECRETARY/ PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Tropical Properties is looking for Thai national with good knowledge of English, internet & MS Office. Handling general office admin, good communication skills. Accurate reporting & working independently is required. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-882 2856 (English). Email: luc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

Administration Assistant

The successful candidate will be a Thai national with an outgoing personality. Experience in business administration combined with good management and organizational skills is essential. A good command of written and spoken English is also important. Knowledge of PageMaker/InDesign and Office software would be an advantage.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to neil@phuketgazette.net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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

MY STORAGE

Secure, Clean & Cost Effective Self Storage

MY STORAGE - Thailand's No.1 Self Storage facility located at Jungceylon Shopping Center, Patong, Phuket - is seeking a well organised and enthusiastic Facility Administrator / PA.

Facility Administrator / PA

- Bachelor's degree or related field
- Thai national 25 years old or older, fluent in English (written and spoken)
- Minimum of 3-5 years experience in the related field
- Computer literate with good knowledge of Microsoft Office
- Excellent administrative and communication skills required
- Bookkeeping and office management skills required
- Self-motivated, proactive, flexible and well organized
- Service-minded and must have attention to detail
- Experience in property management an advantage.

Submit your CV with recent photo and a covering letter in English to hr@mystorageasia.com or call 076 29 29 09 for further information.

Want to know more about MY STORAGE? Visit mystorageasia.com

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

Ocean Resort Group

is currently seeking for the following positions:

- Bakery Chef
- Assistant Resort Manager

Contact Human Resources Department
Phone: +66 (0) 76-314263-69 ext 7732 or
email your CV to hrrsunwing@oceanresortgroup.net,
www.sunwingphuket.com



Front Office Manager

Qualifications:

- Male/ female between 30 - 40 years old
- Bachelor's Degree or higher education
- Excellent command of spoken and written in English, other languages an advantage
- At least 5 years experience in Front Office/Reservations Department with good leadership skills and guest service attitude is a must
- Assistant front Office Manager with 5 Star hotel/resort background can apply
- Amadeus PMS, Microsoft Office knowledge is required

Interested candidates are invited to email a full resume, stating present and expected salaries and enclosing a recent photograph to:

Ramada Resort Khao Lak

Contact: Theeranuch Limbos
Email: hr@ramadakhaoiak.com
Address: 59 Moo 5, Tumbon Kukkak, Takuapa District, Phang Nga 82190 Thailand
Tel: (66) 076 427777

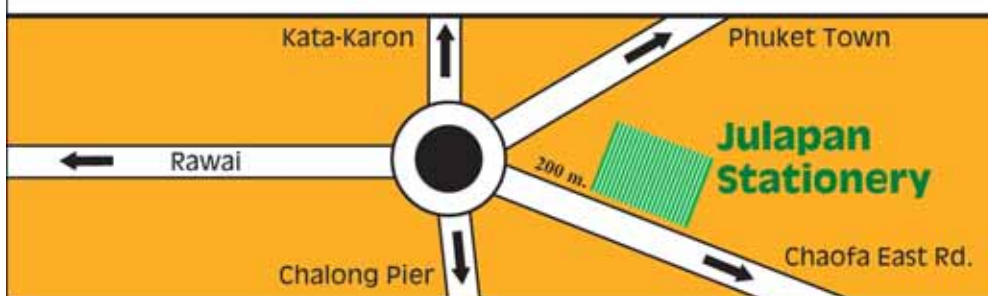
ASSISTANT MANAGER IN PHUKET

- Bachelor's degree
- Good English
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- Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chaofa East Rd) Tel: 076-282403

PATONG

- Taurus Travel (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: 076-344521-2
- Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: 076-290468
- Deli Supermarket (Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd) Tel: 076-342275

PHUKET CITY

- Earth Language Training Centre School (Phang Nga Rd) Tel: 076-232398
- Sin & Lee (Thalang Rd) Tel: 076-258369
- iTree complete printing service (Tesco Lotus Phuket Town) bank zone Tel: 076-255425

CHERNG TALAY

- Chaba Supermarket (at the Laguna gateway) Tel: 076-325586

RAWAI

- The Network property office (Saiyuan Rd) Tel: 076-613173

KARON

- EuroStyle Tailors (Luang Por Chuan Rd) Tel: 076-396911

Articles
For Sale7KW. 3-PHASE
WATER PUMP

Barely used (10 hours). Have 2 units for sale. Price: 15,000 baht each. Contact Margy on 089-908 7486.

HIX HEAT PRESS
DUAL PADS

I am selling my Heat Press Made in USA, very little used (about 60 t-shirts), like new. I bought it in Bangkok. Paid 125,000 baht, selling 60,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-283004, 086-742 3437. Email: joelvd@hotmail.com

NEW INVICTA
WATCH
FOR SALE

Very large Invicta Men's 6913 Corduba Collection Interceptor Chronograph Blue Polyurethane watch, comes with box and guarantee. Tel: 076-319699. Email: sun parasol@gmail.com

FURNITURE AND MORE

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

FREEZER, FUGE TABLE
Sanden freezer, excl cond, 8,500 baht. Fugeball soccer table, as new, 10 baht per game, 35,000 baht. Tel. 086-283 9100.

COFFEE TABLE

Bamboo coffee table for sale. Excellent condition. 110cm square with inset in center (for flower decoration, etc). 10,000 baht ono. Email: beijingmarcher@yahoo.com

CHINESE TEA

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

FURNITURE AND
OTHER ITEMS

Wooden frame "L" sofa with mustard color upholstery. 16k. Modern glass chandelier 5k. Huge silver candelabra 5k. All in excellent condition. Standard Lamp 1,500. All reduced for quick sale. Email for photos at beijingmarcher@yahoo.com

Articles
WantedFULL-SIZED USED
BATH WANTED

Looking to find an old plastic or stone full-sized bath to use in a pet washing parlor - something large enough to put big dogs in the wash them. Please email gone2thedoggies@gmail.com with photo

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Anonymous

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PARTNER

Unique opp, 15 years trade, repeat customers, unlimited potential in Asia. Looking for partner. Tel: 087-078 9707.

OFFICE, BUSINESS
SPACE

for rent on 5th floor of Patong Tower. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-341370. Email: i_am_krittapak@hotmail.com

BIG BAR FOR RENT

Big bar for rent on main street in Patong. Contact for details. Tel: 076-341718, 086-943 4447 (English). Email: hollywoodbeach@hotmail.com

BAR FOR SALE OTO

Brand-new bar for sale in OTO market. Fully furnished to very high standard, 2 40" TV's, fridge, freezers, stock, sound system, etc. Great location with huge potential. Genuine reason for sale. Tel: 084-445 2042. Email: ian_843@hotmail.com

PATONG BANGLA ROAD

XL shophouse for sale. Phar Lap bar building. Have a look, make an offer. Email: coco.diorster@gmail.com

SOUVENIR SHOP
FOR SALE

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RESORT FOR SALE



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BAR/RESTAURANT IN PATONG

for sale. Nanai Rd 231, fully furnished. Price: 180,000 baht or rent 13,000 baht/month. Tel: 085-477 5935.

CHEAP BAR BANGLA ROAD

In Soi Crocodile. Lease paid for another 33 months. Asking price 1.6m baht only! Want to sell quick for family reasons. Tel: 087-284 2031 (English & Thai). Email: tomarell @hotmail.com

POOLBAR/ RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Frogclub Pool-bar/restaurant 30 pax. 2 floors with rooms upstairs. Contract is paid until January 2013. 800,000 baht negotiable. Must see. Tel: 082-278 7377. Email: morten.pasby@gmail.com

URGENT RESTAURANT FOR SALE

For sale: Poolside restaurant in Bang Tao inside a condominium with 56 apartments. Tel: 080-143 5541. Email: pablo blattmann@hotmail.com Website: www.slideshare.net/danielphuket/poolside-info-11668724. Email: pabloblattmann@hotmail.com

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Second hand desktop computer for sale. It's in good condition like new. CPU AMD Brisbane 4000+ 2.1GHZ (Dual Core), RAM: DDR2 2GH DD: 160GB, ODD: DVD-RW, O/S: Windows XP and Microsoft office package installed. Good for office and internet user. 5,800 baht. Tel: 080-533 5674 (English). Email: skhan0607@yahoo.com

ENGLISH COMPUTERMAN

Sales, service, repairs, upgrades & accessories in Chalong. Tel: 076-384259, 084-625 7744 (English). Fax: 076-384259. Email: computer manphuket@gmail.com

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Personals

NAI HARN BRIDGE CLUB

Small friendly group is seeking new members wishing 2 learn 2 play bridge. Free lessons provided. Intermediate & advanced players also very welcome. 4 regular games. We play Tuesday & Thursday afternoons in a relaxed residential setting in Nai Harn. Call 076-388324, 087-470 7570 for more details.

SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES

Crossword puzzle:



1	B	O	L	D	5	U	L	T	R	A	10	A	C	A	D
14	E	R	I	E	15	P	E	W	I	T	16	C	O	L	A
17	E	C	C	L	E	S	I	A	S	T	19	C	I	S	M
20	F	A	K	I	R	21	A	D	E	22	N	O	N	O	S
27	L	E	C	I	T	H	A	L	30	T	A	T	A	M	I
35	A	L	I	T	36	E	M	E	37	T	I	C	38	D	A
39	M	A	T	40	S	R	I	41	H	S	T	42	D	O	A
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54	C	R	O	O	K	57	O	R	58	A	C	U	T	E	
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69	G	E	N	A	70	N	O	T	S	O	71	E	S	M	E

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China crisis

The Digby

AVOID the soggy attentions of Songkran celebrants this weekend and catch the Shanghai Formula One Grand Prix on Star Sports. Qualifying starts at 1pm on Saturday and the main race roars into action at 2pm on Sunday, Phuket time.

It is set to be a thriller. Which teams can stand the grueling pace? And within the teams, which drivers will be winners or losers? F1 team-mate duels are riveting with competitive streaks even going so far as to see team members take each other out. Shanghai is hard on engines, so it is going to test teams with questionable stamina like Williams, the last great independent. It's also the first cold track of 2012.

F1 cars are primarily differentiated by the down force that sticks them to the track at different speeds. Red Bull's recent dominance was because they mastered exhaust blown diffusers and supplied front wings. Rules for the 2012 season specifically outlaw Red Bull's technology, so they are competing with the rest.

McLaren of Woking, Surrey has the fastest car, and two English drivers. Lewis Hamilton is fast, challenging, clever and has been the team's blue-eyed boy since he could

drive a go-kart. Jensen Button is perhaps the smoothest driver on the circuit. He was once clearly McLaren's second driver, but not now. It's a hard pill for Hamilton to swallow while rumors continually circulate that he's talking to other teams such as Red Bull and Mercedes, who have both had to issue denials. If McLaren can tidy up its pit action, and providing driver rivalry does not cause any silly mistakes, they could have the top two podium places.

Red Bull from Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, has German Sebastian Vettel, who is his team's golden boy, with copious "youngest" F1 records under his belt. The team also has Australian Mark Webber, an understated consistent finisher. Webber thrives on adversity where Vettel seems to splinter. Vettel is behind Webber on driver's points, and he might try too hard at Shanghai resulting in him not being able to finish. Webber will finish in the points; maybe even on the podium.

Mercedes of Brackley, Northamptonshire, has a competitive car. Moreover it has German Michael Schumacher, F1's most crowned king, in a comeback. He holds the Shanghai track record, but is he too old to do it again? Mercedes' other driver German Nick Rosberg, after six years in F1, needs to start



SILKY: Jensen Button

	DRIVER	POINT	TEAM	PTS
1	FERNANDO ALONSO	35	McLaren	55
2	LEWIS HAMILTON	30	Red Bull	42
3	JENSEN BUTTON	25	Ferrari	35
4	MARK WEBBER	24	Sauber	30
5	SERGIO PEREZ	22	LOTUS TEAM	16
6	SEBASTIAN VETTEL	18	Force India	9
7	KIMI RÄIKÖNEN	16	Williams	8

LUCKY SEVEN: Driver standings of the current F1 season. Image: Gazette Graphics

proving his worth to the team. 'Schumie' has been unlucky in 2012, but with the team confident that tyre management problems have been mastered, he could be on the Shanghai podium.

Sauber from Hinwil, Switzerland has Mexican Sergio Perez, who had a brilliant race in Malaysia, and Japanese Kamui Kobayashi, a skilled overtaker, who can be dangerous on track. Perez is a good bet for points, but it's doubtful that he will repeat Sepang and get a podium finish.

Scuderia Ferrari from Maranello, Italy has Spaniard Fernando Alonso, a most talented driver, who has made an indifferent 'pranc-

ing horse' gallop. His job is to keep the team in the Constructors' Championship until Ferrari can recover a winning package – perhaps for Barcelona. Brazilian team mate Felipe Massa has achieved nothing in 2012. He has not looked like a winner since his 2009 accident, and must prove himself or Ferrari might replace him. It's not likely to be Perez, but test driver, Italian Davide Rigon would also love the seat, and Massa wisely canceled his Easter home leave for a trip to Maranello. Ferrari will probably have enough tyre problems in Shanghai to keep them off the podium, but should end up with points – most likely from Alonso.

Bend it like Bubba

TRADITIONALLY the Masters gets under way by having three past champions hit tee shots off the first.

This year, the honor fell to Arnold Palmer (four times past champion), Jack Nicklaus (six times past champion) and for the first time Gary Player (three times past champion), who has played in no less than 52 Masters, making it one of the most unique starts in a Major.

Augusta National Golf Courses organizing committee will be extremely pleased in the way they set up the course for the Masters, creating a great test of golf in immaculate conditions. For the players to make a good score they would have to be at the top of their game.

As was mentioned last week, the course itself plays a big part with classic pin positions on the last day and the winning score of 10-under par proved their point.

Phil Mickelson, with three Masters under his belt, was in the driving seat going into the last round. After shooting a 30 on the back nine in round three, he had peaked too early with an eight under total for the first three rounds. The left-hander was going to be tough to beat, but eventually his putter let him down when he needed it most. However, Mickelson appeared to be happier making friends with spectators instead of getting on with the job at hand, finishing tied for third.

Lee Westwood had problems on the greens in the third round, missing one putt from just nine inches.

Despite this, Westwood's ball striking never wavers and he shot 68 on the last day to finish tied for third place. He will be disappointed to have let this one slip, averaging 32 putts for the week.

Matt Kuchar and Peter Hanson were overnight leaders going into the last day, but never really got going. Both finished with a share of third also.

That brings us to Bubba Watson, no relation to Tom Watson. Bubba's full name is Gerry Lester Watson, Jr., but let's stick with 'Bubba'.

Bubba's unorthodox left-handed golf swing helped him to six-under after three rounds while Louis Oosthuizen, looking to add a second Major title with his picture perfect right-handed swing found himself at seven-under were set to challenge for the converted green Masters jacket on day four.

Louis stuck the first blow early in the round, sinking his second shot on the par five for an albatross three under, a rare bird indeed, to put him 10-under.

Bubba birdied the same hole, but was now four shots behind and dropped a shot round 'Amen corner' with Louis going through in level par. With two par fives still to come it was still either player's jacket.

Louis made stock birdies on the 13th and 15th holes, but Bubba

made four birdies in a row from the 13th to draw level.

No blood on the last 3 holes meant a play off.

Like most golfers, we don't want the Masters to end, but unfortunately somebody has to finish second.

No blood on the first playoff hole, so off to the sweeping dog-leg, left to right 10th hole.

Both players hit errant tee shots down the right leaving Louis a 220 yard second shot while Bubba's ball was found deep in the trees. Playing off a bed of pine needles, Bubba spotted a gap out, but would have to move the ball between 40 and 60 yards from left to right.

Louis hit his second shot short, over hit his pitch shot and finished with a two-putt bogey.

Bubba made the most perfect contact off the unusual lie, putting back spin and side spin on the ball swinging it from left to right and when on landing, skipped and spinned even more left to right ending up less than 20 feet away from the pin. A perfect shot at the perfect time was followed by two putts and the green jacket was his to keep forever.

Bubba's no nonsense approach and the imaginative way he plays golf deservedly earned his first Major and increased his earnings in golf to US\$15 million while dedicating the win to his father who passed away recently.

– by Martin Platts



CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK: Bubba Watson hits out of the trees on the 10th hole during the playoff to win the 76th Masters at the Augusta. Photo: AFP

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FC Phuket face another crisis

By S Layne & P Choksakulpan

A MONTH into the season, FC Phuket maintain their mid-table ranking following their latest 1-1 draw in an away match against Khon Kaen FC on Sunday.

The fifth fixture of the Yamaha 1 league 2012 season was played in front of an energetic crowd of at least 3,000 fans, including a handful of Hulk fans who chartered a van to attend the match which was played at the provincial stadium of Thailand's Northeastern capital.

The home side, commonly referred to by their mascot, the "T-Rex", drew first blood on 31 minutes.

A free kick by Khon Kaen's Supakorn Karada's found the head of Chinese import Xiang Li, diverting the ball back to Rermrat Ngam-Chareon, who took a strike at goal.

The shot was deflected by Phuket's back line, but a follow up shot by teammate Saksit Yuencheewit did not miss its mark at the far post, livening up the stands.

Phuket's equalizer came only five minutes later from a similar follow up on a deflected ball.

Phuket's Poramut Krongborisut ball control and left footed strike was celebrated enthusiastically at the few bars in Phuket Town that were streaming the game live from the internet.



MINE! : Nirun Panthong chases for possession. Photos: P. Choksakulpan

Both sides would be unable to alter the score from that point on.

Khon Kaen had to play the last 6 minutes of regulation time a man down after Jutaphon Sittilo was handed his second yellow card.

In the 1st of four minutes of penalty time, Phuket's Suphat Aonthong was also ejected for his second yellow. Final score 1-1.

Surprisingly, Phuket Coach Milos Joksic was satisfied with the team performance.

"We just had a long journey from Phuket to Khonkaen. I know

the players were very tired and we were missing a lot of players to injury," he said.

Phuket were not in full form missing key players due to injuries including strikers Ibrahim Kanoute, Watcharapong Jun-ngam and Thawin Butsommat, as well as defenders Sylvestre Nenebi Tra and Arwut Nuchet, in addition to midfielder Nirun Panthong.

Midfielder Suwit Najumroen was also absent due to being called for conscription...

Phuket are now off for Songkran



CHEERASSIC PARK: Khon Kaen fanclub girls support the "The T-Rex".

and will resume training on April 16 to prepare for their next match at home on Saturday, April 21 against Suphanburi FC.

Following the match, Phuket club executives and some fans traveled back to Bangkok to have a late night emergency meeting.

Participating in the meeting included Ravi Lothong, Chairman of Siam Sport Syndicate PCL, Viluck Lothong, Muangthong Vice-President and Ronnarit Suewaja, Muangthong United's General Manager, who were met

by FC Phuket executives 'Ko Men' Paitoon Chutimakornkul, 'Ko Lek' Narubas Aryupong, Soranan Sanae, Azine Arammethapong and some fans.

Following the meeting FC Phuket manager Soranan Sanae said, "We are experiencing a crisis now because we've run out of money to feed the team. Muangthong United will offer financial support until the end of this season, and will send one Muangthong staff to Phuket to do marketing for FC Phuket," he said.

Dawn of a new era

Morning Star clinch the maiden Phuket Super Six League title

THE conclusion to the first Phuket Soccer Six League (PSSL) season reached its climactic end last week with the top two teams battling for the inaugural title.

Morning Star were in pole position and favorites to win the league, but Shakers FC still had a chance if they could beat their rivals by a difference of six goals.

Despite such an ambitious target, Shakers FC certainly hadn't

thrown in the towel and from the start of the game looked to put Morning Star under pressure. However, it was Morning Star who opened the scoring after combining well for Pedro Carrera to finish. An Einar Bangstad strike to the top left corner of Shakers' goal doubled Morning Star's advantage and the league leaders seemed to have the game under control.

Shakers 'never say die' attitude

surfaced when Lee Turner blasted a goal from distance following a corner kick. And soon after that, Jon Wiegand scored to level the scores at 2-2. Back in the game and their tails up Shakers stirred the excitement further when a Morning Star defensive error was pounced upon and a long shot by Mikael Lundin found the net to give Shakers a 3-2 lead going into half-time.

A physical start to the second-half frustrated the Morning Star team with Shakers breaking every attack down. But aggression got the better of Shakers FC resulting in one player being sent off for several dangerous tackles, and the advantage was back with Morning Star.

Shakers goal fell under siege, and the onslaught was rewarded with Bangstad's second goal to bring the scores level again at 3-3.

Following a chaotic run of play in front of the Shakers goal, Simon Smith headed home to make it 4-3 before Bangstad completed his hat-trick with a direct free-kick. A final score of 5-3 to Morning Star ensured the maiden title stayed with the most consistent



BROTHERS IN ARMS: Morning Star (dark blue shirts) and Shakers FC during the last round of matches of Phuket's Super Six League.

team this first PSSL season.

Pita Bar Phuketeters snatched second spot in the league after their 4-0 win over Phuket Serenity Villas. Two goals from Aaron Bichler in addition to scores from Carl Brain and Yannick Christll capped a great performance that was also highlighted by a fabulous display of goalkeeping from Phuketeeer's net minder, Lolo Cosmelli.

Fifth place and no more was already assured for Ristorante Rugantino before their game against The Lounge, but that didn't negate a thrilling battle between the two teams. Coming from two goals down, Rugantino looked to have earned a draw, but a last gasp goal sealed victory for The Lounge and eighth place on the table on a 6-5 scoreline.

Babynoname couldn't hold on to a two goal advantage, eventually succumbing to the pressures



SHOOTING STAR: Pedro Carrera takes a tumble against Shakers FC.

of Aladdin friends attack and an 8-6 loss. Babynoname, alas, earning the wooden spoon and Aladdin Friends taking ninth place.

In the last game of the evening, Eden FC's Joseph Arimathea put paid to Nanai Boy's hopes of a second place finish by scoring in the dying minutes to end the game 4-3 in Eden's favor.

For information on the first season of PSSL and how to register for season two, visit PhuketFootball.com

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LONDON CALLING: David Wong (above) has already posted an Olympic B qualifying time.

THE first Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club (TSLC) Long Course Swimming Championships sponsored by Rocket Science Sports took place last weekend with swimmers representing 10 international swim teams from Shanghai, Beijing, Hong Kong, Singapore, Western Australia and three local teams from Phuket.

"Over 75% of swims resulted in best times, highlighting the event's success and its fast pool thanks to a full-length, three-meter depth and Olympic standard design and lane lines," said Simon Jones, Director of Aquatics at TSLC.

Hosts Silverfinz, who train at TSLC, came away with the 'Top Team' award after 12 swimmers picked up individual High Point awards for their respective age groups. The results placed them ahead of local swim teams from the British International School 'Phuket Flying Fish' and the 'Phuket Andaman Swim Club', who finished in joint third place behind the Hong Kong Island Stingrays in second place.

This age group competition is set to become the show case swim meet in Asia Pacific with the target of attracting several hundreds of swimmers to Phuket over future Easter and Songkran holidays.

This year's event included the Hong Kong National Swim Team and one of Hong Kong's top age group swim clubs (Hong Kong Island Stingrays). Both outfits were on Phuket for a training camp at TSLC in the lead up to their Olympic Trials back in Hong Kong this weekend. The training camp for the teams which included training twice a day for two hours a time, plus the use of TSLC's

fitness facilities has helped both groups in their preparations to record crucial qualifying times. The visitors already boast two World Cup gold medalists in addition to representatives at World Championships, Asian Games and South East Asian Games; with the aim of this training camp being to add to the already impressive achievements a number of swimmers making the 2012 Olympic Games Team for Hong Kong. David Wong is one of the squad who has already posted a 'B' standard qualifying time for London. "The conditions here have been fantastic. I've really enjoyed the weather and the outdoor training. This past week will certainly benefit my times for the [Olympic] trials in April and June. I'm

two seconds off the 'A' standard, but I hope to make up that difference over the coming competitions," said David.

In recent months TSLC has hosted the Malaysian National Swimming Team, the Hong Kong National Swimming Team in addition to several top swim clubs across Asia, all looking for a

training edge in Olympic year. The center is rapidly developing as one of Asia's most reputable sports venues due to its range of athletic facilities, on-site accommodation and comprehensive dietary considerations for athletes in training.

With highly competitive swim teams from Europe and the Asia-Pacific Region now exploiting TSLC's facilities, standards and results of future long course and short course events on Phuket will certainly reach new heights.

For more information on TSLC's aquatic program visit Thanyapura.com.



Thanyapura's Director of Aquatics Simon Jones.



The Hong Kong national swimming squad (above) used Thanyapura's first long course swimming championship as preparations for next months Olympic qualifiers. Photos: Neil Quail



Hong Kong Island Stingrays swim team.



One of the competitors checks her time.

2012 THANYAPURA LONG COURSE SWIM CHAMPIONSHIPS		
PLACE	TEAM	POINTS
1	Silverfinz	3,422
2	Hong Kong Island Stingrays	1,168
3	Phuket Andaman Swim Club	918

IronKid meets Ironmen



FUTURE STAR: Nine year old triathlete Ben McMillan gets advice from Ironman legends Jurgen Zack (left) and Faris Al-Sultan (right) during the TSLC Long Course Swimming Championship last weekend. An exclusive interview with Faris, who won the 2005 Ironman Kona World Championship, will feature in the April 21 edition of the *Phuket Gazette*. Photo: Neil Quail

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Sport

Blazing a trail through Phuket

By Neil Quail

AN EXHILARATING new event is coming to Phuket in the form of trail running with the first experience being episode two of the Columbia Trail Masters, 2012 Thailand Trail Running Championship.

Organized by Active Management Asia, Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club will host the island's maiden excursion into the world of off road running on May 6 with Khao Phra Taew National Park as the backdrop and three distances for participants to choose from; a 21.5km Off Road Half Marathon; a 10km trail run and a 3km fun run/walk for all the family.

So what exactly is trail running?

As eco-friendly outdoor activities become increasingly popular around the world and Thailand's love affair with running having burst into full bloom over the past five years, those who enjoy running are



DIVA DELIGHT: Young runners show their winner's medals.

eager to combine their passion with nature. Trail running is a relatively new and rapidly growing sport that integrates adventure, the great outdoors with both physical and mental endurance.



Running is often imagined as a pursuit using roads or synthetic tracks. But a lot of runners opt to run on hiking trails in natural settings. Trail running combines aesthetics and well-being of hik-

ing through beautiful outdoor scenery while benefiting from the physical challenges of running.

In addition to improved fitness levels, trail running can be less damaging to the body's joints. Running on hard surfaces such as pavement and concrete is known to adversely affect bones and joints over time. People who suffer from things like shin-splints and knee problems often report that they don't experience these problems after trail running.

So, if taking in stunning scenery while making new friends and raising your fitness sounds appealing, then this is the event for you.

There will also be an expo village for sponsors to promote their products and services, while a post race lunch will follow a trophy presentation ceremony.

For more information visit AMA-Events.com or Active-Asia.com. E: Serge@active-asia.com T: 027 189581-2.

The Phuket Gazette is a sponsor of this event.



HAPPY TRAILS: Competitors hot-footing their way onto a recent Trail Master's course in the Thailand 2012 series of events.

Columbia TRAIL MASTERS INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP		
Trail Distances	Men (age groups)	Women (age groups)
21.5km Off Road Half Marathon	16-29 years 30-39 years 40-49 years 50 years and above	16-29 years 30-39 years 40 years and above
10km Trail Run	12-15 years 16-29 years 30-39 years 40-49 years 50 and above	12-29 years 30-39 years 40 years and above
3km Fun Run	Open to all ages	

Oilfield Golf Classic chips in for medical scholarship



HOLE IN ONE: Desmond Teo (right) from Gaylin presents the medical scholarship, which he donated along with POC organizer Mark Cameron (left) and Carole Dux (center) from the PIWC.



GET A ROUND IN: Phuket Oilfield Classic golfers in fine form after completing three days of competition on the courses of Phuket in aid of the Phuket International Women's Club.

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THE fourth Phuket Oilfield Classic took place last weekend with 120 international golfers and their guests arriving on Phuket to participate in the annual charity golf tournament.

Three of Phuket's top golf courses; Phunaka, Red Mountain and Loch Palm challenged golfers over three days with chances to win amazing prizes such as airline tickets to almost anywhere in the world with Qatar Airways. Also on offer were luxury cruises and a trip to South Africa.

The charity event chose to support the Phuket International Women's Club this year and a massive 500,000 baht was raised for underprivileged children here on the island. The monies will help build a better start in life for these

youngsters through educational scholarships. One lucky student received a full six-year financial package to complete a Medical Scholarship. The future looks bright

for those that benefit from the efforts of all those who took part in the 2012 event. It is hoped that one day the lucky winner of the Gaylin scholarship will become a qualified and highly sought after medical practitioner on Phuket.

The event was another huge success and celebrated by all that attended. Organizer's of the POC wish to thank all their sponsors and the golfers that played.

For more information visit PhuketOilfieldClassic.com.

The Phuket Gazette is a sponsor of the Phuket Oilfield Golf Classic.



Sport

ICC make the Village wait

By Neil Quail

THE match between Island Cricket Club (ICC) and the Village last weekend had been touted among the island's cricketers as one that should decide Laguna's opponents for the 2012 Island Furniture League final next month.

A win plus a single bonus point would have secured that berth for the Village team, but a dismal day in the field ended their hopes of clinching a clean route to a show-down with Laguna.

Village's batting portrayed confidence and determination to achieve their goal with solid scoring throughout the lineup earning them a score of 244 for 7, using their full complement of 40 overs.

Kevin Quilty (12) and Chris Gordon (11) got affairs off to a steady start, but when Quilty was trapped lbw and Tim Ross followed shortly after in similar fashion for a duck, Village needed an injection of stability once more.

Up stepped Diwan Mydeen and Martin Foster whose 74 and 44 respectively restored their team mate's faith that they would post a competitive total and boost

their run rate that could prove crucial should they not gain the bonus point needed.

Double figure scores from Justin White (17), James Firth (10 n.o.) and Chris Patterson (20 n.o.) almost pushed Village to 250, but in the end just fell short at 244.

Chand topped the bowling figures for ICC with 3 for 36 followed by Khan with 2 for 28.

It was then down to the Village bowling attack and support from their fielders if they were to claim that vital bonus point.

ICC wickets had to fall, and fall quickly. But a resolute stand by Vaigankar (40) and later by Kumar (30) and Mehra at number nine scoring 35, the opportunity to prepare for the final slipped through Village's hands.

While chances to take wickets were fumbled by Village fielders, one of their numbers showed his ability with a stunning caught and bowled by Justin White that ended Kumar's run at the crease. Martin Platts

finished off ICC's tail-end, but the damage had been done and ICC had long passed the 20 over mark with wickets in hand. That mark reached, the Village knew that getting to the final was now out of their hands and



OFF SIDE: Martin Foster is bowled by Mushtaq just short of his 50.



Diwan Mydeen (above) was awarded Man of the Match after scoring 74 runs. Photos: D. Noble

the advantage had been handed to Patong.

Gordon, Patterson, White and Platts all took two wickets each for the Village.

Although still in the hunt for that coveted place in the final, Patong will have to secure a maximum seven points against Liquid Lounge Lizards this weekend at the



OUTTA HERE: Mydeen clubs another boundary against Island Cricket Club.

ACG. Those seven points will bring Patong and Village level on the table, with the finals place determined by which team has the better run rate.

The Phuket Gazette is the local media partner of the ACG.

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