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■ **MOTORISTS TO BE DIVERTED THROUGH HEART OF PHUKET TOWN**

Maze mayhem to ease traffic snarls

■ **Highways Department moves to assuage fears of 'even worse' traffic jams**

By **Chutharat Plerin**

THE Phuket Highways Office on Tuesday staged a public meeting to announce several "alternative routes" for motorists in order to minimize tailbacks when construction of Phuket's first underpass begins next month.

The 600-million-baht underpass at the Darasamuth Intersection, in front of the Central Festival Phuket shopping mall on the bypass road, will take nearly two years to complete, confirmed Phuket Provincial Highways Office Director Samak Luedwonghad.

He also confirmed that during construction traffic will be restricted to one lane each way north-south through the junction, and east-west traffic through the junction will not be affected in the initial stages of construction.

"We will close the east-west lanes only when needed, which will be much later into the project. Even then, when we do, as with the north-south lanes, some traffic will be allowed to pass through the junction," he said.

Despite concerns that during construction, traffic congestion will be "20 to 30 per cent worse" than it is now at the junction, Mr Samak expressed faith in his office to handle the situation accordingly.

"Traffic will not be as bad as people fear. We are working with Phuket City Police Traffic Deputy Superintendent Chalermchai Hemsawat and [construction contractor] Italian-Thai Development Co, and they agreed with our suggested alternative routes..."

Continued on Page 5



Annisia Flynn hailed as the women's surfing Champion of Asia. Photo: Tim Hain/ASC Media

CHAMPION OF ASIA

PHUKET's 14-year old surfing star Annissa Flynn has carved her way to winning the women's surf champion of Asia title after an impressive win in the Quiksilver Open Phuket Thailand at Patong Beach last weekend.

Full story on Page 18



Damrong still on the hunt for illegal land encroachers

Full story on Page 8

Human trafficking suspect snared at Phuket Airport

By **Atchaa Khamlo**

IMMIGRATION officials arrested a Thai woman believed to be at the center of an international human trafficking ring at Phuket International Airport on September 14 as she tried to board a flight to Bahrain.

Dujdao "Champagne" Barana, 27, was arrested at 7pm and on her way to Bangkok for questioning the next day. After questioning by...

Continued on Page 4

New taxi standard fares under fire

LOCAL Transport Office chief Teeraut Prasertpol was grilled by Phuket honorary consuls this week over new standard taxi fares and level of service yet to be delivered.

Full story on Page 3

Fly from Phuket to Penang, Malaysia

*Flights and fares are subject to availability. Seats are limited and may not be available on all flights, public holiday, school breaks and weekends. Other terms and conditions apply

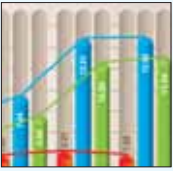
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This Week



Business

Phuket trade surplus high, a month before books close. **Page 12**



Technology

Iphone 5 has arrived. But maybe you should wait awhile. **Page 14**



History

Italian born Silpa Bhirasri, the father of modern Thai art. **Page 16**



Humor

A lighter look at the goings on round about Phuket. **Page 19**



Environment

Go Eco Phuket: PADI cleans up the reefs of Phuket. **Page 20**



Sport

Basketball: The TOA Open Tournament at Saphan Hin. **Page 47**

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Sunday



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Monday



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Tuesday



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Wife fingers hubby as brazen gold thief

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

PHUKET Police combed the Kathu Waterfall area on Wednesday morning after the wife of a man wanted for a smash-and-grab gold heist tipped off police as to his probable whereabouts.

Yong Chuan gold shop owner Sirinan Sirikolworakul, 64, was shot with an air pistol before the woman's husband, named by police only as Mr Koson "Son", and his unidentified accomplice made off with an estimated 3 million baht in jewelry.

Phuket City Police were informed at 1:30pm on Monday that the gold shop in the National Housing Estate in Rassada had just been robbed.

CCTV footage shows the pair of men entering the shop and then one of the men shooting Ms Sirinan three times in the chest with an air pistol while the other proceeded to smash the glass counters containing the jewelry with a hammer.

A dragnet attempt at a fish factory near where the motorbike used in the escape was found left police empty handed.



Brazen fold thief 'Mr Koson' was caught on CCTV escaping on the back of the motorbike taxi, which eventually led police to his house.

However, CCTV captured a second motorbike carrying one of the culprits. The license plate revealed that it was registered to a motorbike taxi driver, explained Phuket Provincial Police Commander Chonasit Wattanavrangkul.

From information provided by the taxi driver, police were able to raid Mr Koson's home, only to find that he and his wife had already fled the premises.

Arrest warrants were issued for both men on Tuesday.

Mr Koson's 27-year-old Burmese wife, Mrs Muza, was arrested at the Mo Chit Bus Station in Bangkok on Tuesday night with gold jewelry valued at 1.8 million baht hidden in shampoo bottles in her bag.

"We are continuing our search for both thieves across the island," Maj Gen Chonasit added.

Tiger Discotheque forensic report release postponed

THE release of the investigators' official report on the Tiger Discotheque blaze has been postponed while the forensic specialists attend a seminar in Bangkok.

Superintendent of the National Office of Forensic Science stated during the investigation of the fire on August 17 that the results of the forensic examination into the cause would be ready in 30 days.

However, as of Wednesday – 33 days after the blaze, the report has not been released.

"The results of the investigation into the cause of fire were scheduled to be announced on September 17. That has been postponed to next Monday as the

Forensic Science Region 8 teams, who are responsible for examining the evidence, have to attend a seminar in Bangkok," said Lt Col Kittisak Nuphueng of the Phuket Office of Forensic Science.

"Even though the results will be disseminated, we are not authorized to make the report public without the permission," Lt Col Kittisak added.

Forensic Science Region 8 Chief Phongnarate Tantivathana explained, "It is our policy to treat this as classified information. At this time we don't have the authority to release the findings of the investigation to the public."

– Orawin Narabal

Phuket national park chief lays to rest recent death threat rumor

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

SIRINATH National Park chief Cheewapap Cheewatham has denied claims that he or any other officers investigating alleged encroachment onto national park land have received death threats.

"Since I started my work here, I have not received any death threats from anyone. I have not heard any reports of any other officers receiving death threats, either," chief Cheewapap said.

"However, I have been warned by some people to be 'careful'. No one has ever raided this area [Sirinath National Park] before and the projects that are being investigated are big money projects



Sirinath National Park chief Cheewapap Cheewatham.

costing more than a billion baht.

"I have been told that what I am doing could be a landmark case in history.

"Do I get scared? Yes, I do. I

have family and people I love waiting for me," he added.

Only needing to check the boundaries of the park via aerial photographs, having already clarified the legality of some of the ownership documents for land plots under investigation, Chief Cheewapap is confident he will meet the September 25 deadline (see page 8).

"I would like to pass along a message to the people who might be thinking about hurting or threatening national park officers on the case: You can't stop us. Even if you dispose of all of us, there will be others from the office ready to take our place and continue our work in Phuket," he said.



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CENTARA GRAND BEACH RESORT PHUKET



PM Yingluck looks to develop the Andaman region ahead of the AEC 2015. Photo: The Nation

PM Yingluck pledges splurge on developing Phuket tourism

PRIME Minister Yingluck Shinawatra on September 15 named Patong Beach, Old Phuket Town and Promthep Cape as three Andaman tourist attractions to receive “emergency budget” support.

Also on the list to receive special attention were Phi Phi Island and Ao Nang, both in Krabi province, to make them more “tourist friendly” ahead of the Asean Economic Community (AEC) coming into effect in 2015.

“We have a plan to develop 29 top tourism destinations throughout Thailand. There are five such destinations in the Andaman region included in the plan: Patong Beach, Old Phuket Town, Promthep Cape, Phi Phi Island and Ao Nang Beach,” PM Yingluck told guests at a dinner talk organized by the Krabi Provincial Office and Matichon Group.

With about 14.3 million tourists having already visited the Kingdom this year, PM Yingluck expects the Thai tourism industry to be making about 2 trillion baht a year by the year 2015.

The jump in expected revenue relies heavily on the hopes that the AEC will bolster Thailand’s tourism industry. “We now have to develop an effective marketing strategy that will allow us to maintain our existing markets, while also drawing in new markets.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

Honorary consuls attack ‘new’ standard taxi fares

By Atchaa Khamlo

IN THEIR first “regular” quarterly meeting with Phuket government officers since February, Phuket Honorary Consuls today delivered a barrage of questions over the new standard taxi fares “agreed to” on September 12.

Governor Tri Augkaradacha, recently returned from a cultural tourism roadshow in Nepal, asked for input from honorary consuls about the new standard fares.

Phuket Land Transportation Office (PLTO) chief Teerayut Prasertpol got it in spades.

Piyanoot Hongsyok, honorary consul for Estonia, asked why no action was being taken to allow taxis to pick up passengers from the same area where they drop a passenger off.

“This could help reduce the standard taxi fares,” she pointed out.

Mr Teerayut replied, “Allowing this would cause problems. This was already standard practice long before the regulations were brought into force. We cannot change it suddenly.”

British honorary consul Martin Carpenter asked why different fares for the same journey in opposite directions were allowed.

Taxis picking up passengers from Phuket Airport and dropping them off in Rawai, for example, were charging less than taxi drivers in Rawai delivering passengers to the airport.

To this, Mr Teerayut explained that taxi drivers serving the airport had access to many more passengers than taxis posted at other ranks across the island.

“In the high season one driver serving the airport can get up to six trips a day. That means earning between 2,000 and 3,000 baht a day.

“Taxi drivers in Karon, in



A Phuket taxi driver stands next to the newly marked vehicle to promote the new standard taxi fees. However, honorary consul for the Netherlands, Seven Smulders, and others had serious questions about the agreement.

comparison, will get no more than two trips a day, meaning they will not make more than 2,000 baht a day in the high season,” he said.

Seven Smulders, honorary consul for the Netherlands, questioned the standard of vehicles to be used as taxis.

“The engine size cannot be less than 1,500cc and the vehicles will need to pass an inspection twice a year. The cars must be comfortable for passengers,” Mr Teerayut said.

Mr Smulders also asked what was being done to bring tuk-tuk and motorbike taxi drivers into the same level of regulation.

“Taxis first, then we will focus our attention on the tuk-tuk and motorbike taxis,” Mr Teerayut said.

However, Mr Teerayut did point out that bidding will reopen this month for any interested parties willing to gamble on running any one of three bus concessions being offered by the PLTO to operate services between Phuket Airport and Rawai; Phuket Airport and Kata-Karon; and Phuket Airport and Kamala.

In accordance with government tender regulations, the PLTO will receive bids for 45 days.

However, it was only last year

that Mr Teerayut admitted that no people or companies have ever applied to take on operating bus services along these routes for fear of reprisal by local transport organizations.

In other matters, Larry Cunningham, honorary consul for Australia, thanked all the officials involved in the arrest and subsequent trial of the Michelle Smith killers.

He also expressed thanks to sexual assault special investigator Capt Nucharee Longkaew for her assistance in the Stevie Bamford case.

Pristine beach land sold to mystery buyer for B1.64bn

AN UNKNOWN buyer has acquired 455 rai of land on Phuket’s west coast from the Bangkok Mass Transit System Public Company for 1.64 billion baht, reports *Gazette* Property columnist Bill Barnett.

Bangkok Mass Transit System Public Company’s largest shareholder, BTS, had planned to develop the site north of Kamala Beach under the entity Kamala Beach Resort Company before deciding to sell out to the unnamed Thai company, Mr Barnett reported on his Property Insider website.

The purchased area takes in prime beachfront land near to an almost completed Novotel, and a hinterland parcel of land adjoining



455 rai of prime real estate north of Kamala Beach. Photo: AbovePhuket.com

the Swissotel grounds, previously under the ownership of the Courtyard by Marriott Phuket.

Estimates put the sale of land at about 3.6 million baht per rai.

With the potential in the area, industry experts are monitoring the lucrative deal closely.

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Human trafficking arrest at airport

From page 1

the Anti-Human Trafficking Division (AHTD) she was charged with facilitating the trafficking of a least two women, and conspiring with three accomplices to lure women into prostitution.

"We were contacted by a Thai woman around August 18 or 19, who managed to make a covert phone call from Bahrain, telling us that she [and other women] had been tricked into travelling there and were being held against their will to work as prostitutes.

"We contacted local officers in Bahrain to help rescue the women from the brothel where they were being held," AHTD Deputy Commander Col Prasert Pattanadee said at a press conference in Bangkok.

"The brothel was located at an apartment in Manama in Bahrain. When Bahrain Police raided the apartment they discovered nine women locked up in a small room.

"One woman that escaped the apartment made a statement implicating Ms Dujdao and one other, known to us as 'Ms

Benjawan', as the people who kept them captive in Bahrain. She said they took everyone's passport and kept them," said Col Prasert.

The same woman also indicated that there was another Thai woman involved in the ring, who was named only as 'Pat'.

Pat is allegedly married to a Bahraini man also involved in prostitution. The woman explained to police that it was Pat who contacted hotels and entertainment venues in Bahrain in order to sell the women's "services".

"Once we collected and collated the evidence, we asked the Criminal Court for an arrest warrant and handed it over to the Department of Immigration in Thailand," he said.

Although the authorities were able to arrest Ms Dujdao. Ms Benjawan and

the mysterious "Pat" remain at large.

Col Prasert added that most of the human traffickers in Bahrain did not usually recruit the targets themselves. They tend to use women who are willing to take part in that line of work to trick others.

Additional reporting by Kom Chad Luek



Ms Dujdao was arrested, but Ms Benjawan and "Pat" remain at large.

How Phuket Immigration caught their woman

PHUKET Airport Immigration officer Lt Col Wannee Songchaisanguan revealed how they caught the suspect before she could fly out of the country.

Senior Sergeant Major Wanchai Narin was on duty in the departure hall on September 14 when a Thai woman approached his desk and handed him her passport. "Sgt Maj Wanchai scanned her passport and was immediately notified of an outstanding arrest warrant. He informed me and we escorted her to the office for questioning," Col Wannee explained.

Immigration Officers had a problem; the woman in their office, who was intending to travel to Bahrain via United Arab Emirates that night, was travelling with a passport in the name of Ms Natthakarn. This did not match the arrest warrant notification, which was for a woman named Dujdao Yarana.

According to the notification, the arrest warrant was issued on August 29

by the courts, charging Ms Dujdao with collaboration in human trafficking, connected with the sex-trade.

"Ms Dujdao denied that she was involved with human trafficking, instead claiming she was a victim of the business. She told us that she was going back to Bahrain to take action against the business operators. However, we contacted the AHTD in Bangkok and they were able to confirm, by her appearance that we were holding Ms Dujdao," said Col Wannee.

The AHTD emailed Phuket Airport Immigration officers copies of all the information necessary to positively identify the woman as Ms Dujdao, including the arrest warrant, ID card and certificate detailing her change of name.

"After showing the documents, Ms Dujdao accepted that her photo was on the documents, but denied the charge," said Col Wannee.

— Atchaa Khamlo



Lt Col Wannee Songchaisanguan and her team captured Ms Dujdao, also known as Ms Natthakarn. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

Xana manager killed, three injured in head-on crash

THE Xana Beach Club Operations Manager, Christian Roth, was killed during the early hours of September 14 when the car he was driving, on the wrong side of one of Phuket's most dangerous roads, struck an oncoming vehicle, injuring the three occupants.

Police received a report at 2:45am of a possibly dead man in a new white Toyota Vios at a u-turn on Thepkasattri Road in Srisoonthorn, two kilometers north of the Heroines' Monument.

Capt Patiwat Yodkwan arrived at the scene with volunteer rescue workers from the Kusoldharm Foundation and Baan Nai Khlam organization to find a large crowd of onlookers gathered near two badly damaged cars on the road: the white Toyota Vios and nearby, a crumpled black Toyota Corolla Altis containing three injured people.

An international driving license at the scene identified the dead driver of the white Vios as 30-year-old Mexican national Christian Werner Roth.

From the black Altis, rescue workers extracted three injured men. Kijjakarn Manajit, 23, the driver; Khuntub Alaisuk, 21; and Taksin Sirijun, 23, a leading aircraftman of the Royal Thai Air Force. All were taken to Thalang Hospital before being transferred to the better-equipped Mission Hospital Phuket and Phuket International Hospital.

From witness statements, the police deduced that Mr Roth had driven the vehicle south along the northbound carriageway. The



Police believe that Mexican national Christian Roth might not have been used to driving on the left in Phuket. Photo: Thawit Bilabdullar

vehicle was in the lane nearest the median about 20 meters before the u-turn when it struck the Altis head on.

It is not known how far Mr Roth had driven the car along the northbound carriageway.

Police believe that the accident occurred because he was not used to driving on the left, as in Mexico they drive on the right.

"I cannot say whether the man [Mr Roth] was also drunk until the medical examination results are released," said Capt Patiwat.

Kampanat Mataramanee, Associate Relations Manager of Angsana Laguna Phuket, which owns the Xana Beach resort, confirmed that the Mexican Embassy in Bangkok has been notified of the incident and that Mr Roth's family will arrive in Phuket on Sunday to make arrangements for Mr Roth's funeral in his native Mexico.

— Thawit Bilabdullar

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Underpass escape routes unveiled

From page 1

"Also, I believe in our officers and the company as they have completed a lot of big projects, even in Bangkok, where traffic is very bad," Mr Samak said.

"The project plan is flexible. I think we can solve any problems if traffic becomes a nightmare. I wouldn't worry... We will see how it goes when the project starts," he added.

The news came at a public meeting chaired by Phuket Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa at Wichit Municipality Office on Tuesday.

Present were representatives from the Department of Highways' Bureau of Bridge Construction in Bangkok, the Phuket Highways Office and project construction contractor Ital-Thai, Thailand's largest construction firm.

"The Darasamuth Intersection underpass [construction project] will start in the middle of this coming October. The whole project will take approximately two years, or 720 days, to complete," explained Mr Samak.

"Once complete, this project can solve the traffic problems for local residents as well as tourists. The traffic flow heading to Rawai, Promthep Cape and Patong will be much better," he added.

Three alternative routes presented at the meeting included one for southbound traffic heading toward Patong, to turn right at the Samkong Intersection, in front of the Tesco Lotus mall about one kilometer north of the underpass project, and continue on to Kathu



The street passing the Prince of Songkla University Phuket campus was among one of the 'rat runs' suggested. Image: Highways Dept / Google Earth

and Patong, as most southbound traffic already does.

Alternatively, motorists would be able to continue through the Samkong Intersection and make a u-turn in front of Phuket International Hospital and then turn left into Bang Yai Road, which runs behind the Big C shopping center.

Mr Samak explained that the u-turn, which is currently for ambulance access only, would be re-opened fully to allow regular traffic to make the u-turn.

However, for southbound traffic heading toward Chalong it was suggested that motorists turn left at the Tesco Lotus intersection onto Yaowarat Road, and continue directly through the heart of Phuket Town.

Motorists would exit the downtown area by turning right onto Bangkok Road. From there, they

could continue straight through the Slaughterhouse Intersection onto Wirat-Hongyok Road and rejoin the bypass road at the already busy Naka Intersection about one kilometer south of Central Festival Phuket.

Alternatively, motorists could turn left onto Chao Fa Road and continue to Chalong, rejoining Chao Fa West further south if they wished, Mr Samak said.

Several other routes were suggested for northbound traffic, including traffic heading north on Chao Fa West Road to turn off early near the Honda showroom in Wichit onto Muang Chaofah Road, which would bring traffic into Kathu.

For a high-resolution map of the suggested "alternative routes", visit PhuketGazette.net

National park fee hike worries tour operators

MANY Phuket tour and dive companies are waiting to see how the final confirmation of a significant hike in national park fees will affect their businesses.

The Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) announced that the entrance cost at many popular national parks in Thailand would see their first jump in a decade starting January 1.

A worker from the dive industry, who did not wish to be named, told the *Gazette*, "Although I understand that the insufficient budget for park management has forced the DNP to increase the entrance fees, I am worried that it will affect our services."

"We will have to charge our customers more for the diving packages in some national marine parks."

The current proposed increase in fees for Thai adults is 40 baht to 100 baht, while the cost for Thai children will jump from 20 to 50 baht. Adult foreigners will see a 20 per cent increase as the park fees go from 400 to 500 baht, while the fee for foreign children will rise from 200 to 300 baht, confirmed DNP officer Apinya Mingkwan.

However, the exact numbers are still tentative, explained Ms Apinya.

In addition to proposing the increases in park fees, the DNP, as of September 1, has cancelled the one-day national park ticket, which allowed tourists to visit multiple national parks with a single ticket, Ms Apinya added.

Some tour operators, including Juthamart Supharak from Phuket Tour Holiday Company, do not anticipate the increase in the fees to having a significant affect.

"We don't want to charge our customers more, but if the increase really happens, then we



Beauty comes at a cost, according to the DNP. Photo: Stephen Fein

will just need to explain the situation to them," Ms Juthamart said. "I don't think we will have a problem with the fee hike because our tour packages are not that expensive, so even if we add another 100 baht it is still acceptable."

However, she added, "I would be very glad for this money to go towards improving the parks."

Director of the National Parks Office Vithya Hongvianchan also does not expect the increase in the fees to affect the number of tourists visiting Thailand's national parks.

"Thailand's national park fees are very low compared to those in other countries, such as European countries, the US or even Cambodia. I believe that we will still see an increase in the number of tourists visiting our parks," Mr Vithya told the *Gazette*.

"Generally, the DNP distributes about 10 million baht per park annually to pay park rangers and for park maintenance.

"However, costs of maintenance has been increasing every year... The income generated from the increased admission fees will be used to maintain and develop the park," he added.

— Orawin Narabal

Phuket consuls praise Provincial Hospital, call for media support

THE British and Australian honorary consuls in Phuket have heaped praise on the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (PPAO) Hospital and called for local media organizations to publicize the facility so people can take advantage of the new hospital's services.

At a meeting of Phuket's honorary consul with government officers on Monday, British honorary consul Martin Carpenter said, "There are many foreigners on this island on a tight budget, and this hospital will benefit them because of its pricing policy.

"People should have a look at this hospital and the media should publicize announcements [to let people learn of the services the hospital provides], because if it is not utilized it might not survive."

Mr Carpenter said that the Pro-

vincial Hospital, located in Rassada to the east of Phuket Town, played a vital role in providing healthcare to people in Phuket.

"It is a great facility and takes pressure off Vachira Phuket Hospital [in Phuket Town] so they can get on with their own patients," Mr Carpenter explained.

Larry Cunningham, honorary consul of Australia, voiced his agreement, and even rated the hospital as "exceptional".

"In the future, when people on retirement visas here will need medical insurance, it is something that the hospital will be able to provide at a reasonable rate for retirees living in Phuket," Mr Cunningham pointed out.

For more information about the hospital, call 076-212000.



Martin Carpenter

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Funeral for revered abbot of Phuket's Wat Chalong

A SEVEN-DAY funeral service began on September 12 for the revered Abbot of Phuket's famed Wat Chaitharam, well known among foreigners simply as Wat Chalong (Chalong Temple).

Often called "Phra Ajarn Lim Wat Chalong" by his devotees, Phra Ajarn Udomwetchakit Uttamuyano, died on Tuesday, September 11, at 4:21pm at the Coronary Care Unit of Bangkok Hospital Phuket. He was 87 years old.

Leading the funeral bathing ceremony was Phra Thamwimonmolee, Lord Abbot of Region 17 Buddhist monastery from Wat Chonprathan Rungsarit in Nonthaburi.

Phuket Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa was present as the representative layman.

Phra Ajarn Lim was admitted to hospital on July 21, 2005, and he had been in and out of the hospital for some time. However, he spent nearly the past four years in the hospital.

Born as Lim Sitthichok on April 5,

1925, in Tambon Bang Tao, an area now known as Cherng Talay, he was a son of Mr and Mrs Daeng and Kong Sitthichok.

Phra Ajarn Lim was ordained at Wat Chalong at 1pm on July 5, 1962, and given the name "Uttamuyano", meaning "a man of deep wisdom".

He attained the position Abbot of Wat Chalong in 1989.

In addition to the spiritual guidance he provided, Phra Ajarn Lim leaves behind a legacy of monuments at the temple, including the humbling "Phra Mahathat Chedi Phra Jom Thai Baramee Prakat", also called "Chedi Wat Chalong".

People were allowed to pay their respects in person until September 18, after which a merit-making ceremony brought the funeral service to a close.

Phra Ajarn Lim's body will be kept at the temple for another 100 days.

The cremation ceremony is expected to be held on December 17 this year.

— Kraitsada Mueanhawong



Lord Abbot Phra Thamwimonmolee from Nonthaburi led the ceremony last week as hundreds of mourners paid their respects.



Phra Ajarn Lim was ordained at Wat Chalong on July 5, 1962, and given the name "Uttamuyano", "a man of deep wisdom".

Fake guides and gems in firing line

By Atchaa Khamlo

PHUKET jewelry shops that overcharge tourists and tour companies that hire illegal guides are to be targeted by the latest campaign by provincial authorities to preserve a "billion baht" business, officials were told this week.

"I want tour companies to follow the law. Their main tour guides must be Thai. If they do not, they will be in trouble," Phuket Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada told a meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall on September 11.

"We have been trying to solve the problem with illegal guides for 15 years. I need to take stern action."

"We have received so many complaints about illegal tour guides of different nationalities that we have to try do something to manage them. Different agencies must coordinate in inspecting each operator we receive a complaint about," he said.

He also cautioned that the authorities could not ease off on operators who keep breaking the law.

"As we have learned from the past, we cannot stop taking action as the problems always return



Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada to take stern action against illegal tour guides in Phuket.

and we find ourselves scrambling to find a way to solve the problems again. So we cannot stop taking action against this problem, and we must continue to inspect tour operators, follow up and evaluate whether our actions have been effective," he said.

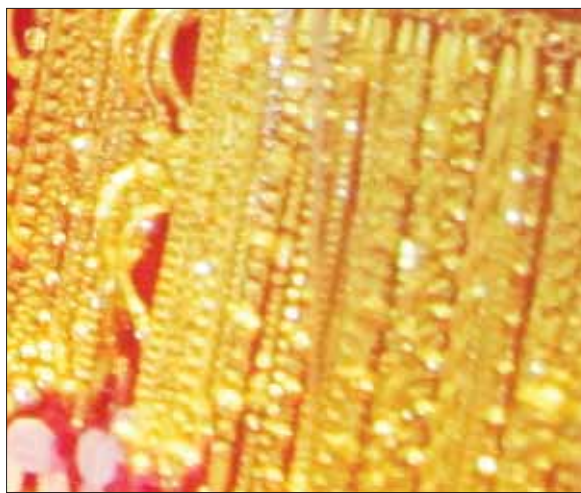
V/Gov Chamroen asked the Phuket Professional Guide Association to draw up a plan of action for tackling the ongoing problem of illegal tour guides working in Phuket.

"Although at this stage we cannot set a deadline for determining whether or not the plan is success-

ful, we will continually carry out inspections of operators that we have received complaints about," he said.

Turning his attention to rip-off jewelry merchants, V/Gov Chamroen called on Phuket Commerce Office chief Prakong Rukwong to draw up an action plan of corrective measures to take against jewelry shops that his office had received complaints about.

He also said he would ask officers from the Office of the Consumer Protection Board in Bangkok to come to Phuket to



Reputable jewelry stores were less likely to cheat customers, said V/Gov Chamroen. Photo: Gazette file

assist with inspecting dubious merchants.

Present at the meeting were representatives of five big jewelry shops in Phuket, including Wang Talang Jewelry and Gift Shop. All five representatives said they had not received any complaints about their stores.

However, V/Gov Chamroen pointed out that the smaller jewelry shops were more likely the culprits in ripping off tourists by charging inflated prices for lack-luster jewelry.

"Recognized jewelry stores are not likely to have this problem

because if they receive a complaint, it could ruin their reputation and cost their industry billions of baht," he said.

Chief Prakong agreed.

"Most big shops don't receive any complaints from tourists as their jewelry always comes with certificates confirming details of the item of jewelry and a statement of verified value."

"Small shops and stalls, however, usually do not offer such certificates for the jewelry they sell," he said.

Chief Prakong said he would focus on having all jewelry merchants provide customers with certificates for the jewelry they buy, as required by law.

However, V/Gov Chamroen suggested using corporate branding as leverage in getting small jewelry merchants to comply.

"Phuket Commerce officers have to inspect small merchants to make sure they understand what is required of them by law, and they should support small operators in creating a brand for their stores."

"If small merchants create a successful brand, they will think more carefully about their reputation if they make any problems," V/Gov Chamroen said.



Seven more tourist centers to open

THE Ministry of Tourism and Sports is to spend over 10 million baht to set up seven more tourist centers in cities across Thailand after receiving complaints of frauds and scams from tourists.

According to the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, the seven new centers will be set up to help tourists avoid scams and overpriced-products after the ministry received numerous complaints on the issues. Those centers will be set up at airports in Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Khon Kaen, Haad Yai, Samui Airport and the popular

tourist city of Pattaya.

At present, there are only two tourist centers in Thailand, both in Bangkok; at Don Mueng and Suvarnabhumi Airports.

Most complaints from tourists have been in regard to overpriced products which they were duped by unscrupulous store owners or tour guides into buying.

Additionally, nearly 100 officers will be on a 24-hour service to assist tourists in four languages: English, Korean, Chinese and Russian.



Phuket Airport was not listed as a location for a tourist center.

— NNT

Patong taxi company fitting cars with GPS

AS PART of the ongoing "Phuket Safety Zone" project, Patong Police have joined with the private sector to install GPS tracking devices to Patong taxis.

Patong Police Superintendent Chiraphat Phochanaphan joined Preechawut Keesin, Pisona Group Managing Director and president of the Patong Taxi Federation, in announcing the news on September 15.

"We along with the Pisona Group and other businesses in Patong are providing GPS [units] to increase safety for tourists and people in the area," Col Chiraphat said.

It will also allow the vehicle owners and police to track any stolen taxis, he added.

Mr Prab said that the private operators were ready to coordinate with the police for tourist safety and that information collected by the GPS units would be available to the police.

"In addition to improving tourist safety, installing GPS makes it easier for us to check on our drivers," Mr Prab said.

The Pisona Group has installed tracking systems in 91 taxis and plans to install more in the future.

"We will fit GPS to our other taxis next. If any other taxi operators are interested in installing GPS, then please come and join



Preechawut Keesin and Col Chiraphat Phochanaphan showing off the GPS devices fitted to 91 taxis as part of the Phuket Safety Zone project. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

us. The more we install, the cheaper the price," Mr Prab said.

Speaking of the Patong Safety Zone project in general, Col Chiraphat said that Patong had been divided in to six separate zones with 12 policeman dedicated to look

after and patrol each zone.

"People in the area are cooperating well, especially in terms of the CCTV system, which we are working toward hosting on one single computer server," he said.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

French tourist loses fight for life after high-speed motorbike crash

FRENCH tourist Jerome Sebastian Heras, 35, who was left comatose by a motorbike accident in Karon on September 3, died of his injuries early morning on September 12.

Medical staff at Vachira Phuket Hospital told the *Gazette* that Mr Heras was unconscious when he was brought to the hospital, and remained so.

"Mr Heras remained in critical condition, his brain suffering from hypoxia [deprivation of oxygen] from the accident. He died peacefully at 5:24am," the officer said.

The accident that left Mr Heras with severe head injuries also caused the death of his friend and co-rider, Ludovic Didier Donny, 36, who died at the scene.

Police at the crash site assessed that the motorbike struck the curb at a curved section of the beach road near the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort at 3:40am, catapulting the riders into a wall.

Investigators are still unsure as to who was driving the motorbike, but observed that neither man was wearing a helmet.

The French Embassy in Bangkok has been notified of Mr Heras' death, the hospital officer added.

His body is being kept at the hospital pending arrangements by his insurance company, which will cover the medical expenses incurred.

— Atchaa Khamlo

Immigration launch search for Filipino brothers

PHUKET Immigration officers are scouring the island for the suspected murderers of a journalist, Filipino brothers Mario Joel Tolentino Reyes and Mario Tolentino Reyes Jr. This despite not yet receiving any formal request to apprehend the pair.

The news comes as Phuket Immigration Superintendent Panuwat Ruamrak told the *Gazette*, "Even though we have yet to receive any formal requests, we are searching for the two."

The news follows Philippines Immigration Commissioner Ricardo David Jr announcing on September 14 that his office believes that former Palawan Governor Joel Reyes is in Phuket, likely travelling under a false passport in the name of Joseph Lim Pe.



LEFT: Former Palawan Governor Joel Reyes, RIGHT: Mario Tolentino Reyes Jr. Photos: Philippine National Police

Mr Reyes may have been in Phuket long enough to have needed to do a "visa run" to extend his stay. "As far as the Bureau of Immigration is concerned, he [Lim Pe] is

in Phuket. He left once and went to Malaysia, but came back to Phuket," Commissioner David was reported as saying.

Mr Reyes reportedly fled the Philippines to escape arrest in connection with the killing of broadcaster and environmentalist Gerardo Ortega.

Reyes and his brother Mario, former Mayor of Coron, have been in hiding since arrest warrants were issued against them for the killing of Ortega.

He was shot and killed by gunman Marlon Recamata while shopping in a used-clothes store in Puerto Princesa City on January 24, 2011. Recamata later confessed that his gang was hired for the assassination for 150,000 pesos.

— Phuket Gazette



Mr Heras died on September 12 from injuries sustained when the motorbike struck the curb throwing him against the low wall.

Police urge motorists to slow down in monsoon conditions

RECEIVING reports of accidents daily, Thalang Police Superintendent Col Witoon Kongsudjai last week urged motorists to exercise caution while driving during the heavy thundershowers that plagued the island.

"Thepkrasattri Road is the main road on and off the island and many cars pass through our area at high speed. If you want to avoid an accident, drive carefully and follow the traffic regulations."

The call for safe driving comes after one man escaped from a serious accident with only minor injuries late night on September 14 after his car skidded in the rain and slammed into the median strip on Thepkrasattri Road.

At the scene, before the Mae

Ju u-turn near Baan Muang Mai market on Thepkrasattri Road northbound, Lt Col Watcharin Jiraththikanwiwat and volunteer rescue workers from the Kusoldharm Foundation arrived to find a badly damaged white Nissan Teana in the middle of the road.

"The driver, Pornnarong Jumpathong, 30, said he lost control because the road was slippery, causing him to hit the median strip," Col Watcharin said.

"He suffered a wound to his right foot and cuts to his right upper arm. He was lucky he was not more seriously injured. His arm was cut by pieces of glass and his foot was probably cut by the brake or accelerator pedals," he added.

— Thawit Bilabdullar



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HONDA

Sea turtle with fish net wounds saved on Phuket beach

YET another female sea turtle was rescued on Phuket's shores on September 12, after suffering lacerations to its flipper from fishing nets.

The turtle, found on Patong Beach, is the 25th female Olive Ridely sea turtle found injured on the coastline of Phuket and Phang Nga within the past two months, confirmed Dr Kongkiat

Kittiwattanawong, who heads the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC)'s Endangered Species Unit.

"I believe she was swimming close to the shore to mate, but was caught in a fishing net and injured herself trying to escape from it...I suspect she was hurt about a month ago," Dr Kongkiat said.

The turtle was taken back to

the PMBC for treatment, he added.

Also on September 12, Dr Kongkiat received a report from villagers that they had found an adult Leatherback sea turtle washed onto a beach on Koh Prathong in Phang Nga.

"The villagers buried its body on the beach, since it was already dead," he told the *Gazette*.

— *Kritsada Mueanhawong*



Female Olive Ridley sea turtles wounded by fishing nets in Phuket waters.

Damrong turns up heat on national park probe

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

THE Director-General of the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Conservation, Damrong Phidet, has warned that come September 25 he will order 400 officers to start a full-scale investigation into land encroachment along the boundaries of Phuket's Sirinath Marine National Park.

In Phuket on Thursday, Mr Damrong flamed some officials for their slow progress in the investigation of 12 resorts accused of encroaching on national park land on Phuket's west coast.

His reprisal came during a meeting at Sirinath Marine National Park headquarters after a review of the investigation being conducted by teams drafted in from Royal Forest Department (RFD) offices nationwide revealed their rate of progress.

At the meeting, some investigation teams reported "great success", with five landowners having police complaints filed against them for encroaching on national park land.

Other investigation teams, however, reported having encountered difficulties. The main stumbling block was reportedly the interpretation of aerial photographs of the land under investigation in order to determine where the boundaries lie.

Mr Damrong ordered the investigation teams to press on and finish their work as soon as possible, "Some investigation teams are still working very slowly. I have ordered them to complete their tasks before September 25."

After that date, Mr Damrong said he will deploy 400 inspectors to examine the land



Mr Damrong says he has 3,500 rai of Phuket land to investigate. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

ownership documents pertaining to all plots along the national park border.

Sirinath National Park covers a total land area of 13,750 rai, and Mr Damrong said that 3,500 rai of park land is already under investigation.

"The [400] inspectors will have 30 days in which to carefully examine the land docu-

ments [for plots along the park boundary] and legal action against the landowners will follow [if they are suspected of encroaching on park land]."

After the meeting, Mr Damrong led his team to inspect the incomplete Phuket Peninsular Spa & Resort, one of the resorts under investigation.

Near the resort, not far from a run-down abandoned luxury hotel building, Mr Damrong showed reporters a pile of unused regulation boundary markers.

Mr Damrong said that his officers had begun a preliminary investigation and now suspect that land officials may have been preparing to issue illegal land ownership documents to three or possibly four investors for the plot.

In addition to the meeting and the site inspection, Mr Damrong received a complaint from two residents from Baan Sakoo.


Chaweng Udomluk and Somrudee Sirirat told Mr Damrong that they would like the investigation teams to inspect resorts and bars opposite the now-derelict Crown Nai Yang Suite Hotel.

"Those resorts and bars are under construction. They have closed the area off and prevented us from getting to the beach. It is a problem for us because we used to sell food and things around the area, and now we cannot," said Ms Somrudee.


"We need help from Mr Damrong and his teams to clarify if the resorts and bars have encroached on Sirinath National Park land," she said.

After receiving the complaint, Mr Damrong led his teams to inspect the area. He later directed the new chief of Sirinath National Park, Cheewapap Cheewatham, to send an investigation team to examine the land ownership documents of the resort and bar owners.

Should they reveal the documentation be illegal, the owners of the bars and resorts will be prosecuted.



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Obese abbot breaks all the rules

KEEN readers of "Queer News" will know that monks behaving badly and keeping contraband in their quarters are hardly a rarity in Thailand.

But the abbot of Phra Si Maha Phot Temple in Mukdahan might just have set an all-time record for such shenanigans.

Earlier this month, Mukdahan City Police Station officers were alerted to the possibility that something was wrong at the temple by local villagers, who complained that Phra Khru Sangkharak Thirayut Thirapanyo's behavior



was inappropriate.

Officers secured a warrant from the court to search his living quarters.

They found the following: 17 bottles of imported and local liquor, porn CDs, porn magazines, two dildos (including an invoice

for the items with his name on it), women's underwear, condoms (both used and unused), ten 11mm bullets, seven .38mm bullets and three mobile phones.

When the officers examined the phones, they found naked photographs of the rotund clergyman with a young woman in various positions.

Police officers took Phra Khru Sangkharak Thirayut Thirapanyo – soon to be using his old name, Thirayut Siripruek – to the district Buddhist office to be defrocked.

— *Sanook News*



Former movie star Pawana Chanajit was known as 'the Pearl of Asia'. Photo: The Nation

Cops puzzle over movie star's death

THE mysterious death of former movie star Pawana Chanajit is puzzling police, who have yet to establish if the tragedy was an accident or the result of foul play.

The body of Ms Pawana, 69, was found in a three-meter-deep ornamental pond in front of her home in Nakhon Pathom earlier this month. Her slippers were at the edge of the pond.

Ms Pawana – real name Aranyaporn Laosaengthong – was a prominent actress from the 1960s to the 1980s, starring in dozens of films. She was known as “the Pearl of Asia”.

Two sides are at odds over the dead actress' estate – her relatives and her younger live-in boyfriend of 10 years.

The boyfriend, Natthapong Luangsirikul, 57, says he believes her death was an accident.

Her brother Sukhum Laosaengthong, however, says he has suspicions. He says that after learning that Mrs Pawana was missing, he and his wife went to her house to find Mr Natthapong rushing to take three bags filled with documents and land-title deeds.

Police are investigating alleged inconsistencies in Mr Natthapong's witness statements.

Inquest blames both sides for riot carnage

AROUND THE nation

BOTH sides share responsibility for the deaths of more than 90 people during the 2010 red-shirt protests, according to the Truth for Reconciliation Commission of Thailand (TRCT), which released its long-anticipated final report last week.

The report also concluded that the tensions behind the conflict were still simmering and that the country could see another “escalation of violence”.

Speaking at a press conference to launch the report, TRCT Commissioner Somchai Homlaor said that both the Royal Thai Army and the so-called “men in black” – armed men among the 2010 red-shirt protesters – shared responsibility for the bloodbath.

Mr Somchai said the black-clad fighters, connected with the late Maj-General Khattiya “Seh Daeng” Sawasdiapol, provoked the Army into a violent reaction.

But, in contradiction to previous statements by the Army, Mr Somchai said troops had indeed used live rounds, marksmen and snipers in quelling the protest.

Nevertheless, the report did not name those responsible and Mr Somchai said the TRCT would not be prosecuting anyone on the



Nittaya Kamkong, 17, daughter of slain taxi driver Phan Kamkong, cries just before hearing the Criminal Court's conclusion that troops shot her father dead during the political turmoil on May 15, 2010. Photo: The Nation

basis of its conclusions.

Sunai Phasuk, senior researcher at the New York-based Human Rights Watch, said this was the first time that there had been an “impartial inquiry” into the political violence where both sides were attributed blame. “This

should end the trading of blame between both sides and instead they [should] push for those responsible to come forward and face prosecution,” he said.

The commission, whose chairman was personally chosen by then-prime minister Abhisit

Vejjajiva in the aftermath of the April to May 2010 violence, also offered 13 suggestions on achieving long-term national reconciliation, which included reforming the Army and the lese majeste law, as well as addressing socio-economic inequality.

US Embassy closes due to 400-strong Islamic protest

THE US Embassy closed on Tuesday afternoon due to a protest against a low-budget film that mocks Islam and has provoked riots in cities around the world.

Hundreds of riot police arrived to guard the Embassy on Bangkok's leafy Wireless Road, forming a phalanx in front of the compound's gates.

About 400 Thai-Muslim protesters braved heavy rain for the protest, which was organized by a group calling itself the International Quds Federation of Thailand.

Though protesters shouted anti-American slogans, the demonstration passed peacefully.

The film in question, *The Innocence of Muslims*, has been broadcast on YouTube, igniting a wave of protests across the



The protest in Bangkok, unlike many other protests of the anti-Islam film around the world, ended before any violence broke out. Photo: The Nation

Muslim world.

More than a dozen people have been killed in the riots so far.

On September 11, a mob in Benghazi, Libya, attacked a US consulate, killing US Ambassador

Chris Stevens and three other Americans.

Two days later, protesters broke into the US Embassy compound in Sanaa, Yemen, amid clashes with security forces.

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Throttling for tourism sustainability

WORK on Phuket's first underpass is slated to start by the middle of next month, and expected to throw into sharp relief just how town planners have deplorably failed to develop Phuket's road infrastructure to keep pace with the island's rapid development.

For years *Phuket Gazette* readers have heard the cries of the island's top-flight bureaucrats calling for more responsive – if not proactive – support from their Bangkok brethren to resolve Phuket's ever-growing traffic congestion issues.

For at least a decade those appeals fell on deaf ears, despite clear evidence from the officials themselves that budgets being awarded on the basis of the registered population was not an excuse to ignore the problems anymore. Thankfully the mega-projects are coming now; always better late than never.

What the *Gazette* fails to comprehend is the dual mindset from the central government of Phuket being both an outlying island paradise and multi-billion baht annual revenue earner.

Thaksin himself, years ago as prime minister, rejected appeals to build the underpasses at the locations where they are to be built now. However, his sister PM Yingluck approved them without as much as a bat of her eyelashes.

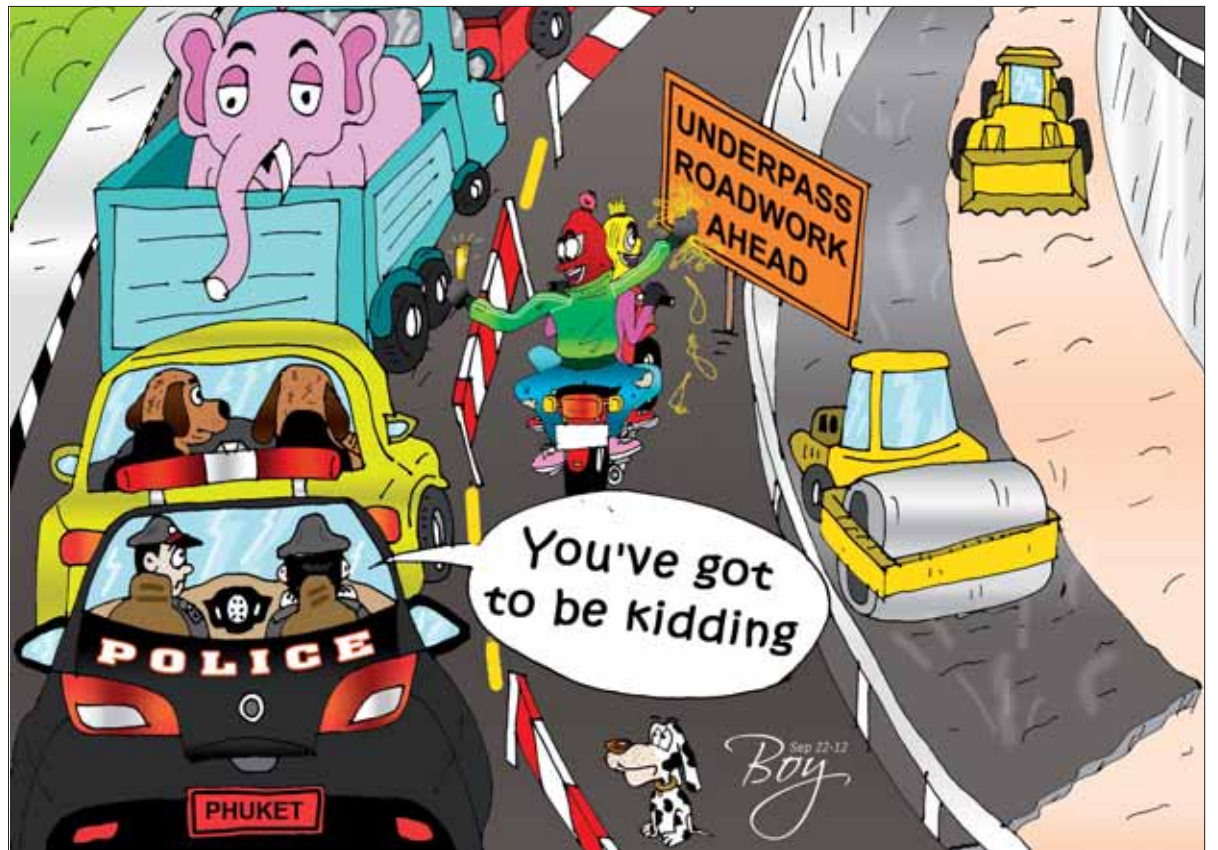
Meanwhile, it is hoped that *Gazette* readers understand that the driving force behind such grand initiatives is not the appeasement of motorists, but to promote positive growth in the transportation sector. The ability to move people and products as quickly and as efficiently as possible has such a deep impact on a national economy that it has quite rightly been on the Asean road map for at least a decade.

The Energy Office, and those who are trying to manage Thailand's eternal fuel subsidy dilemma, fully understand that every time a driver taps on the brakes, whether the cargo be produce, construction materials, tourists or 11 expats on a visa run, the gas must be stepped on to regain speed. And up goes the national fuel bill just a little bit more.

The irony for most motorists in Phuket is that these grand plans to install underpasses at Central Festival, at the Samkong Intersection (at Tesco on the bypass road) and at the Bang Khu Intersection at the east end of the bypass road will fuel bottlenecks just down the road.

Meanwhile, with the news announced this week of the so-called "alternative routes" suggested for motorists to avoid the Central Festival intersection chaos over the next two years, it seems Bangkok's piecemeal approach to traffic planning is about to reap what it has sown.

Thousands of motorists have just been redirected onto much smaller roads plainly not designed to accommodate such volumes of traffic. The *Gazette* sympathizes with all residents and visitors to the island as we drive now toward what is almost surely to become a nightmare of traffic snarls in the heart of Phuket.



What about establishing fair taxi fares?

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket taxis agree to standard fares, September 14*

Interesting to see that the *Phuket Gazette* chose not to highlight the obvious flaws of this scheme: no meters, fares increased, prices up to five times higher than they would be in Bangkok and, above all, the meeting being chaired by the Vice Governor, who has now made ripping off tourists official policy on Phuket.

One heck of a way to show hospitality, respect and gratitude toward people who drive up to 90 per cent of the economy on Phuket.

Why do I feel like a walking ATM?

Jack Doe
Gazette forum

One-to-stop

Re: *Gazette online, No memorial service for victims of One-Two-Go flight crash, September 15*

"It is not a day to remember. It was a tragedy and we do not want to perpetuate horrible memories of the incident," Phuket Airport Director Prathuang Sornkham told the *Phuket Gazette*.

Is this a cultural difference between Westerners and Thais – the washing away of past sins – or just the opinion of a man who doesn't want the "deficient approach to air safety" to be remembered by all those prospective rich tourists?

Chas
Gazette forum

What a bloody brilliant idea

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket blood bank calls for A-, O- donors, September 12*

How about donating blood instead of going on visa runs? Red Cross just needs to make a deal

Letters to the Editor

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

with Immigration and there we are – everyone's happy. The foreigners, whose blood is so badly needed, will save time and money, and the hospitals and their patients will have all the blood they need.

Mickeykeymoaw
Gazette forum

Time to attribute responsibility

Re: *Gazette online, Police urge motorists to slow down as wet weather warning No 14 issued, September 5*

He should be charged with "dangerous driving" or "driving without due care and attention", or whatever the equivalent. He admitted he lost control due to a "slippery road" – well, either he was driving too fast or his vehicle was not up to scratch. Send a message and charge him to start deterring other drivers.

If you think this is callous as he was injured, what if he had hit another party? Take responsibility rather than blame something else.

Dan Garrett
Gazette forum

Corrupt predators reaping gains

Re: *Gazette online, Damrong to ramp up Phuket national park probe, September 14*

Thais will eventually have to face the consequences of allowing a corrupt predator class to steal public land. Corrupt officials work in partnership with wealthy developers to transfer public land into private hands.

Others have set up secret deals to "lease" beachfront land to restaurants and "beach clubs" who then claim ownership of the sand as well. Phuket's beaches were once famous for their unspoiled beauty.

Logbags
Gazette forum

Fluent guides make happy return tourists

Re: *Gazette online, Bogus Phuket tour guides, gem rip-offs in firing line, September 14*

Perhaps someone should have thought about teaching Thai tour guides adequate foreign language skills during those 15 years and the problem would have disappeared on its own.

If you force a Thai tour guide on travellers who can't communicate with them, they will most definitely not be happy and this will certainly impact future visitor numbers.

You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink.

Jack Doe
Gazette forum

Officer, there seems to be a problem here

Re: *Gazette online, Road safety campaign to slash Phuket death toll to 50 per year, September 11*

Amazing! There seems to be a problem with road safety. The government sees the solution as wearing a crash helmet and putting up signs at "black spots".

It appears that the police have no role in being continuously active against traffic offenders. They just have to staff their known "checkpoints". Some have even been seen to arrive at these sites by driving on the wrong side of the road, with no helmets – great examples.

H5kaf
Gazette forum

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Working to keep a water-tap flow

FIRST PERSON

THOUGH there is plenty of water on Phuket, we cannot process enough of it to meet the current demand due to the large number of non-registered people living here. Because we are unable to provide enough processed water, individuals and businesses have to purchase water from independent suppliers that do not always meet the quality standards that we have for our water.

The budget we receive is not based on how many people we have to serve, but rather the registered population in Phuket, which is only about 300,000. In reality, we supply water to tourists, as well as both legal and illegal non-registered residents, which means we are trying to supply water for 7 million people a year.

We are now releasing about 75,000 cubic meters of water an hour, but the demand on the island is closer to 300,000 cubic meters of water an hour.

This means most businesses have to purchase water from private operators, even though the water they buy is sub-standard.

A great example is Jungceylon, where they need 900 cubic meters of water a day. However, we are only able to meet about one-third of their demand, making it necessary for them to get the majority of their water from private operators.

Patong is another drain on our resources, because there are so many people and businesses need-



Phuket Provincial Waterworks Authority Manager **Pisak Chonlayut**, 55, graduated with a degree in Community Development from Phuket Rajabhat University. He started his work at the Phuket Provincial Water Authority in 1992, but was transferred out of the province in 1999. A decade later returned to the island, ready to tackle its water woes. Here explains some of the underlying problems with Phuket's water-supply.

ing water, especially during the high-season. We simply can't meet the municipality's demand.

We have many different projects designed to improve and expand our water-supply production system. This fiscal year we received 402 million baht, but I have to apply for our budget every year, and it takes time for the budget to be approved and given to us.

We are currently building a new water-filtration plant in Klong Kata, Chalong, which is close to Wat Luang Phu Supa. We expect it to produce filtered water for the Chalong, Rawai and Wichit area at about 500 cubic meters per hour.

There are currently projects in motion to expand the production capacities of Bang Niaw Dam by 300 cubic meters per hour and Bang Wad Dam by 500 cubic meters per hour.

These are big projects for us, but I'm not stopping there. The number of people we need to supply water to is growing every year,

so I have presented other projects to the Provincial Waterworks Authority. An example of one project that I am hoping to get 97 million baht in funding that will allow us to lay pipes for water to be transported from Baan Kok Tanod in Cherno Talay to the processing plant at Bang Jo.

One of the long-term projects that we currently have a consultant working on is a feasibility study for the use of Ratchaprapa Dam (Chiao Lan Dam). The plan is to filter water so it can be released not only in Phuket, but Phang Nga and Krabi also. However, I am afraid that the people in the area will not want their water resources drained into other provinces.

Another issue that we deal with that has come up several times is the idea of portable water. The water supply we produce is drinkable, but people shouldn't drink it due to the fact that it runs through old-water pipes. It would cost billions of baht to layout a brand new pipe system.



The future is staring you in the face. Photo: Side Guacamole

We've already failed our kids

Island View

By Roy McAllum

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

AS A regular daily commuter I have noticed, as I am sure many readers have, the daily gridlock that now occurs at rush hour. We moan about it while sitting in the air conditioned luxury of our cars but look outside and see how others are coping with this congestion.

This morning, while sitting waiting for the lights to change on Thepkasatri Road, I noticed two separate events that have inspired me writing in.

The first was a motorcycle driving against the traffic with four schoolboys, all helmet-less, aboard. The boy at the back was drinking from a plastic straw in a plastic cup in a plastic bag and, having finished, tossed the lot into the bushes at the side of the road. After all if you are already breaking three traffic laws why worry about the environment?

The second incident also involved schoolchildren. This time on the opposite side of the road where I saw two school children frantically trying to flag down a bus.

The bus was already full and

even had children hanging off the back. A few minutes later another bus also failed to stop for them for the same reason.

How are these two sights related?

In my opinion the lack of a public transportation in Phuket has now reached a crisis point and we are failing the next generation who are forced to endure a daily struggle to get to school on time. With the recent announcement of four lanes being reduced to two at the Central Festival intersection in order to build an underpass for the next two years I can only imagine the results.

We need public affordable public transport now before the island grinds to a halt. At some point the silent majority must cease being silent.

Issues & Answers...

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

Eradication of green hillsides

I live on Kata Hill off a newly named road called Kata Buri Soi, where there is much development being undertaken by one particular developer. As a result the trees and other flora are coming down at an astronomical rate, much of which I feel is unnecessary.

I wonder whether there is a government office or body that is responsible for such issues.

If there is I would like contact details please, so that I may contact them on this matter.

A concerned resident
Kata



The green of Kata Hill 'under threat' by developers. Photo: Gazette file

Panumet Dam-on, chief of the Royal Forest Department's conservation unit in Phuket replies:

Thank you for your concern. You can file a complaint at the Phuket Provincial Office of Natural Resources and Environment.

We will then assign relevant officers to inspect and ascertain whether or not the land legally belongs to the developer.

The Phuket Provincial Office of Natural Resources and Environ-

ment is next to the Phuket Immigration Office at Saphan Hin, in Phuket Town. Our office is open Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm. Alternatively our telephone number is 076-211067.

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

Saving all the water for Songkran?

In March this year, the area opposite Villa 5 on Chao Fa West Road had no water for three days. Was the water being saved for the upcoming Songkran?

If that wasn't the reason, how is it possible to lose the water supply for that long, and what does the government intend to do to solve the problem?

Alain
Wichit

Pisak Chonlayut, Manager of the Phuket Provincial Waterworks Authority, replies:

We are aware of how much water is needed in Phuket and we release all the water we are able to treat as quickly as possible.

We never hold back water that is needed by the people of Phuket for any reason, even for a holiday like Songkran.

Generally, Phuket has more than enough water. However, sometimes there are issues getting water to areas because we have to fix pipes, but we do try to have the work completed within a day so we can get the supply running again.

If you have any urgent water issues, I suggest calling my mobile phone instead of my office. That way I can contact my workers instantly regarding the water issue to be solved.

I am 24 hours available, you are welcome to call my private number 087-012 0295.

New trade surplus milestone achieved

A NEW milestone was set for Phuket's international trade last month with the island's annual surplus of exports over imports peaking at 11 billion baht – more than 700 million baht clear of last year's full-year, record figure.

According to Phuket Customs' receipts for the 2012 fiscal year (October 2011 to September 2012), accounting through to the end of August, 2012, the value of exports from Phuket peaked at 12.9 bn baht, with imports valued at 1.9bn baht.

With still one more month left to be accounted for before the fiscal year's books are finalized, the full-year surplus figure could likely increase, or possibly even decrease, depending on the value of exports

and imports tallied this month.

Regardless, the figure for exports marks a new annual record with the combined value of exports over the 11-month period already outstripping last year's full year figure (12.5bn baht) by 3.5%.

Meanwhile, the combined value of imports so far this year is still about 200 million baht shy of matching last year's full year figure of 2.1bn baht.

Raw rubber continues to dominate Phuket's exports, so far this year valued at 9.19bn baht, or 71% of all exports.

This is followed by rubber particle board worth 2.35bn baht (18.1%), motor boats and components at 1.125bn baht (8.69%), live fish worth 120.9mn

baht (0.93%) and 93.8mn baht of frozen sea fish – just 0.73%.

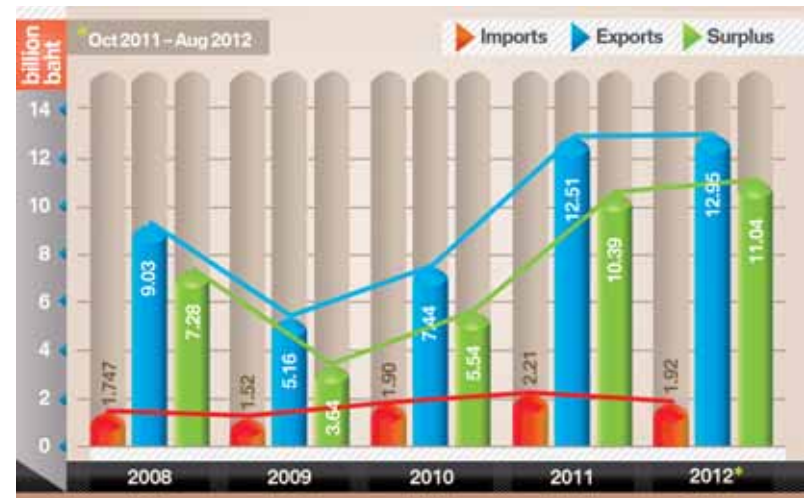
All other exports were relatively insignificant with a value of only 62.2mn baht or 0.48% of exports.

Topping the island's imports so far this year has been chilled sea fish, worth 582.2mn baht or 30.4% of all imports.

This is followed closely by merchant ship freighters worth 544.9mn baht (28.45%), sports and leisure vessels worth 479.9mn baht (25%), frozen sea fish worth 236.1mn baht (12.33%), boiler components at 39.9mn baht (2%).

All other imports – wine, food, construction materials and car parts, among others, tallied up to 32.1mn baht (1.68%).

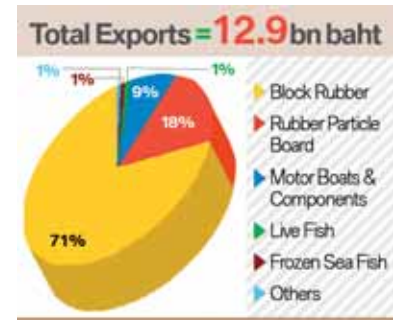
– Steven Layne



SIGN OF THE TIMES: 11 months into the current fiscal year, a new trade surplus high has been set for Phuket. Images: Gazette Graphics.



Total Imports = 1.9bn baht
The island's top imports in the first 11 months of the fiscal year.



Total Exports = 12.9bn baht
The island's top exports in the first 11 months of the fiscal year.

Brand Phuket: cultural heritage meeting

CONTINUING the dialogue about defining and positioning 'Brand Phuket', will be Dr Yongtanit Pimonsathean from the Faculty of Architecture and Planning at Thammasat University, Bangkok, who is a distinguished Thai architect and heritage expert.

Dr Yongtanit will lead discussions at the next AMCHAM-Phuket PR meeting.

Starting at 6pm on October 5, the culture and heritage themed event will be hosted at The Blue Elephant Restaurant – the iconic, former governor's residence in central Phuket Town.

Facilitated in cooperation between the Phuket PR Network and the AMCHAM Greater

Phuket Chapter, the meeting will be the third in an ongoing series dedicated to 'Identifying and Marketing Brand Phuket'.

The discussion will revolve around Phuket Town's quest for UNESCO status and how this intertwines with the core values of 'Brand Phuket'.

The event aims to generate excitement, curiosity and buzz about Phuket's colorful and diverse history, specifically its Parakan roots and 'shop house' communities.

AMCHAM's Phuket Chapter's co-committee leader and Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks Bill Barnett comments: "Tourism trends are rapidly



Dr Yongtanit Pimonsathean

changing and evolving. Phuket's ability to shift and create market niches is incredibly important to attract new visitors.

"Culture and art are leading

trends, even if our marketplace shifts to more regional visitors, this event should highlight some of the island's strong DNA to tap into."

Event Organizer, Natasha Eldred, Managing Director of Shine PR Phuket says: "It's important to get a better understanding of the history of Phuket Town.

"For those of us whose work involves marketing Phuket's tourism attractions, it is vital to spread interesting and positive messages about Phuket to international and national media.

"A clearer understanding of Phuket's culture is also integral to instill a sense of pride in the overall Phuket brand for everyone."

Admission for the event is 300 baht, which includes refreshments. The optional dinner is priced at 1,000 baht net. All are welcome to register.

Event Schedule

- 5:30pm Registration
- 6pm Guest Speaker
- 7pm Networking Drinks
- 8pm Dinner (optional)

For more information on Brand Phuket and upcoming events please visit phuketprnetwork.com, and to register your attendance please email Natasha Eldred: tash@phuketprnetwork.com.

– Phuket Gazette

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Car buyer survey: delivery, dealer key decision factors

PROXIMITY of dealership and delivery time were the top two factors influencing the selection decision of new vehicle buyers in Thailand this year, a recent study has indicated.

Conducted by JD Power Asia Pacific, the 2012 Thailand Sales Satisfaction Index Study (SSI) showed that delivery time of newly-purchased vehicles has notably increased, with 51% of customers reporting delivery of their vehicle taking more than two weeks after booking, compared to only 33% in the previous year's study.

Now in its 13th year, the study examined seven factors that contribute to overall customer satisfaction with the new vehicle purchase experience. These were: delivery process, salesperson, dealer facility, sales initiation, paperwork, delivery timing and deal.

Half of respondents, 51%,

chose proximity, referring to the closest dealer selling the desired brand, as having the most influence on their decision. This was followed by immediate delivery, with 12%. In 2011, the top two reasons cited were dealer proximity (28%) and best deal (26%).

"In the context of rapid recovery after a period of stagnation and low consumer confidence in 2011, coupled with many exciting new-model launches in the past few months, new-vehicle buyers are impatient to get behind the wheel of their new vehicle," said Loic Pean, senior manager at JD Power Asia Pacific, Singapore.

"Many customers, particularly those in the eco-car and entry midsize segments, are currently willing to pay the sticker price and skip negotiation if the dealer can deliver their vehicle quickly."

Surveying a total of 2,754 new-

vehicle owners who purchased their vehicle between August 2011 and March 2012, the study was fielded between February and May 2012.

SSI performance is reported as an index score based on a 1,000-point scale, in which a higher overall score indicates greater satisfaction with the new-vehicle sales and delivery process.

Overall, sales satisfaction this year averaged 900 – the highest score in the study's history – representing an improvement of seven points from 2011.

Among the eight brands included in the study, Toyota ranked highest in sales satisfaction with a score of 905. This was followed by Chevrolet (903) in 2nd and closely trailed by Honda and Nissan, each with 900, the latter achieving the highest year-over-year increase (+25 points).

– JD Power Asia Pacific

What champions are made of

The *Gazette*'s Steven Layne joins an exclusive tour of Toyota's Motor Thailand's pickup truck assembly plant

EARLIER this month, I had the privilege of joining an exclusive group trip to Thailand's automotive industrial heart to tour Toyota Motor Thailand's (TMT) Bang Pho plant in Cha Choeng Sao province.

Situated less than an hour's drive from Bangkok, this modern high-tech facility, representing an investment to the tune of 15 billion baht, is where TMT assembles its Fortuner and Hilux Vigo Champ models for retail in both domestic and international markets.

In *Championing pickup sales*, published in last week's business section, we talked to the local dealership, Toyota Pearl Phuket (TPP), about why the Hilux Vigo Champ has been the Kingdom's top selling pickup truck for six continuous years. In this follow up, we'll take a closer look at the prized pickup's production lines and adjoining facilities.

The days of slow-and-steady, backbreaking assembly lines are long gone. Make no mistake, Thailand's top selling pickup truck is assembled, from bare Chassis to a fully-equipped and ready-for-retail truck, in an average time of just 58 seconds!

"This production rate, or what we refer to as 'Takt Time', is a key element in the Toyota Production System, or TPS," explained Eakanan Natlapacharapong, a TMT technical specialist commanding our tour.

TMT, in collaboration with TPP, invited the *Gazette* to join the exclusive tour, along with some 40 distinguished guests, including representatives from the island's public and private sectors, government offices and academic institutions.

As our group – completely cut off from communications – was led through the hi-tech, highly-automated facility, safely out of the way on an elevated skywalk, everyone looking down in awe at the efficient and orderly human-machine collaboration, Eakanan narrated: "Toyota takes pride in its high standards of production quality and efficiency, which is further complemented by our 'zero accident' record."

Eakanan noted that TPS is based on two main concepts: The first, 'Just-in-



DIAMOND GRADE: TMT tour leader (red cap) delves into technical specs of the Toyota engine and components, which implements a "Diamond Tech" system or DTS. Photo: Steven Layne

Time', is a system that optimizes productivity in the production line, and the second, 'Jidoka', can loosely be translated as 'automation with a human touch'. Eakanan went on to explain that each of the human-robot controlled stations has a specified time to complete its task.

"If a problem, delay or malfunction should arise at any given station, the entire product line will automatically cease all operation, so the issue can be addressed and fixed immediately. This ensures that there are no defects in the finished product," he said.

Working in synchronization with the computer guided machinery, or robots, are 3,900 highly skilled workers.

"All of the employees on the floor have to first go through an intensive three months of on-the-job mentor-shadowed training before they are left to operate on their own.

"Moreover, the employees must refine their skills and knowledge through special training workshops every six months," explained Eakanan over wireless telecom.

As for supply lines, he said that approxi-

mately 45% of the trucks made at the Ban Pho plant are for the domestic market, with the remaining 55% exported to various countries across the globe – mostly to Australia, South Africa and the Middle East.

Opened in 2007, the Ban Pho plant outputs at least 500 "Champs" per day – in excess of 200,000 per annum. It is one of three of TMT's assembly plants.

The others include its Gateway plant, also in Cha Choeng Sao province, where five Toyota passenger cars are assembled (the Prius, Camry, Vios, Yaris and Auris), and the Samrong plant in Samut Prakarn province. Built in 1962, Samrong was TMT's first plant and still serves as its headquarters.

"Most of the Champs are assembled here in Ban Pho, while a portion of them are put together at Samrong," Eakanan said.

Perhaps even more impressive than Ban Pho's production line is its host of on-site CSR initiatives. Three quarters of the 760,000 square meter plot remain undeveloped, while the developed portion integrates practical and effective, energy,



The Phuket group poses in front of TMT's Ban Pho factory. Photo: Toyota Pearl Phuket



The plant comprises a robot and human work force, with 3,900 employees. Photo: TMT

water and waste management systems.

Equipped with solar panels, a natural gas generator and a Regenerative Thermal Oxidizer (RTO) incinerator system, the model site is self-sufficient in supplying much of its own energy needs, while minimizing its carbon footprint.

Its water management and treatment systems efficiently and effectively recycle waste water, employing the latest in chemical oxygen demand (COD) online measurement and Reverse Osmosis (RO) technologies.

Moreover, 30,000sqm of the plot has been set aside for an "Eco Forest" project. Started in August, 2008, with the planting of 100,000 indigenous trees and plants, the project features ponds, nature paths and five bio learning stations.

Through such initiatives, TMT estimates a reduction in its carbon dioxide emissions by 800 tons per annum.

2013 PIMEX boat show dates announced

THE 10th edition of the Phuket International Boat Show (PIMEX) will be held at the Royal Phuket Marina from March 21-24 next year, the event's organizers have announced.

As one of the region's largest and most significant marine, boating and yachting exhibitions, the four-day event will showcase leading marine and lifestyle businesses, products and services with a large in-water boat display, 2,500-square-meter exhibition space and marina-side activities all along the boardwalk.

The 10th Anniversary of PIMEX is expected to be the biggest and best yet, with up to 60 boats in the water, a packed exhibition hall and a new "marine market".

Organizers moved the show period in 2012, from the traditional January slot to March, to accommodate a larger in-water display of quality boats, which proved to be a great success with the largest and highest quality boat display ever seen in Asia.

"The date change in 2012 was well-received, and resulted in an increased demand for more in-water display space. The change also meant the quality of product displayed in the water, as well as the quality of visitors, was the highest yet," said Andy Dowden, Show Director.

This year, the in-water area has been expanded further with space for up to 60 boats.

Strategically positioned at the start of the Asian boat show season, which runs March through May, PIMEX is set to attract more top international boat and marine product brands, and will host a number of regional product launches as companies from around the world come to showcase their latest products for the season.

New for this year is the marine market – an outdoor waterside exhibition space catering to trailer boats, marine products and widgets.

"We have noted a growing demand in trailer boats – both for exhibitors requiring display space, and from interested buyers.

"We have created an open space near the Town Square at Royal Phuket Marina which will allow sellers to display small boats on trailers, together with display areas for products, gadgets and widgets.

"The aim is to attract exhibitors who don't display in the Exhibition Hall or in the water, and give them the chance to be a part of PIMEX," added Dowden.

The Show will have up to 60 yachts in the water, with the ves-

sels ranging in size from 10m to 35m, including power and sail, and smaller trailer yachts for the entry level visitors.

All in, there will be 120 exhibiting companies representing over 250 brands worldwide. Products on display will range from boats to marine equipment, accessories and services, including diving and sailing holidays, technical and design services, marina construction and a wide range of water sports toys and gadgets.

Alongside the marine exhibits will be a wide choice of luxury property, reasonably priced condominium projects and investment opportunities, together with other iconic branded goods.

Already 30% of the in-water space is booked and the Exhibition Hall space has seen early reservations in excess of 20%.

For more information, visit phuketboatshow.com

– *Phuket Gazette*



The 2013 PIMEX will have 60 boats in the water, and a marine market.

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The iPhone 5: Caveat emptor



Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

LAST week I talked about the importance of fast internet speeds and the evolution of technology in Phuket. This week, man oh man, the pigeon's come home to roost. If you're thinking about buying an iPhone 5, it would behoove you to read and understand this column and next week's column. The money you save could be your own.

I know a small percentage of you are just dying to get your hands on a new iPhone 5. And a much larger percentage of you have spouses, sorta-spouses, in-laws and out-laws who are looking to you for guidance (if not a small subsidy) to make a smart phone purchase.

Khun Papada, the Area Manager for Com7 International, advises that there is no established launch date for the iPhone 5 in Thailand, and the price hasn't been set yet, as well. But you can bet they'll sell like hot cakes.

Every phone buyer, around the world, is struggling with the same questions: is it worth upgrading from an earlier iPhone to the new iPhone 5? Would you be better off with a Galaxy S3? How long can you hold out, to see if something better comes along? Those questions are being debated from Tallahassee to Timbuktu, in coffee shops in Manhattan, yurts

in Ulaan Bator, and stilt houses in New Guinea.

Here in Phuket, though, we have one HUGE question that doesn't concern much of the rest of the world – and it'll be a key factor in determining whether your purchase decision turns out to be prescient, or just another dud. Let me save that part for next week.

I'm convinced that the phone-buying world is divided into two parts: those who love the iPhone and those who think that you're a fool if you buy one. I can't say for sure that I've ever met anyone who's moved from one camp to the other. So if your mind's already made up, you don't need me to try to sway you one way or the other.

If your mind isn't made up, the iPhone 5 is a brilliant, if evolutionary – not revolutionary – phone. I will probably end up buying one, not so much for the phone, but for the whole Apple ecosystem, from the Apple App Store to iTunes to iCloud, the ability to use apps and music on all of my devices without even thinking about it – automatic synchronizing – and the fact that Apple stuff (with one exception) works amazingly well. The exception? Apple programs on Windows – particularly iTunes, but also iCloud, QuickTime, Bonjour, and others – are absolutely, utterly dreadful.

On the other hand, the Samsung Galaxy S III has much to offer, and in many ways it's

superior to the iPhone 5. Samsung's "It Doesn't Take a Genius" ad nails the high points: bigger and arguably better screen, longer battery life with a removable battery, microSD storage, standard USB plug, NFC (for paying bills using your phone, some day), turn over to mute, tilt to zoom. Some people complain that the S III is too big, especially if you're a one-finger typist. I find the larger screen inviting, so I don't have to squint as much. I'd carry around a Samsung Note except I figure it's unseemly to make a phone call with a phone the size of a svelte lunch box.

I may end up getting a Galaxy S III, though. I'm headed to Seoul next week, en route to the US, and will see how the prices run out there. I have a Samsung now, and could be convinced.

That's the debate you'll see raging for the rest of the year in mobile phone circles. Here's the part that's unique to just a few countries, including Thailand.

You're probably aware that Thailand is about to embark on its "3G Auction" – starting on October 16, companies will be able to bid on telephone frequencies in the vicinity of 2.1 GHz so that they can offer 3G services with the government's blessing, and without making big payments to CAT (currently used by DTAC and TrueMove) or TOT (which supports AIS). The Thai National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) promises it will announce the winners on October 22.

Nine slices of spectrum (think "TV channels") are going up for bid. Each bidding company can bid on at most three slices, at a reserve price of 4.5 billion baht, plus operating commission. While 15 different phone companies have picked up application forms, most insiders expect that only DTAC, True and AIS will have convincing bids.

Here's the rub. Both the iPhone 5 and the Galaxy S III are "4G" phones, although they'll fall back to "3G" if there's no "4G" signal. (You probably know that I hate the term "3G" – so here's a more accurate translation: the iPhone 5 and Galaxy S III support LTE technology, but they'll fall back to HSPA or HSPA+ if there's no LTE signal.) 4G is significantly – very significantly – faster than 3G.

I've been predicting this for two years: Thailand is just getting ready with its 3G auction, when most of the world is scrambling to switch to 4G. And the iPhone 5 is going to shove 4G to center stage in Thailand.

It's like *déjà vu* all over again. When the iPhone 3G hit the streets in Phuket, early buyers were proud to have a 3G phone – when in fact, there were no 3G signals, anywhere



OBJECTS OF DESIRE: But maybe you should wait. Photo: Apple

on the island. "But it must be 3G," I heard the argument over and over again, "it says so, right here on the phone."

We're going to hear the same thing about 4G, starting in about a month. People will buy iPhone 5 phones, with LTE ("4G") support, and automatically think they have a 4G phone. But if there are no LTE towers in Phuket, there's no 4G. Period.

Supposedly, TOT is testing LTE right now in Bangkok. 45 countries are currently rolling out LTE. I've written previously about how the equipment being installed in Phuket can be converted from HSPA+ (3G) to LTE (4G) rather quickly and cheaply. But Phuket doesn't have 4G, the regulators aren't talking much about 4G, and it isn't even clear if the winners of the "3G Auction" can put up 4G antennas or not. How's that for a bidder beware caveat?

Phuket's 4G problems with the iPhone go even deeper. Check back next week for the details – and don't buy an iPhone 5 until you understand the 4G implications, here in Phuket.

Seth Bareiss holds computer sessions on three Wednesday afternoons a month, from 1 to 3 pm. 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 at woody.info, or 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. You can shoot him an email at Woody@KhunWoody.com, follow him on Twitter, @PhuketLiveWire, or "like" his page at facebook.com/SandwichShoppe.



The new Samsung Galaxy III. Photo: Samsung Mobile Press



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Excuse me: What is QE3?

Island Investor

By Anthony Lyman

BEING a regular on the sun soaked shores of Phuket, watching the many boats sail by on a frequent basis, one may start thinking that QE3 is a new luxury cruise liner replacing the old QE2 that was recently decommissioned.

Not the case. In the never ending roller coaster ride that is the world of finance, this is the latest brain child that, it is hoped, will start to shore up the world economy and give the markets the stability they long for.

It is worth revisiting what QE actually is. Quantitative Easing (or QE for short) is essentially a form of pumping money back into a faltering economy to try and boost spending, lending and generally try to sure up the balance books.

This may sound all well and good, however, with every plus side there is a downside. If we look at one country's currency strength, the more in demand it is, the harder it is to "get your hands on", and the more valuable it becomes.

In the case of Quantitative Easing, if you are putting money back into the economy, albeit through purchasing bonds, the new QE3 will look towards purchasing mortgage backed securities and you are in essence increasing the amount of funds available to the economy, which means that they become easier to get. Get where I am going with this?

Indeed the value of the asset will decrease. As QE3 would suggest, this is the third time this course of action has been taken, which has given the markets the injection they needed and also given investors more confidence that governments will do whatever it takes to get markets up and running once again. So, what will the fallout from this be? And, how would you potentially be able to profit from it?

Well firstly, with the FED in the US saying it would "buy US\$40 billion of mortgage backed debts per month" then a fund or investment into the mortgage backed securities could be a wise move. An example of one fund for instance, is the Doubleline Total Return Bond Fund (DLTNX). This fund invests in mortgage backed securities and while this fund is not renowned for capital growth it has a very attractive 7.36% dividend payment, which in my book is not too bad and could be well worth a look.

Another repercussion of the QE3 will no doubt be the weakening of the US Dollar, this in itself presents an opportunity to invest in areas such as gold as with a weakening US Dollar, this has become somewhat of an investors safe haven.

The price of gold is high but you can expect this to climb a little further with this news. QE3 is sure to prop the markets up for the short term. But in the future, is this the solution? I am not too sure. However, as said earlier, it now seems that there is a common consensus that whatever needs to be done will be done and this can only be good for markets on a whole and for your



MARKET MADNESS: The question remains, 'Will Europe remain intact'? Photo:Tax Credits

portfolio's in general.

The old problems still remain, will Europe remain intact? And, with more money pumped into the US economy, there will also follow inflation fears but as an investor myself I still believe that the future is looking brighter than it was 12 months ago and there are still profits to be made by making the right investment decisions. For

portfolios based in USD, maybe an investment into gold could be a good hedge against what will probably be an impending weakening in the US Dollar.

For any investment advice or questions, please contact alyman@montpeliergroup.com. This article was written by Anthony Lyman, senior financial consultant for the Montpelier Group.

Let's go back and review the basics

By David Mayes

EVERY once in a while I think it's good to go back and review the basics. This is especially important in a world where the rate of change keeps increasing. Ever since the financial crisis began we have heard a lot of saber rattling with regards to offshore financial centers, banking secrecy, tax information exchange agreements and so forth.

The good news is that for those who use offshore jurisdictions for legitimate wealth management purposes, nothing has really changed or is likely to in the foreseeable future.

For those laundering money, or living in their home country and evading taxes, the result of recent changes is that it is getting more difficult to avoid being caught. In my opinion that's a good thing.

Generally speaking, anyone who's classified as a non-resident of their home country for tax purposes, aka an expat, is allowed to make investments anywhere they like and pays taxes according to the laws of that jurisdiction.

The exceptions are of course Americans, who are taxed on worldwide income, regardless of where they reside, and those who move to jurisdictions which tax on worldwide income. Thailand is not one of these, and as such, many expats here have very

legitimate reasons to use offshore centers to manage their wealth.

Certain jurisdictions, such as the Isle of Man, Jersey, and Guernsey for example, have political stability that comes with being part of the UK, while still maintaining a tax free environment for investors. They also have extremely robust investor protection schemes, and as such are very popular with expats all over the world.

The most obvious use of offshore jurisdictions is simple bank accounts. Offshore accounts allow for expats moving from one place to another without having to move their life savings each time. They also often have higher rates of interest than their onshore counterparts, although at the moment this is just the difference between diddly and diddly squat.

Banking secrecy laws also ensure privacy, which is important. Even with most tax information exchange agreements, a government needs to go to a judge in the offshore jurisdiction with pretty solid evidence of involvement in drug dealing, terrorism, or money laundering, in order to get a court order to override the secrecy laws.

Investment options offshore also allow you to access funds normally reserved for the very wealthy.

Unfortunately, in recent years, this has meant to many people

that they lost money with much higher quality fund managers. One's overall financial position in the long run is almost certainly going to be better off using the kinds of strategies politicians and executives of large corporations are using themselves. This is also a big reason why nothing is likely to ever change, as the people in power who "make" the rules so to speak, are not going to seriously attack the places that house their own money, regardless of what they may say in the press.

The biggest benefit of an offshore center for someone residing in Thailand, is the ability to be globally diversified and not have all of their wealth inside a potentially volatile developing country. I absolutely love it here and hope to gain citizenship sometime in the next few years, but, as a realist, I am well aware of how many coups have happened in the last century. While the currency has appreciated and local markets have done extremely well recently, one needs only look back to 1997 to see why having your money offshore can offer some important protection in the event of a local crisis.

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



Offshore accounts offer security in developing countries. Photo: Ken Teegardin



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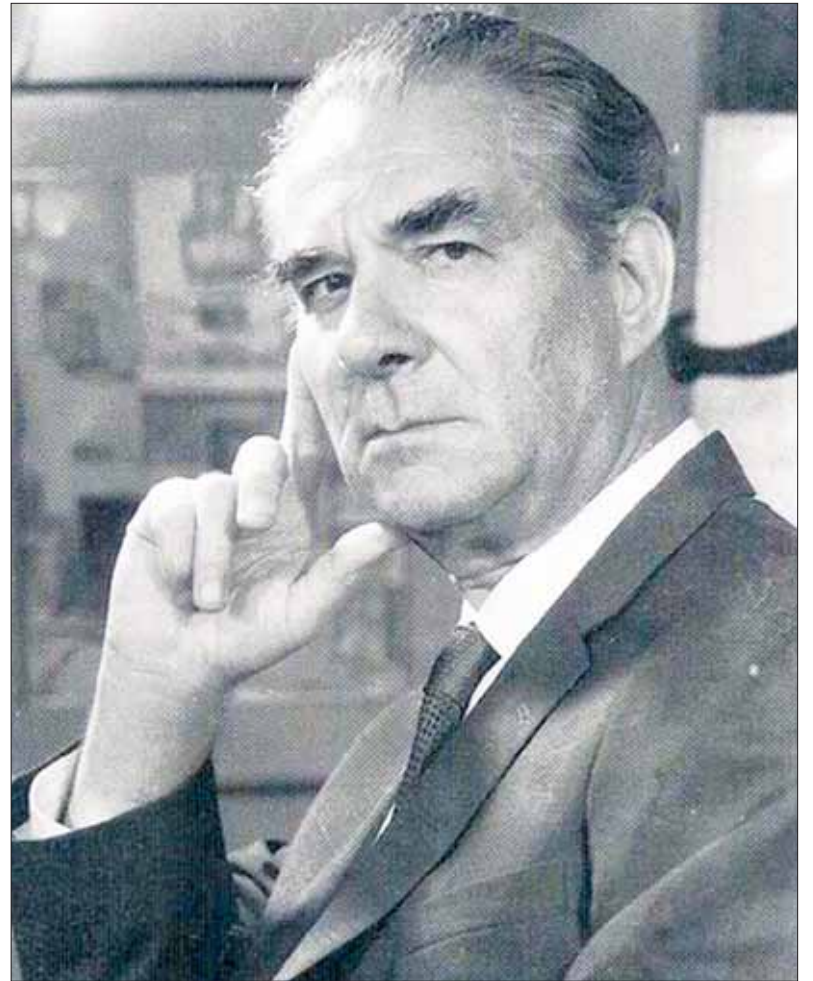
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Victory Monument on Paholyothin Road. Photo: Octahedron80



Statue of King Rama V in front of Dusit Palace, by Professor Silpa Bhirasri. Photo: ScorpionPK



FATHER OF MODERN THAI ART: Professor Silpa Bhirasri, the Italian sculptor who founded Silpakorn University in 1943.

Remembering an art master

By Phatarawadee Phataranawik

LAST Saturday, Thai art students and enthusiasts celebrated Silpa Bhirasri Day, a Thai holiday, which is designated to commemorate the legacy of the late 'Father of Modern Thai Art'.

"Life is short ... art is longer", was the motto of Professor Silpa Bhirasri, an Italian sculptor who was born Corrado Feroci in 1892.

Feroci came to Thailand at the age of 31, he went on to found Silpakorn University, Thailand's first fine art institute.

Silpa laid the foundation of Thai modern art in this country, teaching and pushing more than 2,000 students to become great artists until his death in 1962.

Saturday marked the 120th anniversary of his birth.

To celebrate Silpa Bhirasri Day, Silpa's favorite song "Santa Lucia" was sung, following an

ongoing custom, in front of his statue, which stands at the center of Silpakorn University's Tha Phra campus.

Born to a merchant family in Florence, Italy, the young Feroci showed his artistic inclinations at a very early age.

He graduated from the Royal Art Academy of Florence and taught there from 1914 to 1923.

His life changed dramatically when he was selected by the Italian government, at the request of King Rama VI, to teach Western sculpture at the Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Palace Affairs.

He was appointed as a sculptor with the Royal Fine Arts Department in 1924 on a three-year contract at a salary of 800 baht a month.

He cooperated with Phra Saroj Ratana Nimman, head of Architecture Department in

establishing the School of Fine Arts in 1933 and in 1943 the University of Fine Arts, which became Silpakorn University.

When Italy surrendered to the Allies during World War II, Feroci changed his name and became a Thai national in 1944 to avoid arrest.

Previously estranged from his wife in Italy, he married an Anglo-Thai, or more commonly known today as a *Luk Kreung*.

Silpa first met Malinee in a boarding house where he lodged in his initial days in Thailand. He later married Malinee, who was born to a British father, Cyril C Kenny, and a Thai mother, Malee Hitasakdi.

Malinee and Silpa lived together until his death in 1962.

Among his sculpted masterpieces are the statues for Kings Rama I, V, VI VII and VIII. Other remarkable works include the King Taksin statue at Wongwien Yai in

Thon Buri, the Democracy Monument, the Victory Monument and the Walking Buddha statue in Nakhon Pathom's Buddhamonthon.

"Silpa Bhirasri Day is Silpakorn alumni's reunion. It's our tradition to commemorate our professor who has done so much for Thai art, architecture and archaeology, as well as Buddhism in Thailand," says Wjit Apichaitkriengkrai, manager of Silpa Bhirasri Research Center.

Visitors can learn more about Silpa by visiting the Silpa Bhirasri Memorial Gallery. Located in Silpakorn University's Tha Phra Campus, the gallery was once used as Feroci's office.

It houses a collection of the professor's belongings, his masterpieces and masterpieces created by his students. On display are his paintbrushes, sculpting tools, a typewriter, books, his uniform and even his

day bed.

The artwork includes pieces by his top students, among them Jirt Buabusaya, Fua Haripitak, Khien Yimsiri, Tawee Nandakhwang and Sawadi Tantisuk. These artists draw on such European movements as impressionism, post-impressionism, expressionism and cubism.

Visitors will also have the opportunity to view two rare documentary videos of Silpa working on his masterpieces. One is a home movie that shows Silpa and his student Sithidet Saenghiran creating the huge statue of King Taksin.

On loan from the Thai Film Archive, the black and white documentary is on display along with his sculptures at the "Thai Trends" exhibition at the Bangkok Art and Culture Centre.

The Silpa Bhirasri Research Center is open from Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm. Admission is free.

A Siam Society Lecture: Siamese Coins

THE coinage history of Thailand materially differs from that of all other countries in the world. The earliest coinage from the Funan and Dvaravati eras resembled conventional coins. But then, the states which now exist in present day Thailand, started issuing money in the form of variously shaped ingots that ultimately developed into the unique "Bullet" coins or *Pot Duang*. When the production of these hand made coins could not keep up with the demand, Siam, with Queen Victoria's help, adopted a modern standardized flat coinage. This lecture gives an overall review of Siamese coinage with an emphasis on how it was influenced by the British.

Mr Ronachai Krisadaolarn (Ronald Jay Cristal) LLB, JD, was



Old Siamese coins. Photo: Siam Society Journal

born in Brooklyn, on June 20, 1942 and received his Bachelor of Law (Cum Laude), and Juris Doctorate (Cum Laude) degrees from Union University, Albany Law School. From 1969-1973 he worked as Judge Advocate for the

Royal Thai Navy. In 1988, he was appointed Managing Director of Bangkok International Associates, a position he still holds today. He is internationally recognized as an expert on Thai coinage. He was the Editor of *Coins of Rattanakosin and Medals of Rattanakosin* and *The Centennial of Thai Banknotes* and author of *Siamese Coins from Funan to the Fifth Reign*. A Talk by Ronachai will be held on October 11, 2012, at 7:30 pm, at The Siam Society, 131 Asoke Montri Rd, Sukhumvit 21.

For more information, call Khun Arunsri at: (02) 661 6470-7, fax (02) 258 3491; or email: info@siam-society.org, Office Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 9am- 5pm.

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Surfing's leading ladies



A STAR IS BORN: Anissa ignited the crowd, earning her ASC title in front of friends and family.

By Chris Hudon

THE *Phuket Gazette* spent time with two of the world's premier female surfers, last week at the Quiksilver Open Patong 2012. Stephanie Gilmore, the taller one, is a 24-year-old Australian, five-time women's world champion. Anissa Flynn, is a Phuket native – now champion of the ASC women's tour. Flynn, 14, won both the women's division (all women over 16-years-old) and the grommet division at the recent Quiksilver Open to seal her spot atop ASC tour.

Phuket Gazette: Anissa you've just come out of the water after winning the women's semifinal heat. How do you feel?

Anissa Flynn: "Right now [I feel] exhausted but I feel really happy that I won all my heats and they were back to back and it was fun.

Well ladies, we have to say, lovely weather we're having isn't it?

AF: Yes (she laughs). Well...not for the first two days, but yesterday and today

have been perfect weather.

How has the weather affected the competition and the way that you're surfing in it?

AF: I surfed on the first two days when it was raining but the waves were still fun, then I didn't surf during the opens, and after taking a day off the waves are much bigger. **Stephanie, how long have you been on the island now?**

Stephanie Gilmore: I've been here for a week now.

What have they (Quiksilver brand) had you doing? Have you had any time to go out and explore the island?

SG: I haven't had too much free time. The weather has been really bad so it's been a lot of just hanging out right here in Patong. I went to Phi Phi Island and checked that out, which was pretty cool. Thailand is gorgeous. There's so much to see and do. This is my first time so I was pretty excited to get out and see some things, but, I definitely don't think I had enough time.

How about Thai food? I'm sure Thai people would love me to ask you if you liked the food.



Anissa Flynn and Stephanie Gilmore answer questions during an interview with PGTV.

SG: I love the Thai food. It is way better than Thai food I've had anywhere else in the world. And it's very spicy so...

To both of you, what were your favorite moments in the competition so far? Is there anything that's stood out?

AF: Like everything. It's been really fun and I hope everybody wins.

SG: She's too humble (they both laugh). **We heard Luke Ladrigan of the Philippines had some crowd-wowing moments with a few noserides. Did you see that?**

SG: I saw it. I love longboarding and I think they surfed so well. It's kind of surprising to see those guys coming out of Indonesia surf so well and with so much style. It shouldn't be a surprise because they have such great waves there but definitely some great moments for the crowd.

What's next for you two? Stephanie, will you be looking for a sixth world title? And, Anissa, are you set to win the ASC?

AF: Definitely just try to win it (the ASC). I hope I do.

SG: I'm just going to travel for the rest of the year and go to the Quiksilver Pro men's event in France and do all kinds of different stuff. Hopefully, I just keep enjoying myself because you always win when you have fun. That's the secret (she winks at Anissa).

Before we let you go, who are your favorite surfers? Who are the people that inspire you?

AF: She's sitting right next to me (she points towards Stephanie and there's a crowd awww). Yeah I love you.

SG: Aww, thank you (they hug a little).

How about you Stephanie?

SG: Well, I admire many surfers like Tom Curren, Lisa Anderson, Kelly Slater and Mick Fanning.

Have you had the chance to meet Kelly? And what's he like personally?

SG: Yeah, I've done a couple trips with Kelly because I'm on the Quiksilver team now so we've hung out a bit. He's really cool but he's very competitive. Always, and in everything. He's one of those people who's very intelligent and can sort of 'make magic' from anything.

Not wanting to keep the girls any longer we released them back into the wild, to their natural habitat – the ocean. A process we lovingly refer to as catch and release. Following this interview Anissa Flynn became the ASC Women's Champion, winning both her divisions at Quiksilver. Five-time ASP Women's World Champion Stephanie Gilmore continues her travels with the Quiksilver team.

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QUIKSILVER OPEN 2012 RESULTS

ASC/ISC MEN'S OPEN DIVISION: 1. Mega Semadhi (INA) 2. Raditya Rondi (INA) 3. Lee Wilson (INA) 4. Darmayasa (INA)	ASC/ISC WOMEN'S DIVISION: 1. Anissa Flynn (THA) 2. Yasnyar 'Bonne' Gea (INA) 3. Salini Rengganis (INA) 4. Gemala Hanafiah (INA)
ASC/ISC LONG-BOARD DIVISION: 1. Arip Nurhidayat (INA) 2. Luke Landrigan (PHP) 3. Tipi Jabrik (INA) 4. Wenling Chou (TWN)	ASC/ISC MASTERS DIVISION: 1. Wayan Widiarta (INA) 2. Graham Raisbeck (AUS) 3. Made Lana (INA) 4. Michael Anthony (AUS)
GROMMET DIVISION: 1. Anissa Flynn (THA) 2. Rory McDonald (TWN) 3. Panu Wisetsombat (THA) 4. Pancho Schneider (THA)	

Very punny

I fired my masseuse today. I guess she just rubbed me the wrong way.

Is a book on voyeurism a peeping tome?

A gossip is someone with a great sense of rumor.

Condoms should be used on every conceivable occasion.

Energizer Bunny arrested; charged with battery.

Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.

A pessimist's blood type is always b-negative.

Practice safe eating: always use condiments.

A Freudian slip is when you

say one thing but mean your mother.

Shotgun wedding: A case of wife or death.

I used to work in a blanket factory, but it folded.

I used to be a lumberjack, but I just couldn't hack it, so they gave me the axe.

If electricity comes from electrons, does that mean that morality comes from morons?

A man needs a mistress just to break the monogamy.

Marriage is the mourning after the knot before.

A hangover is the wrath of grapes.

Corduroy pillows are making headlines.

Dancing cheek-to-cheek is really a form of floor play.

Banning the bra was a big flop.

Sea captains don't like crew cuts.

Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?

A successful diet is the triumph of mind over platter.

Without geometry, life is pointless.

When you dream in color, it's a pigment of your imagination.

Reading whilst sunbathing makes you well-red.

When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.



More signs o' the times



A Photo(shop) finish



Photo: Internet (hence low resolution)



Recapping the conventions

HERE are some highlights of the recent US political conventions for readers who may have missed them on TV:

The main thrust of the Republican convention was to emphasize Mitt Romney's warm humanity. Mitt reminds people of one of those wooden statues of American Indians that used to stand outside cigar stores. To humanize him, they brought out his wife Ann, a warm and vivacious woman who stole the show. Many viewers must have wondered why they didn't nominate Ann, and send Mitt back to stand outside a cigar store.

Mitt gave a speech that revealed his warm humanity. He reminisced that his father used to give his mother a fresh rose every morning. He neglected to tell us whether he had ever given Ann so much as a dandelion.

CNN political guru David Gergen opined that Mitt evoked Norman Rockwell America. That could be a problem for Mitt. Norman Rockwell was a popular artist who portrayed an idealized version of small-town America around the 1940s. Rockwell is dead. His

America may also be dead. And there are no cigar stores left.

Mitt missed a bet by not bringing out one of his 'house slaves' to testify to his warm humanity. "Mr. Mitt is so sensitive to our feelings," the slave might have emoted. "Why, when they take us outside to flog us, Mr. Mitt can't bear to watch. He stays inside to re-itemize his tax deductions and keeps the door closed to shut out our screams."

The Republicans suffered a major disaster when they let revered movie icon Clint Eastwood give a rambling, quivering speech to an empty chair. I've been a big fan of Clint ever since the spaghetti westerns of the 1960s, and it nearly killed me to see this shambling old guy, now white-haired, wrinkled, and 82, unwittingly torpedo his own legacy. They should never let you speak in public after you're 65.

The Democratic convention was much livelier than the Republican one. Bill Clinton gave the best speech of both conventions: "We say, 'We're all in this together.' The Republicans say,

'You're on your own.'" Even Obama couldn't top that. Unfortunately Bill's speech was too long (it always is), at 48 minutes. If you can't say it in 20 minutes, you're not doing your job.

Obama didn't need to emphasize his warm humanity, but he did anyway. He affirmed that he tried to be home for dinner every night at 6:30 to help his daughters with their homework. That made me wonder. Wouldn't the country be better off if he let Michelle handle the homework while he stayed in the Oval Office burning the midnight oil and struggling to reduce the deficit?

Both conventions were marred by American jingoism, with delegates chanting "USA all the way" and the usual gush about the greatest nation on Earth. But if you didn't take it too seriously, it was a lot of fun. Primates acting like primates. Just like a circus.

Ye Olde Curmudgeon, who plans to vote for George Washington, can be scolded for his cynicism c/o s.tsow@gmail.com.

Go-Eco Phuket take on the ocean's silent killer

By Joanne Marston

RUBBISH. It is ugly; it costs local communities and economies and it destroys wildlife. Every year tens of thousands of marine creatures, mammals and birds die because of the litter we drop or the fishing nets we abandon and lose at sea. If you are fed up with seeing your local dive site trashed, or rubbish left on Phuket beaches, then join us on September 30 for Phuket's largest *Dive Against Debris* effort ever.

This September sees divers all around the world rallying against the growing tide of rubbish and here in Phuket, it is no different. The dive community are pulling together to create the biggest underwater action of its kind in the whole of Thailand.

These PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) dive centers are veteran supporters of the Project AWARE Foundation – a non-profit environmental organization mobilizing hundreds of thousands of divers across the planet to protect our oceans. And this year they have joined together under the umbrella of Go Eco Phuket to maximize their ocean protection efforts and kick off a new wave of *Dive Against Debris* action right here on our shores.

As Earth's growing population consumes more disposable goods, the items we discard, even thousands of miles inland, are choking our ocean planet. But our local actions can contribute to a clean, healthy, future for the ocean. Divers involved on September 30

will remove dangerous marine debris and document all rubbish found as part of the *Dive Against Debris* survey. Not only will this be made available to local organizations and groups, it will work with similar surveys conducted all across the world to help paint a truer picture of the issues facing our ocean world.

The Phuket dive community has a proud history of removing rubbish from the ocean but despite our best efforts the junk keeps piling up. Be part of the solution not the problem. Join forces with us for Phuket's largest ocean action: let's *Dive Against Debris*.

It is estimated that over 300 divers will take part in this event with ten PADI Dive Centers providing boats to take divers to hotspot locations. Corporate sponsors like PADI, *Phuket Gazette*, *Phuket FM* and *Phuket Art Advertising* are already on board along with dive manufacturers donating marine debris removal gear.

Go Eco Phuket and the Project AWARE Foundation are now looking specifically for ten corporate partners to come on board and each sponsor a *Dive Against Debris* boat. Your logo will be included on a *Dive Against Debris* banner displayed on the vessel and you'll be part of a wider community effort to tackle the growing onslaught of rubbish entering our ocean and destroying our wildlife. Sponsorship of a boat is just 15,000 baht.

Parties and concerts are also planned before and after the event – dates and acts will be confirmed soon.



WHAT A MESS: A turtle caught up in discarded fishing nets (above) and plastic rubbish found floating in our oceans – note that a turtle has already bitten into the plastic bottle (right). Photos: NOAA and Terry Ross.



If you are interested in joining our efforts and being part of the solution then please contact PADI Regional Manager and Project AWARE Ambassador, Tony Andrews on tony.andrews@padi.com.au or contact the *Phuket Gazette* directly. You don't need to run a business to be involved. If you'd like to support us, get involved or have something to give then please contact: [facebook.com/goecophuket](https://www.facebook.com/goecophuket).

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The problem with marine debris

Every year, tens of thousands of marine animals and seabirds die from eating or getting tangled up in marine debris. Here's the ugly and frightening truth surrounding our mass throwaway culture:

- Almost 90 per cent of floating marine debris is plastic.
- Over 6 million tonnes of marine litter could be entering our ocean every year.
- Research of northern fulmar seabirds found dead on beaches showed 95 per cent had plastic in their stomachs. Each bird had swallowed an average of 35 plastic pieces.
- 35 per cent of plankton-eating fish found during a study in the North Pacific Central Gyre had ingested plastic.
- Annual plastic production and use of plastics has risen from 1.5 million tonnes in 1950 to 230 million tonnes in 2009.
- Marine debris has affected more than 260 different marine species, including 86 per cent of sea turtles, 28 per cent marine mammals and 36 per cent of seabirds.
- The majority of marine wildlife deaths are due to eating marine debris.
- Animals that eat marine debris can choke if it catches in their throat. Once swallowed, plastic cannot be digested and makes the animal feel like it is full, so it stops eating and can starve to death.

Knowledge trumps beauty of ignorance

Mantis shrimp edition

Diving

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

A BRILLIANTLY colored (mantis shrimp *stomatopoda*) pops out of its burrow and scurries towards a broken piece of coral. Its legs spin out below it like the Road Runner – but it's not that fast, at least its legs aren't.

We kneel in the sand to watch the biological wonder. It looks almost comical as it arches its head up, prim and proper, with its legs going, going, going and yet so many divers only give this bafflingly gifted creature a cursory glance, before chasing dreams of leopard sharks and manta rays.

With the right dive buddy, dedicating a whole dive to staking out a mantis shrimp's burrow to get to know it personally is rarely a waste of air. Though many sea creatures are stunning to look at, they often lack an essence that tags them as individuals. A jeweled sea urchin is simply a jeweled

sea urchin, as a butterfly fish, is a butterfly fish. It feels as if the understanding of the interaction is one sided – mantis shrimp are very different.

Our mantis shrimp, "Harold", peeks out from his den, his eyes, each set atop a stalk, like a submarine's periscope.

The beauty of Harold and his brothers, sisters and cousins is that they are common in Phuket waters, yet there is very little that is common about them.

Armed with the fastest limb strike in the world (80kmh), these tiny creatures can hit with the impact of a bullet, enough force to crack the glass on an aquarium or hammer through a mollusk's shell. In fact, the strike from their raptorial claw is so quick that it creates a tiny air space behind it, which makes a snapping sound as the water collapse around it.

Even if the shrimp misses its target with its claw or hammer (depending on the sub-species), the shock wave from the collapsing bubble can be enough to kill

or stun its prey.

To complement the quickest punches in the world, this little invertebrate, also known as a "thumb splitters" for painfully obvious reasons, have the most complex eyes in the animal kingdom. So as we lean in for a better look, we're also getting eyed up, and pretty hard too.

Here we are blowing bubbles and watching Harold with only three kinds of light receptors in each of our eyes, while Harold is seeing the world in vastly more detail with ten light receptors, allowing him to see into the infrared and ultraviolet range.

What's more stunning than the simple complexity of a mantis shrimp's eye, is what's going on behind it – mantis shrimp are the only invertebrates that can recognize individuals of their own species and remember the outcome of fights against rivals.

In fact, there is a rumor of a diver in Phuket who gained the trust of one such individual, though the diver supposedly lost a fingernail in the process. By



JEEPERS CREEPERS LOOK AT THOSE PEEPERS: Mantis shrimp have the most complex eyes in the animal kingdom, allowing each eye to work independently of the other, even when judging distance. Photo: Sea Bees

bringing a tiny piece of fish to the same thumb splitter every time he dove at a particular site, the diver was able to establish a relationship.

So if a man ever bets you a

bottle of top-shelf whiskey that he can get a mantis shrimp to eat out of his bare hand, it's best to believe him – unless you're okay scurrying for your wallet.



PRIM AND PROPER: Despite their demeanor mantis shrimp pack a devastatingly fast blow with either a piercing claw or hammer claw. In fact the edge of the claw can strike at speeds around 80kmh. Photo: Prilfish



DO I KNOW YOU? Mantis shrimp are the only known invertebrate that can recognize individuals of their own species. Photo: Elias Levy




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Population: one less every day



By Chris Hudon

FOR many generations, the American Frontier, generally referred to as the "Wild West", has inspired childlike fascination the world over.

According to Yale historians Robert V. Hine and John Mack Faragher, "[The American Frontier was] a tale of conquest, but also one of survival, persistence and the merging of peoples and cultures that gave birth and continuing life to America."

The idea of the Wild West conjures up images of outlaws and gunslingers, cowboys and indians, and the building of a nation that persists in our minds.

AMC, the network that brought you *Breaking Bad*, *Mad Men* and *The Walking Dead*, has introduced a new series called *Hell on Wheels*.

The series' title describes the settlement, which accompanied the construction of the first transcontinental railroad. This settlement is referred to as "*Hell on Wheels*" by company men, surveyors, support workers, laborers, prostitutes, mercenaries and all those who made the wagon train their home.

The show stars Anson Mount as Cullen Bohannon, a former Confederate soldier who works

as a foreman on the railroad while trying to track down the Union soldiers who brutally murdered his wife and young son.

What is unique about Anson's character, is that he's not villainized for being a Confederate soldier, as is often the case in American cinema. The popular cinematic narrative usually goes: "the South was wrong, fought to keep their slaves and lost."

But, this narrow-minded view of the Civil War lacks a complex range of motivations among Confederate soldiers.

Ordinary Southerners felt they were fighting for their home, way of life and livelihood. Slavery was a defining part of the war, but not the only reason people fought.

Getting back to the series, which has been met with critical acclaim from several reviewers, we are currently on episode seven of eight planned episodes for season two.

Watching entire series while abroad has been enjoyable. Using the internet you needn't sit through commercials or wait for long periods of time, so the show has the chance to become more engaging with the audience.

The *Washington Post*'s Hank Stuever describes the show as: "Hands down, the most intrigu-

ing show on the fall slate.

"Though imbued with epic sweep, *Hell on Wheels* is a Western at heart, even if that heart is cold. Plenty of guns, knives, arrows, scalplings – mixed with the incendiary socio-psychological wounds left in the Civil War's wake."

A notable face in the series is singer/songwriter Common, who portrays Elam Ferguson, an ex-slave turned company man seeking his fortune in a world of entrenched prejudices.

Ferguson is trapped in an ill-fated love affair with a white prostitute who was taken by indians at a young age, and tattooed across her face.

The show has a rating of 8.1 on IMDB in an aggregate rating of over 8,000 users. It's not easy to score above a 5 and the top review by user Kod Colorado reads, "I was torn with a few of the characters and wasn't sure [how] things meshed together, but I watched the second episode and by the third I was hooked."

I just finished the season and am dying for next season to get started."

The show can be seen online at amc.com and through online TV portals such as hulu.com and freetubetv.net with new episodes airing in the US on Sundays at 9pm EST.

The face behind the song 'Fireflies'



NIGHT OWL: Owl City perform in Washington DC. Photo: rockinfree

PERHAPS you've heard the song that's currently sweeping the island's radio waves called *Fireflies*, by Owl City. If not, it's a catchy electronic ballad in the style of *The Postal Service*.

Owl City's music has been described as 'indie-tronica' and 'synthpop', and generally belongs under the electronic music banner.

They are an American Electronica music project by singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Adam Young. Young has said that he's inspired by genres such as disco and European electronic music, as well as instrumental genres such as drone,

ambient and post-rock.

In everyday terms, think of an incredibly talented artist, producing catchy electronic beats from his parent's basement, in some cold place where they have lots of time to drink coffee and sing about love.

Believe it or not *Fireflies* isn't the only song the band sings, and if you liked that song then you're in for a treat. Owl City's latest album, *The Midsummer Station*, has been recently released with more of the stuff guys are afraid to admit to, and girls just eat up.

– Chris Hudon

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LaGUNA PHUKET

Montavee Hongsyok

SOME say being born into a family with a large business empire is a blessing, but for Montavee "Tommy" Hongsyok the sure path to success lies in diligence, application and commitment.

Montavee, 35, Assistant Managing Director at Honda, hails from the influential Hongsyok family, the name synonymous with many notable Phuket realstate developments, golf courses and car dealerships.

Montavee, who holds a Master's in water resource and environmental engineering says "I thought civil engineering would be useful to the Hongsyok business as our main focus is on housing and land development. I chose to specialize in water resource management and coastal engineering because, being a Phuketian, this field is very close to my heart."

He then explains at length and with passion the science of coastal conservation, which he says is something Thailand has to take seriously. "As we speak, there are no known safeguards to prevent coastal erosion here," says Montavee, whose academic papers, written ten years ago, are still being referenced by researchers today.

Bitten by the academic bug and passionate about the subject, Montavee wanted to continue with a doctoral study. One thing held him back – filial duty. As the eldest son, he was expected to support his father, Montri,

THAI
gallery
By Nanthapa Pengkasem

managing director of Anuphas and Sons, the commanding center of the Hongsyok family's concern.

Instead, he changed course and studied for an MBA at the State University of Missouri and came back to Phuket in 2004, in time to take part in the major development of Anuphas Pirom Resort, a high-end housing development in Kathu.

Montavee was asked by his uncle Phummisak, head of the project, to evaluate the ecological impact the housing estate would have on the environment. It was right up his street and he reveled in the process.

"I only had less than one month research and present the findings to the Phuket environmental board. As former mayor and Phuket senator, my uncle insisted on strictly observing urban planning regulations and "doing the right thing." This resulted in a thick sheaf of presentation papers," laughs Montavee.

This first job done successfully, Montavee was further entrusted with the development of Chao Fah City, a major residential and commercial development on 1,600 rai of land off West Chao Fah Road. The headquarters of Honda Phuket

was built here and Montavee became its head. His job is to manage sales, services, marketing and to oversee the day-to-day running of the business.

An environmentalist by training and at heart, Montavee never fails to see the importance of the so-called Corporate Social Responsibility and makes sure the company takes part in many environmental projects.

He still yearns for academic life and hopes one day to revive his interest in coastal engineering, perhaps by being part of some international research institutes in Asia. But for now, he has full support from his family, notably his father and uncle, both of whom he cites as his role models.

"My father is a kind gentleman who deeply understands human nature and plays a pivotal role in keeping our extended family united. My uncle, has real concern for the community and his world view inspires me no end."

Still, he admits that working in a big family is "a little delicate", but quickly adds that on a whole things are ticking along nicely.

"As a corporation we are not totally bullish but not too gentle either. I think the concept behind Anuphas and Sons can be summed up as combining the wisdom of the elderly and the technology of the younger generation. That, in my opinion, is a winning formula."



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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SLAM DUNK: The 'Rising Stars' team were at the TOA Thailand Open 2012 Phuket championship basketball tournament (story on page 47).



MOTOR CITY: A group comprising representatives from Phuket's public and private sectors, as well as government offices and academic institutions recently joined a trip sponsored by Toyota Pearl Phuket to tour Toyota Motor Thailand's Ban Pho assembly plant (see story page 13) and other related facilities in the Kingdom's automotive industrial heart.



GO COCO: Phuket's Coco the clown is now in Malaysia where he will animate the recently completed Legoland.



HULKETTES: Phuket FC fans at Sunday's Pattalung game (see page 46).



REPORTERS' RAPPORT: Gazette Editor, Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai, celebrates his birthday surrounded by Gazette staff.



HAVE A GOOD TRIP: Wilawan Chiammanasombut (center), general manager of Centra Ashlee Hotel Patong, along with the management team, are pictured with the resort's TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence 2012. The Certificate of Excellence award honors hospitality excellence and is given only to establishments that consistently achieve outstanding traveller reviews on TripAdvisor.



TOT CALLING: TOT Staff Director Suporn Chuenpimolchikij (center) and employees welcome staff and students from the Phatthalung Polytechnic College to learn about telecommunications.



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* The China Daily's mass-circulation newspapers employ more than **500** journalists, including **70** senior expatriate editors from the UK, the United States, Europe, India, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand. In the *Asia Weekly*, they feature news and commentary from authoritative writers across the globe.

TOUCH OF FEEL-GOOD

Spa business is getting better in Asia, P12-15



BOLD STATEMENT

Singaporean entrepreneur offers beauty biz tips, P24



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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

September 22, 27, 29; 7:30 to 10pm: BBQ Dinner at Les Anges

BBQ Dinner Buffet with live music every Saturday. Special promotion for just 500 baht ++. Reservations recommended. Call Mr Murat at 081-797 3364.

September 27, 6 to 11:30pm: Martini Manicure Ladies Night at RE KA TA

Free express manicure for ladies. Free Martini for ladies on arrival, and 50 per cent off drink list for everyone all night long. From 6pm to midnight – DJ tunes till late. Contact: +66-76-330421

September 28, 6:30 to 10pm: Mix and Match - Food and Wine at Centra Ashlee Hotel Patong

Indulge your taste for an unlimited quality and value of wines from around the world. Together with food stalls and snacks offering all you can eat. Whilst enjoying a relaxing atmosphere and live music at our Air Rooftop Bar & Lounge. Only 399 baht nett per person. Great seats and tickets available now. Call: 080-5387566, 076-349800.

September 28, 6 to 9pm: Indian Dinner Buffet at Les Anges

Phuket's best Indian buffet is back with a new chef and a new menu. Special promotion at just 449 baht. From 6-9pm. Buy one, get one free drinks. Reservations recommended. For more info contact:

DIVE AGAINST DEBRIS PHUKET: 30TH SEPTEMBER 2012

JOIN A DIVE

Join the largest underwater cleanup of its kind in the World!

We'll be *Diving Against Debris*, removing hazardous rubbish and surveying. This is the largest volunteer effort to protect our ocean that Phuket has ever seen. Want to get involved?

Contact your local PADI Dive Center.

This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, PGTV and the *Phuket Today* show on UBC/True Visions (Channel 99).



events@royalphuketmarina.com or call Khun Mai at: 084-306-6729.

September 29, 12 to 3pm: Saturday Brunch @ Two Chefs

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

September 30, 10am to 5pm: Thanyapura Open Day

Come and join us for a day of sports fun! Get free access to club facilities, fun games and activities, and entertainment by local schools' music band performances. Free sports activities: Pool Challenge, Yoga, Zumba, Muay Thai, Spinning, Power Plate, Altitude Training, Soccer, Tennis, Aquatics, Triathlon. Also Spa, Kids Club, Arts for Fun, Vendor Booths and Thai Street Foods. If you'd like more information, please telephone: +66 (0)76 336000, or email tslc@thanyapura.com

October 5, 19; 7 to 11pm: Curry Fridays Phuket

Curry Fridays at Navrang Mahal Indian Restaurant. Here is your chance to enjoy an authentic and lavish Indian curry buffet. Dishes like chicken Tikka Masala, very hot

Mutton Vindaloo, succulent Kebabs, Goan fish curry and much more. All served with Naan bread and Basmati rice. All you can eat for only 449 baht nett. Draught beer by the glass: just 50 baht nett. Special discount on beverages. Located at Navrang Mahal India Restaurant in Karon Sea Sands Resort & Spa. From 7 to 11pm. For reservations, please call: 076-286464, ext 4.

October 6, 13; 7:30 to 10pm: BBQ Dinner at Les Anges

BBQ Dinner Buffet with live music every Saturday. Special promotion for just 500 baht ++. Reservations recommended. Call Mr Murat at 081-797 3364.

October 13, 27; 12 to 3:30pm: Saturday Brunch @ Two Chefs

Saturday brunch at Two Chefs Kata Center. Every Saturday we set up our brunch buffet, filled to the limits with home made delights. In our smoke house, we smoke all of our fish and meats by ourselves, and in the bakery we bake all our bread. With very well trained chefs and a Swedish

head chef, we can promise you that you won't leave hungry or thirsty. All this for only 395 baht, and if you add an extra 300 baht you can choose what you want from our free flow alternatives, visit: twochefs.com.

October 18, 11:30am to 2pm: Phuket International Women's Club Monthly Lunch

The Phuket International Women's Club monthly lunch will be held at The Boathouse in Kata. All are welcome but prior registration is essential. Members are 500 baht and guests are 650 baht. Contact info@phuketiw.com.

October 23, Chulalongkorn Day Commemorating the reign of Rama V, who is best remembered for abolishing slavery in Thailand.

November 6, 9am to 4pm: The Melbourne Cup at Latitude Laguna

The Phuket International Women's Club will be hosting The Melbourne Cup, 'The Race That Stops a Nation', on Tuesday, November 6, at Latitude. Get a hat, come along and enjoy the fun. Tickets are 2,000 baht and include an Australian themed lunch, limited drinks, fashion and music. A full day of surprises is in store for you. 100 per cent of the proceeds will go to the scholarship program of the Phuket International Women's Club. Contact: info@phuketiw.com. The Phuket International Women's Club is supported by the *Phuket Gazette*.

November 21-24, 5 to 6pm: Phuket International Sport Fishing 2012

Registration will be on November 21 from 5pm onwards. Fishing days are 22-24 November. Prize giving party on the 24th. For more information visit: phuket-international-sportfishing-tournament.com. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV. We hope you will join us for another great tournament.

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, 1-3pm, at the Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. Sponsored by Woody's Sandwich Shoppes and the *Phuket Gazette*.

Free Computer Clinic at:

Sandwich Shoppe Chalong - September 26, 1-3pm

Sandwich Shoppe Patong - October 3, 1-3pm

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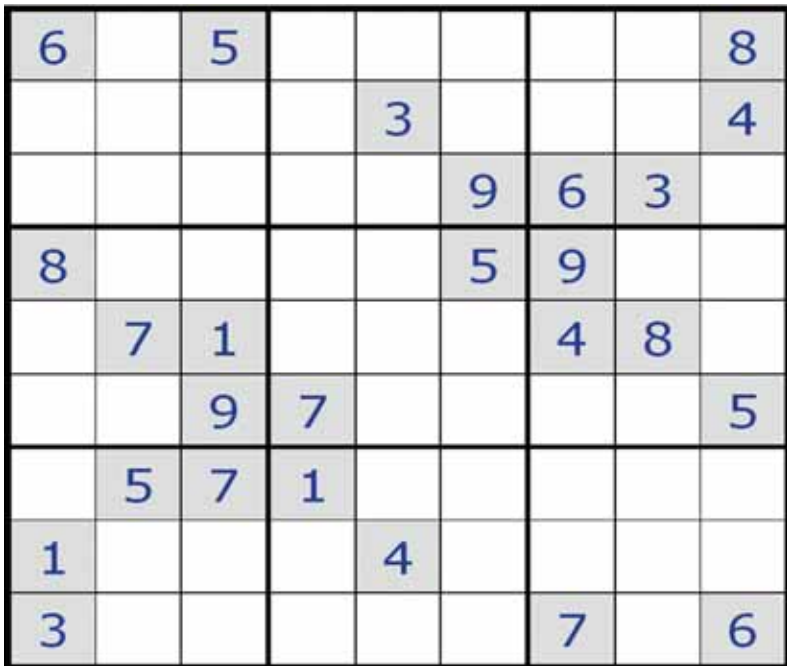
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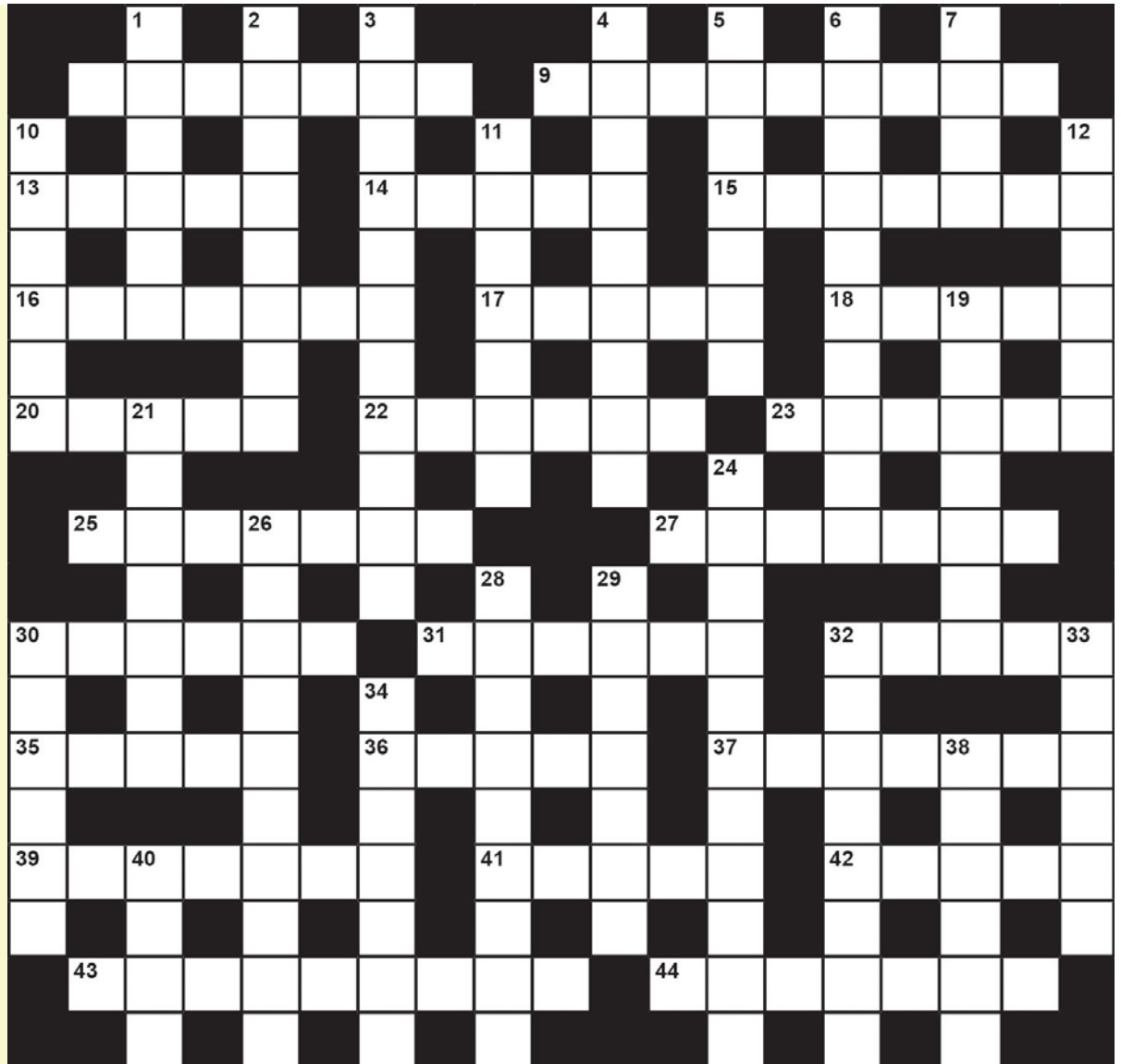
Across

8. Seminar about what's left (7)
9. State stipulation (9)
13. Near a different place of sporting action (5)
14. Regions are as shown (5)
15. New orders about Eastern screen in Church (7)
16. Drove round, took turn East, is late (7)
17. Rates new fodder crop (5)
18. Commonplace to forbid a learner (5)
20. I nose out the racket (5)
22. Is rain spoiling the dried fruit? (6)
23. Vessel tore in for provisions (6)
25. Loud noise packing Phuket waterside recreational area (4,3)
27. Regular remittance from boarding house (7)
30. Court case about Bishop re-

- lating to an ethnic group (6)
31. Against nothing, disturbed mule produced a level of noise (6)
32. Dangerous Religious Instruction! Heavens! (5)
35. Father's thank you for the Italian food (5)
36. Subject to United Nations, turns communist (5)
37. Colonel, torn apart inside, in command (7)
39. Clever agent editor rendered ineffective (7)
41. Caught river fish in a basket (5)
42. Deliberately obscure. Nonsense! (5)
43. Attended a movement which belonged to an earlier period (9)
44. The intrinsic nature of scenes out East (7)

Down

1. Show respect for clergyman before old (6)
2. Local welcome back was as good in Thai! (8)



3. Dirt-track by a proven dud a mess (7,4)
4. Compel those against to instruct (9)
5. Give attention to relocating adders South (7)
6. Ascribes to the author qualities (10)
7. Pay court to daughter in the forest (4)
10. Ape a graduate benefit (6)
11. Definite trace in mixture (7)
12. Afterthought on charitable relief from a Holy Book (6)

19. Restricts the channel (7)
21. Characters leaning to the right! (7)
24. A means of resisting attack to a smaller extent unable to respond to aggression (11)
26. Argued a net agreement warranted (10)
28. Led to the way it contributed to a result, about time (9)
29. A fourth area (7)
30. Pity about no-good classifying (6)
32. No charge to let tree-fern

- spread (4,4)
33. Noisy crier sounds vaguely cowardly! (6)
34. Our star laid back - an indicator of the time! (7)
38. Lower the importance of crude out East (6)
40. Note, a number has disappeared (4)

Cryptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Answers on page 43

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):



A once in a blue moon opportunity is waiting to knock on Librans' doors. The stars suggest that not following through on this would be a big mistake, particularly if it relates to work. Your social scene sparkles during the last week of September, with introductions likely to lead to lasting friendships, and possibly romance. Those with a birthday in the days ahead should enjoy some adventurous travel in the coming year.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):



Scorpios are entitled to take a break and watch the world go by for a while. The last week of September is the perfect time to recharge your batteries and consider how you want to approach the last quarter of this year. Those who have suspected that something is being kept from them at work should receive proof of this. The stars are ready to back your attempts to solve this problem.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):



Sagittarians are advised not to assume too much too quickly. Where new acquaintances are concerned, first impressions are likely to be wrong, especially if you take your cue

from others. Another fire sign can become a good friend, and an air sign has what it takes to fit into your world of work. In the realm of romance, it will take longer to find out what's going on with a water sign than you thought.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):



Modesty can get you further this week. The stars suggest that you will be dealing with people who are unimpressed by smooth talking. Expect a water sign who has been observing your progress from the sidelines to make an offer you can't refuse. Romance requires a sensitive approach this weekend; there are signs that too much focus on your own needs is upsetting a relationship. Lucky days for finances are Wednesday and Thursday.

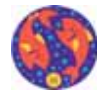
AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):



Personal relationships fall under the spotlight during the last week of September. Aquarians could find it hard to figure out how to react to certain friends - an earth sign is forecast to say words you don't want to hear this weekend. Cracks could appear in a long distance romance and the stars suggest a final decision is imminent. A relationship with a water sign that has been bubbling under can become the real thing.

YOUR horoscope By Isla Star

PISCES (Feb 20-March 20):



Impulsive purchases are not well starred this week. The stars advise those born under the sign of Pisces to consider carefully before splashing out. October will be a more auspicious time to get value for money. There are signs that a forgotten friend from your past is about to get in touch and your feelings about this can be mixed. Your romantic outlook is strong, with focus on commitments being made.

ARIES (March 21-April 20):



Lost possessions can be an issue for Arians this week. The stars recommend keeping your wits about you - distraction could come when you least expect it. If a new romantic relationship is the reason why your head is in the clouds, a jealous water sign friend is likely to try and bring you back to earth this weekend. Those searching for love have a change of heart about an earth sign.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):



Risks taken in the world of work earlier this month are forecast to pay off, but Taureans should rein in impulses to push their luck. Ending September on a positive financial note can mean that plans for a long distance winter getaway take shape. The last week of September is the perfect time to relax and focus on family and friends. Dazzling days for romance are Saturday and Sunday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



This is an auspicious time for Geminis to be enlightened. The stars suggest that other air signs can help you to see light at the end of a tunnel. Those who have been trying to find their way out of a work related problem will be glad to start October with a load off their shoulders. Romance with an earth sign is relaxing, but a burning issue with a fire sign requires careful handling.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):



September promises to end on an enjoyable note for those born under the sign of Cancer. There are signs that a reunion with family or friends will help you appreciate the relationships that are worth-

while in your life. Those who recently separated from a romantic partner are forecast to discover that going it alone has hidden benefits. Put your powers of persuasion to good use where finances are concerned.

LEO (July 24-Aug 22):



Influence on others can be important for Leos as September draws to a close. If this relates to younger family members, being honest about your own experiences will lead to better understanding. In the world of work, an earth sign colleague is ready to follow your lead when mistakes finally catch up with them. Romance with an earth sign can be affected by that person's choice of friends.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):



Partnerships fall under the spotlight this week and Virgoans should prepare to face facts that they have been ignoring for a while. Where work is concerned, collaboration with a water sign looks likely to come to a halt. Another earth sign is ready to take their place, but this person may want to have too much control. Monday and Tuesday are auspicious days for making new connections.

PROPERTY Gazette

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

Tune in, turn on, pass out

By Andrew Scott

COMPLEMENTING the recent opening of the Tune Hotel Asoke in Bangkok, Phuket is looking to welcome its own premium yet low-cost, frills-optional hotel, to open in Patong in December.

Owned and operated under a franchise agreement by Red Planet Hotels, the growing Tune brand presence in Thailand expands on existing branches in Haad Yai and Pattaya.

Tune Hotels is part of a lifestyle business conglomerate founded by Tony Fernandes which also includes the incredibly successful Air Asia group of companies.

Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing at Red Planet Hotels Limited, Mark Armsden spoke to the *Phuket Gazette* about the upcoming hotel in Phuket.

Phuket Gazette: Where in Patong is the hotel being built?

Mark Armsden: The Tune Hotel Patong, Phuket, will open on the northern end of Patong's Second Road, about 150 meters from Juncceylon. Located on the roadside, the hotel affords easy access for guests.

How big will the hotel be?

The hotel will have 150 rooms and is being constructed on a 1,024 square meter site.

How much investment is going into the hotel?

We will invest close to US\$10 million into this hotel.

What facilities will the hotel offer guests?

The Tune brand's key selling points are that we offer a super-comfortable, five-star bed and a brilliant power shower at the best price in the market.

As a market leader in the low-cost hotel sector – just like our sister company Air Asia is in the low cost airline sector – we offer the hotel basics: a clean, safe and environmentally friendly room, and if you want to use other facilities then we charge our guests a small fee.

If a guest chooses not to use extra services, then they do not pay and they save. The extras we charge a small fee for are: air conditioning, television, high speed WIFI and toiletries.

In most other hotels, guests pay for these services whether they use them or not.



IN TUNE: A CGI photo of what the Tune Hotel in Patong will look like once it is completed in December.

What market are you aiming at in Phuket?

Like many other accommodation businesses on the island, we will be looking to people who come from countries with good air access to the island and who are searching for value for money.

Patong is a vibrant enclave with many people spending the day at the beach and then

stepping out to the restaurants and bars at night, so an affordable hotel that provides a great night's rest and a great shower in the morning is what they are looking for.

While not pointing out any country in particular, our market will be people who have grasped the low cost carrier concept and are happy to experience it in the hotel sector as well, along with

guests who want to try something new and fun in the market.

Having said that, we are already getting many business travellers in our Bangkok hotel who travel on *per diems* and are looking to make savings on accommodation.

As I mentioned, Tune is breaking new ground globally by taking the low cost airline business model into the hotel sector.



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Can you entertain me? Well, can you?

IT HAS been a few weeks and I still can't figure out what went wrong with Clint Eastwood and the empty chair rant. From the much-loved spaghetti westerns with those haunting Sergio Leone soundtracks, to Dirty Harry and now this. Oh Clint, something has gone terribly wrong.

Perhaps the wires got crossed on his electric razor and a high voltage surge turned him into a babbling idiot. Our Hollywood hero is now firmly on geezer alert. But let's not get sidetracked. We have things to accomplish here, and while death remains at our doorstep, it's important to remember that this is no dress rehearsal. Sorry about the momentary move over to a dark shadows moment, it's Monday and the weather just turned nasty.

On a brighter note I've recently returned from a trip up country to Cha Am (or shall we say Greater Hua Hin?) Out for an adventure that took me to another roadside attraction: the Santorini Park combo tourism attraction and less than urbane shopping experience.

Imagine a Greek-style themed outdoor mall, complete with bold and brash shops, bright colors and even an amusement park. Yes I was skeptical, but after spending some time on walkabout I was converted, as tour-buses, mini-vans and even Isuzu pickups unloaded the wild and the willing. Where else can you charge admission to get into a shopping center where you will even spend more?

Genius, pure and simple. Thailand, like much if not all of Asia, has turned back the clock to the 1950's and 60's of the US and Europe. A rising middle class is without a doubt set to define the



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

remainder of this generation. Planes, cars and smart phones are just the tip of the iceberg for the seven wishes. Travel and

shopping are of course thrown into the mix, with perhaps some time at the ever-modern food court. Why eat at home when you can eat out? Or, hey, maybe buy an affordable condo from the smiling promo girl as part of your consumer extravaganza?

This is by no means a condemnation of consumerism. I like going to the mall and remain unapologetic about it. What this does signal more importantly, on the rapid post Global Financial Crisis, is a departure from legacy travel markets and the spending power in the 'good ole days'.

Hotel guests and consumers are more likely than not Asian and in many cases from domestic locations. They want a frenzy of activity, not a week spent on a beach. The signs are everywhere you turn.

In Pattaya, the 'Art in Paradise' interactive painting venue packs legions of smart-phone-picture-taking social media junkies. And near to Santorini is the Swiss Sheep Farm which again panders to Asia's love of themed parks. I'm still wondering about the windmill as this would appear to be an implant from the Netherlands – but this is only a slight detail.

Over the past month I've been to Tuscany, um, well, not the real one but up to Khao Yai and even passed rolling vineyards at Silverlake Winery near Pattaya. One of my more exciting ventures was to an urban beach club, flow boarding at the Flow House in Bangkok – "Surf's up" is not something you often hear when getting off the Skytrain – and later I was off for a riverside walk at Asiatique which on a Wednesday night was humming like a singing Zebra.



GREEK CHIC: And you pay to get in. Photos: Bill Barnett



SHEEP THRILLS: Complete with windmill.



Is Phuket sitting on the sidelines?

Further abroad in Malaysia, 'Legoland' is now open, just over the border from Singapore. Indonesia has two Trans Studio theme parks and there appears to be no end to the feeding frenzy.

Here in Phuket what's apparent to even me is that tourism is no longer just about the beach and it's high time the local industry started developing a product an evolving consumer-base wants and desires. Ignore the call to action and

people will likely go elsewhere – despite what we might consider to be the slightly off center demands of a new middle class.

It's hard to say if it is a move upward, or down to the middle but that remains exactly where the market is these days. So yes, please entertain us.

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

Prime Phuket land sold to mystery buyer for B1.64bn



SOLD: The 455 rai of prime real estate north of Kamala Beach was sold for 1.64 billion baht. Photo: AbovePhuket.com

AN UNKNOWN buyer has acquired 455 rai of land on Phuket's west coast from the Bangkok Mass Transit System Public Company for 1.64 billion baht, reports *Phuket Gazette* Property columnist Bill Barnett.

Bangkok Mass Transit System Public Company's largest shareholder, BTS, had planned to

develop the site north of Kamala Beach under the entity Kamala Beach Resort Company before deciding to sell out to the unnamed Thai company, Mr Barnett reported on his Property Insider website.

The purchased area takes in prime beachfront land near to an almost completed Novotel, and a hinterland parcel of land adjoining

the Swissotel grounds, previously under the ownership of the Courtyard by Marriott Phuket.

Estimates put the sale of land at about 3.6 million baht per rai.

With the potential to build luxury hotels and residences in the area, industry experts are monitoring the lucrative deal closely.

– *Phuket Gazette*

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Condominium law since 2008

Property Legal

By International Law Office

IN a move to address numerous complaints from condominium buyers, the Thai government enacted the Condominium Act No 4 (2008), which significantly expanded the scope of consumer protection by amending several provisions of the original Condominium Act made thirty years previously.

The original Act has been amended three times in attempts to keep the law up to date with new private sector developments and practices, however, the 2008 amendment was one of the most comprehensive overhauls. It extended buyer protection, enacting additional requirements and duties for developers, and modified restrictions on foreign ownership.

Buyer Protection: Previously there were few legal provisions to protect buyers. Potential buyers risked exposure to developer bankruptcies, unfair contracts, unfinished or substandard construction, disputes over maintenance fees, and various other problems. An aggrieved buyer's only options were to file a complaint with the Consumer Protection Board and hope that the Board would take action, or initiate a potentially lengthy and expensive legal case against the

developer. Amendment No 4 contained several provisions designed to protect condominium buyers. *Standardized Form Contract:* A key provision in the new armory is a requirement that purchase contracts between the developer and buyer conform to a standard format prescribed by the Ministry of the Interior.

This format promotes a degree of uniformity and certainty in purchase contracts. Furthermore, any clauses in a purchase contract that deviate from the standard format and are not in favor of the buyer will not be enforceable. The required clauses include basic information such as the developer's ownership in the land and the location, price and size of the condominium and development complex.

More importantly, one of the required clauses is a detailed objective of the usage of every area of the condominium including individual condominiums, common property and facilities. This provision addresses prior buyer complaints of developers who changed the common area for other uses or built additional units over common areas.

Accurate advertising: Developers must also take careful steps to



ensure that their advertisements to the public such as pictures, statements or brochures, truthfully and accurately represent the completed condominium. Since 2008, any advertisement for the sale of a condominium will be regarded as forming part of the purchase contract and any inconsistencies between the advertising and the actual purchase contract will be interpreted in favor of the buyer. **Additional duties and restrictions on developers:**

Payment of monthly maintenance fees for unsold units: In the past, disputes often arose between developers and buyers over payment of maintenance fees for units which had not been sold,

resulting in a shortfall of maintenance funds. Since 2008 the developer is responsible for paying taxes, common services expenses, and common maintenance expenses for units to which ownership has not yet been transferred.

Operation of businesses within a condominium: There are also new restrictions on the operation of businesses within the condominium. Specifically businesses are only allowed to operate in designated areas, and the developer must arrange for separate

entrances and exits for these businesses in order to protect residents from noise and disturbances.

Penalties for violations: The new amendment provided a comprehensive list of penalties for developers who violate any of the new provisions. The biggest penalties are for violations of the standard form contract or for violations of accurate advertising, with fines between 50,000 and 100,000 baht. A violation of the provisions regulating business use within the condominium carries a slightly lesser fine but with a small addition for each day the violation is not fixed.

Changes in restrictions of foreign ownership: Under the original

Condominium Act foreigners were explicitly granted the right to purchase and own condominiums as long as foreign ownership of the total units within a development did not exceed 49 per cent. Condominium Act No 3 (1999) liberalized these restrictions and allowed foreigners or their holding companies to hold in aggregate over 49 per cent in certain developments, but since 2008, the 49 per cent ceiling was reinstated. Except, as mentioned last month, for those who were fortunate enough to purchase their condominium in excess of that percentage during the time it was allowed, in which case ownership is still protected.

Viewed as a whole, Condominium Act No 4 (2008) is part of a larger consumer rights movement in Thailand. Along with the Escrow Act 2008, more of which will be explained later, the Thai government has been moving to address complaints of consumer fraud and abuse. In general, the new law created some minor burdens for developers, while extending significant protection to consumers.

This article has been written by International Law Office Patong Beach Co Ltd, a Phuket based law firm for international purpose only. In case of inquiry, please contact Timothy A Taylor, Consultant, by phone: 076-222-191-5 or email: tim@ilo-phuket.com

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DANGER: *Solanum*. Photo: StefaniDEADLY: Luckily the *Atropa belladonna* is not found in Asia. Photo: WicutlerTOXIC: Beware the sap of a *allamanda cathartica*. Photo: Loren Sztajer

Having it both ways



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

I AM aware that it may sound heinous, but having given the matter some thought, I don't believe the tropical gardener should be too preoccupied with the hazards of poisonous plants.

After all, only a few, such as the *lantana*, have toxic berries or fruit. Take the *allamanda cathartica* or *ban burii*. One of the best of all tropical climbing shrubs, with its dazzling golden trumpets (there is also a less vigorous and dramatic purplish-pink variety), it does possess toxic sap.

But, who would want to munch the glossy but leathery and bitter

tasting foliage? And in any case, although it can produce prickly, oval seed capsules as a second line of defense, cultivars rarely have them. Certainly, mine have never gone to seed.

The *tabernaemontana cumingiana* is another culprit with poisonous parts. Unsurprisingly, and in common with the harmless looking desert rose, whose sap is used by Africans as an arrow poison, it is also a member of the *apocynaceae* clan.

It is increasingly popular in dwarf form, often grown in a container, where its neat, bushy habit, deep evergreen foliage and dainty, white pin-wheel-shaped flowers are a decorative and fragrant addition to any terrace or patio.

The *solanum* family is even larger – some 2,000 species strong

– and includes such unlikely and edible bedfellows as the potato, the tomato and the eggplant.

However, many species are dangerous if ingested, especially the nightshades so familiar to most westerners.

Neither the red-berried woody nightshade nor the purple-black berried *atropa belladonna* – both contain tropane alkaloids – is found in South East Asia, but there are plenty of tribal members to take their place.

They tend, however, to be less toxic and more decorative: witness the Chilean potato tree (*s. erianthum*), which has beautiful blueish-purple flowers with large yellow stamens. Beware of the yellow berries as they are harmful.

My potted *erianthum* has not yet flowered; indeed it is much less vigorous than a twining variety known as the giant potato creeper.

On my Spanish patio, one of these vines outgrew everything else, save a purple bignonia.

Thus far, I have tried to

balance out the visual delights of these plants against their known dangers. But, it's always worth remembering that most of these fellows have known medicinal properties.

Many have long been employed as folk treatments for ailments: the alkaloid solanine extracted from the potato tree has been widely used as a purgative and as treatment for skin diseases.

Allamandin, a chemical derived from the yellow *allamanda*, has known cathartic properties (hence the botanical name); *tabernaemontana* is proving to be an exciting pharmaceutical prospect – extremely rich in chemicals called *ibogaines*.

Long used by South American natives as a psychedelic substance as well as for eye injuries, it is now being developed as a new-style painkiller, a treatment for dementia, and even to fight heroin addiction.

But, things get ever more complex. As remarked before, most

plants are either edible or not trustworthy as food. Some are both.

Cassava, a staple of Asian cuisine, contains poisonous glycosides which are only destroyed by cooking – as in the case with the humble kidney bean. And the toxic berries of the potato tree are harmless when cooked in curries.

The leaves of potatoes, tomatoes and rhubarb all contain harmful *solanine*; so too the green flesh of potatoes left in the sun. Even the avocado – one is now four meters high in my garden – has not only poisonous leaves, but toxic skin as well.

And the humble water lettuce, good at keeping your pond water clear, contains dangerous needles of *calcium oxalate*.

But I guess if you really want to finish things off, you might do best by taking a seed or two from the Indian "suicide tree" (*cerbera odollam*).

A couple will apparently do the trick, though you might have trouble finding it here.

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Tip of the week

ANY of the palms listed last week can be found indoors, gracing reception areas, offices, or drawing rooms.

But there are others, which are perhaps more suitable, mainly because they are understorey plants, capable of existing in areas of low humidity and indirect light.

One, the lady palm (*rhaps*), is perhaps best of all as an interior ornamental.

The two most common species are *excelsa* and *humilis*. Its multiple narrow, stems, covered with dark fibers, are surmounted by attractive and deeply divided leaves split into frond-like segments.

Slow-growing and sturdy, *rhaps* will, in time, produce suckers which will develop into additional slender stems.

It is thus ideal for a situation with limited light and space where, in a container, it will reach no more than six feet.

Some fine potted specimens are thriving outside the Wattana Hotel in Karon..

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25	26	27	28	29	30	1

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For more details of all events, see page 15- every issue of your weekly Phuket Gazette!

Property Classifieds

Properties For Sale

CONDO FOR SALE NEAR PATONG



2 studios for sale. 1.5 million baht each. In Kathu, 30sqm. Quiet area, 10 minutes to Patong, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, 1 aircon, swimming pool, fitness room. Tel: 081-607 8567. Email: suksa vat@hotmail.com

D CONDO 1, KATHU

-29.94sqm, mountain view, price 1,278,000 baht.
-29.70sqm, mountain view, price 1,280,000 baht.
-29.79sqm, pool view, price 1,330,000 baht.
-29.70sqm, pool view, price 1,365,000 baht.
Contact Vutdy on 081-892 3709.

POOL VILLA FOR SALE

Bang Tao area. 3, 4 bedrooms, fully furnished. Price from 3 million baht. Tel: 090-156 7927. Email: sellingcartel@hotmail.com

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE FOR SALE



Chao Fah Garden Home 3 in Koh Kaew near BIS, 10 mins to Lotus. 2 beds, 2 baths, 2 aircons. Nice living & kitchen room, car park, fully furnished. Ready to move in. 2.85 million baht near Boat Lagoon. Tel: 081-541 2025. Email: c.junlarat@gmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE/ RENT

Near BIS, 5 bedrooms, private pool. 1,000sqm. Tel: 084-185 4746. Email: idwian@hotmail.com

VILLA FOR SALE, PHANG NGA

Khok Kloy area. House of 400+ sqm on 4 rai of land. Large 3 bedrooms and 2 baths. Laundry, storeroom, garage. Price: 10 million baht. Tel: 076-494166, 087-284 9679 (English & Thai). Email: g_lovece@hotmail.com

SINO HOUSE FOR SALE

Krabi Road, Phuket Town. 2-floor house, wood floor, built in the old style. 2 entrances. 23 million baht. Tel: 085-472 1914 (English & Thai), 081-719 3570 (English & Thai). Email: oak027@gmail.com

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RAWAI LAND SALE

Ideal location corner plot to build, quiet area with mountain view, 79sq wah (320sqm). Price: 1.9 million baht. Tel: 086-541 3629 (English). Email: info@phuket-massage.com

HOUSE & FURNITURE

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LAND FOR SALE

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

RAWAI LAND SALE

1 rai in Soi Suksan, flat land, freehold, concrete and electric access. Quick sale! Tel: 089-472 9870. Email: dchaibut@gmail.com

LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

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

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NEW CONDO: URGENT SALE/RENT



Special price, modern style, 30sqm, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, 1 pantry. In Kathu, 3km to Patong. Full set of built-in furniture. Ready to move in! Contact Ya. Tel: 081-797 5138.

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PHUKET VILLA 5 VILLAGE



For sale. Price 4.5 million baht. No agents, no furnished, with 4 aircons, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen and car park. Behind Kajonkiet International School on Chao Fa West Road, 5 minutes to Central Festival. For short or long-term rent, 16,000 baht per month. Call to see 087-270 9093.

PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

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

PATONG CONDO FOR SALE

Close to beach, shops & night life. 56sqm. 100% legal freehold, ownership by foreigner. 2.8 million baht. Email: jimbeckett41@hotmail.com

30 RAI IN TOWN

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

LAND INSIDE GOLF COUNTRY CLUB

Land for sale inside Phuket Golf Country Club, 336sq wah + membership. Good house, 100m from clubhouse. Price: 10 million baht. Contact Prasert. Tel: 081-676 6214.

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Condo at Royal Place Project, bypass road, opposite Tesco Lotus. 37sqm, 2 floor, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished (2 aircons, washing machine, refrigerator, TV, microwave, cable TV, 24 security with key card etc). Pls contact for more details. Tel: 089-469 1813, 086-476 9612.

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POOL VILLAS FOR RENT

1, 2, 4 bedrooms, fully furnished, ADSL, SAT TV. Bang Tao area. Tel: 090-156 7927.

KATHU HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, aircon, internet. Tel: 086-739 3220.

URGENT SALE/RENT



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

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KAMALA CONDO FOR RENT/SALE

Peaceful but convenient, 5 minutes walk to beach. Well kept and clean, fully furnished. 28,000 baht per month for long term. Sale: 6.5 million baht o.n.o. Tel: 089-780 4568. Email: taareel@gmail.com

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In Phuket Town, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, kitchen, terraces. Top facilities: fitness, pool, guard. 28,500 baht per month. Tel: 081-895 3628.

LUXURY APARTMENT

At Kata Beach. Stunning sea view, pool, gym, restaurant. Contact James. Tel: 090-864 4519.

PHUKET VILLA 5 VILLAGE



For Sale. Price: 4.2 million baht. No agents!, not furnished, with 4 aircons, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen and car park. Behind Kajonkiet International School on Chao Fa West Road, 5 minutes to Central Festival. For short or long term rent, 16,000 baht per month. Call to see 087-270 9093.

TOWNHOUSE IN KOH KAEW



Corner unit, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished. 3.5 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118.

2-BEDROOM HOUSE, BANG TAO



2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, terrace, living room, parking, fully furnished, cable TV, internet, 2 aircons, hot water. Only 5 mins to Surin Beach, Bang Tao Beach and Lotus Cherng Talay. Tel: 089-470 7488. Email: nattamon.m@gmail.com

PLUS CONDO KATHU

For rent. 1 bedroom, 30sqm, aircon, kitchen, washing machine, gym, WiFi. Tel: 086-947 1273.

5 BEDROOMS FOR RENT

At Khoktanod area, near Bang Tao and Layan Beach. 5 beds with big garden. Special rent: 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-795 6363.

KATA HILL ONE BEDROOM

Fully furnished, 1 bedroom, terrace, bath, kitchen, aircon, internet and cable TV. Rent: 9,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-606 2827 (English & Thai). Email: nij017@hotmail.com

NICE HOUSE IN CHALONG



Single house (74sq.wah) with lovely garden for long term rent in Soi Parichart, Land & houses Park. It has 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, 24 hrs security + clubhouse facilities. Price: 25,000 baht per month or special price of 20,000 baht per month without furniture. Contact the owner. Tel: 081-867 6466 (English & Thai). Email: bow.jariya@gmail.com

NEW HOUSE FOR RENT, PATONG

1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, living room with full western kitchenette. All extras. Aircon, internet, LCD, IBC. Modern furnished, quiet setting near Nanai. Rent: 13,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-185 8536.

POOL VILLAS FOR RENT IN RAWAI

3 or 4 bedrooms. Super September price for 4 beds, only 2,000 baht per day! Tel: 087-893 8747.

LUXURY APARTMENT, PATONG

1+2 beds, seaview, pool, wifi. Rent: 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-279 0837. Email: bricothailand@hotmail.com

LARGE KAMALA HOUSE

Furnished, 300sqm, 2 bedrooms, office, 3 bathrooms, aircon, carport, sundeck. Rent: 32,000 baht per month, minimum 6 months -- or buy for 3.65 million baht. Includes use of pool near beach. Tel: 084-716 0502.

HOUSE IN CHALONG

For rent, near Palai beach, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, ADSL, fully furnished, cable TV, car park. Tel: 089-728 8311.

SUPER POOL VILLA

Designed for comfort and security, has all. Laguna. Rent: 35,000 baht per month. Bargain. Tel: 089-594 4067.

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE



2-storey house 3 bed, 3 bath near Ao Makham. Tel: 081-892 4311. 20,000 baht/month. For further details, please see our website at <http://panwa.green.weebly.com>

SINGLE HOUSE FOR RENT



3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished with small garden, quiet area. Price: 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-607 8567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

PATONG SEA VIEW



Pool villa for rent. Long term only. Tel: 083-656 3784. Email: peterrantala@gmail.com

RAWAI BEACH FRONT POOL VILLA



Rawai, beach front pool villa. For rent and sale. 3 bedrooms, furnished, land: 1 rai. Contact Siriporn. Tel: 089-649 9939.

7 BEDROOMS GOLF VIEW

7-aircon bedrooms, swimming pools, furnished, nice and quiet villa. 10 mins to Big C, Central, Headstart, 5 mins to Tesco, QSI. Please call 081-271 3228 or email: info@procarpentering.com for more info.

CHAOFA GARDEN HOME, 2 BEDS

Fully furnished, 2 beds, 2 baths, 2 aircons, living room, kitchen, fridge, dining and washing machine. Long-term rent: 16,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-048 6906 (English & Thai). Email: j7chin@gmail.com

CONDO IN PATONG

Located at Phuket Palace. 1 bedroom, 54sqm with pool, parking, WiFi. Rent in long term now and get good rate. Tel: 081-892 1621.

B.L. APARTMENT

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

KATA BEACH APTS.

1 bedroom, WiFi, kitchens, aircon, electric fan. Cheap! Tel: 081-970 4638, 086-595 8512. Email: nalumana2000@yahoo.com

PRIVATE RENTAL-PATONG

1-bed apartment. Available now. Gym, WiFi, washing machine, swimming pool. 800m to beach. Tel: 085-069 0938. Email: nnorthwo@hotmail.com

APARTMENT THALANG

1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, living room, kitchen, near Tesco Lotus. Rent: 4,500 baht per month. Tel: 081-826 7287.

HOUSE FOR RENT

At Boat Lagoon Residence, 2 bedrooms with balcony and furniture. Tel: 081-958 7684 (English & Thai), 084-629 3244 (English & Thai). Email: fon-daki@hotmail.com

KATA SEA VIEW



1 and 2 bedroom available for long term rent only, 100sqm or larger inside with huge terraces, great seaview, great location, parking. Very quiet. Rent: 20,000 baht per month. Won't last! Tel: 084-840 1262. Email: north8east98@yahoo.com

Let us take your ad to the top of Google with a 20% discount!



Your key to fast-track placement and easy payment for ads at Thailand's LARGEST classifieds marketplace. Hundreds of new ads every week! Like to have one?

Mail: AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net



KRABI BOAT LAGOON

Assistant Marina Manager
Qualification: Male Age 30 or above / Good command of English / Strong boating background / Leadership skills / Self motivated / Able to live in marina.

Chief Accounting
Qualification: 3 years+ Experience in Account and Finance / Good command of English / Use Program Outlook Express / Strong leadership skills / Work in Krabi.

Please apply to sriya@phuketboatlagoon.com or call 081-855 2494

NEWLY RENOVATED HOTEL

CC Bloom's a Boutique Hotel located in the lush hills of Kata/Karon is looking for dynamic English speaking Thai nationals to join our expanding team as bookkeeper, wait staff, engineer, receptionist, bartender, driver, housekeeping and cooks. For more information, please contact Tel: 076-333222. Fax: 076-333 234. or submit your CV together with recent photo and expected salary to sales@ccbloomshotel.com We welcome walk-in candidates.

CHEF WANTED

Wanted for the Ao Chalong Yacht Club.
- An English speaking chef. Must be Thai national.
- Would prefer a young person experienced in Thai cooking and willing to learn Western style.
- Great opportunity for right person to learn from award-winning Australian chef.
- Salary negotiable.
Please contact Kim Mitchell. Tel: 090-705 9466, or email resume to kim_a_mitchell@hotmail.com

SALES ADVISOR VACANCY

Phoenix Divers have a full time position for a shop sales adviser. Full training is provided. Female Thai national, good English. 12,000 to 20,000 baht. Tel: 084-846 3816. Email: phoenixlanta@gmail.com

NEW HOTEL OPENING

Opening 01 October in Patong. Staff required in all areas: Housekeeping, Front Desk, Security, and Bar Hosts. Men preferred. Tel: 60-16-974 6968 (English). Email: LouisLovestrand@yahoo.com

MARKETING REPS NEEDED

EZYSTAYS looking for marketing representative. No experience required, full training provided, work permit and good income. Email: leoinphuket@gmail.com

NES TEACHERS REQUIRED

November start. KG teacher (38-40K baht), Early Years teacher (43-45K baht). Degree and recognized TEFL/TESOL certificate and 3 email references required. Preference given to experienced teachers. Tel: 084-846 9109 (English). Email: stegee68@gmail.com

MAID FOR APARTMENT NEEDED

Maid needed for apartment in Karon. Full day. Salary 14,000 baht. Age 20-37 years. Tel: 083-640 0616 (English), 084-734 0122 (English). Email: likhovroman@mail.ru

IRANIAN PR STAFF NEEDED

The Absolute Group is currently looking to recruit an Iranian national to work in their promotions department. For more information contact Neda. Tel: 089-724 1935.

PHILIPPINE STAFF

Please send CV at cc@bayshoreprojects.com Contact Carla. Tel: 081-968 5963. Email: cc@bayshoreprojects.com

SHOP STAFF NEEDED

Need more staff for our shops in Kamala and Patong. Rent out motorbikes. English talking Thai. Tel: 085-158 7638 (English). Email: pierre_hammar@yahoo.se

ASSISTANT HOTEL MANAGER

To assist GM in maintaining a successful and profitable hotel - 42 room boutique hotel in Karon

- Bachelor's degree in Sales or Hotel Management or at least 2 years management experience

- Managing 32 staffs

- Thai national, fluent in English

- Knowledgeable in MS Word, Excel, Photo Shop

- Salary 18,000 baht per month plus service charge

- Tel: 086-604 1333 (English). Email CV to sales@ccbloomshotel.com

BARTENDER

A bartender with experience to a new nice bar in Kamala. Tel: 083-634 5772 (English & Thai). Email: pierre_hammar@yahoo.se

NEW ESTATE OFFICE PHUKET

Require 2 persons: 1 experienced and 1 keen to learn. Tel: 081-958 3830.

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Irish Pub at Jungceylon: Wanted Thai female, fluent in speaking and writing English, good computer skills, accounting, preferably at least 2 years experience. Tel: 076-366085, 081-788 4078.

EXPATRIATE MARINE MECHANICS

Looking for experienced expatriate marine mechanics. Duties include general and preventive maintenance of corporate and yachts positioned within the SEA region. Attractive remuneration package for those with the necessary qualifications and experience. Tel: 080-078 3731. Please contact Mark Jones and send resume to markjones288@gmail.com

SENIOR ARCHITECT

Phuket-based architectural practice urgently requires a senior architect to oversee design of luxury villa and hospitality projects. Proficiency in written and spoken English required. Please send CV and expected salary to: info@imededgeconcepts.com

WANTED SECRETARY

At Patong. Searching for qualified secretary. Speaking and writing English and Thai (French if possible). Interesting salary. Tel: 080-712 1699.

SALES & MARKETING POSITIONS

Available with successful sales company based in Phuket. High earning potential on offer, full training and ongoing support. Send your CV to jengore@inspire.net.nz highlighting which position you are applying for.

MANDARIN TOUR GUIDE

Tour guide for Chinese tourists. Must be fluent in Mandarin and English. Tel: 084-415 0546 (English). Email: careers@gojitravel.com

COOK NEEDED (FEMALE)

Cook (f) needed urgently for only morning shift (Breakfast/Thai/Europe. Tel: 082-270 6385 (English). Email: tkoschig2000@hotmail.com

SALES ADMIN INTERIOR DESIGN

We are hiring a motivated person with a passion for sales/admin to join the team at our furniture showroom in Bang Tao. We offer an attractive salary and benefits. Tel: 076-325 419, 081-400 4678. Email: orientalsamui@gmail.com, for further details, please see our website at oriental-living.net

SHOP STAFF NEEDED

Need more staff for our shops in Kamala and Patong. Rent out motorbikes. English speaking Thai. Tel: 085-158 7638 (English). Email: pierre_hammar@yahoo.se

NEW HOLIDAY CLUB IN SAMUI

Infinity Vacation Club is opening soon in Koh Samui. We are in need of a sales manager, good salespeople, OPCs and receptionists. If you are a proven performer, we want to talk to you. Our commissions and bonuses are the best in Koh Samui. We are looking for top people who want to grow with us in Southeast Asia. Contact James. Tel: 086-690 6977 (English). Please send your CV to tjrgolfer72@gmail.com

LOOKING FOR STAFF

Need 1 Chef, 1 Sous Chef, Help Cook, Waitress and Waiter for Thai and International Restaurant. Please Contact K. June 081-970 5830 or Laurent 081-693 3940. Email: alain.laurent8@gmail.com

HUMAN RESOURCES

Group of companies operating in the property and F&B market, is looking for a Human Resources Manager with experiences in recruitment and evaluation to support the organization's business goals. The ideal candidate is a Thai national, organized, and confident. Tel: 076-383 435. Email: info@obiettivothailandia.com

BARISTA/CAFE MANAGER

1-2 persons needed for April start, at the re-opening of the Trees Club Resort Cafe. English speaking required. Tel: 086-268 3238. Email: billyanthony6@hotmail.com

LIVEABOARD OFFICE

Thai, fluent in spoken and written English, good computer skills, marketing, at least 2 years experience. CV wanted! Tel: 088-500 6150 (English). Email: info@nauticadiving.com

MALE WEDDING STAFF

- Hair and makeup.
- Flower arrangement.
- Dress maintenance and customer service.

Thai male with multiple skills more than two of above required. Driver's license, good command of English and computer are also needed. Email: info@sa-mer.com, for further details, please see our website at www.samerwedding-thailand.com

SALES EXECUTIVE

Jagota Brothers Trading Co., Ltd. Long-time, well-established food importer and supplier to hotels and restaurants welcomes applications from experienced salespeople. Must be fluent in written & spoken English. Background in food industry preferred. Must have own car to visit customers. Tel: 082-790 5143. Please forward resumes and references to George. Email: george_d@jagota.com

EZYSTAYS CO LTD

Ezystays (Travel Club), located in Patong, is looking to recruit a Thai Admin Assistant for its busy sales office. Candidates must have a good command of the English language and be able to work efficiently with Word and Excel, and basic knowledge of accounts. Salary is negotiable depending on experience. All applicants must apply with a cover letter and CV in English with photo. We offer an excellent working environment and a 5-day work week. Tel: 076-34421. Email: clientliaison@ezystays.com

TOUR GUIDES NEEDED

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

EXPERIENCED ELDERCARE NURSE

Nurse/helper for older person or invalid. Two years experience with alzheimers patient. Reliable, hard-working, excellent references. Some English. Tel: 089-196 0940. Email: woody@khunwoody.com

WEB DEVELOPER WANTED

Siam Real Estate require a web design and developer competent with PHP, MySQL, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, jQuery, XML. Must be capable of quality work and be able to meet deadlines. Can be company or individual. Tel: 076-288 908. Apply to jobs@siamrealestate.com, for further details, please see our website at www.siamvillarentals.com

OAKMEADOW INT'L SCHOOL

We are looking for a qualified Thai female teacher. Tel: 076-521550, 084-847 0732 (English). Email: info@oakmeadowphuket.com

HEAD OF ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

We are looking for a Thai female with teaching skills for four English teachers and our security guards. Tel: 076-336 084, 081-607 6637, Fax: 076-336 085. Email: pornthip@sgsphuket.com

SKILLED TRADESPEOPLE WANTED

For very busy handyman company. Thai or farang. Good salary. Contact www.farang-handyman.com

ACCOUNTING BOOKKEEPING

Thai CPA knowledge of English. Dive knowledge a plus. Pay 20k working Mon-Fri. Send CV to phuket@sssnetwork.com

2 NATIVE ENGLISH TEACHERS

Required for Rainbow Land, Fisherman's Way, Chalong, to teach a mixed group of 2-5+ year olds. Call, text or email for more information. Tel: 082-812 3610. Email: turnery5@gmail.com

EXPERIENCED YACHT CAPTAINS

Applicants must hold valid license or permit. Duties include repositioning of corporate & private yachts within the SEA region. Attractive salary package for those with the necessary qualifications & experience. Tel: 080-078 3731. Please send your resume to blackwall88@gmail.com or contact Shaun for further information.

URGENT CHEF INT'L CUISINE

High salary + service charge + bonus and all benefits. Tel: 089-908 7486.

Employment Wanted

PERSONAL SECURITY

I am looking for a Job as your Personal Assistant to you and your family being safe and secure around the island! I speak many languages and work as a personal fitness trainer and can be your private dive instructor. I got a very nice personality and am easy going with children. Very strong build and very fit. Very confidential! Have Thai work permit. Tel: 084-188 4544. Email: mikeflysthai@me.com

Mechanical/Structural Engineer

Thai National required for Phuket office.
For an interview please contact:
thamersley@australiancad.com.au

**ABSOLUTELY
FABULOUS**
Classic & Contemporary Interiors

**Exclusive Furniture Store on Bypass road is
urgently seeking staff.**

Sales Assistant

- Thai national only
- Speak fluent English
- Presentable
- Punctual
- Honest
- Experience in furniture store will be a bonus but not necessary

Maid & Handy man

- Presentable
- Honest
- English speaking will be a bonus but not necessary

Send resume along with picture and salary expectation to abfabsales@gmail.com or call HR 076 350 465

IT and Marketing Solutions

Mid-level Website Developer

This full-time position reports to the Head of Technology and must have corporate-level experience (having worked with corporations). S/he will need to have the following skills and knowledge:

- PHP, HTML4, CSS2, JavaScript, AJAX, MySQL queries, PHP5
- Understanding of validating code, MVC programming

Knowledge in the following areas would be an advantage:

- Highly advantageous:
 - OOP programming
 - Experience with CMS
 - Database design
 - Code documenting skills
 - Version control
 - CSS3
 - HTML5
 - jQuery
- A plus to have knowledge of:
 - Other programming languages such as ColdFusion, ASP.net, JAVA, etc.
 - Server administration experience.

Qualifications/Education:

- BA Computer Science or equivalent
- Thai national (holds a Thai passport)
- Speak and write English well

As we are working on various projects in various stages, this developer will have the opportunity to work in a variety of developing and programming capacities, creating more interest and less stagnation in one's personal/professional development.

We are always looking to promote from within the company. Depending upon the candidate's interests s/he may be groomed to excel in a particular area or position.

Paid holidays, medical and dental insurance are included.

E: phuketrecruiting@gmail.com

Entry-Level Administrative Assistant

The candidate must have the following knowledge / skills:

- Microsoft Word (and/or OpenOffice)
- Microsoft Excel (and/or OpenOffice)
- Knows or is capable of easily learning Google Wikisites (an opensource document manager)
- Knows or is capable of easily learning Google Documents (an opensource document manager)
- General Administrative duties such as:
 - Answer incoming telephone calls
 - Receptionist, greet and welcome guests
 - Prepare meeting room for client meetings
 - General Administration for client documentation, as assigned
- Upload images on client Facebook pages
- Liaise with print vendors for quotations and execution of printed materials, such as: brochures, client stationery systems, etc
- Liaise with Media contacts: collect and manage media kits and publication information; obtain quotes and requirements for placement of advertisements
- Eventually, this person may take on the responsibility of maintaining the information on our client booking engine. (This is not expected to be known when starting. Experience/knowledge is a plus.)
- Interest or knowledge in project management is a plus.

Qualifications/Education:

- Thai national (holds a Thai passport)
- Speak and write English well
- BA in Marketing or Business Management

This full-time position reports to the Senior Project Manager and will work closely with both the Senior Project Manager (conventional marketing activities) as well as with the Jr. Project Manager (website marketing activities).

We are always interested in promoting from within the company. Therefore, the candidate will be trained toward becoming a Marketing Project Manager. Paid holidays, medical and dental insurance

E: phuketrecruiting@gmail.com

SENIOR TEACHER

Phuket Has Been Good To us require a senior teacher for the English education program. Leading a small, dynamic team of ESL teachers in 2 Thai schools in Phuket, you will be an experienced educator with strong leadership and ESL skills. Experience in the Thai educational system and the ability to communicate in Thai is advantageous. Salary 65,000-70,000 baht/month. Full position descriptions at www.phukethasbeengoodtous.org. Please submit a 1 page letter of application, CV and a recent photograph by August 31st to info@phukethasbeengoodtous.org

IT OR AV ENGINEERS

Thai nationality, can speak English. Please send CV to Email: info@techworx-project.com

PRIMARY TEACHER

International School in Chalong is looking for a native English speaking primary teacher to join our dynamic team. Tel: 082-323 1188. Please send your CV to Email: phuketinternational@asia.com

THAI STAFF MANAGER

With good spoken and written English. Salary from 20,000 baht. Tel: 080-879 6058.

CAD DRAFTER

Required for new Company Setting up an office in Phuket.

Multi-discipline drafting using Autocad and Microstation.
MUST SPEAK ENGLISH WELL

Contact Trevor via email:
enquiries@australiancad.com.au

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER WANTED

We are looking for a native English kindergarten teacher to join our team to teach 10-12 children aged 3-6 years. Must have a minimum Bachelor's degree or equivalent. Tel: 076-383150, 084-520 4978. Fax: 076-383150. Email: info@cravensnurseryphuket.com

A leading Home Automation and MEP Engineering company in Chong Talay is looking to fill:

- Secretary
- M&E Engineer
- Autocad draftsman

Good Salary. 5 day week.
Email: info@avcpuket.com
Fax: 076-615811

ACCOUNTANTS/BOOKKEEPERS

Experienced Thai staff for immediate openings in a fast growing company with very positive working environment. English, written and spoken, are preferred but not mandatory except for senior management positions. Salary based on qualifications. Email resume to hr@freshgardenfarms.com

MAID FOR APARTMENT NEEDED

Maid needed for apartment in Karon. Full day. Salary 14,000 baht. Age 20-37 years. Tel: 083-640 0616 (English), 084-734 0122 (English). Email: likhovro man@mail.ru

BARTENDER REQUIRED

Full-time position. Good salary and great fun. Accommodation if needed. Thai national only. Please call Russell: 089-587 9112. Email: sunsetbarphuket@yahoo.com

LOOKING FOR STAFF

Need 1 Chef, 1 Sous Chef, Help Cook, Waitress and Waiter for Thai and International Restaurant. Please Contact K. June 081-970 5830 or Laurent 081-693 3940. Email: alain.laurent8@gmail.com

VILLA STAFF

Looking for two live in staff for a seven bedroom holiday villa in Patong. Must be able to cook, clean and speak English. Experience and references are mandatory. Tel: 080-699 2436. Email: kokakat@gmail.com

WORK CS @ HOLYCLOTHING!

Customer service agents needed for expanding internet fashion retailer. Are you CS experienced, Thai, hard working, computer savvy and fluent in English? Salary of 17-27,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-289472. Email: grahamkay@mac.com. For full details see our website www.holyclothing.com/htmlx/work.html

RECEPTIONIST KATA

Reliable female staff is required. 2 days off per week. Tel: 081-892 1621.

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

CHALONG

- Julapan Stationery (Chaofa East Rd) Tel: 076-282254
- KL Mart (Patak Rd, Chalong Circle) Tel: 076-280400
- 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

Looking for a job?
Looking for a better candidate?
Find more Recruitment Classifieds at WWW.PhuketGazette.Net!

Articles For Sale

POOL EQUIPMENT
FOR SALE

Hayward 55kw pool pump with filter, 200-liter sand filter with valve, and electrical box with switches. 2 LEED lights and more. 3 years old. Make an offer. Tel: 081-893 7068.

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: armyfirst@hotmail.com

HAIR SALON & SPA
FOR SALE

2 floors. First floor is hair salon, second floor is spa. Full equipment and car park. Tel: 089-622 0101.

BAR/HOUSE, RAWAI
FOR SALE

With 2 bedrooms house, pool table, big TV, outdoor bar. Great location. Potential plus! Contact Jon. Tel: 089-593 8961.

SALE BAR
BANGLA ROAD

Very good location on main road, 66 months on lease, 19.5 million baht. Tel: 085-784 1213. Email: christopher.007@hotmail.com

ITEMS FOR SALE

Bar chair, counter, table, sofa, TV and much more. Tel: 088-765 0886.

FARANG SELLING
WASHING MACHINE

Samsung, 9kg, 6 months old, security. Price: 5,000 baht. Tel: 083-635 2414.

2ND HAND GOODS
FOR SALE

Shelves, executive tables and more. Prices negotiable. Tel: 081-978 2725.

NEW TOP LOAD
WASHER

7.5kg. Cost: 6,000 baht. Sale: 4,500 baht o.b.o. For more information please contact: 080-881 2169.

SONY PS3

Used for only 2 months, 2 remote controls, English manual, 1 HD World Cup football & 1 HD action game; 12,000 baht or best offer. Call or email for appointment. Contact Eric or Fon. Tel: 076-219061, Fax: 076-214803. Email: jairak@phuket.ksc.co.th

Bar &
Restaurant
EquipmentCAPUCHINO,
COFFEE MACHINE

2 coffee stations with steam and hot water, Brasilia with Saeco coffee grinder. Price: 200,000 baht. Tel: 089-964 2188.

Bulletins

Alcoholics
Anonymous

If you want to drink
that is your business
If you want to stop
that is ours
Daily Meetings

Patong, Phuket Town,
Chalong, Surin, Karon
& Cape Panwa

081-895 4763
081-956 4031
email: phuketaa@yahoo.com
Google AA Phuket

SPONSOR A CHILD

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

PATONG BAR
FOR SALE

Popular bar, open air. Beer bar in busy tourist area, fully furnished. Urgent sale: 1.6 million baht. Tel: 081-550 7379, 087-893 1753.

GOOD
COMMERCIAL

Space for sale in Bangtao Beach. On main road. 156sqm, currently setup as a restaurant and bar. All equipment and furniture included. Sale: 2,000,000 baht. Rent: 15,000 baht per month for 10 years contract. Tel: 081-733 9498, 080-700 3775.

FORCED LIQUIDATION
SALE

Kata-Penthouse 7th floor seaview, 3 apartments, restaurant and bar, pool. Management company, land, building. 16.5 million baht. Tel: 081-828 0972 (English). Email: sbolls@hotmail.com

RETAIL SPACE
OPPORTUNITY

Large international resort in Karon seeks retail tenant. Excellent year-round occupancy. Flexible rental terms. Must sell quality merchandise. Contact Boon chu. Tel: 076-396200-5. Email: fckcr@chr.co.th

HANA BEAUTY SALON
FOR SALE

Address: 120/5 (34) Srisoonthon road, Chergntalay, Thalang, Phuket 83110. Close to Lady Pie shop, near gas station. Tel: 083-968 6714.

CEMENT
CONCRETE PLANTS

For sale, 21 rai and 136 sqm (factory space + machinery 5 rai). Can be operated on immediately adjacent streets Thepkrasattri, Mai Khao, Phuket. Contact Chanakrit. Tel: 081-738 7099.

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CrypticCrossword

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2 S U
3 C O N D I T I O N
4 A
5 A
6 A
7 W
8 P
9 V W P
10 C N D T O
11 A R E N A
12 A R E A S
13 R E R E D O S
14 B R S V R T E I A
15 O V E R D U E
16 T A R E S
17 B A N A L
18 O
19 E D A A S U A M
20 N O I S E
21 R A I S I N
22 S T O R E S
23 T
24 O N N
25 D E R
26 B A N G W A D
27 P E N S I O N
28 L U D
29 C
30 Q F W
31 T R I B A L
32 V O L U M E
33 R I S K Y
34 Y C R
35 S N A N E
36 P A S T A
37 U N D E R
38 C O N T R O L
39 I
40 N N U T E T E L
41 N E G A T E D
42 C R E E L
43 F U D G E
44 G O E I T R E R U R
45 A N T E D A T E D
46 E S S E N C E
47 E D L D
48 S E E

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International Sport

World Twenty20

By Andrew Scott

THE ICC World Twenty20 started in Sri Lanka on Tuesday and runs until October 7. The fourth edition of the tournament features ten ICC full members and two other ICC members who had to qualify for the tournament.

India, England and Afghanistan are in Group A. Ireland are in group B with the West Indies and Australia. Group C consists of Sri Lanka, South Africa and Zimbabwe, while Pakistan, New Zealand and Bangladesh are in group D.

The top two teams from each group will proceed to the Super Eight Round.

The current holders are England who defeated Australia in 2010.

Teams and players to watch.

Group A: England – The holders are missing enigmatic batsman Kevin Pietersen, who was voted player of the tournament in the last World Twenty20. In the absence of Pietersen, Eoin Morgan has come to the fore of the team and his form in the tournament could decide how



Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene (R) is watched by Zimbabwe captain Brendan Taylor in the first game. Photo: AFP

far England progresses.

Group B: West Indies – If their batsmen are in the mood, the big hitting West Indies could upset a few teams and even get to the final.

Group C: South Africa–Jacques Kallis, AB de Villiers and opener Richard Levi are more than capable of scoring runs. Jacques Kallis, 36, may use the fact that this could be his last World

Twenty20 as an incentive to push the team all the way.

Group D: Pakistan – One of the greatest, if not the greatest, of the Twenty20 nations. Reached the final in 2007, won the tournament in 2009 and were knocked out by Australia in the semifinals in 2010. Pakistan's captain, Mohammed Hafeez, is one of the best one-day bowlers in the world and an outstanding opening batsman.



CRICKET WORLD CUP GROUP STAGES

GROUP A	Group B	Group C	Group D
England	Australia	Sri Lanka	Pakistan
India	West Indies	South Africa	New Zealand
Afghanistan	Ireland	Zimbabwe	Bangladesh

CRICKET WORLD CUP FIXTURES

SATURDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER 2012			17:00
Sri Lanka	VS	South Africa	Hambantota
SATURDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER 2012			21:00
Australia	VS	West Indies	Colombo
SUNDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2012			17:00
Pakistan	VS	New Zealand	Pallekele
SUNDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2012			21:00
England	VS	India	Colombo
MONDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 2012			21:00
West Indies	VS	Ireland	Colombo
TUESDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2012			21:00
Pakistan	VS	Bangladesh	Pallekele

Football review

THE Premiership played out another cracking weekend of football with its usual side show of controversy.

The match between QPR and Chelsea was the first time Anton Ferdinand and John Terry had crossed paths since Terry was acquitted by a magistrates court of racially abusing Ferdinand.

Ferdinand, who refused to shake Terry's hand, also refused to shake the hand of Ashley Cole – a character witness for Terry in the trial. Terry still faces a trial by the FA over the same incident. The players seemed to be distracted by the pre-game handshake incident and the match finished 0-0.

Arsenal swept aside newly promoted Southampton 6-1. Arsenal's attacking flair was too much for Southampton with Lukas Podolski, Santi Carzola, Gervinho and left back Kieran Gibbs being the stand out players.

Manchester United beat Wigan 4-0. Paul Scholes opened the scoring in his 700th appearance for United. Buttner and Javier Hernandez scored, and youngster Nick

Powell scored moments after making his Manchester United debut as a substitute.

Liverpool's poor start to the season continued as they struggled to a 1-1 draw against Sunderland.

Everton played Newcastle in the Monday night game, and the topic of goal line technology was raised again as Everton had a perfectly good goal disallowed. The match finished 2-2 as Newcastle substitute, Ba, scored his second goal of the game in the last minute.

This weekend sees Liverpool play Manchester United on Sunday in a match that could be overshadowed by the same handshake debacle of last season involving Luis Suarez and Patrice Evra.

Arsenal have a chance to really prove their attacking credentials when they take on Manchester City on Sunday.

Aston Villa will be hoping Southampton are still suffering after their heavy loss to Arsenal when they meet on Saturday.

In news closer to home, the Football Association of Thailand (FAT) could be



Anton Ferdinand refuses to shake John Terry's hand. Photo: AFP

forced to disband following allegations of corruption, a government spokesperson investigating the association last week said in an interview with Reuters:

"FAT is being investigated for tax evasion and for setting up the Thai Premier League as a profit making arm"

FAT's President, Worawi Makudi has been accused of corruption in the past. In 2011, FIFA accused him of spending US\$860,000 of football development grants for projects on land he owns. He was eventually acquitted.

– Andrew Scott

TEAM	P	GD	PTS
1 Chelsea	4	6	10
2 Man Utd	4	5	9
3 Arsenal	4	7	8
4 Man City	4	3	6
5 Swansea	4	6	7
6 West Bromwich	4	2	7
7 Everton	4	1	7
8 West Ham	4	1	7
9 Fulham	4	4	6
10 Tottenham	4	1	5
11 Newcastle	4	-1	5
12 Stoke	4	0	4
13 Aston Villa	3	-1	4
14 Wigan	4	-4	4
15 Sunderland	4	0	3
16 Norwich City	3	-5	3
17 Liverpool	4	-5	2
18 QPR	4	-7	2
19 Reading	4	-4	1
20 Southampton	4	-9	0

SATURDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER 2012			18:45
Swansea	VS	Everton	
SATURDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER 2012			21:00
Chelsea	VS	Stoke	
Southampton	VS	Aston Villa	
West Brom	VS	Reading	
West Ham	VS	Sunderland	
Wigan	VS	Fulham	
SUNDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2012			19:30
Liverpool	VS	Man Utd	
SUNDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2012			21:00
Newcastle	VS	Norwich	
Man City	VS	Arsenal	22:00
Tottenham	VS	QPR	

Thailand women stun China

THAILAND'S women's volleyball team has ended its season with a bang by landing the Asian Volleyball Confederation's prestigious AVC Cup for the first time.

The in-form Thailand team pulled off a stunning 3-1 (30-28 25-27 25-21 25-20) victory on Sunday night, over two-time defending champions and current Asian winners, China.

The Thai team is No 12 on the International Federation of Volleyball (FIVB) world rankings, while China is No 5.

The Thai women's volleyball team caused a stir back in 2009 when it brushed off perennial winners China to be crowned the eventual Asian champions for the first time.

History repeated itself in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on Sunday night. Both Thailand and China did not lose a single match to their respective rivals en route to the showdown.

The final rematch saw China rely on their power and height advantage. The Thai team used speed and exceptional tactics to

outwit the defending champions.

The Thai players played better tactically and technically and the Chinese could not stem the onslaughts led by hard-attacking Onuma Sittirak.

Thailand also claimed four individual awards: *Best Setter* and *Best Attacker* for Nootsara Tomkom, *Best Scorer* and the *Most Valuable Player* for Onuma Sittirak.

Credit for the Thai team's victory went to head coach Kiattipong Radchatagriengkai.

– TheNation

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Southern showdown stalemate

Phuket FC and Pattalung FC drew 1-1 in front of a record-breaking crowd at Surakul Stadium last Sunday in Phuket

By Steven Layne

THE Islanders moved up one place into eleventh in the 18-team Thai Yamaha One league thanks to a 1-1 home draw last Sunday with Southern rivals Pattalung FC.

Both sides, facing the threat of falling into the relegation zone, were hungry for points in the tense, high-stakes match that saw a new record set for attendance this season at Phuket FC's Surakul Stadium with an official turnout of 4,118.

The Islanders went on the attack early on with a well-coordinated frontline, consisting of Thawin Butsombat, Watcharakorn Klaithin, Watcharapong Jun-ngam and Roland Vargas, exposing Pattalung's defensive weaknesses in the opening moments.

The Swiftlet's keeper, Walut Makemusik, was in his element however, and coordinated well with his defenders, Nigerian Goodluck Cliff and Pattalung Captain, Anuwat Jun-don.

Phuket's defensive and midfield game was equally as effective throughout the first half with commendable teamwork among Nonthapan Jiensathawong, Nenebi Slyestre, Wanmai Setthanan, Marcio Santos and Niran Panthong limiting the visitor's attacking options.

The score was 0-0 at halftime.

Similar to the two side's meeting back in May, it was Pattalung who opened the scoring, just after the restart of the second half.

Nigerian forward Elvis Wik John outran Phuket's defense, and timed his shot just right, beating the Phuket keeper coming out to

narrow the angle.

Phuket FC's equaliser came on 64 minutes from a free kick taken outside the box by Watcharakorn "Bird" Klaithin.

Bird's shot appeared to have received some help from a Pattalung defender, but nonetheless he was credited with his fifth of the season, making him the leading scorer for the Islanders.

From that point on, the possession and set play opportunities were evenly weighted, though Phuket almost found a winner from another free kick late in the game.

Team captain, Nonthapan, who prior to kickoff had been awarded the Player of the Month award for August by the Thai Premier League, looked to put one of his deadly, signature strikes into the back of the net, but the shot drifted just wide of right-hand post.

With the final score 1-1, both sides moved up one place in the table, inching away from the five team relegation zone.

Pattalung's next match will be at home next Saturday against league leaders, Ratchaburi.

Meanwhile, Phuket hit the road, next up against 10th place Gulf Saraburi FC this Sunday, an away fixture to be played at Saraburi's PPAO (*OrBorJor*) Stadium.

In the two side's first meeting this season, the Saraburi "Warlords" prevailed 0-1 in Phuket.

Last season Saraburi edged Phuket with a win and a draw. The Islanders will look to grab at least a point to continue their march to safety.

Kickoff is set for 6pm.



BACK ON TARGET: Watcharakorn "Bird" Klaithin (striking) scored the equalizer in Sunday's match against Pattalung. His fifth of the season, Bird is the Islander's current leading scorer. Photo: Thanet Lipmon

Camara heads home

CAMARA Ahmed, the Ivorian footballer who was an integral part of Phuket FC's promotion from the Thai football league's second division in 2010, has finally returned to his home in the Ivory Coast.

A Thai hospital crew accompanied the former footballer on his Bangkok Airways flight last Wednesday.

Bedridden for nearly two years after suffering a heart attack during an important promotion match against Chainat FC (in which



Camara, bedridden for nearly two years, pictured here with friends and brother, Lancina (right).

funds from the team and fan donations.

During Phuket's match with Pattalung FC on Sunday, fans donated a total of 63,462 baht to help with Ahmed's traveling expenses. This is in addition to another 100,000 baht donated by the Sports Authority of Thailand.

The team said it would continue to support Camara financially with a monthly stipend of 50,000 baht for six months. Moreover, they will also continue to employ Lancina as a trainer in Phuket.

Phuket won 1-0), Camara has been looked after by his older brother, Lancina, reinforced by

months. Moreover, they will also continue to employ Lancina as a trainer in Phuket.



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6-a-side soccer tournament

THANYAPURA Sports & Leisure Club is holding its first 6-a-side soccer tournament for open categories.

The tournament, with 32 teams competing in round robin format and final, will be held at the club's brand new 1,500-seat, Limonta Soccer Pro, artificial turf complex in Thalang, October 6-7. The first game begins at 8am.

The winner, runner up and teams that finish third and fourth, will receive prize money totaling 20,000, 10,000, 4,000 and 2,000 baht, with trophies respectively.

The enrollment fee is 3,000 baht per team and the team insurance fee is 1,000 baht. The team insurance fee will be refunded after the completion of the tournament.



Contending the tournament will be The Hulk FC, recent champions of the Phuket Futsal Cup and Road to El Classico provincial tourney.

For more information or to sign up, contact Thanyapura activities desk at: 076 336 000 ext 5055, or the tournament committee at 083 184 4702 K Nueng and K Touch on 090 705 5439. Registration deadline is September 30, and the draw is held on October 1.

Ballers rock Sapan Hin

THAILAND'S most significant international basketball tournament has livened up Phuket Town's brand new 4,000 seat Gymnasium with some fast-paced, slam-dunk and swooshing action this past week.

With opening matches held last Friday, September 14, the TOA Thailand Open 2012, being dubbed the Phuket Championship tournament, will conclude with its final two matches this Saturday afternoon.

Indoor sports enthusiasts should not miss this golden opportunity.

The tournament has featured six high quality, international-standard teams, including two from Thailand, and a team each from Australia, Indonesia, Brunei and the USA.

In their first four matches, both Thai teams – the Provincial Electricity Authority (PEA) and the "Rising Stars", a Thai national all-star squad, including some non-Thai athletes, have all but secured a showing in one of Saturday's finals thanks to strong performances early on.

In their opening match last Friday, PEA edged the Postnet Gators from Australia, 86-81. They weren't able to keep up with the USA's "Unity Teams" squad, losing on Saturday 74-89. The PEA boys redeemed themselves the following day in their next match against Brunei's CS Cold Storage team, stomping their Asean opponents 110-57. Indonesia's CLS Knight's were no match for PEA either on Tuesday, with the home boys prevailing 81-68.

Thailand's Rising Stars have had a flawless tournament start. In their opener last



HIGH HOPES: Team Unity of the USA (burgundy) vs Brunei CS Cold Storage. Photo:TOA

Friday, they breezed past the CLS Knights 94-52, followed by a victory on Sunday over the Postnet Gators 79-66. Their true test came on Monday night against the dominant Unity Team side, of which the Thai side narrowly edged their American opponents 80-79.

Though there were still matches being played at the time of going to press, the Indonesian and Brunei sides' failure to win any of their opening matches means that they will most likely be the two teams watching the gold and bronze medal matches on Saturday from the bench.

The Bronze medal match commences at 2pm with the championship to get underway by 4pm. Most likely the final will be a fantastic Thai-American showdown.

– Steven Layne

Laguna Triathlon back

THIS year's Laguna Phuket Triathlon (LPT) will see an elite battle between two pro athletes, Australian Belinda Granger and Czech Olympian Radka Vodickova, who will bid to become the first ever women's triple champion of the iconic event.

LPT 2012, now in its 19th year, will take place on Sunday, November 25. Ironman 70.3 Laguna Phuket will follow one week later on Sunday, December 2.

Laguna triathlon veteran Belinda Granger, who was champion in 2008 and 2010, will again try to win a third title, with her main challenge coming from Vodickova, who beat her into second place last year by just over three minutes.

Vodickova, still buzzing from her experiences at the London Olympic Games as part of the Czech triathlon team, is keen to repeat her 2009 and 2011 wins. She is looking to become LPT's first three-time women's Champion, one year after Italian Massimo Cigana achieved that feat in the men's field.

"To compete for this honor against the legendary Belinda Granger will make it a fantastic race," said Vodickova.

Granger, a multiple Ironman Champion in her career, said: "It's going to be a tough ask to beat Radka – she's coming off an amazing season of racing, including the London Olympics – but I'm looking forward to the challenge."

In the Ironman 70.3 Laguna Phuket, 2011 Champion Melissa Rollison, of Australia – now racing under her married name of Melissa Hauschildt – has registered to return to defend her title.

She's set to face strong challenges



Laguna Triathlon winner 2011 Radka Vodickova (center) and 2nd placed Belinda Granger (left).

from a field that will include Vodickova and Granger, who finished third and eighth respectively last year.

Hauschildt, the Ironman 70.3 2011 World Champion, said: "I can't wait to come back to Laguna Phuket to defend my title – it has the most unique course, amazing location and friendliest crew I've come across in my triathlon career."

American Ironman Chris Lieto, reputed to be the fastest triathlon cyclist in the world, will compete in both LPT and Ironman 70.3. Lieto has recorded three top 10 finishes in the Ironman World Championships, with second place in 2009.

In a major coup for Ironman 70.3, Laguna Phuket, recently-crowned 2012 Ironman 70.3 World Champion, Leanda Cave has joined the ranks of top professional athletes set to appear at this year's event.

PSS starts new term

PHUKET Soccer Schools (PSS) held their first academy training matches at Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club in Thalung on Saturday, September 15.

Training matches were held for Under 8, Under 10 and Under 12 squads.

The Under 8s were matched against Bang Jo Utd, with the PSS Under 8s Blue team winning 3-0 against Bang Jo B team with goals from Daniel C, Ivan E and Kian B.

The Blue team then played Bang Jo's A team winning 1-0 with a goal from Jonah D.

The Under 8 PSS White team drew 1-1 with Bang Jo's A team. Their second match saw another tight game against Bang Jo's B team with the game finishing 0-0.

Both teams then played a mixed match and were unable to make a breakthrough, with the game finishing 0-0. Under-8 Man of the Match was Oli Mclean.

The Under-10 squad played a team from Bang Tao, losing their first match against Bang Tao A 2-1 with Mich D scoring a penalty for PSS.

The second match saw PSS play good attacking football and go on to win 3-1. Bang Tao then mixed their squad and the



SOAR: Under 10 diving header.

game finished 0-0. Man of the Match: Puripat (Poom).

In the final match of the day, the newly formed Under-12 team played their first game as a PSS Academy team, when they hosted a mixed team from Cherng Talay/Bang Tao.

In the opening exchanges, PSS played good possession football and scored a fine goal from Peter K with a deft touch from a Koji M cross.

The visitors then scored two goals in two minutes, to take the lead going into the half time interval. PSS captain Tim S drew the game level at 2-2.

PSS then conceded two goals as the team began to tire before Koji M scored an excellent individual effort. The game finished 3-4 to Cherng Talay/Bang Tao. Man of the Match was Tim Schwab.

Academy training continues this Saturday at TSLC.

For more information on coaching/academy programs please e-mail Martin.m.hill@phuketsoccerschools.com.

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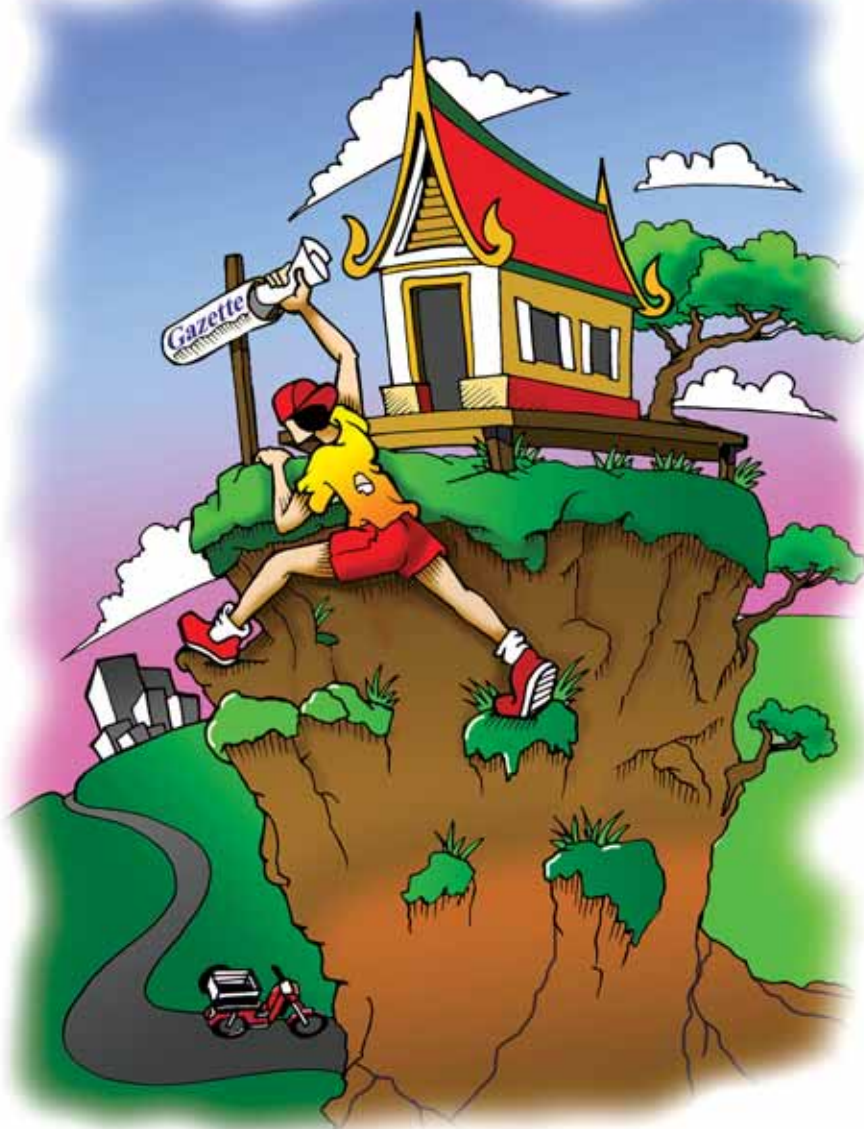
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