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INSIDE TODAY

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■ MURDER FUGITIVE LEE 'PITBULL' ALDHOUSE WILL STAND TRIAL IN PHUKET

Aldhouse faces UK extradition

■ High Court dismisses appeal
against 'inhumane' living
conditions in Thai prisons

By **Gazette Reporters**

THE British High Court has dismissed the appeal by former Phuket kickboxer Lee "the Pitbull" Aldhouse to stop his extradition to Thailand to face murder charges.

A source at the British embassy in Bangkok told the *Gazette* on Wednesday that formal notification of the decision had yet to be received, but embassy staff could confirm that the High Court had dismissed the appeal.

The news paves the way for the Office of the Attorney General [OAG] in Bangkok to begin the extradition process. "We have yet to receive formal notification of his extradition to Phuket," Prosecutor Intranee Sumawong, OAG Executive Director of International Affairs, told the *Gazette* on Wednesday.

"We expect the [Thai] Ministry of Foreign Affairs to inform us by letter within the next few days... After we receive the formal notice, I'm quite confident that within a week we will know when Mr Aldhouse will be in Phuket to stand trial," she added.

Mr Aldhouse successfully fled Thailand after allegedly stabbing American Dashawn Longfellow to death in August 2010.

He was later arrested at London's Heathrow Airport on an unrelated charge when he tried to re-enter the UK.

Continued on Page 3



Airport taxi touts try to persuade a tourist to use their services within seconds of her exiting the arrivals hall. Photo: Phuket Airport CCTV

**Airport touts told
to stop harassing
tourists on arrival**

Full story on Page 2

**Sea gypsies win
reprieve from
developer action**

POLICE intervention stemmed a rising tide of ire among a 200-strong protest by sea gypsies at Baan Laem Tukkae on Koh Sireh on November 15, winning a temporary reprieve against a developer taking over 11 rai of the small beachfront village on the east side of Phuket Town.

The small sea gypsy community has long been officially recognized, but villagers found themselves forced to stave off Land Office surveyors from marking out the boundary of a plot being earmarked for beachfront development.

The village is home to the 5.4-million-baht Urak Lawoi cultural center celebrating sea gypsy traditions and home to the Porn Sawan *rong ngeng* dance troupe that has received an award from HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn for preserving cultural heritage.

Full story on Page 8



Traffic begins to build at the Darasamuth Intersection before rush hour begins.

PLAN YOUR ESCAPE ROUTES
Check the 'alternative routes' to take to work as construction of Phuket's first underpass at one of the island's busiest junctions begins this weekend.

Full story on Page 5

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This Week



Business

Phuket to become Emirates second Thai hub. **Page 12**



Finance

Why Exchange Traded Funds are worth the investment. **Pages 16**



History

Early Phuketians were cool; despite having no air-con. **Page 36**



Technology

Khun Woody takes a close look at Phuket's land lines. **Page 38**



Pets

Our favourite dog whisperer is back in Phuket. **Page 39**



Sport

Futsal buzz: Phuket United to debut in the elite league. **Page 50**

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Police hunt driver in tour bus 'hit-and-run'

By Thawit Bilabdullar

A TOUR bus driver fled the scene after the bus he was driving struck two women riding a motorbike in the northbound lane of the notorious Thepkrasattri Road on November 14.

The two women who died in the accident were identified by Thalang Police as Jaroonrat Waree, 35, and Nadlada Waree, 17.

"The motorbike rider and passenger were dragged by the bus at least 500 meters before it came to a stop north of Mud Dok Khao junction [the main turnoff toward Nai Yang Beach]," said Sub Lt Chatree Chuwichian.

Police contacted the driver's employer, allowing them to identify the suspect, Lt Chatree told the *Gazette* on November 17.

"We are waiting for them to contact the driver, and have him surrender to police," he said.

However, by Wednesday the driver still had not surrendered himself to police, forcing them to



Police believe the bus dragged the women and motorbike for at least 500 meters before it came to a stop. Photo: Thawit Bilabdullar

request that the Phuket Provincial Court issue an arrest warrant.

Though police have identified the man, they have yet to release

the information to the public.

Police plan to charge the man with negligent driving resulting in death, Lt Chatree said.

Officials: 'Stop harassing tourists'

TAXI touts at Phuket International Airport have been told to stop following and harassing tourists arriving at the airport, and to stay at their counters.

The news came at a meeting at the airport administrative office on November 13, called by Phuket Airport Director Prathuang Sornkham.

Present to oversee the proceedings was Phuket Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada, who called for taxi touts to stop following tourists through the terminal.

"We don't want them [tourists] feeling uncomfortable and annoyed," he said.

"Taxi operators already have their own counters both inside and outside the terminal, as per the agreement with the airport, so they do not need to walk around and pick on passengers who have just walked out of the arrivals hall," added V/Gov Chamroen.

Airport Director Prathuang pointed out, "We keep asking them



A taxi tout at Phuket Airport approaches a pair of tourists at the exit of the arrivals hall. Image: Phuket Airport CCTV

not to do this, but some taxi representatives just keep on doing it. We will have to enforce the regulations in order to make them comply."

V/Gov Chamroen suggested that offenders first be issued a warning letter, before sterner

action is taken against them for their tactics.

There are currently four taxi counters scattered throughout the terminal and another five counters located next to the exit doors.

— **Atchaa Khamlo**

Aussie balcony fall survivor recovering in intensive care

THE Australian man from Sydney who fell from an 18th storey Phuket hotel balcony last week was still receiving treatment in the Intensive Care Unit of Vachira Phuket Hospital on November 16.

John Hurley, 39, plunged from the hotel balcony of his room at the Royal Paradise Hotel in Patong on November 13.

Mr Hurley underwent surgery at Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town later that afternoon for a ruptured spleen and to start a series of corrective measures for his left leg, which was shattered by the impact.

Hospital staff confirmed on



Police visited Mr Hurley before he underwent surgery last week.

November 16 that Mr Hurley is conscious and is still responding to stimuli, but is now on breathing support.

"He is now getting better," one hospital worker told the *Gazette*.

— **Chutharat Plerin**

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UK High Court dismisses Aldhouse appeal



Lee Aldhouse will be deported to Phuket to face charges for the killing of American Dashawn Longfellow. Photo: James Goyder

From page 1

Mr Aldhouse lost his initial extradition hearing. Facing a return to Phuket to answer for murder charges, he filed an appeal claiming that conditions in Thai prisons infringed on human rights.

British Home Secretary Theresa May (UK equivalent to Interior Minister) publicly allowed his extradition but that decision was overturned by High Court judges who ruled that Mr Aldhouse's claims were at least worthy of being heard.

That appeal has now been dismissed.

Bobbette Anderson posted on the Dashawn Longfellow Memorial Facebook page: "I can't tell you how happy his mother and I, and the rest of his family, is with the British High Court's decision to send Aldhouse back to face trial in Thailand."

"A huge THANK YOU to the Thai government for working so hard to make this happen... We feel justice will be served after a fair trial and Aldhouse will pay for taking our precious Hero from us... RIP Dashawn... you are always on our mind and forever in our hearts."

Two dead, one survives in local swimming incidents

Atchaa Khamlo

THREE separate swimming incidents left two dead and sent one to hospital this week.

Early in the week 69-year-old Russian tourist Mikhail Bogdanov drowned off Patong Beach in the same area where the where American student Joshua Shane drowned while taking a night swim with friends in June.

The body was recovered by a jet-ski rider in the water just north of Loma Park at about 10:30am on November 19, said Patong Police Capt Teerasak Boonsaeng.

"The tourist's body showed no signs of violence," said Police Superintendent Chiraphat Pochanaphan.

Col Chiraphat said that Mr Bogdanov left his hotel on Prabamee Road alone to go swimming. He tried to swim



An ambulance leaves Chalong pier with one of the victims.

back to the shore but did not make the beach.

The other two incidents took place near Koh Racha and left a Chinese woman dead and an Indian woman in hospital on November 20.

Yuan Dingrong, 56, who was spending a week in Patong with nine of her family members, drowned after getting into difficulties while swimming off Ao La (La Bay), a member of the

Tourist Police told the *Gazette*.

Ms Yuan died en route to Phuket International Hospital.

The same afternoon a 44-year-old Indian woman, Jyoti Chavhan, was taken to hospital after encountering problems while snorkeling off Koh Racha.

Ms Chavhan, who was on holiday with her family on Koh Racha, allegedly took in water through her snorkel, causing a blockage of her airways.

A speedboat rushed her back to Phuket, where she was transferred to a Vachira Phuket Hospital ambulance.

A Vachira Hospital official told the *Gazette* that Ms Chavhan was transferred to Patong Hospital soon after arriving.

Patong Hospital staff said that Ms Chavhan is in a stable condition and expected to be discharged soon.

PAD rallies in Phuket to 'reclaim Thai petrol'

KEY leaders of the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) staged a rally in Phuket Town on November 18 to inspire support for their "reclaim PTT" campaign.

The campaign opposes the privatization of the Petroleum Authority of Thailand (PTT) Public Company Limited, which currently operates as a state enterprise listed on the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET).

The leaders of the PAD, better known as the "yellow shirts" after their street demonstrations led to the 2006 coup and ouster of the Thaksin Shinawatra administration, took center stage at Saphan Hin to speak to hundreds

of supporters under the banner "Energy and Thailand's Transformation to get through Thailand's Crisis".

The event, promoted as being held in order to educate the public in energy transformation, was a PAD "all star" affair.

Among those present were Maj Gen Chamlong Srimuang, Pipob Thongchai, PAD key leader Somkiat Pongpaiboon, PAD spokesman Parnthep Pourpongpan, Asst Prof Dr Pichai Rattanadilok Na Phuket, Asst Prof Chumroon Na Ranong, Prapan Khunmee, Lt Col Rattakhiet Jangchamras and Chatchawan Chatsuthichai.

The PAD key spokespersons

urged the public to "reclaim" the state oil firm PTT in order to reap the benefits and gain cheaper pump prices.

The move would better preserve Thai natural resources that the PAD currently says are "being plundered" in the Gulf of Thailand.

"The petrol sold by PTT is sourced from Thailand – it is a Thai natural resource. We should take back control of PTT and pass on cheaper petrol prices to Thais," said Mr Chamlong.

The rally made Phuket the 19th province where the PAD leaders have held rallies in order to garner support for the initiative.

– Kritisada Mueanahong



Maj Gen Chamlong Srimuang

Russian tourist dies in 'high-speed' car crash

RUSSIAN tourist Andrei Pavlov, 31, has been named by police as the driver of the Toyota Vios that crashed early on November 17 while travelling at high-speed on the road from Patong to Kamala.

"He was a tourist. He arrived in Phuket more than two months ago and was living in a rented room in Kamala," said Maj Pratuang Polmana of the Patong Police.

The accident was reported at about 5:45am.

"At the scene we found [Mr Pavlov] dead in a black Toyota Vios registered in Udon Thani Province," Maj Pratuang said.

Police believe that Mr Pavlov, who was wearing only swimming trunks at the time of the accident, died from blunt trauma to his head and chest.

Witnesses said the car was travelling toward Kamala at a high speed when the accident occurred, he added. – Thawit Bilabduar



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Focus still on park land deals

By Orawin Narabal

THE investigation into every plot of privately owned land along the border of Sirinath Marine National Park will go ahead, park chief Cheewapap Cheewatham has confirmed.

"We are still continuing with the land investigation. We are following the order of the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation [DNP]. The only thing that can stop us is an official order from them," Mr Cheewapap told the *Gazette*.

The mass land probe aims to investigate 379 plots of land covering more than 3,000 rai along the park boundary.

"I have not received any official order from the DNP telling us to stop investigating the ownership documents of all 379 plots along the national park border.

"The only official order I have received from the DNP is to delay charging [anyone in connection with the] resorts and private homes that are suspected of being built on protected forest land until the land documentation has been verified. That order was issued by Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra," Mr Cheewapap said.

The park chief went onto explain that, according to a Cabinet resolution made on June 30, 1998, any plot of land that was issued a Chanote title before the



Park Chief Cheewapap Cheewatham (inset) vows that the investigation into 379 plots of land believed to be encroaching on Sirinath National Park will begin as soon as the 366 investigating officers arrive. Photos: Gazette file

area was declared a national park or a protected forest area was to be considered legal.

"However, any land issued a Chanote after the area was declared a protected forest area will be considered illegal.

"That's why the land documents of any resorts or houses that are

suspected of being built in a protected forest area must be reviewed carefully again," he added.

However, Mr Cheewapap said he had yet to be informed of the reason why there has been a delay in the arrival of the 366 DNP officers promised, who are to conduct the mass probe into plots

along the park boundary.

"We have not yet started the investigation because we are still waiting for them. I have no idea when the teams will be here. The DNP might have delayed their arrival until after they have reconfirmed the exact location of the park boundary," he said.



Police nab Patong bag-snatchers

POLICE this week quickly arrested three young men, all of whom have reportedly confessed to no fewer than eight bag-snatches in Patong.

The arrests followed a bag snatching on the Patong beach road, at 12:36am on Monday. In less than 30 minutes, swift police action saw officers arrest Sarayuth "Ice" Aisuwan, Bunharn "Diao" Banpeung and one man



The suspects told police that they always targeted tourists.

named only as "Ae" at a rented room in Soi Kok Num, where the trio lived together.

"Bag snatching is on the rise," said Provincial Police Deputy Commander Arun Keawwatee.

"People should not walk alone along dark streets, alleys and unsafe shortcuts. Also, wear your purse or bag strap across your chest," he advised.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

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Escape from underpass chaos

THE lane closures to make way for the construction of Phuket's first underpass in front of the Phuket Central Festival shopping mall on the bypass road are scheduled to be enforced this weekend.

Originally planned to commence on Wednesday, project managers from Italian-Thai Development Co Ltd explained that the start was delayed intentionally to prevent mid-week traffic congestion.

"After meeting with Phuket City Police and the Phuket Highways Office, we decided that the work should start on Friday," said Narong Horee, project manager of the 600-million-baht project.

"The authorities were concerned it would affect the rush-hour traffic during the week," he added.

Anticipating the construction causing heavy traffic at and around the busy junction, officials recently held public meetings to inform local residents and business operators of alternative routes to use to avoid the intersection when possible.

Among the suggested routes, southbound traffic heading toward Patong were advised to turn right



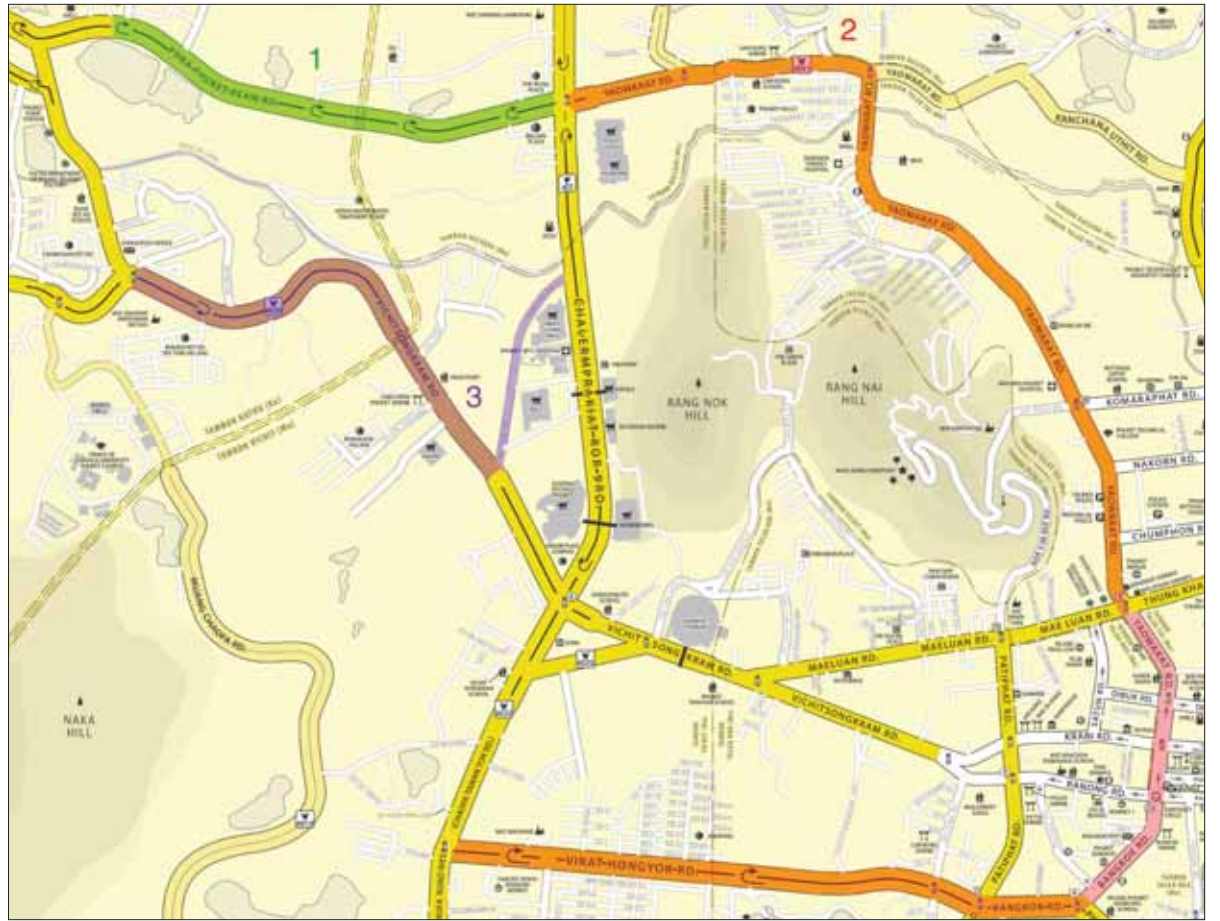
Using the backstreet Bang Yai Road behind the Big C shopping mall was one 'alternative route' suggested.

at the Samkong Intersection, in front of the Tesco Lotus mall about one kilometer north of the underpass project, and continue on to Kathu and Patong, as most southbound traffic already does.

Alternatively, motorists would be able to continue through the Samkong Intersection and then enter Bang Yai Road, which runs behind the Big C shopping center.

Southbound traffic heading toward Chalong were advised to turn left at Tesco Lotus onto Yaowarat Road, and continue through Phuket Town.

For a high-resolution print version of the "alternative routes" map, check PhuketGazette.net



Officials suggested 'alternative routes' for motorists to avoid the underpass roadworks. Map: Streets of Phuket



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Russian drinks himself to death in guesthouse



SAD ENDING: Whisky and roses found at the scene by Phuket police. Photo: Thawit Bilabdullar

A BROKEN-hearted Russian man who drank himself to death was found in his rented accommodation in Patong on November 14.

Maj Patapee Srichai of the Patong Police was informed of the incident by guesthouse manager Areeya Koksadon shortly after 2pm. At the scene police found the body of 27-year-old Petr Zavyalov lying on the bed, still clutching a bunch of red roses in one hand and a bottle of Thai whisky in the other.

"There were no signs of a struggle in the room... However, our investigation revealed that he had argued with his Thai girlfriend," said Maj Patapee.

"It would appear that Mr Zavyalov was unable to support her lifestyle and so she left him for another foreigner.

"He bought a dozen bottles of Thai whisky. He was later found dead in his room," Maj Patapee explained.

Mr Zavyalov's body was sent to Patong Hospital for medical examination and to await final instructions from his relatives.

— Thawit Bilabdullar

Airport taxi operators gifted boost to fleet during 'freeze'

By Atchaa Khamlo

LOCAL officials this week approved every request made by local taxi operators to boost the number of taxi vehicles serving Phuket Airport.

Under a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed on Monday by all main parties involved, the Phuket Mai Khao Company and the Phuket Car Service (PCS) Co-operative will each take into their fold 25 vehicles and drivers from the Mook Andaman ("Andaman Pearl") taxi driver co-operative.

Mook Andaman currently – and openly – provides taxi services at the airport despite not having a signed concession with AOT to do so. Its fleet of 136 vehicles maintains a taxi rank on the street in front of the airport, which serves passengers exiting the terminal when there are not enough Phuket Mai Khao or PCS vehicles to cater to demand.

Also approved was the request filed in June by the Phuket Taxi Meter (PTM) Service Co Ltd to have 30 more taxis join its airport

Signatories to the MoU:

- Chamroen Tipayapongtada**
- Phuket Vice Governor
- Teerayut Prasertpol**
- chief, Phuket Land Transportation Office
- Pratuang Sornkham**
- Director, Phuket Airport
- Weerawat Jantarawijit**
- Superintendent, Tah Chat Chai Police
- Tara Kruepanit**
- representative, Phuket Car Service (PCS) Co-operative
- Somboon Champatong**
- representative, Phuket Mai Khao Company
- Sutin Champathong**
- Phuket Taxi Meter (PTM) representative
- Songtham Mekmanee**
- president, Mook Andaman co-operative



Phuket Airport Director Pratuang Sornkham cautioned local taxi operators to ensure they uphold the new agreement. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

fleet. PTM currently has 80 metered taxis serving the airport.

Phuket Mai Khao will add 40 cars to its fleet, while PCS will have 65 vehicles (35 metered taxis, 25 limousines and five vans) added to its ranks.

All "new" taxis will begin legally providing taxi services from the airport after they have been registered as commercial passenger vehicles by the Phuket Land Transportation Office (PLTO).

That process is expected to be complete by January, the *Gazette* was told.

Under the terms of the agreement, any taxi driver who refuses to serve passengers, or who does not use the meter to determine fares, will be subject to immediate police action.

The MoU also stipulates that any future increases in the number of taxis serving the airport, and any increases in the fares charged

by taxi operators, must be approved by the PLTO Committee.

In turn, representatives of the taxi operators who are party to the MoU promised "not to damage Phuket's tourism image".

Any drivers found to have breached the terms of the agreement face action by the PLTO, including cancellation of the vehicle's commercial registration.

Phuket Airport reserved the right to withdraw from the agreement without any recourse for taxi drivers if the MoU is not upheld.

The boost in the number of taxi vehicles serving Phuket Airport approved follows AOT Deputy Director Wing Commander Pratheep Wichittho announcing that a freeze in the number of taxis serving Phuket Airport was in place until at least June next year.

Mr Pratheep announced the "freeze" during a public visit to Phuket Airport on October 19.

However, the MoU signed on Monday stipulated that the agreement would remain in effect only until the AOT policy research project announced by Wing Cdr Pratheep had been completed.

Krabi Police manhunt for 'backyard gunsmith'

KRABI Police are on the lookout for a gunsmith who is now on the run after officers raided his illegal firearms workshop at a man-gosteen processing plant in Nuea Klong District on November 15.

Provincial Police Commander Nantadech Yoinuan led a team of more than 10 police officers to raid a bungalow at the plant at midday.

During the raid, police seized "hundreds of items" of equipment related to the fabrication of firearms, including completed gun parts, said Maj Gen Nantadech.

"The raid follows the arrest of a teenager in possession of a gun who told us who sold it to him," he added.

Gen Nantadech told the media that the workshop owner, 37-year-old Meechai Butrapian, is still at large and an arrest warrant will be issued for him.

"Our inquiries revealed that Mr Meechai is a former ironworker. He now uses those skills to produce custom-made weapons," Gen Nantadech said.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong



Commander Nantadech Yoinuan inspects a homemade shotgun seized in the raid.

British Embassy calls for road safety

THE British Embassy in Bangkok has urged all travellers in Thailand to observe road safety traffic regulations in a bid to eliminate the deaths and casualties in Phuket and the rest of Thailand.

The news came ahead of the "World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims" marked worldwide on November 18.

"The British Embassy Bangkok is hoping to raise awareness of the day and warn people of the dangers of driving abroad. There are over 25 million vehicles in Thailand, a high proportion of which are motorcycles and mopeds.

"Sadly, road traffic accidents in Thailand account for the second most frequent cause of death among British nationals as well as a high number of hospitalizations. The majority of these involve motorcycles and mopeds. Although it is compulsory for the rider to wear a helmet in Thailand, many do not do so," said a press release issued on the embassy website on November 16.



Rescue workers attend the scene of a motorbike accident in Phuket.

Embassy staff listed some of the key factors associated with accidents involving visitors abroad, which included drunk-driving, tiredness brought on by jet-lag and tourists having insufficient insurance to cover expenses incurred by a road accident.

"Regrettably, some of these people suffer life-changing, incapacitating injuries. It is not uncommon for families to have the additional worry of mounting hos-

pital bills as either the motorbike's engine size or the failure to wear a crash helmet invalidates many travel insurance policies," said the release.

The plea for road safety follows UK Foreign Secretary Mr William Hague raising the issue of road safety with Thai Foreign Minister Dr Surapong Tovichakchaikul during Mr Hague's recent visit to Thailand.

British nationals involved in an accident and needing consular assistance from the British Embassy are urged to call 02-3058333 (Bangkok) for assistance from the consular team.

For more information on how to prepare for driving abroad, visit the British Foreign & Commonwealth Office website at www.FCO.gov.uk (click Travel & living abroad | Staying safe and healthy | Driving Abroad).

See First Person on page 18.

— Phuket Gazette

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QUEER news

Penis erected against ghost

VISITORS to Nong Yai in Rayong might wonder why residents have set up a shrine featuring a large wooden penis in the middle of their village.

The answer? A so-called "widow ghost", which the women of Nong Yai believe has been mysteriously killing married men in their village for 20 years.

The spirit has killed so many local men that Nong Yai had earned the nickname "The Widow Village," villagers told the *Daily News*.

As an offering to the malevolent spirit the woman erected the penis shrine.

Each year the women perform a ceremony, sprinkling holy water on to the penis, which is about 60 centimeters long with a red shaft and golden head.

Nattacha Butchali, 47, insisted the story was true and not just a case of "naive villagers" believing strange tales.

Mrs Nattacha said that some families had even fled the village.

Villagers had gone to spirit mediums to ask them what was going on in the village.

They had all received the same answer: the ghost of a widow was haunting the village.

The spirit apparently makes men feel weak and exhausted.

The night before they die, they dream they are having sex with a beautiful woman. In fact, the woman is the widow spirit, and the ghost takes their souls.

When their wives wake up, they find their husbands are dead, the villagers explained.

Anonymous complaint sparks Thalang pier investigation

VICE Governor Somkiet Sangkaosuttirak on November 16 gave an official task force 15 days to determine the legality of a pier being built at the Baan Kor En village in Thalang.

V/Gov Somkiet and Prapan Kanprasang, head of the Phuket Damrongtham Center (Provincial Ombudsman's Office), joined other related officials during an inspection of the site.

The visit followed an anonymous complaint filed at the Damrongtham Center that a pier was under construction without a building permit, said V/Gov Somkiet.

"The complaint also alleged that the pier is

being built on public land," he added.

V/Gov Somkiet explained that the first step of the investigation was to have the Damrongtham Center confirm with the Treasury Department whether or not the land in question is indeed public land.

"If the owner presents a building permit, the Mai Khao Tambon Administrative Organization [OrBorTor] must verify whether or not the permit is genuine," he said.

"We need every factor to be verified in order to help prevent encroachment on our natural resources from investors," he added.

— *Irfan Jamdukor*



A complaint filed with officials alleged that the pier was illegal. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

Sea gypsies win reprieve from development plan

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

A PROTEST by about 200 residents from the sea gypsy community at Baan Laem Tukkae on Koh Sireh on November 15 won a temporary reprieve against a developer taking over 11 rai at the small beachfront village on the east side of Phuket Town.

Nikom Ukhati, a surveyor from the Phuket Land Office, explained that he and a team of officers arrived to confirm the boundaries of the 11-rai plot after receiving an official request from the registered landowner.

"As soon as we arrived, these people tried to stop us. We tried for an hour to explain to them what we were doing, but they still resisted," he said.

Mr Nikom said the villagers feared being forced to vacate the land, which they have occupied for generations.

"When they saw that we had come to measure the land and mark the property boundaries,



Officials tried to explain why they were marking the boundaries, and that a Chanote title had been issued for the plot. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

they were afraid that they would be driven away by people who claim they are the legal owners of the land," Mr Nikom said.

"They have now requested that

the land ownership documents presented by the developer be verified, and they called for an investigation into how the documents were issued," he added.

Mr Nikom pointed out that as soon as his team stopped marking the plot boundaries, the villagers ceased their protest.

Village headman Suthon Pramongkij told the *Gazette*, "Baan Laem Tukkae villagers have been living here since 1927. Back then, it was a neglected, unoccupied piece of land.

"The village was formally established in 1958 when Somdech Phra Srinagarindra Boromrajajonani, HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's mother, visited the village, named it 'Baan Laem Tukkae' and gave every sea gypsy the right to use 'Pramongkij' [fisherman] as their family name," Mr Suthon explained.

The village is now home to about 300 families with a combined population of about 1,600 people — all living on 16 rai.

"Business owners push government officers into issuing Chanote titles for our land... When we stand up against them, they disappear for awhile, but they always come back," he said.

Stranded dolphin rescued at Karon Beach

PHUKET rescue workers recovered a young male spinner dolphin with scratches on its skin stranded on Karon Beach on November 17.

Dr Kongkiat Kittiwattanawong, who heads the Endangered Species Unit (ESU) of the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) received the report of the dolphin at about 9am, and immediately left with a team to help in the rescue.

"We went to Kata Beach, as the dolphin had been moved there by rescue workers. They moved him because they were afraid that the high waves at Karon Beach would throw the animal onto the rocks," Dr Kongkiat said.

An attempt was made to encourage the 1 to 2-year-old dolphin to swim back into deeper water, away from the coast, but it refused, Dr Kongkiat explained.

"We found fresh scratches on his skin and 12 centimeter long varicose veins along parts of its body. He could swim, but not properly, and his breathing wasn't 100 per cent," he said.



The dolphin received some basic treatment at the PMBC before it was released back into the ocean. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

Dr Kongkiat and his team decided to take the dolphin back to the PMBC for basic treatment.

"After the treatment we will release him into the waters between Koh Kaew and Karon Beach. The water is deep there and the waves are not too high. More-

over, we believe spinner dolphins school in that area," he added.

The dolphin was released back into the ocean at about midday on November 17. The PMBC staff monitored the dolphin's condition as best they could. They believe it is now safely in deeper waters.

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Obama strengthens US-Thai bonds

AROUND THE nation

PRESIDENT of the United States Barack Obama praised Thailand's "commitment to democracy" during an historic visit to the country last week.

Mr Obama's comments came just days before some 80,000 protesters are expected to congregate at Bangkok's Royal Plaza to demand the Army stage a coup to overthrow the Yingluck Shinawatra government.

Nevertheless, analysts noted that the newly re-elected president's visit was likely to strengthen the position of the Yingluck administration as it faces the challenge of the November 24 protest.

Prominent Thai studies scholar Andrew Walker of the Australian National University wrote that while the visit was "by no means a game-changer... it draws attention to the stability of Yingluck's government and it adds to her



Mr Obama's show of support for the Yingluck administration comes just days before the Pitak Siam protest, which is calling on the Army to overthrow the current administration. Photo: The Nation

domestic and international legitimacy."

"Over the past month or so there has been more than the usual chatter about the prospect of a

military coup against Yingluck," he wrote.

Mr Obama was accompanied by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton during the tour, in which

he visited Wat Pho and had an audience with His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej at Siriraj Hospital.

Making Thailand the first stop

in his post-re-election tour was "no accident", he told a press conference at Government House, emphasizing the importance of one of the United States' oldest allies, as well as the Asia-Pacific, to the future of world security and prosperity. The visit, he stressed, was meant to boost political and economic ties with countries in this region.

Speaking after a welcome speech by Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, Mr Obama greeted the audience by saying "sawaddee krub" and hailed the prime minister's English as "much better" than his Thai.

"We felt it was very important to begin this trip by visiting a US ally," Ben Rhodes, deputy US national security adviser, told reporters travelling to Asia with Mr Obama on Air Force One.

"Allies are the cornerstone of our re-balancing effort in Asia," he said. The visit also celebrated the countries' long diplomatic ties, whose 180th anniversary is celebrated next year.

Mr Obama went on to visit Myanmar and Cambodia, becoming the first US president to visit both countries.

Pilot dies in tribute flight

A BRITISH pilot died in Thailand while he was flying over the sea to scatter the ashes of a dead friend, *The Daily Mail* reported.

Tom Grieve, 57, was in a microlight with a friend over the Gulf of Thailand on November 17 when the plane's engine cut out.

The aircraft was sent plunging into the sea. Friends watched as the plane clipped a pier and hurtled into the water at around 100kph.

Mr Grieve was pulled from the sea alive, but died from his injuries in hospital.

Patrick Esser, 31, who was also in the aircraft, suffered a broken arm in the accident. "I was making a tribute to my best friend when suddenly things went terribly wrong," Mr Esser said.

"My friend Stuart Long had died of throat cancer aged just 41 and we were about to scatter his ashes in the sea... We were at about 1,000 feet when the engine cut. Tom tried several times to



Tom Grieve Photo: Facebook

start it but failed."

Mr Grieve tried to land the plane on a strip of concrete but it was sent spinning after it clipped the pier.

Mr Esser said Mr Grieve had surfaced and seemed to be okay.

"But at the hospital medical staff desperately tried to give him [Mr Grieve] resuscitation, but [it] failed. They told me he had internal injuries in his chest," he said.

Chalerm in spat with journalist

A ROW between Deputy Prime Minister Chalerm Yoobamrung and a television reporter led Mr Chalerm to ban the journalist from participating in his press conferences and prompted condemnation from the Thai Journalists Association (TJA).

Mr Chalerm had a shouting match with Channel 7 reporter Somchit Nawakruasunthorn during an "ambush" interview outside Parliament last week.

The spat began when Mrs Somchit questioned the Deputy PM about Pitak Siam's forthcoming anti-government rallies.

Mr Chalerm accused Mrs Somchit of favoring the opposition Democrat Party.

The reporter said Mr Chalerm's remark was libelous and accused the politician of being a slave of former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

At a subsequent press conference, Mr Chalerm told reporters at Government House that he would not give an interview if Mrs Somchit was present among the group.

The row - and Mr Chalerm's subsequent comments - led the TJA to issue a call for politicians and journalists to respect each other more.



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In brief...

Violence escalates on Gaza strip

ISRAELI air strikes shook the Gaza Strip and Palestinian rockets struck across the border as US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton held talks in Jerusalem in the early hours of Wednesday, seeking a truce that can hold back Israel's ground troops.

Hamas, whose new Islamist government is trying to broker a truce, had floated hopes for a ceasefire by late Tuesday; but by the time Clinton met the Israeli Prime Minister it was clear there would be more violence first.

Hamas leaders in Cairo accused the Jewish state of failing to respond to proposals and said an announcement on holding fire would not come before daylight on Wednesday. Israel Radio quoted an Israeli official saying a truce was held up due to "a last-minute delay in the understandings between Hamas and Israel".

China fears effects of wild corruption

IF CORRUPTION is allowed to run wild in China then the ruling Communist Party risks major unrest and the collapse of its rule, state media on Monday quoted Communist Party chief Xi Jinping as saying at one of his first major meetings since taking the role.

In unusually blunt language, Vice President Xi, who assumes Hu Jintao's job as head of state in March, said that graft was like "worms breeding in decaying matter". — an old Chinese phrase meaning "ruin befalls those who are weak".

World champion boxer Hector Camacho shot

THREE-time world boxing champion Hector "Macho" Camacho was seriously wounded on Tuesday in a drive-by shooting in Puerto Rico, according to reports in the Puerto Rican press.

Rights groups condemn Asean for human rights declaration

By Stuart Grudgings and Manuel Mogato

SOUTHEAST Asian nations have agreed to sign their first joint declaration on human rights, but the document was condemned by rights groups as failing to meet international standards and as leaving the door open for countries to crack down on freedoms.

The commitment by Asean comes as several of its 10 member countries come under growing scrutiny over an apparent deterioration in human rights.

US President Barack Obama was under pressure to raise human rights concerns with Cambodia and Myanmar during his visit to the region for the East Asia summit in Phnom Penh.

The Asean Human Rights Declaration, which is not legally binding, begins with the principle that "All persons are born free and equal in dignity and rights".

It affirms that all citizens are entitled to equal protection by the law and that vulnerable groups such as women, minorities, disabled people and migrants have "inalienable" rights and freedoms.

But the declaration qualifies citizens' rights by saying they must be balanced with the "performance of corresponding duties". It adds that human rights must be "considered in the



Asean Secretary General Surin Pitsuwan acknowledged the declaration had weaknesses. Photo: The Asean Secretariat

regional and national context".

The International Federation for Human Rights, a grouping of 64 activist organizations, said the declaration "tears at the heart of long accepted human rights precepts".

"It flies in the face of the international consensus on human rights principles that have been in place for more than six decades," the group said in a statement

released earlier this week.

PUBLIC RELATIONS GAME

The Philippines succeeded on November 17 in adding a clause stating that the declaration would be implemented according to international standards. But rights activists dismissed that change as meaningless because, they said, the document as a whole falls short of global standards.

Asean Secretary General Surin Pitsuwan acknowledged the declaration had weaknesses, but said it still represented progress.

"Some are complaining that it may not be up to the higher standard, but I think we are looking at it as a progression, we are looking at in a long time frame," he told reporters.

Phil Robertson, the deputy Asia director for Human Rights Watch, called the declaration an "Asean human rights feel-good show".

"As far as we can see it has basically been set up as a public relations game," he said.

"It has provisions in it that will allow them to say we don't have to follow this because of national context. They have created their loopholes right up front."

Robertson said Malaysia had pushed hard to ensure that the declaration contained no reference to gay rights.

Summit host Cambodia has for years faced questions over human rights standards. In recent years, it has been accused of trampling on land dwellers' rights by awarding huge land leases to politically well connected firms.

Other countries in Southeast Asia have also come in for consistent criticism over human rights issues, including wealthy Singapore for its tough stance on security laws.

Man allegedly steals majority of Greeks' identities

GREEK police have arrested a man on suspicion of stealing the personal data of roughly two thirds of the country's population, police officials in Athens said on Tuesday.

The 35-year old computer programmer was also suspected of attempting to sell the 9 million files containing identification card data, addresses, tax ID numbers and license plate numbers.

Some files contained duplicate entries, police said.

Greece's population is about 11 million.

"We are investigating what the source of the data was and how they were used by the man arrested, and also the possibility of him providing them to someone else," police spokesman Christos Manouras explained to reporters.

Police were also looking into whether the man had obtained the data files by hacking into a government server and whether he had an accomplice, officials said.

The files were discovered after police raided his home.

No charges have been pressed yet and the man is expected to appear before a prosecutor later on Tuesday.



Greece's population is about 11 million. Photo: Reuters

Russian beauty queen criticizes life under President Putin

RUSSIA'S candidate for a global beauty pageant veered away from platitudes about world peace to deliver a stinging condemnation of her homeland under President Vladimir Putin, calling it a "beggar country" and a great artery that feeds a corrupt elite.

When Natalia Pereverzeva, who was crowned Miss Moscow in 2010 and posed topless in Playboy last year, was asked what made her proud of her country at the environmentally conscious Miss Earth pageant in the Philippines, she launched into a tirade against corruption and crony capitalism.

"My Russia is [a] poor, long, suffering country, mercilessly torn to pieces by greedy, dishonest, unbelieving people. My Russia, it



Ms Pereverzeva also praised her country's literature. Photo: Natalia Pereverzeva/facebook

is a great artery, from which the 'chosen' few are draining away its wealth," the 24-year-old brunette wrote on the Miss Earth website.



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HONDA

Phuket inflation skyrockets

The price of goods and services on the island rose at a rate twice the national average in the first 10 months of the year

By Steven Layne

NOT only does Phuket continue its reign as the most expensive (consumer) province in Thailand, but the island province's rate of inflation doubles that of the national average, recent economic data shows.

The Phuket Commerce Office, in collaboration with the Phuket provincial government and the Commerce Ministry's Information Office and Bureau of Trade and Economic Indices, recently published the province's Consumer Price Index (CPI-P) report for October 2012.

The CPI-P monthly report for Phuket surveys 256 consumer goods and services – covering everything from food, beverages, apparel, housing and personal health care to vehicles, transport, communications, entertainment, media, education, religion, tobacco and alcohol.

Comparing current prices with those of 2007 as a base year (100 points), Phuket's CPI-P rose to 126.6 points last month.

In other words, the overall cost of living on the island has jumped by 26.6% over the last five years, which translates to an average inflation rate of 5.3% per annum.

This is compared to the national 5-year inflation rate average of 16.8% or 3.3% per annum.

Though Phuket prices continue to surge relentlessly, there was some minor relief in the short run, with last month's CPI-P declining month-on-month (m-o-m) from September by 0.4 percentage points.

However, the CPI-P last month still jumped by 5.1 percentage points year-on-year (y-o-y) from October, 2011. Furthermore, when comparing the first ten months of 2012 with the same period in 2011, the CPI-P rise was even higher, peaking by 5.9 percentage points, y-o-y.

This equates to nearly double the national inflation rate over the same period, which stood at 2.9%.

Oct vs Sep – M-o-M

The 0.4% m-o-m drop in the CPI-P was a result of the overall price for food and beverage items falling by 0.9%, at the same time that non-food/beverage items rose by only 0.1% on average.

The report notes that the price drop for food and beverage items from September to October comes in light of prices remaining steady during the previous month comparison period (August to September).

The drop was calculated from price reductions measured in select categories as

follows: rice (-0.6%); pork ribs (-1.2%); raw and grilled chicken (-2.5%) and chicken eggs (-0.3%).

Such price reductions were attributed to the fact that supply had outstripped demand for these items leading up to and during the vegetarian festival.

Meanwhile, the price of tangerines dropped by 11.6%, while food condiments such as fish sauce fell by 1.9%.

At the same time, the items that jumped in price included flour and tofu (0.3%); various types of seafood including silver pomfret fish, squid, cockles, sea crabs and salted mackerel and tuna, which rose by 2% on average, and likewise fresh vegetables and fruits, including kale, cucumbers, morning glory, coriander, onion, cabbage, chili, peanuts, pineapples, rambutan, mango and watermelon, jumping by an average 12.9%.

Such inflation was attributed not only to demand outstripping supply as a result of the Veg Fest, but also to the fact that nationwide crop supplies had been adversely affected by heavy rainfall this year.

Non-food/beverage items rose on average by 0.1% (compared to the previous m-o-m comparison period, when the category experienced a rise of 0.5%) with rises as follows: barber and salon services (0.4%); housing related costs such as utilities, construction materials, cement, bricks and painter fees (0.2%); transport, vehicles and communications (0.1%); and petrol (0.3%).

Oct 2012 vs 2011 – M-o-M

The 5.1% jump was calculated from the following: a 6.2% jump in food and beverage consumer items, which included out-of-home foods (9.6%); fruits and vegetables (8.8%); in-home foods (6.5%); meat, poultry and seafood (5%); non-alcoholic beverages (2.9%); flour and flour products (2.6%); eggs and dairy products (0.7%); while food confinements dropped over the same period by 1.2%.

Non-food/beverage items rose on average by 3.8%, which came from price rises in apparel and shoes (9%) tobacco and alcohol products (7.9%); vehicles, public transport and petrol (5.2%); housing (2.3%); personal health care and pharmaceuticals (1.3%).

Jan to Oct – Y-o-Y

Phuket's inflation rate peaked at 5.9% when comparing the first 10 months of this year with the same period last year. This was

CPI-P	Oct 2012	M-o-M (%)	Y-o-Y (%)	Jan-Oct Y-o-Y (%)
Overall	126.6	-0.4	5.1	5.9
Food & Beverages	146.5	-0.9	6.2	8.5
Rice, flour and flour products	151.2	-0.6	2.6	5.3
Meat, poultry & seafood	151.5	0.5	5.1	9.5
Eggs & Dairy	124.8	-0.3	0.7	2.6
Fruits & Vegetables	200.9	-4.7	8.8	16.5
Condiments	135.3	-1.9	-1.2	7.5
Non-alcoholic beverages	113.4	0.3	2.9	2.5
In-home foods	147.7	0	6.5	10.4
Out-of-home foods	136.2	0	9.6	7
Non-food/beverage	110.7	0.1	3.8	3.1
Apparel and shoes	94.9	0	9	5.8
Housing	104.3	0.2	2.3	2.4
Personal care	107.1	0.4	1.3	1.8
Vehicles, transport & communications	123	0.1	5.2	4.6
Entertainment, reading & education	83.3	0	0.5	-0.7
Tobacco and alcohol	132.5	0	7.9	1.1

Base: 2007 (100 points) Inflation (%) Deflation (%)

PAYING THE PRICE: Phuket's renowned lifestyle offerings, along with its beautiful, natural surroundings comes at an increasingly higher cost with each passing year.



The above graph charts out Phuket's monthly inflation rate (red line) this year so far, compared to that of other regions and Thailand as a whole. Images: Gazette Graphics

calculated from an 8.5% rise in food and beverage consumer items, which included fruits and vegetables (16.5%); in-home foods (10.4%); meat, poultry and seafood (9.5%); condiments (7.5%); out-of-home foods (7%); rice, flour and flour products (5.3%); eggs and dairy products (0.7%) and non-alcoholic beverages (2.5%).

Non-food/beverage items rose on

average by 3.1%, which came from price rises in apparel and shoes (5.8%); vehicles, public transport and petrol (4.6%); housing (2.4%); personal health care and pharmaceuticals (1.8%) and tobacco and alcohol products (1.1%);

Meanwhile, products and services classified as entertainment, reading, education and religion, dropped by 0.7%.

B800mn from 'big bike week'

PHUKET officials expect the next 'Big Bike Week', planned for the second quarter of 2013, to be the best and biggest so far.

Mr Witaya Singkhala, chairman of West Coast Ride Thailand Ltd, along with board of directors met with Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut to discuss preparations for the island's 19th edition of the Big Bike Week.

Also in attendance were Prajiad Aksornthammakul, head of Phuket Provincial Office and Patong Deputy Mayor Chairat Sukban.



Big bike lovers will bring big bucks.

Organizers plan for the event, which will be dubbed "ASEAN Ride Together", to be held from April 14-21, 2013 in its usual location in the area around Loma Park in Patong.

Mr Witaya remarked that Bike Week not only stages an opportunity for 'big bike' lovers to meet, but also an opportunity to promote Phuket tourism around the world.

To promote the event, there are a number of road shows planned in the ASEAN region, as well as in India, Europe, the Americas and Australia. Organizers are anticipating the event to draw as many as 30,000 visitors, who will in turn generate as much as 800 million baht for the province, Mr Witaya said.

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Direct from Dubai

Emirates to make Phuket its second Thai home starting December 10

EMIRATES Airline will launch daily, return, direct flight services between Phuket and Dubai, with the inaugural flight to touch down in Phuket on Thailand's Constitution Day – December 10.

"Emirates will turn Phuket into its second Thai port of call after Bangkok with direct service from its Dubai home base starting in December," Emirates Manager of Thailand and Indochina Jabr Al-Azeeby told the *Gazette*.

The flights will be operated by double-decker A380 super-jumbo jets, with 12 seats in first class, 42 business seats and 231 economy seats.

Flight EK378 will depart Dubai at 12:45 pm and arrive at Phuket International Airport at 9:55pm, while the return flight, EK379, will depart Phuket at 12:35am and touch down at Dubai International airport at 4:35am.

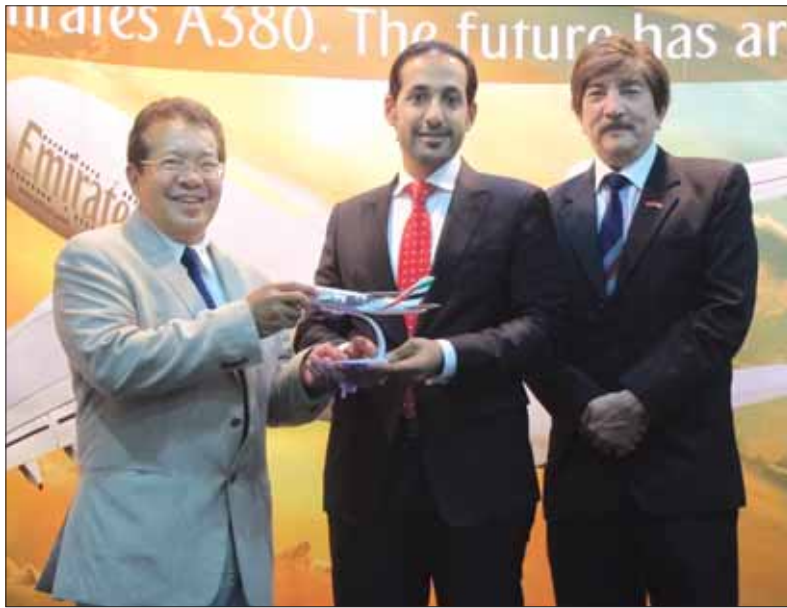
Mr Jabr Al Azzeby said the new service's prime target groups are European passengers, particularly those from Scandinavia, the UK, Germany and Switzerland.

Secondary clients will be those from the United Arab Emirates, while a third key group are passengers from Thailand, ASEAN and other Asian countries.

Asked about target occupancy, Mr Jabr said: "I cannot reveal the exact number, but I can say that the current number of reserved seats is satisfactory – higher than what we initially expected."

Mr Jabr added that the airline will be offering special ticket deals for an initial three month promotional period – from December 10 through March 31, 2013. The promotions can be accessed via the website (emirates.com).

In a recent press release announcing the new service, Tim



FLY GUYS: Chanchai Doungjit, director of TAT Phuket office, Jabr Al-Azeeby and regional sales manager, Virasakdi Vongkositkul . Photo: Orawin Narabol

Clark, president of Emirates Airline, remarked: "Emirates is looking forward to the launch of our non-stop, daily service to Phuket, which will be just in time for the holiday season."

"We have always had a strong affiliation with Thailand and have been operating flights to Bangkok since 1990. Thailand is an important market for Emirates. We currently operate four daily flights between Dubai and Bangkok, including one with our Airbus A380 aircraft."

"We are confident that Phuket will prove a popular destination for our passengers, especially those from the UAE, Middle East and Europe."

Phuket will become the 15th route launch for the airline this year and the second in South-East Asia following the launch of a Ho Chi Minh City route in June.

Emirates Holidays, the airline's tour operating arm, offers tailor

made holidays to Phuket, that include a hand-picked selection of five, four and three star hotels.

Its annual brochure, *A World of Choice*, highlights many of Phuket's attractions from lush vistas and the turquoise waters of its sandy western shoreline, to cultural landmarks such as Chalong Temple and old Phuket Town.

Emirates offers its customers in all cabins meals prepared by gourmet chefs, award-winning service from the airline's international cabin crew recruited from over 120 countries, as well as "ice", the airlines' entertainment system which offers over 1,400 channels of entertainment and the facility to send and receive emails and text messages.

With a fleet of 178 aircraft, already the largest operator of A380 aircraft in the world, with 22 in service, Emirates currently flies to 125 destinations in 74 countries.

– *Phuket Gazette*

AMCHAM meeting: business in Thailand

AMCHAM will hold a forum titled 'Doing Business in Thailand – 3 Things You Should Know', on Thursday, November 29, at Royal Phuket Marina.

Three top international lawyers will be on hand to talk about how to do business without Thai nominees, enforcing contracts through arbitration, and the increasing focus on criminal, corrupt practices and anti-corruption laws.

The American Chamber of Commerce Legal Committee is heading up the event in conjunction with AMCHAM's Greater Phuket Chapter.

Anyone doing business on the island, and others simply wishing to be up to date on current legislation impacting nearly everyone, should attend.

The speakers will include:

Douglas Mancill: A partner in Price Sanond, and resident in Thailand for 14 years. Qualified in California, he practiced law in that state for 13 years before his secondment to Thailand. He has been chair of AMCHAM Thailand's Legal Committee for the past five years.

Michael Ramirez: A senior consultant in Tilleke & Gibbins Dispute Resolution Group, where he assists clients in a wide range of domestic and international disputes. In addition to representing clients in commercial litigation, he and his team of litigators represent major international businesses and their principals in white-collar crime disputes. The work includes corporate investigations, pre- and post-charge inquiries, and subsequent litigation. Michael also serves as an adviser on the strategic aspects of claims management in international litigation cases; cross-jurisdictional disputes; and compliance with international anti-corruption laws, including the American Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA).

Olaf Duensing: Licensed to practice law in Germany and a member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (MCIArb). Working in Thailand for 11 years as a legal consultant, Olaf lectured at the summer law program of the Golden Gate University, San Francisco, in Bangkok in 2004 and 2007. In 2010, he co-founded the legal advisory and services firm Duensing Kippen Ltd, whose core practice specializations include domestic and international corporate/commercial real estate and construction matters, as well as domestic litigation and international arbitration proceedings.

The event is open to the public, and is free of charge. Registration at the RPM Conference Room (near Les Angles) starts at 4pm. The program begins at 4:30pm and will wrap up by 6pm. A networking reception follows, sponsored by Royal Phuket Marina. To register for the event, contact Sheree Tanpensuk by email, sheree@amchamthailand.com, or telephone her on 02-254 1041, ext 212.



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PROPERTY Gazette

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

B1bn condominium in a prime location

THE recently founded, Bangkok-based Able Asset developer group has announced plans to launch a billion baht, low-rise condominium project on a centrally-located parcel of prime Phuket real estate.

Touted to be the biggest project of its kind on the island, the 'Centrio' condo will be developed on a plot that spans some 2,100 square meters, just opposite Central Festival Phuket on Vichit Songkhram road.

The development will comprise three eight-storey buildings with a total of 504 units.

Ranging in area from 30 to 60 sqm, the units will be offered from 1.49 million baht, or 48,500 baht per square meter.

Targeting both Thais and foreigners, the pre-sale period launched on November 11 and the developer expects to close sales by the end of the year.

Kasidit Manopinives, managing director of Able Assets Co Ltd revealed that the real estate company was founded earlier this year, with a total of 100 million baht in registered capital.

The management team has

vast expertise in property and construction business, having developed residential projects individually and jointly with other partners, including the Baan View Viman Condominium near Kao Takieb in Hua Hin, under Sittarom Residence Co Ltd.

Centrino's facilities will include a common area, lobby, golf putting green, exercise room, swimming pool and 24-hour security system with key card.

The construction is scheduled to begin in early 2013 and is expected to be completed by the end of 2015.

On December 8th, the company will launch another promotional event on the second floor Exhibition Hall of Central Festival Phuket, with special promotions to be offered.

Mr Kasidit explained that the reason Phuket was chosen for such a project is due to its worldwide popularity as a tourism destination.

"At the same time, Phuket residents have high purchasing power... The management team has developed projects in major



CITY ESCAPE: The centrally located, 504-unit project will feature much open space and green landscaping.

tourism destinations and sees potential in the [Phuket] market.

"Currently, we have many land banks and are looking for more potential locations to be added to our portfolio to support

our future projects.

We do not limit the concept of the development whether it is vertical or horizontal, depending on the land we have," Mr Kasidit concluded.

For more information, please contact Kanokrat & Friends (PR Agency) by calling: 02-284-2662; Fax 02-284-2287, 2291, or by email: Kanokrat@kanokratpr.com

– Phuket Gazette



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Finding the center of gravity



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

WHEN I was in school, science classes usually just elicited a big yawn and most likely you'd find me ditching the enforced boredom for a smoke out back of the gym.

Be it biology, physics or even branching out to those other affiliated headaches like algebra, calculus.

My short breaks became afternoon off's. Ferris Bueller only dabbled in this thing as I embraced the life of a high school truant.

Years later with calculators, computers and, yes, an accounting department, all I can say to kids is... don't listen to your teachers. It's all propaganda. Look at Communism; you can't even get a decent steak and bottle of red wine. I can't quite work out the relationship except I had a math teach who looks like Castro or Lenin. Come to think of it he bore a closer resemblance to John Lennon.

Science to me these days means watching the Discovery channel. Edutainment at its finest be it doomed fisherman or gold seeking trailer park trash.

Yes, television is a recurring theme in these columns as I continue to enjoy sitting in a comfortable chair, petting my trusty golden retriever Koko and reveling in a mindless pastime.

And yet while channel surfing just the other night I came across a discussion about physics and the center of gravity. Here is the process which

Wikipedia describes as "distribution of mass in space is the unique point where the weighted relative position of the distributed mass sums to zero."

Actually I have no concept about what this means. I missed all those classes. And yet the concept of this mass, which searches out stability and in an airplane keeps you up in the sky is not arcane at all.

A few days ago my travels took me to Manila to a real estate investment conference. The organizers even termed the event a summit. Brand speak, yes, but hey who's criticizing. While the country remains off the radar for many, its property sector is one of the most vibrant in the entire world.

While the world does a financial loop de loop, in the Philippines strong demand is driving new projects everywhere you turn the eye.

Be it Asia's newest mass gaming project – PAGOOR's Entertainment City on Manila Bay – to the master planned Fort Bonifacio, which is being touted as the next CBD, ala Makati. Towers are jumping out of the ground not unlike one of those Transformer sequels.

One key driver remains the sustained inflow of remittances over Filipino OFW's (Overseas Foreign Workers). In 2012 this is expected to account for 6.4% of the nation's GDP. An estimated USD364 million is expected to be spent on domestic property investment in the country.

One of the conference speakers pointed out the three leading reasons for leaving to work outside was to



GRAVITY: Holds buildings down but doesn't stop real estate going through the roof. International branded residences are one sign of growing affluence as Fairmont prepares to open in Manila.

create a sustainable livelihood, pay for the education of children and, as a caveat, buy their own home back in the Philippines.

Commercial property is another important contributor, with a decade-long surging Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) sector grabbing as much urban CBD office space as it can. While the showpiece on the industry has been call centers, the reach now extends into back office accounting and finance, design and architecture and financial services.

The world's multinationals

continue to cut and trim their expense lines to maintain profit and many of these initiatives find a willing workforce in Southeast Asia.

Coming along for the ride is a vibrant retail climate. Filipino's love malls, except for communists and even they are starting to feel the magnetic pull of those food courts and branded goods.

Luxury is another force to be reckoned with in the new Manila. One developer Century 21 has found a niche with branded offerings by Trump, Paris Hilton, and is not

tapping into the celebrity design game with Philippe Starck.

So there you have it, the world's most densely populated city and the largest in the universe coming together in a real estate zero hour.

After years of political pogo, it's great to see the economy showing signs of reaching its potential. Maybe there is something to be said for the search for the center of gravity after all.

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

Prop developers to grow with GDP

DEVELOPERS remain confident that the property market in 2013 will grow by 5-10 per cent based on strong growth in gross domestic product, anticipated at 4-5 per cent.

Buoyed by this confidence, they plan to launch new residential projects worth more than 200 billion baht next year both in greater Bangkok and upcountry, especially Phuket, Chon Buri, Pattaya, Hua Hin, Chiang Mai and Khon Kaen.

The top three property firms – Pruksa Real Estate, Land & Houses and Sansiri – announced recently that they would each launch between 30 and 40 projects, totaling nearly 100. The estimated value of these new projects is 90 to 100 billion baht.

Another top-10 listed real-estate firm, Asian Property Development, plans at least 18 projects worth 20 billion baht. SC Asset Corporation plans at least 14 projects worth 20 billion baht, while LPN Development plans at least 10 projects worth between 15 and 20 billion baht in total. The



Thongma Vijiitphongpun, Pruksa Real Estate president and chief executive officer. Photo: Pranav Bhasin

total investment budget for these launches next year will be between 100 and 130 billion baht.

Thongma Vijiitphongpun, Pruksa Real Estate president and chief executive officer, said the company had strong confidence that demand for home purchases would grow

next year between 5 and 7 per cent.

This is in line with Thailand's expected GDP growth.

He played down business risk from political unrest next year. However, home buyers would face higher prices driven by the rising costs of labor, construction and energy. Home prices will increase by 5-7 per cent over this year's levels, he said.

Still, property firms will have to rein in overall prices through economical design and downsizing to match customers' purchasing power, he added.

SC Asset Corp chief operating officer Kree Dejchai said the company would continue to focus on the middle-to-upper-income market next year. Up to 70 per cent of its new projects would be low-rises, including detached houses and townhouses.

"We believe that demand in the market will grow when home-buyers are confident there will not be incidents such as floods as in 2011," he said. – *The Nation*

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Courting Phuket's LGBT community



SO FABULOUS: Ultra Nate will perform at CC Hideaway's grand re-opening party on November 30.

CC BLOOM'S Hotel has been re-opened under the name 'CC's Hideaway', a 42-room luxury full service hotel nestled in the hills overlooking the Andaman Sea in Karon.

CC's Hideaway will be celebrating their grand re-opening party on November 30, with an event called 'Rise of the Phoenix Party' featuring *Ultra Nate* from the USA, along with other live entertainers.

Under the same management and ownership, CC's Hideaway, has been completely recreated and transformed with improved facilities to offer more amenities and services than ever before.

CC's Hideaway offers a unique combination of breathtaking views and modern accommodations infused with traditional and modern Thai furnishings. Hip and cool, CC's is an oasis for guests seeking a respite from the crowds, heat, noise and chaos of the concrete jungles below.

The natural setting combined with CC's amenities, friendly customer service, and beautifully designed facilities makes it easy to relax. Enjoy the expansive view from the resort's two new roof top terraces.

The hotel features a signature

Thai and Western Restaurant 'Refuge' and new and improved 'Sanctuary Bar' – which serves cocktails while guests enjoy the sunsets over the bay.

CC's Hideaway has been redesigned to reduce its ecological impact while improving its look and feel.

CC's also offers a convenient free shuttle service to three of Phuket's beaches: Kata Noi, Kata and Karon.

The resort proudly supports the

LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) community and has been serving them since 2005.

The resort is LGBT-friendly and hosts various parties,

fundraisers, special buffets and other events designed to bring people together.

More information and details will follow.

Like CC's Facebook page and you could be the winner of a special prize.

In December the hotel will have their Winter Wonderland Party.

And of course for Gay Pride in April they will have a "Gaynormous Pride Partiii" (keeping details a secret for now). You won't want to miss this.

For more information contact: 076 333 222.

– *Phuket Gazette*



The pool at CC's Hideaway.

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Using Exchange Traded Funds

IN TODAY'S uncertain economy, investors are increasingly seeking diversification, safety and a secure income. Interest rates continue to hover at or near all time lows in many countries, and the continued uncertainty about the strength of the global economic recovery has made many investors extra cautious. Nevertheless, there is one investment option available that can offer risk-adverse investors both safety and income.

What ETFs are

Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs) are investment funds that trade on global stock exchanges just like individual stocks.

They have been available to retail investors since 1993 in the USA and since 1999 in Europe.

Like mutual funds or unit trusts, ETFs may hold any type of asset class such as individual stocks, bonds or commodities and they can be bought or sold at the end of each trading day for their net asset value.

However, ETFs differ from many types of mutual funds or unit trusts in the sense that they usually track a specific index such as the S&P 500, the Telecommunications Services Index or the Japanese Nikkei 225.

What the benefits are

The major benefits offered by ETFs for investors include: transparency as their portfolios are priced throughout the day; diver-

Retirement Years

Don Freeman

sification across an index or market, and tax efficiency – since ETFs do not need to buy and sell stock to cover investor purchases or redemptions. This also leads to lower expense ratios, since ETFs are not actively managed and have

vestors.

The *Vanguard Dividend Appreciation* ETF, for example, is designed to measure the performance of common US stocks that have a history of increasing dividends for at least ten consecutive years.

The top ten holdings are Pepsi, Procter & Gamble, McDonald's, IBM, Johnson & Johnson, Exxon Mobil, Coca-Cola, Chevron, Wal-Mart and United Technologies. (Fig 1)

The fund has a very low expense ratio of 0.25% per year, currently yields 2.2% and is up 90% from the March 2009 low.

Types of ETFs to invest in

The use of ETFs has increased exponentially as they have gained popularity with investors.

However, there are a couple of categories of ETFs that ordinary retail investors should consider adding to their investment portfolio. These ETF categories include the following:

Index ETFs:

By their very nature, most ETFs are actually an index fund as they usually track a particular stock index. This tracking can be done by owning the individual equities that make up the index.

Some examples are the *iShares Emerging Markets Fund*, *PowerShares NASDAQ Internet Portfolio* and the *iShares Thailand Index Fund*.

Bond ETFs:

For fixed income investors, investing in bond ETFs will offer certain advantages as they can be less risky than owning an individual bond plus investors have the ability to profit during bear market downturns or recessionary times.

Commodity ETFs:

This category of ETFs will invest in commodities, which may include precious metals such as gold or silver. However, investors need to be aware that commodity



LET'S TRADE: Learn about how to use responsible lending to your advantage by investing in Exchange Traded Funds. Photo: e3000

ETFs are generally not regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)

(although they may in fact be subject to regulation by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission) and they need to fully understand how such funds attempt to replicate the performance of a particular commodity. This is because they may be invested in futures or other exotic investment vehicles.

Currency ETFs:

These types of ETFs are total return investment products where an investor will gain access to FX (Foreign Exchange) spot rates and local institutional interest rates for a particular country or region. Hence, investors can profit from higher interest rates or currency fluctuations between countries.

In addition to the above ETF categories, new and more exotic ETF products, such as actively managedverse ETFs and leveraged ETFs, have been introduced in recent years.

Before considering these new types of ETFs as investments, investors need to fully understand that new ETF products may be subject to additional risks, which traditional ETFs are not subject to.

ETF Benefits:

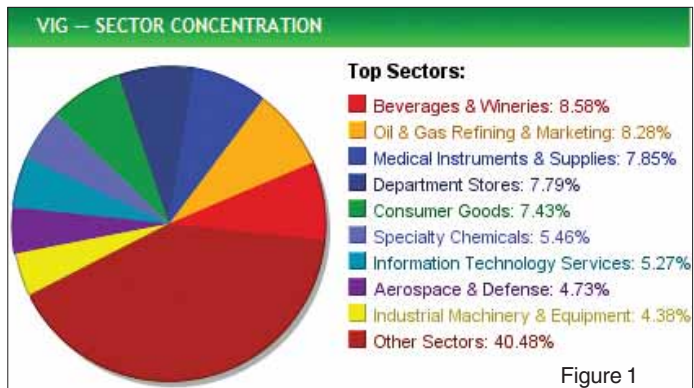
Low expense ratios; Tax efficiency; Portfolio Diversification; Transparency; Easy to buy and sell; Same features as ordinary stock eg: limit orders, options, and stop loss orders.

Conclusion:

Investing in ETFs can be beneficial for investors seeking diversification, safety and a more secure income. However, investors need to remember that ETFs are still equity investments and hence, they can be impacted by market volatility.

Therefore, if you are thinking of investing in ETFs, be sure to consult a qualified financial advisor who can advise you on how to select the right ETF investments that will fit into your current investment portfolio and match your particular investment needs.

Don Freeman is President of Freeman Capital Management, a Registered Investment Advisor with the US Securities Exchange Commission (SEC), based in Phuket, Thailand. He has over 15 years experience and provides personal financial planning and wealth management to expatriates. Specializing in UK and US pension transfers. 089-970-5795 or email: freemancapital@gmail.com



Vanguard Dividend Appreciation Fund Sector Concentration

lower accounting, distribution and marketing expenses.

ETFs also come with the same features as stocks. They can be bought or sold during any part of the day as well as bought on margin or sold short. Investors can also trade ETFs using stop and limit orders in order to specify what prices they are willing to buy or sell at.

Finally, ETFs that invest in dividend paying stocks offer equity investors seeking income an additional measure of income safety as they do not rely on a single company's dividend payout stream to generate income for in-

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NMG report upturn in advertising

THE Nation Multimedia Group (NMG) says it predicts that revenue will increase 16.7% to 3.5 billion baht next year, based on an upturn in advertising.

"The growth momentum should continue into next year, thanks in part to *Krungthep Turakij TV*, which should contribute more revenue next year. We also plan to launch the *ASEAN One* channel in the first quarter. The consolidation of *Rawangpai* and *Mango* channels into *Kom Chad Leuk TV* should also generate new revenue," says Duangkamol Chotana, president of NMG.

She added that this year's revenue of 3 bn baht is 20% above this time last year.

During the Stock Exchange of



NMG Revenue. Source: The Nation

Thailand's (SET) Opportunity Day, she said that after its launch in September, *KKTV* has achieved the monthly ad target of 10mn baht. Next year, it should generate 15mn baht a month. According to Nielsen Thailand, overall ad spending in the first 10

months grew 8.83% to 97 bn baht. Free TV dominated 58% of that.

NMG reported a nine-month net profit of 136.9mn baht, up 90% from 71.94mn baht from the same period last year. Duangkamol says she's hoping for a better fourth quarter than last year, when floods affected revenue. Earnings should improve enough for NMG to pay a dividend, depending on the board.

Print media generates 60% of NMG's revenue, then broadcast at 27% and 13% miscellaneous.

Next year, NMG should start realizing revenue from its partnership with Eleven Media Group in Myanmar, when a joint publication will be introduced. Both sides are working on legal issues.

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- 2 table spoons of olive oil
- 1 tea spoon of "Herbes de Provence" spices
- Salt
- Pepper



Preparation :

1. Slice the tomatoes
 2. Warm the oven thermostat 7 (210°C).
 3. Unroll the dough Casino in a pie plate. Spread the mustard on the dough, fill in the cheese. Season with salt and pepper.
 4. Layer the tomatoes, season with salt and pepper. Spread the "herbes de provence" spices and the olive oil.
 5. Bake for 35 min until lightly brown.
- To serve, cut into slices and serve warm.

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Trade: big stick for carrots

THE time has come for the Pheu Thai government of Yingluck Shinawatra to devote more effort to addressing the ever-mounting problems facing Phuket and the rest of the South – and re-examining its erratic strategy in dealing with the ongoing unrest in the Deep South.

It would have been interesting to have been a fly on the wall when US President Barack Obama was briefed on the situation in the Deep South during his recent visit to Bangkok, if such a briefing took place.

There is little evidence that the conflict has wider dimensions. Fortunately for Phuket, the domain of terror has been confined to Haad Yai and points south at least so far.

According to Deep South Watch, insurgency-related incidents – including terror attacks and reprisals by state forces – have left 5,377 people dead and 9,513 more injured since the violence reignited in January 2004.

It was then that Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, for political purposes, shifted power away from the military and the Southern Border Provinces Administration Center (SBPAC) towards a new agency under police control.

Of all the many state agencies operating in the region, none have been the source of more suspicion and contempt among the locals than the police. This comes as little surprise, given that the three southernmost border provinces for decades served as a dumping ground for rogue officers in a force where transfer, not dismissal or legal action, resulted from transgressions that if perpetrated by civilians would likely have resulted in jail terms.

Under PM Yingluck, the strategy has changed course dramatically: carrot is now favored over stick. A revamped SBPAC recently funded Hajj pilgrimage journeys to 8,000 Thai Muslims from the region at a cost of 160,000 baht each for the 45-day journey.

Among those receiving the all-expenses-paid Hajj trips were some 120 people enrolled under SBPAC's re-education program, including many who have already been the recipients of multiple compensation payments of as much as 7.5 million baht for each relative lost to the ongoing violence. While individual recipients expressed gratitude, the cumulative result of these and many other SBPAC-led initiatives have done little to stop the violence.

The unprecedented 1.28-billion-baht price tag is about half the cost of the former project to build a Phuket International Convention and Exhibition Center, an approved project now shelved with only the promise that the funds "would be put to good use".

The main problem remains that the Government's shifting tactics lack any coherent policy to address the root causes of the conflict, which have little to do with religion and much to do with matters of cultural self-identity and a widespread sense of social injustice among the majority Malay-speaking population in the Deep South.



Killing the goose that lays the golden egg

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Governor called on to curb 'out of control' corruption, November 14

The problem isn't restricted to Patong or the entertainment industry. I have moved my 11-year-old company out of Phuket to Bangkok and then to Singapore because of the consistent corruption from every government department involved.

It is sad that the employment and development prospects for ordinary Thai people (employees) have been impacted by the actions of a few greedy officials.

Ex investor
Gazette forum

Small laws, big step

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: Elephants in the room, November 18

New York City was sinking in lawlessness. Then the authorities began enforcing all laws, starting with landlords being forced to keep properties in repair, referred to as the broken windows theory.

Don't enforce the small laws, and the more important laws will be ignored as well.

Once criminals see that all laws are enforced, they have second thoughts on serious crime. It worked, too. Phuket, start with traffic laws, please.

Christy Sweet
Gazette forum

Raid by appointment

Re: Gazette online, More Bangla raids to come, vows Chairat, November 15

I am currently the President for the Foreign Section for Phang Nga Provincial Police in Khao Lak, but before leaving Phuket I was with the Phuket Tourist Police.

A few days ago I received a phone call from a local Phuket resident. He told me that he and another tourist had seen touts with gibbons when they visited Bangla Road.

Letters to the Editor

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

Police were close by the touts but weren't doing anything about them. After approaching a German speaking Tourist Police Volunteer, and a Royal Thai Police officer, he was told that they had no orders to do anything about this.

Recently the *Phuket Gazette* published a 24-hour-hotline number, specifically to report this kind of thing. However, when phoning the number nobody picked up the call.

Approaching the police again, he was told that "something was going to be done within a few days".

Andy Kessler
Ban Bang Niang

Feeling the squeeze

Chalong has an up-and-coming marina, with a jetty, lots of parking space and all kinds of boats moored in the bay.

However, only a narrow approach road from the circle. This is bad enough, so why do some tour operators have to use big buses to bring only five to six tourists to the jetty and back.

Every time it causes a traffic jam on this narrow road. Surely a minibus would do. Is there a chance of banning these big buses?

Horst
Chalong

Delayed shock

On August 5 we stayed at place on Kata Noi Road. We were all pretty amazed that a mess of wiring, caused by a truck reversing into the wall, had not been repaired in the seven days we were there.

Even more shocking is that it is still not repaired and is even

worse. This is so dangerous to the locals and the many tourists who walk this road.

Surely, it is not a case of who did what or insurance. This needs to be fixed as soon as possible.

Cathy Perkins
Kata

Out of sight; not out of mind

Re: Gazette online, 'Hit-and-run' driver still at large, November 17

A good follow-up on this story. Please continue to keep us advised of developments in the case.

I think everyone who knows of this incident wants the driver brought to justice.

We don't need people like this at large, and maybe the only way to keep them off the road is to lock them up. It's the least the police can do for the families of the two women.

Harsh Critic
Gazette forum

Ambulances stuck in underpass traffic

Re: Gazette online, Phuket's first underpass to spur new traffic woes, September 10

I have read many comments regarding the construction of the underpass at Central Festival. My main concern relates to access to both the Bangkok and Phuket International Hospitals.

I worry about delays to ambulances and other vehicles transporting patients to these hospitals, who need emergency medical treatment.

My fear is that lives will be lost because of the delays which will result from these roadworks. Let's hope that my fears are groundless, but I am not hopeful. Maybe someone in authority will comment on this.

Derek Brierley
Thalang

Phuket Gazette

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Disabled fighting for equal opportunities

FOR the past six months I have been working for the PPEO's Employment Support Department, providing employment advice to everyone, including disabled people.

Employers must open their minds to accept disabled people and not just lock us out. The PPEO is a very good place to see how an employer should treat disabled employees.

After work, I dedicate my time to the PRAV Club. As club president, I find and document road accident victims and other people in need. I make sure that information gets to the right government departments so those victims can get assistance.

Having a disabled family member greatly affects the whole household. A father who used to be the breadwinner becomes dependent on other family members. Sometimes children have to stop going to school to look after that person. Sometimes specific problems fall outside a government department's remit. That is where we step in to try to coordinate assistance.

Many Phuket organizations actively help the club with financial and resource donations, with much support coming from the Provincial Administration Organization and other agencies, such as the Social Development and Human Security Office and the Red Cross.

I fought hard to get parking spaces for disabled people at shopping malls. However, I still see able-bodied drivers using parking spaces reserved for the disabled.

I still have problems, too. Right



Naline Boonthawadchai, 42, has lived in Phuket since 1990. She has an accounting degree from Phuket Rajabhat University and a second degree in broadcasting.

A serious road accident in 1985 robbed her of her left arm. Five years later she lost both legs in another road incident. She now works at the Phuket Provincial Employment Office (PPEO) and in her

spare time runs the Phuket Road Accident Victim (PRAV) Club, which she founded in October 2011.

now I have a court case against a company I worked for a few months ago. By law a company with 100 workers must employ at least one disabled person. However, the company locations had no wheelchair access. Every day I had to be assisted to get into work. They didn't treat me as they did other employees. I don't want a single baht from them, but I do want this to serve as an example.

The PRAV is very active during the main holidays. New Year and Songkran are the worst periods for road accidents. Everyone knows that drinking and driving is dangerous, but still it continues. Except for Bangkok, nowhere else is taking this seriously. This is wrong and I want anyone with the authority to apply the law and arrest those driving while under the influence of alcohol. Subject them to the full force of the law instead of letting

them off or giving them a small fine as punishment.

I understand Phuket is a tourist destination and the authorities do not want to report crimes that will adversely affect the tourism industry. Tourists come to have fun and for many that involves drinking. However, letting drunk people drive could also ruin Phuket's reputation.

Drink as much as you like, but please do not drive.

I would also like to ask every disabled person to be proud and show your abilities. Society is opening up much wider for us. So come out and tell the public how good you are. Be clear with your employers about what you can and cannot do. Do not be shy.

I have only one arm, one brain and a heart – but I am happy with my fate and I won't give up. I am just trying to live as able-bodied people do and I can smile every day for the rest of my life.

Phuket reflections

PROBABLY as the result of a 22-year military career, nearly nine years later I still get wandering feet syndrome after staying two or three years in the same place.

It happened the last time I lived and worked in Phuket. That spell in paradise spurred a two-year contract in Iraq followed by another two years in Shanghai, but with so many friends and fond memories of Phuket, it's not surprising I'm back.

I expect the cycle to continue. For now, my plan revolves around China. My love/hate affair with the language is far from over.

While I am gone there is much I will miss. The nightlife, Thursday football at Phuket Soccer Arena, Sunday afternoons at Nai Harn Beach and the live Thai music scene.

I'm going to miss the people I work with at the *Gazette*. I had presumed that after living on the island for a few years, I had good bead on what was where, who was who and the general goings on. Being a news editor has taught me how little I know.

Working on the news desk, receiving rough drafts from Thai reporters which then have to be rephrased to "native English" has been a true eye-opener.

Many a time I've been confounded by a statement made by a police officer or local politician, only to have the subtle undertones and beneath-the-surface activities explained to me. Courses of action, that we expats frequently sit in bars and write off as stupid or ill-conceived, suddenly start to make more sense.

I was told before I took the job that it would teach me more about Phuket in one year than I would otherwise pick up in 10 years. And that it has.

If there is one thing I won't particularly miss it will be



Farewell paradise. Nai Harn Beach on Sunday afternoons will be missed. Well, just for a short while.

Island View

By Mark Dee

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

receiving the graphic images taken by the emergency workers of the dead and injured at the scenes of the all-too-frequent horrendous road traffic accidents.

I'm politically and geographically much more informed about Phuket and have better idea of what's coming up next and the problems likely to be faced. Strangely enough, I'm surprised that many Thais I speak to often don't know or haven't heard of events outside of their own sub-district community.

Anyway, it's coming to end for me as I start to brush up on my almost forgotten Mandarin. However, it occurs to me that there is a huge number of expats out there who would benefit from a year immersed in the fascinating world of what's going on behind the scene in Phuket; some of which never makes it to print.

For those out there interested in the deeper issues of the island, it maybe worth keeping your eyes on the job section over the next few issues. No guarantees, but it may just be your calling.

Blues skies everyone.

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

What can be done about Chalong marina getting trashed?

Foul-smelling rubbish is being dumped at the new marina at Chalong Bay. It must have been there some time. It is disgusting, and this is what visitors to the island get to walk through.

Also, the main jetty has a rusted-off stainless-steel rail parked up against still-standing rails and the garbage bins at the land end of the jetty are full and overflowing.

With the tourism high season already underway, it's embarrassing to see the mess that many thousands of day-trip tourists get to see and smell firsthand.

All this after a record-breaking underwater dive cleanup was heralded such a success!

**BM
Chalong**

Phuket Harbor Master Tantai Wongsaree replies:

The new marina under con-

Send us your queries and we'll ask the right people to respond to them.
Submit your issue at
www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

struction is to be the new Phuket Port Control Center, but it is not yet operational.

To stop people dumping rubbish at the unfinished marina, we are coordinating with the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organization (PPAO) to increase how often officers check for boats attempting to dock there.

We would like to take this opportunity to inform all boat companies and owners of private vessels that this jetty is off-limits



Piles of rubbish found at the new marina at Chalong Bay. Photo: BM

and not to dock or dump garbage in that area.

Warit Wiriyanich, chief of the PPAO Transport Division responsible for boat traffic at Chalong Pier, replies:

We are working with the Phuket Marine Office to solve the problem. Currently, early every morning sanitation officers arrive with a garbage truck and remove all the trash that has accumulated on the pier.

Throughout the day we have workers remove new trash that has been dumped there, but those officers do not have a garbage truck to aid them.

Furthermore, as the primary role of the officers working during the day is collecting boat tariffs, they do not have enough time to clear the trash that piles up throughout the day.

We have trash cans at many points along the pier and signs telling people to keep the area clean. Obviously, this depends on the consciousness of each individual.

We have not issued regulations that will punish those who dump garbage there, but we are currently meeting with the relevant organizations to determine what regulations would solve this problem.

For more information, contact the PPAO at 076-218109 or 076-210807, or the Phuket Marine Office at 076-391174.



MASTER CHEF: Crown Plaza Phuket Panwa Beach Resort invited Chef ML Sirichalerm Svasti (colored shirt) to be a moderator on a TV cooking show which was filmed on Panwa Beach. The celebrity chef is also known by his nickname 'Chef McDang'.



SET THEM FREE: Thanyapura joined the recent 'Butterfly Release' event at the Khao Phra Taew non hunting area near Bang Pae Wat.



DREAM TEAM: At a recent Wine Dinner at Mai Khao Dream were (from left to right) Pierre Blois-Moueix representing Bordeaux Rive Droite; Mikhail Tyurin, Director of Business Development of Maikhao Dream Hotels and Resorts (L); Zhanel Tyurina, MD of Maikhao Dream; Natalia Uliyanova, Owner of DAO Sunshine; Sergei Lebedev, Banking Consultant and Eric Leruste, Export Manager of Club Cepages.



WILD GUEST: Olympian and two time World Champion received a warm Thai welcome by Thanyapura management and staff as a guest to stay at the new Thanyapura Sports Hotel.

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AT HOMEWORKS PHUKET

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*The Gazette is the top-ranked Website for Phuket. (Google Analytics)

HOME of the week

PHUKET COTTAGES



See page 22

JOB of the week



See page 27

DEAL of the week

TEERA MOTORCYCLE
TPMOTORCYCLE.COM



See page 30

BOAT of the week

Boatshedphuket.com

INTERNATIONAL YACHT BROKERS



Glacier Bay 260

See page 31

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Properties For Sale

CHALONG RESIDENCE PHUKET



Opposite Wat Chalong on the way up to the hill. Fantastic sea view. 1 rai, Chanote, gross floor space: 684sqm, 5 ensuite bedrooms, completed in 2011, pool with over fall, sala, covered carport, only 32.5 million baht. Direct by owner. Tel: 085-654 4011, 089-404 0737. For further details, please see our website at www.chalong-residence.com

BEAUTIFUL HOME AND POOL

Private hillside, 15m pool, lush garden, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, office, full kitchen, new condition, quality furniture, freehold, secure, nice. Tel: 076-388236, 089-727 5407. Email: cosmocampbell@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.villa-sale-phuket.com

GOLF COURSE LAND FOR SALE



Near British International School, 17 rai with public road access. Suitable for resort or housing project. Can be divided. Price: 4.5 million baht per rai. Contact owner. Tel: 089-724 7211. Email: julien@phuketimmo.com

GOLF VIEW VILLA FOR SALE



Near British International School, state-of-the-art villa overlooking the Loch Palm Golf Course: 4 bedrooms + maid's room; 485sqm. Built on 1,860sqm land. 28 million baht. Contact owner. Tel: 089-724 7211 (English). Email: julien@phuketimmo.com

KAMALA HOUSE FOR SALE



Near Phuket FantaSea. Price: 3.2 million baht. Negotiable. Tel: 081-719 1041. Email: teddykong0222@hotmail.com

1 RAI, SEA VIEW LAND
Opposite Wat Chalong on the way up to the hill. Chanote (36m x 45m approximately). Sophisticated hillside project, pratable. 8.5 million baht. Direct by owner. Tel: 085-654 4011, 089-404 0737.

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

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

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.

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.

30 RAI IN TOWN

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

HOUSE FOR SALE IN BAAN PROMPHAN

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

LAND 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



CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



Phuket city, bypass road, opposite Tesco Lotus. 45sqm, 3 Fl at the corner with swimming pool view. 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished (2 aircons, hot water, washing machine, refrigerator, TV, microwave, 24 security and internet provided). P/s contact: 086-4769612. Email: annanot1@hotmail.com

CONDO IN SUPALAI PARK



for sale. Near Seng Ho Bookstore in Phuket Town. Studio, 30sqm, floor 15, sea view, aircon, furnished. Price: 1.9 million baht. Ready to move in. For more info call 089-472 9118.

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.

HOUSE IN VILLA DOWROONG

Phuket Town. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 47sq wah. Tel: 089-909 2771.

HOUSE QUICK SALE

Bang Tao area, 2 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, fully furnished, 3 aircons, SAT TV, ADSL. 350sqm land. Only 2.7 million baht. Tel: 090-156 7927.

HOUSE FOR SALE: URGENT



4.9 million baht, 89sq wah (includes furniture). Stone wall around the house & fruit garden. 4 air conditioners, telephone and internet, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 CCTV. Located near the Heroines Monument, towards to Tesco Lotus Thalung. Tel: 080-520 2989. Email: edc9designs@gmail.com



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RAWAI POOL VILLA, SALE/RENT

Sale: 5 million baht. Long-term rent: 30,000 baht per month. Negotiable, furnished, 300m to beach. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: rawai4@yahoo.com

HOUSE QUICK SALE

Bang Tao area, 2 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, fully furnished, 3 aircons, SAT TV, ADSL. 350sqm land. Only 2.7 million baht. Tel: 090-156 7927.

ALLAMANDA (LAGUNA)

Residences/Phuket Condo unit, half of a deluxe twin house, fully furnished and equipped, set direct on the picturesque lagoon with balcony right over it. 3 bedrooms, each with shower/bathroom roof terrace. Long-term rent or sale. Tel: 081-737 0365. Email: utaipan@yahoo.com

6 RAI LAND FOR SALE

Chanote, 10 minutes to airport. Tel: 085-793 2718.

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

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HOUSE FOR SALE IN KATHU

3-bedroom attached home, single storey. Located on Bangthong hillside, 10 minutes from Patong. Furnished. 3.5 million baht (negotiable). Tel: 086-332 2638 (English), 085-819 8524 (Thai). Email: jaques.carl@yahoo.com

HOUSE IN RAWAI

Great location, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Private car park, sea view. Sale: 4.5 million baht. Negotiable. Tel: 084-441 0605.

LAND 1 TO 5 RAI

Land with Chanote title. Phuket - Sakoo, 4km south of the airport. 4.3 million baht per rai. Tel: 087-076 6016. Email: kanchanajit09@gmail.com

SINGLE HOUSE FOR SALE



In Thanapa Park View village in Koh Kaew. 57sq wah, with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a kitchen, a carpark and a garden. Price: 2.35 million baht. Contact owner. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

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

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Properties For Rent

NEW HOUSE, RENT/SALE



3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished with small garden, quiet area. Rent: 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-626 5616. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

PROPERTY TO RENT

On great beachfront location, very private. Bungalow can enlarge, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, terrace and garden. Private parking, free mooring. House needs repair. Long lease if required 16,000 baht. Ao Yon Bay, near Cape Panwa. Tel: 087-840 8163. Email: luck phichit@gmail.com

2-BED BEACH CONDOS+POOL

Vacation rental, 3 minutes walk from beach, free WiFi. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

5 STUDIOS & POOL AT CHALONG



1 bed, kitchen & share pool: for short, long term. Quiet place. Price: 14,000-20,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-809 2625. Email: phuketdee1@yahoo.com

TOWNHOUSE IN KOH KAEW



Corner unit, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished. 3.5 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118.

1, 2, 3-BED PATONG APARTMENTS

Large pool, gym, parking, maid, free WiFi. Rates from 22,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English & Thai). Email: phvcondo@aol.com

2-BED APARTMENT PATONG

Luxury fully furnished, pool, wifi, kitchen, quiet location. 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-279 0837. Email: bricothailand@hotmail.com

2 BEDROOMS - BANG TAO BEACH

Thai villa, fully furnished. 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-795 6363. Email: vicky_grc@hotmail.com

CONDO IN PHUKET TOWN

Rent or sale. Fully furnished, aircon, TV, gym, pool. 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-978 1558. Email: keng.na.ranong@hotmail.com

3 BEDROOMS - BANG TAO BEACH

Modern, fully furnished. Only 25,000 baht for long-term. Tel: 089-795 6363. Email: vicky_grc@hotmail.com

3 BEDROOMS - BIG 3,200SQM LAND

Soi Ton Sai Waterfall. Near PIA School. 40,000 baht for long-term. Tel: 089-795 6363. Email: vicky_grc@hotmail.com

LOFT-STYLE FLATS

Furnished, quiet, good area for exercise. 8,500-12,000 baht per month. Long-term only. Tel: 086-664 5575 (English). Email: hkmsn@yahoo.com

SURIN CONDO

2-3 b/r, 300m from beach. Direct pool access. Furnished. Minimum 3 mths rent. Email: jgstryker@gmail.com

POOL VILLA FOR RENT

4 bedrooms, pool, 5 bathrooms, Bang Tao. Also have bungalows, houses and apartments available. Tel: 081-538 2110, 087-279 6532.

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

NEW HOUSE IN PATONG

Fully furnished modern house with 2 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms. Spacious dining, stylish open western kitchen. Living room with balcony, full aircon. All extras; LCD, internet, satellite. Quiet setting. 25,000 baht. Tel: 084-185 8536.

POOL VILLA FOR RENT

4 bedrooms, pool, 5 bathrooms, Bang Tao. Also have bungalows, houses and apartments available. Tel: 081-538 2110, 087-279 6532.

APARTMENT KATA BEACH FOR RENT

Furnished, 1 bedroom, kitchen, WiFi. Tel: 086-595 8512. Email: nalumana2000@yahoo.com

HOUSE AT PRIME PLACE VILLAGE



Near Heroines' Monument. Furnished, aircon, 3 bedrooms, cable TV, kitchen. Tel: 086-607 7493.

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 hr 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

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.

TWO BUILDINGS FOR RENT

Commercial building for long-term rent on Montri Road. Near Pearl Hotel. 3 storeys, 2 building. 38,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-606 2827 (English & Thai). Email: nij017@hotmail.com

KATHU CONDO FOR RENT OR SALE

31sqm, kitchen, aircon, gym, WiFi, furnished. For rent at 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-332 2638. Email: jaques.carl@yahoo.com

APARTMENT IN KATHU

58sqm, 1 bedroom, living room, kitchen, bathroom, terrace, pool, fan/aircon, cable TV, ADSL. Long-term rent: 12,000 baht per month. Short-term rent: 700 baht per day. Tel: 081-891 6632, 085-792 5544.

SEAVIEW 3-BED POOL VILLA

Villa on 9,000 sq.ft, right on the sea, no noise, large pool, garden, family room, live-in maid. Available on November, early December and from January 2. Email: resortgm@gmail.com



CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



Phuket city, bypass road, opposite Tesco Lotus. 45sqm, 3 Fl at the corner with swimming pool view. 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished (2 aircons, hot water, washing machine, refrigerator, TV, microwave, 24 security and internet provided). Pls contact 086-4769612. Email: annanoli1@hotmail.com

BAR, HOTEL+ 2 SHOPS-RAWAI BEACH



1 million baht yearly rent, long-term lease. Negotiable, 9 bedrooms, full guest. 60m to beach. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: rawai4@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, in Rawai, TV, WiFi, available on 23 December 2012. 3 months minimum rent: 16,000 baht per month. Tel: 085-787 3046. Email: patrickmeo@gmail.com

ALLAMANDA (LAGUNA)

Residences/Phuket Condo unit, half of a deluxe twin house, fully furnished and equipped, set direct on the picturesque lagoon with balcony right over it. 3 bedrooms, each with shower/bathroom roof terrace. Long-term rent or sale. Tel: 081-737 0365. Email: utaipan@yahoo.com

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- Initiative and enthusiasm to track down a story
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NATIVE ENGLISH TEACHER

We're looking for NES teacher, US/UK/AUS/CA, to start ASAP. Degree, TEFL and CV required. At least 1 yr experience. Tel: 080-907 7466. Email: info@brainy-house.com

GUESTHOUSE MANAGER

Experienced, spoken English and Thai. Small operation, needs to do all jobs. Tel: 085-159 7400 (English). Email: dshumny@yahoo.com

THAI STAFF WANTED

Good salary with bonus. Call Carla. Tel: 081-968 5963.

FOREIGNER LOOKS FOR:

Top maid. Thai female. English language and computer knowledge. Salary: 20,000 baht upward. Junior maid: 10,000 baht upward + overtime. Tel: 087-840 8163. Please email to luckphichit@gmail.com

SECURITY GUARDS WANTED

Royal Security Solutions is seeking male/female guards. Tel: 081-970 1479, 080-609 4677.

SALE / MARKETING

Marketing employee urgently needed. Male or female. Good salary. Tel: 089-618 6894.

BARTENDER

More bartenders needed for Elvis Rock & Roll Bar in Kamala. Thai only. Tel: 085-158 7638. Email: info@husi-phuket.se

VILLA MANAGER WANTED

Villa manager for a six-bedroom holiday villa in Surin. Live in or live out. Must be able to speak English. Tel: 084-689 4658 (English), 081-537 2549 (Thai). Email: malinlson@hotmail.com

FOREIGNER ACCOUNTANT

Needed as soon as possible for hotel developer. Contact Marianne. Tel: 081-270 1370. Email: c@bayshoreprojets.com

SCUBA DIVE AND TOUR SHOP

We are looking for a Thai staff to book our scuba diving customers when they come into the shop, and also book the island tours we sell. Must speak, read and write English. Must be very happy and good with customers. Salary: 15,000 to 20,000 baht, depending on the person. Tel: 076-388 684, 082-810 2443 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-388 684. Email: mjrossi2004@yahoo.com

TOUR STAFF NEEDED

Thai staff needed at busy boat charter and events company. Duties include tour guide, wedding & events host and more. Salary + commissions. Tel: 076-221 442, 081-956 9961 (English). Email: info@coral-seekers.com

THAI FOREMAN WANTED

Please contact Carla. Tel: 081-968 5963.

RUSSIAN GUIDE

Thai-speaking Russian or Russian national. Urgent! Tel: 089-618 6894.

OFFICE ASSISTANT NEEDED

Small dynamic and friendly real estate agency company based in Chalong, Phuket working for national and international clients. Seeking assistant with administrative experience and outgoing personality. Experienced in selling real estate is an advantage. Thai national. Excellent English is a must. Salary based on qualifications. Tel: 086-940 2266. Send resume, photo and expected salary to sales@18excelsior-property.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

SPA RECEPTIONIST

Beautiful spa in Karon is looking for new receptionist and cashier. Good salary. Call for more information. Tel: 087-894 5585.

MARKETING REPS NEEDED

EZYSTAYS looking for marketing representative. No experience required, full training provided, work permit and good income. Email: leoinphuket@gmail.com

WEBSITE PROGRAMMER REQUIRED

Must have solid HTML and CSS coding experience with knowledge of JavaScript and PHP. Design and English skills are the advantage. Immediately start. Email your CV to messenger.alexander@gmail.com

GUESTHOUSE RECEPTIONIST

Thai national. Aged up to 30 years old. Good English. Tel: 084-876 7220.

IT OR AV ENGINEERS

Thai nationality, can speak English. Please send CV to Email: info@techworx-project.com

WINE & TAPAS BAR

Staff required in Phuket town, available on October 2012: bartender, helpcook, waitress. Tel: 083-969 7807.

SALES CONSULTANT REQUIRED

Club Asia Fitness requires a Sales Consultant. Applicants should be fluent in English and a Thai national. Excellent remuneration offered. Tel: 080-698 5021.

INTERCALLSERVICE CO.,LTD.

We are seeking natives German/Austrian or German-Swiss speaking people for our Call Center in Chalong. They will be responsible to support our inbound hotline for our overseas clients in Europe. We offer 5-day work with visa and work permit. For further information please call Khun Klaus. Tel: 089-873 9123.

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

PHILIPPINE STAFF

Female, good salary. Contact Carla. Tel: 081-968 5963. Send CV to cc@bayshore-projects.com

BARTENDERS AND WAITRESS

Thai national, English speaking, some experience, good looking and manners. Training will start on 1st of November 2012 at Nai Harn. Tel: 084-509 1975(English). Email: laterrazza-phuket@hotmail.com

TIGER GRILL JOBS

- Cashier.
 - Kitchen.
 - Waitress.
 - Assistant Restaurant Manager.
 - Secretary Food & Beverage.
- Thai national only. Great pay, fun job, benefits, training. Tel: 076-367 071. Email: cheffy@tigermuaythai.com www.tigermuaythai.com

THAI RECEPTIONIST

Female under 30 years old, Thai national, good English. 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-879 6058.

MARKETING STAFF

Condominium in Patong is looking for marketing staff. Contact K. Keith on 080-081 8870. Email: george@davidvacationclub.com

COMPUTER PROGRAMMER

Send your CV to cc@bayshore-projects.com Contact Carla. Tel: 081-968 5963.

A leading Home Automation and MEP Engineering company in Chong Talay is looking to fill:

- M&E Engineer**
- Autocad draftsman**
- Electrician**

Good Salary. 5 day week.
Email: info@avcphuket.com
Fax: 076-615811

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

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

BARTENDER REQUIRED

Full-time position. Good salary and great fun. Accommodation if needed. Thai national only. Please call Russell: 089-587 9112. Email: sunset-barphuket@yahoo.com

DO YOU WANT TO WORK AT HOME?

We are searching telemarketing staffs for our detergent sales/online shop. We are a Finnish company and our operations are located in Finland. However you can work anywhere in the world. We are not requiring any experience in this field of telemarketing. Please contact us at +358-19-751533 if you are interested and we will tell you more about this work.

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

ARCHITECTURE

Thai national wanted. Ability to use AutoCAD, Sketch-Up and 3D-Max is a must. Tel: 081-788 1639. Email: sec@phuketawnings.com

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

VILLA MANAGER

Experienced Villa Manager required to manage an 8-bedroom private residence in Kamala. The VM is responsible for managing an in-house team for maintenance, housekeeping and F&B. Operate the villa in a 5-star manner for both owners and guests. Applicants need to have strong leadership skills, excellent command of English, hotel experience. Applicants will be required to have their own car and driving licence and to be able to live-in when required. Tel: 076-527633, 087-881 0003. Please send CVs to: hr@phuketvillasandhomes.com, www.luxuryvillasandhomes.com

OPERATION/ADMIN MANAGER

Luxury yacht charter company is looking for an Operations/Admin Manager. Thai nationality. Key tasks: yacht provisioning, cleaning control, staff coordination for the charter, secretarial work and basic accounting. Own car is necessary. Email: sales@fivestarseacruises.com For further details, please see our website at fivestarsea cruises.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@imedgeconcepts.com

CHEF REQUIRED

Small international restaurant in Kalim looks for independent working kitchen chef with experience in preparing Thai and international dishes. Tel: 080-555 2377 (English & Thai). Email: 55inkalim@gmail.com

OFFICE SECRETARY

- Thai nationality female, not over 35 years old
- Bachelor's Degree
- Fluent in spoken and written English (being able to speak French will be an advantage)
- Nice, proper and friendly appearance
- Computer skills, Basic office skills, E-mail
- Positive attitude, Enthusiasm
- Able to work under pressure and to specific timeframes
- Hard-working, service-minded, and good personality
- Having experiences in real estate will be an advantage.
- Please Send your CV.

Please send CV and expected salary to
kate@century21-andaman.com
CENTURY 21 ANDAMAN CO.,LTD.
Mobile: 086-2686047



Horizon Resorts & Hotels operate two 4-star resorts at Patong Beach and at Karon Beach with 160 guest rooms each. The hotels offer a friendly & relaxed atmosphere and a wide range of facilities, and are very popular among Australian & European travelers.

We are currently looking for enthusiastic candidates to join our team:

1. (Assistant) Guest Relations Manager at Horizon Karon urgently required

- Thai or Swedish/ Scandinavian nationality, 25-35 years old, outgoing & friendly personality. **Excellent English and Swedish language skills are essential.** Prior experience in hotel or customer service is an advantage.

2. Guest Relations Officer at Horizon Karon

- Thai national, female, 22-28 years old, friendly & outgoing personality, active, service-minded, fast learner and good English skills. No prior experience required, but candidate should have the right attitude and excellent communication skills.

We are offering attractive benefits to the right candidate:

Competitive Salary, Service Charge, Annual Bonus, Life Insurance, Training & Career Development, Uniforms, Duty Meals, Accommodation at Kathu, Transportation. Interested candidates can apply by submitting their application letter, resume with a recent photograph and expected salary by email to: **hotelmanager@horizonbeach.com**

Horizon Karon Beach Resort & Spa

3 Soi Karon, Soi 2, Karon Beach, 83100 Phuket Tel: 076-284 555
www.horizonbeach.com



Luxury Boutique Beach Resort on Thaimuang Beach, Phang-Nga, with 15 private Pool Villas ranging from 165 to 895sqm, F&B operations, 2 beaches, spa, fitness, tennis etc.

The resort is rated 17th Best Luxury Hideaway In The World and the kitchen is critiqued to be among the very best in Thailand. A member of the prestigious Relais & Chateaux, the resort is owned and operated by a large and well-known Private Thai company. We are a team of close to 100 staff working together as family and we are looking to urgently recruit more members to our staff for immediate employment:

Senior Management**■ Restaurant Manager**

- Managing all F&B operations and reporting to Executive Chef. Experienced and good knowledge of fine dining service and wines required. Organizational, hands-on, and multi-tasking skills required, with a team work spirit.
- Competitive salary and benefits are on offer for the right candidate. Good English communication skills a must.

General Staff**■ Waiters ■ Bartenders ■ Line Cooks ■ GSA**

- Competitive salaries and benefits according to experience, as well as quality double accommodation offered. Basic to good knowledge of spoken English is required.

Please email resume with photo to: **hrs@wanakarnresort.com**

Indicate position/area for which you are applying.

All applications treated with full confidentiality.

For additional information, please call **Khun Tik** on mobile **089-973 8123**

**NATIVE ENGLISH TEACHERS**

Brainy House is an English-language school, which is committed to provide all of our students with quality teaching and prices that are affordable.

Qualifications;

- Applicants must be native English speakers.
- Bachelor's degree and TEFL are required.
- Teaching experience would be an advantage.
- Must be able to start in December.
- We offer competitive salary and work permit. Tel: 080-907 7466. If you are interested, please contact Sasi or send your CV and recent photo to info@brainy-house.com

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

2 SUB-EDITORS

- ▶ Fluent in English
- ▶ Able to work to strict deadlines
- ▶ A team player
- ▶ Naturally curious about the world, especially Phuket and what affects its residents
- ▶ Newspaper experience and/or layout skills, especially in PageMaker or InDesign, required.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV and writing sample by email to **editor@phuketgazette.net**

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79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew

A. Muang, Phuket 83000

Tel: 076-273555 Fax: 076-615240

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

DISTRIBUTORS/ RESELLERS WANTED

Thai national. Sales of manufactured modular and customized activation, booth, display and expo solutions. Network and infrastructure in place. Thai/English speaking. Excellent earning. Email: sales@bconcept.asia

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

REQUIRES AN EMPLOYEE

Requires an employee to promote the online store on the Internet. Tel: 088-838 3242. Email: zxigor.n@gmail.com

EXPERIENCED ELDERCARE NURSE

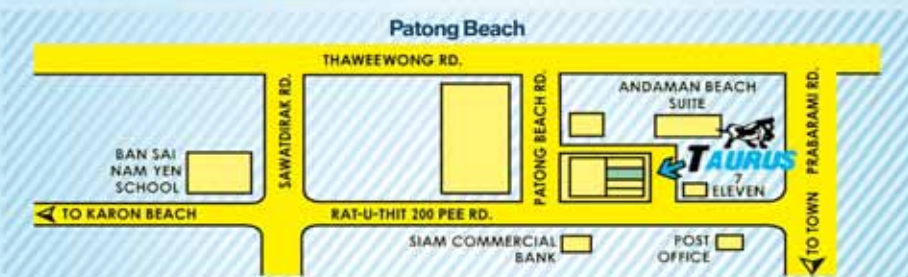
Nurse/helper for older person or invalid. Two years experience with alzheimers patient. Reliable, hard-working, excellent references. Some English. Tel: 089-196 0940. Email: woody@khunwoody.com

LOOKING FOR STAFF (4 POSITIONS)

Phuket Wake Park is looking for Chef of Thai Cuisine, Cook Waiter, Operator of Cable Ski Line, Cashier. Tel: 084-889 4942 (English). Send CV to office@phuketwakepark.com

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Looking for a better candidate?
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Articles For Sale

WASHING MACHINE & MOUNTAIN BIKE

- Samsung washing machine. Unused, still in box. Sale: 15,000 baht.

- 2 mountain bikes. Sale: 10,000 baht and 4,000 baht. Respectively. Tel: +852 02 865 1013. Email: cmcgee@netigator.com

Audio & Video Equipment

HOME THEATER

Samsung HTD555K. 6 weeks old, must sell, new condition. Sale: 6,600 baht. Tel: 087-281 9800.

Bar & Restaurant Equipment

KITCHEN HARDWARE FOR SALE

Secondhand kitchen hardware: ovens, sinks, grills and etc. Tel: 082-283 8250 (English & Thai). Email: phuket@rayadivers.com

Education

CHILDREN'S ENRICHMENT CLUB

"Take Care" service, day-time classes, skill development. Birthday parties. Amusement Park. Tel: 088-819 2526 (English & Thai). Email: annchik@me.com

Bulletins

Alcoholics Anonymous

If you want to drink that is your business
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Daily Meetings

Patong, Phuket Town, Chalong, Surin, Karon & Cape Panwa

081-895 4763
081-956 4031

email: phuketaa@yahoo.com

Google AA Phuket

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



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Established waterfront resort on Koh Lanta requires an investor/operator. 1.25 M THB with ROI in 2-3 years. Perfect for chef or hotel operator wanting lovely lifestyle.



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Business Opportunities

HOTEL + RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Chanote title, central position, new building, 4 years old, 20 rooms, reception and restaurant fully furnished. Price: 38 million baht negotiable. Contact Stefano: 086-279 8175 (English or Italian). Contact Ning: 084-840 1566 (Thai).

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

Cellular phone shop for sale includes stock, on the beach road 30m next to Soi Bangla, great income exactly before high season. Owner needs to leave the country. Tel: 087-893 9856.

BAR FOR SALE

New Soi Tiger, 6.8 million baht for 3 years. Tel: 086-952 8832.

HOTEL + BAR + RESTAURANT + 30 ROOMS

For rent. On Nanai Road. 2 million baht for key money + 1.5 million baht for 1-year lease. Tel: 083-208 2553, 082-810 3414.

BAR + RESTAURANT + 3 ROOMS

For 1-year lease: 540,000 baht. Good place, parking for motorbike. Nanai Road. Tel: 083-208 2553, 082-810 3414.

SURIN BEACH BAR FOR RENT

Upmarket Lounge Bar for rent. Fully furnished, music system, aircons, flat screen TVs. Pool table. Available immediately. Email: stewartles@gmail.com

BIG BAR + 1 ROOM, RAWAI BEACH

No key money, pool, full client, 20,000 baht per month, 2/3/4/5-room added possibility. 50m to Nikita. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: rawai4@yahoo.com

MASSAGE SHOP SALE

Big shop, 15 beds and chairs. 2.3 million baht. Must sell quickly. Tel: 081-303 2202.

BAR FOR SALE PATONG

Old Home lounge bar, free fitout + free accommodation. 5 million baht. Available on rental. Negotiable! Email: cocodiorster@gmail.com

50/50 PARTNERSHIP

Daddys Cafe/Bar/Apartment at Kamala. Thai lady worker preferred. Invest 150,000 baht. For more information please call: 084-850 0568.

OFFICE FOR LEASE 6,000/MONTH

With all furniture, CCTV, computer, air, printer, bedroom only 150,000 baht. Tel: 088-178 7830 (English & Thai). Email: josephjohn@gmail.com

PIT STOP PATONG BEACH



Bar for sale. At 62 Bangla Road, Patong, Phuket. Get ready to make money in high season. Owner is going back home. Make an offer. Contact Vince in Australia. Tel: +042 111 6838. Email: info@pitstoppatong.com For further details, please see our website at www.pitstoppatong.com

SHOP FOR RENT, BANGLA ROAD



Great location! In the Patong's heart near 7-Eleven and KFC. Grand opening soon. 40sqm, 3-year contract. Price: 900,000 baht. No key money! This price includes 300,000 baht deposit and prepaid 1 month. Negotiable! Contact Mark. Tel: 080-141 6040.

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.

RETAIL SPACE OPPORTUNITY



Large international resort in Karon seeks retail tenant. Excellent year-round occupancy. Flexible rental terms. Must sell quality merchandise. Contact Boonchu. Tel: 076-396200-5. Email: fckcr@chr.co.th

BAR/HOUSE RAWAI

Big kitchen, 2 bedrooms, great location. Price: 475,000 baht. Tel: 087-417 8379.

RAWAI BAR HOTEL PAY IN 15 YEARS



9 bedrooms. Sale: 15 million baht, 650sqm building and land, 90m from pier. Bargain. Tel: 081-416 1072. Email: rawai4@yahoo.com

BAR FOR SALE RAWAI

Or long lease, 2-bedroom house attached 30+ seats, pool table, 50"TV. Top site. Email: nz_prosinger@yahoo.co.nz

COMMERCIAL SHOP FOR LEASE

Located on Sawatdirak Road, next to the beach. Size: 19m x 5m. Tel: 076-342108, 081-892 7480 (English & Thai), 081-607 5716 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-342087. Email: Nanzz86@gmail.com

FOR SALE - BAR

Good money maker, great looking bar (not Bangla), new 3-year contract, no key money and low rent. Good size with pool table and good stock. 1.5 million baht (safe investment). Please contact owner by phone only. Tel: 080-530 7798.

SUITE DREAMS



Hotel for sale. At 157/2 Nanai Road, Patong Phuket. 21 hotel rooms, 6-months prepaid rent, 8 years on contract, get ready to make money in high season. Owner is going back home. Make an offer. Contact Vince in Australia. Tel: +042 111 6838. Email: info@pitstoppatong.com For further details, please see our website at SuiteDreamsHotel.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.

GOOD COMMERCIAL



Space for sale at Bang-Tao Beach. On main road. 156sqm, currently set up as a restaurant and bar. All equipment and furniture included. Sale: 1,800,000 baht. Rent: 15,000 baht per month for 10 years contract. Tel: 081-733 9498, 080-700 3775.

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11-year membership, free transfer. 300,000 baht. Tel: 082-802 5273. Email: england 2d@aol.com

BLUE CANYON CC

Family membership. Price: 870,000 baht. Free transfer. Email: dcw1004@gmx.com

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

Golf membership. 600,000 baht. Tel: 081-271 7701.

Golf Stuff

GOLF MEMBERSHIP

Phuket Country Club full membership for sale 600,000 baht. Contact Peter Edwards. Hong Kong. Tel: +85-261-929030. Email: pejaj33@yahoo.com

Miscellaneous For Sale

SNUFFLERS

Set of five. Rounded edges with alloy spleen tables. Only 3 yrs old, no glintle. Can be used without bessors or BRTs but not in tandem with cleester bins. Price new: 4,200 baht each. Will sell now at 12,000 baht for full set. Located Rawai, pics available. Email: jackmartin3@gmx.com

Personal Services Wanted

NEED A NANNY, MAID

A family needs a live-out nanny with good English (20,000 baht per month) and a maid (15,000 baht per month). Tel: 085-576 9139. Email: Russe2003@mail.ru

Personals

FRIENDS

Male, 49 years old. Looking for friends (couple) and fun. Call for information. Tel: 081-787 2008.

BACKGAMMON

Players wanted. Tel: 081-577 8443. Email: phuketconnection@yahoo.com

MOVING TO THAILAND!

Looking for female companion to help me find a new home/land. Swiss entrepreneur, mid-50s, sincere. Please answer with picture to tom4bell@gmail.com

Pets

ARE YOU LOOKING TO ADOPT A DOG?



Many homeless pups & adult dogs, all breeds & sizes looking for a loving home & someone to take care of them. Please contact:

Gone2thedoggies@gmail.com

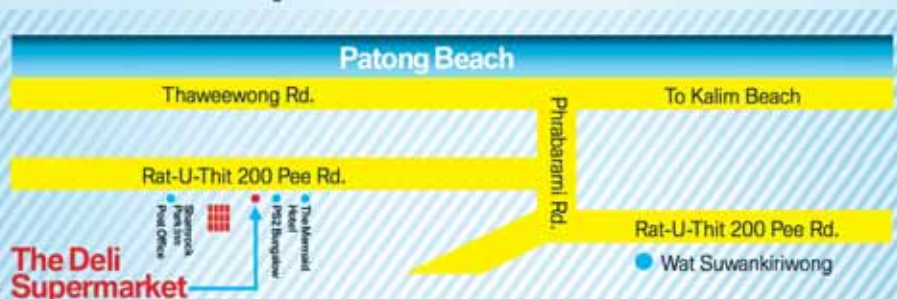
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Pool table/billiard sales, rental, profit sharing, all accessories & service. Tel: 085-797 0202, 085-797 0303, 081-823 4627, 085-782 1200. Fax: 076-264461. Email: ying@phuketpooltables.com

Live in Patong?

Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at The Deli Supermarket



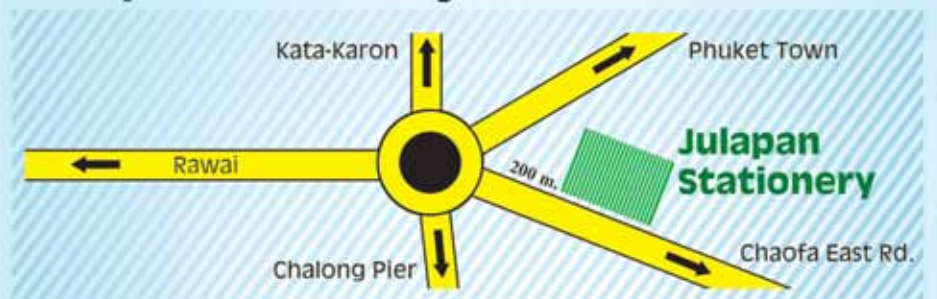
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PHUKET GAZETTE 31

Boatshedphuket.com

INTERNATIONAL YACHT BROKERS

A screenshot of the Boatshedphuket.com website. The header features the company name and logo. Below the header, there are navigation tabs for 'Home', 'Search Boat', 'About Us', and 'Contact Us'. The main content area displays a grid of boat listings, each with a thumbnail image and a brief description. A sidebar on the left contains search filters and a 'Boatshedphuket.com' logo. The overall layout is clean and professional, designed to showcase a variety of boats for sale.

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Boat of the moment

A photograph of a white motorboat, the Glacier Bay 260, displayed on a trailer. The boat is a sleek, modern design with a white hull and a dark stripe along the side. It is parked on a paved surface, and the background shows some greenery and a building.

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SAILING BOAT

for sale. Small sailing boat (jolly) 4.1m incl. trailer and outboard, 80,000 baht. Tel: 081 081 3232 (English). Email: antonwechsler@yahoo.de

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[illegible]

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Butterfly Release Year 6 Green Charity' at waterfall. Fish were also released (right).

YOUR Phuket



40 YEARS TOGETHER: Mr and Mrs Sakulpipatana celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary with their children Dr Piyanat (right) and Dr Sussana (left). The happy couple are better known as Ajarn Pranee (in blue) and Ajarn Supachai.



Triathlete Ruedi Wild from Switzerland, management team as he became the first



HANDS ON PARTNERS: MakeMyTrip.com (MMT) met with employees at the HotelTravel.com office last week following the official announcement that the Indian online travel and e-commerce leader had acquired HotelTravel.com. From left are: MMT Head International Holidays Thailand, Ajay Parihar; MMT Co-Founder and COO, Keyur Joshi; HotelTravel.com CTO Graham Johnson; HotelTravel.com Founder and CEO Blair Speers and MMT Chief Business Officer – Hotels & International Markets, Amit Saberwal.



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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

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

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

Nov 24 - Dec 3; 10am to 11:30pm: Laguna Phuket Tri-Fest

Laguna Phuket will again be the focus of worldwide triathlon attention when the legendary Laguna Phuket Triathlon and iconic Ironman 70.3 Laguna Phuket launch the high season in carnival style. The Laguna Phuket Triathlon on Sunday, November 25, and Ironman 70.3 on Sunday, December 2, are linked by a "Tri-Fest" of related training and social events. for the many professional athletes from all over the world. For more info visit: lagunaphuket.com/events/tri-fest This event is sponsored by *The Nation*, the *Phuket Gazette*, PGTV and the *Gazette's Phuket Today* show airing daily on UBC/True Visions (Channel 99).

November 24, 6pm to 12am: ThaiVisa 10 years party at Phuket Sports & Tennis Club

ThaiVisa members only. Please sign up at: thaivisa.com/forum/topic/

King's Cup Regatta 2012 December 1-8



583277-phuket-party-10-years-of-thaivisa.com-rawai-sports-club/

November 24, 12 to 3pm: Saturday Brunch @ Two Chefs

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.

November 28: Loy Krathong,

the 'Festival of Lights'

One of the most beautiful festivals in Thailand. It is traditionally performed on the full moon night of the twelfth lunar month, which usually falls in November. A Krathong is a banana-leaf cup containing flowers, a candle and incense sticks which will be floated away in a canal or river. The idea is to worship the river's Goddess and at the same time to float away any bad luck. Loy Krathong is not a public holiday.

November 29, 7:30 to 8:30pm: Marilyn Band at Mom Tri's VR Gallery at Villa Royale

Well-known Phuket artist Marilyn Band presents her latest art work, oil paintings and

watercolours, inspired by scenes from her recent travels in exotic locations. Marilyn's paintings, water colours and paper cut-outs grace the walls of many Phuket villas. The artist has had numerous exhibitions in Thailand and internationally, most recently in France. For more info visit: momtriphuket.com

November 30 - December 2, 6:30 to 10pm: NPR Culinary Arts Festival 2012

Eat, chill, dance and be seen at The North Phuket Culinary Arts Festival 2012. The Culinary Arts Festival is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, PGTV, and the weekly 'Phuket Today' show, five days a week, starting every Sunday evening at 7:10pm. For more info visit northphuket.com

December 1, 6 to 11am: TSLC IronKids Phuket Official Race

Swim, Bike and Run to become an IronKid. A triathlon for 6 to 17-year-olds with age appropriate

distances on a safe and secure course. Both individual and team relay entries available. Register on line or at Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club. Visit: ironkidsphuket.com for more information and race details. This event is sponsored by *The Nation*, the *Phuket Gazette*, PGTV and the *Phuket Today* show, found on UBC/True Visions (channel 99).

December 1 6:30pm to 12am: Phuket Life Home Project Charity Quiz Night: Mövenpick Resort, Karon Beach

A charity quiz night with gourmet buffet, rock & roll bingo, live auction and music throughout the night. Tables of up to ten. Price is 2,000 baht per head, which includes the quiz and other activities, gourmet buffet and limited complimentary drinks. Full bar is available. Doors open at 6:30pm. Quiz starts at 7pm. Contact Khun Wandee or Khun Nee on 076-384342 or visit lifelhomeproject.org. The *Phuket Gazette*, PGTV and the 'Phuket Today' show are proud to sponsor this event.

December 4, 7 to 10:30pm: Peter Michael Estate Dinner at Mom Tri's Kitchen

Mountain Vineyards, Limited Production Exquisite, Artisan from Sonoma, California. 2,100 baht. We will have very limited seating for this event. Our wine director and executive chef Darren are working on the menu and pairing now and we will announce the details soon. Contact us for more info or to get on our mailing list. Visit: momtriphuket.com

December 5: HM The King's Birthday - Public Holiday

HM The King's Birthday. Also marked as Father's Day in Thailand. Various celebrations will be held in honor of HM The King throughout the Kingdom.

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 Clinics at:
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Giving thanks to the goddess of water



Beautifully decorated *krathongs* made from banana leaves. Photo: autan

SINCE the Vegetarian Festival has passed, Thailand is beginning preparations for Loi Krathong, one of the most colorful Thai festivals.

It is a time to give thanks to the Goddess of water and seek forgiveness for past misdeeds.

The festival always occurs at night during the full moon of the 12th Thai lunar month. This year the event falls on November 28.

Loi literally means “to float,” while *Krathong* refers to the lotus-shaped vessels containing candles, incense and flowers, which participants float down rivers and on lakes and ponds.

The festival also includes beauty pageants, fireworks and *Krathong* making contests using materials such as banana leaves, banana tree trunks, coconut barks or paper. Each province has its own special features in celebrating this annual tradition, also known as the Festival of Lights.

A float can be as elaborate or as simple as you like. If you have a creative impulse to make one, try this simple method.

Traditionally banana leaves are used to make kratong, and for good reason too. They are easy to find, light and biodegradable. Stay away from the ubiquitous polystyrene foam, which takes years to disintegrate.

If you are lucky enough to have a banana tree in your garden then start right there. By

cutting its bark into lengths of say 10 inches, you already have a soft base on which to place the Kratong accoutrement – flowers, a candle, and a few incense sticks.

Some people place a few coins as an additional offering. The key is to balance these props well in the middle of the bark so that your Kratong doesn't topple when placed in the river.

More elaborate forms of Kratong are made from weaving banana leaves into various shapes and forms, but this is best left to the professionals.

Most beaches and hotels will hold their own Krathong events where guests and tourist are welcome to take part.

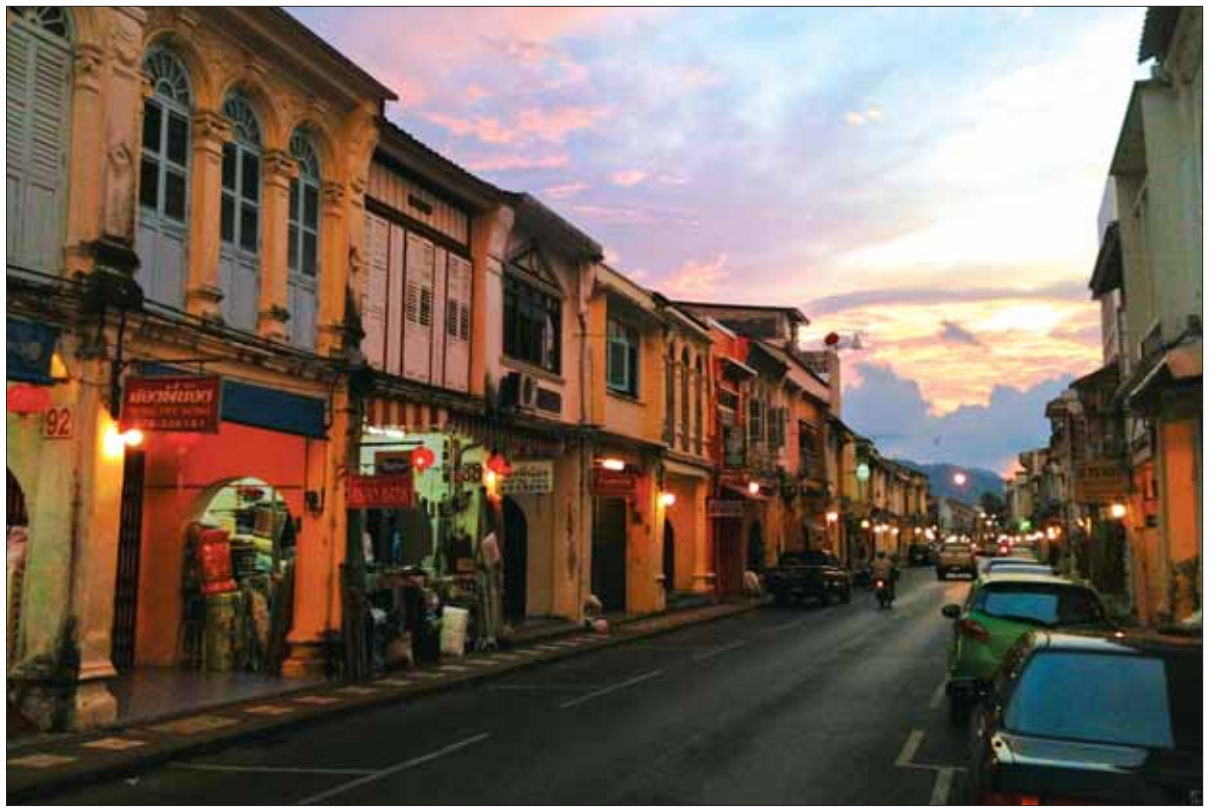
In Patong, TAT Phuket joins forces with Patong Municipality to hold a Loy Krathong event on November 28 that will also include a contest for the best krathong and Miss Noppamas pageant.

Noppamas was a lady of the court in the 18th Century, who was credited with crafting the first krathong. At 5:30pm a large float will start from Sai Kor Road.

The Noppamas pageant will also be held on Karon Beach. In Phuket head to Sapan Hin and Suan Luang Park for similar celebrations.

For more information contact TAT Phuket at Tel: 076 212213

– *Phuket Gazette*



RE-INVENTING THE PAST: Phuketians have been cooling their homes for centuries. Photo: Quinn Commendant

Ancient air-con

Looking Back

By Anand Singh

HISTORIC architecture is fascinating. Architecture surviving from a particular time in history can tell us a lot about that period.

For example, the cultural influences of the period, the way people lived, their religious beliefs and a lot more.

One of the most interesting aspects of historical architecture is the clever designs and features that are purposely built into the buildings to solve peoples' everyday problems. Some of these ingeniously simple techniques were commonly used and incorporated into buildings throughout history.

Yet in today's modern world, they have become obsolete and forgotten with the advent of modern day power and electricity.

Sino-Portuguese architecture is a common and beautiful sight in old Phuket Town.

These unique buildings blend European architecture with distinctive Chinese features, reflecting Phuket Town's past as a regional center for tin trade and cross cultural blending.

This type of architecture can be seen in many of the buildings in Phuket Town, from the rows of old shop-houses on Thalang and Dibuk roads, to large mansions that once belonged to the wealthiest tin families on the island.

They have a lot of distinctive and curious features rarely seen elsewhere. Many of these features were incorporated into the buildings for different reasons.

In some cases it was seen as good Feng Shui. In some cases it was due to superstition. But one often incorporated feature of many old Sino-Portuguese buildings, the water pond in the middle of the building, actually served an important purpose. It was used to cool the entire building.

Phuket is a tropical island and it is hot and humid throughout the year. Nowadays if the weather

gets too hot, we simply switch on a fan or an air-conditioning unit. But in the past, people had to take a different approach to cooling.

A typical Sino-Portuguese shop-house building in Phuket Town is not very wide, but incredibly long.

Some of them are 25 meters long, and some go as far back as 50 meters. Often when one walks to the middle of the building, there will be a large rectangular opening in ceiling. Directly beneath the opening, there will be a pond.

Residents back then would have filled it with water, fish and aquatic plants. The opening in the ceiling would allow rain to fall directly onto the pond, filling it occasionally, whilst also allowing the sun to shine through and fresh air to ventilate the entire building. It must have been a nice spot to sit and socialize with friends and family.

But the sky view and indoor pool does more to cool the building than just allowing air circulation. When the buildings heat up in the hot tropical sun, the water evaporates directly from the pond. Water vapor leaves the building through the sky opening. When it does it brings down the temperature within the entire building.

Because of this cooling system, the temperature within the buildings was well regulated and far lower than the outside temperature.

It was a simple and low-cost cooling system, yet it must have been quite effective judging from the number of Sino-Portuguese buildings and mansions that adopted it.

In theory it seemed to work,

but in practice it may have worked wonders. The pond and open ceiling system have been used in many cultures to deal with excessive heat throughout history, in all sorts of buildings.

The Rajasthanis for example have been living in the desert climate of north-western India for thousands of years. They are renowned builders and many of their buildings feature a similar water cooling system.

Recently, Manit Rastogi, an award-winning architect, has taken a page out of the history books and incorporated this cooling technique in his design of the Pearl Academy of Fashion, located in the blisteringly hot capital of Rajasthan, Jaipur.

The Pearl Academy is a new building but it has the same pool-under-the-open-sky feature built into the middle of the structure. The pool is built into the ground and is around 4 meters deep. It is enough to create a microclimate within the building.

On a typically hot day, the Pearl Academy building is 20 degrees Fahrenheit cooler than the outside temperature. It does so without the use of air-conditioning or electricity whatsoever.

In today's modern world most of the solutions to our problems require us to use energy. As a result our demand for energy has become insatiable. Perhaps for a change, we could look back at what our ancestors did when faced with similar problems.

Many issues are not new or exclusive to our generation. We just got used to dealing with them in a different, more energy intensive way. Perhaps in this age when we so desperately need to cut down on our energy consumption, it is time to bring back some of those “obsolete” methods that have been used throughout history.

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Dr Kosol Taenguthai

DR KOSOL Taenguthai wears many hats. As a busy obstetrician/gynecologist he runs a six-day-a-week private clinic as well as heading the Thai Peranakan Association, a historical and cultural group where he has been president for five years. In addition, since July, he has been appointed as one of the four deputies of Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwansupapana.

Phuket-born Dr Kosol, 47, studied medicine at Mahidol University and from 1995 worked for Bangkok Hospital Phuket. He left there after seven years but is still on call for emergency surgery.

Having joined the Thai Peranakan Association in 2006, Dr Kosol has been instrumental in highlighting the cultural heritage of Phuket as an alternative to what he calls the “Sun, sand and sea” tourism the island is famous for.

Under his leadership, the Association has organized many events to revitalize customs of the old Phuket ways, such as art and craft shows, traditional mass weddings, and the renovation of Old Phuket Town, among others.

His job has now been made a little easier since, as a new deputy mayor, he is directly responsible for fiscal and project planning for Phuket City.

“Phuket culture dates back more than 200 years,” he says proudly. “The first contact with foreigners who set foot on Thai soil was made



here. Our history is rich and unique and we must preserve it and make it known to the world.”

According to Dr Kosol, during the 1980s, when tourism flourished, old Phuket families responded by building hotels along the western coast or left the city altogether for the capital. This left the Old Town in a state of neglect and disarray.

“In a way my job here is a continuation of what I have done at the Peranakan Association. Phuket City has a clear mission to revive what is indigenous to Phuket, anything from architecture to old customs and religious practices.”

As to whether he would put the promotion of culture above other more pressing issues like environment, Dr Kosol says:

“The two things are not mutually exclusive. When we campaign for the Old Town to be a pedestrian-only zone, we have in mind to cut down on fuel consumption and greenhouse gases. The preservation of old-style houses, which were built to be cool and airy, will also reduce the use of air-conditioning and therefore energy. So you can

see that preserving the culture can also result lowering carbon emissions – killing two birds with one stone,” beams Dr Kosol.

One of Phuket City’s conservation programs worth noting, is a plan to develop the little known Klong Bang Yai, the historic 16 kilometer long waterway that was used to transport tin ore, which runs from Kathu through town and out to sea at Saphan Hin.

“We want to revive Klong Bang Yai and turn it into a historic ‘green route’ complete with walkways and bike lanes. We have been negotiating with householders in the area and most seem to be agreeable,” reveals Dr Kosol.

Another conservation program, under the Peranakan Association this time, includes the formation of the Phuket Baba Museum on Phang Nga Road and a plan to propose Phuket as a City of Gastronomy under UNESCO’s Creative Cities Project.

All in all, this is a busy time for the new incumbent Phuket City deputy mayor, a conservationist, a working doctor and a father of two children aged 14 and 9.

“I don’t mind the hard work. I have excellent support from like-minded people whose aspirations are the same as mine: to let the world see Phuket for what it really is – a historic melting pot of many cultures that resulted in a rich and unique heritage.”



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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Drilling down on landlines



Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

LAST week I talked about the general state of internet connections in Phuket. This week I want to drill down on land lines.

I wish I could just point you to a web page that has all of the information about the various internet lines available on Phuket, and let you make a choice. Life isn't that simple.

You would think that the internet service providers would make some information very easy to find: go to the main page for TOT, for example, maybe click to get the page in English, and then you'd see a list of the packages on offer and their prices. Alas, it doesn't work that way.

If you're near a computer, try bringing up tot.co.th and tell me if you can find a list of TOT products and prices, in either Thai or English. Anywhere. I've wasted hours trying to get definitive lists of products and prices from the web site, and it's an exercise in futility.

You'd think TOT would know better. They aren't the only ones. CAT, True and 3BB – the other leading landline providers in Phuket – aren't any better.

The only way I've found to get actual, valid price lists involves schlepping to the service

provider's office and asking for a brochure. If you're in the market for a new landline, get down to Central Festival, second floor.

There you'll find the CAT office (tucked in the back behind the mobile phone booths), True (next to Power Buy), and TOT (in the cul de sac with the banks).

3BB is up the street, diagonally opposite Tesco Lotus.

Here are the products that I would try to get, taking into

speeds you're likely to experience. In other words, they're not much different from internet speed ratings all over the world.

TOT Fiber 2U 10 Mbps – seems to hit the sweet spot, at 1,500 baht/month. You can spend 2,500 baht/month and get the nominal 20 Mbps line, but historically the 20 Mbps line isn't considerably faster than the 10 Mbps. There are “consumer” and “business” options, with “business” being about four times more expensive than “consumer.” I've seen little-to-no evidence that the business lines are any faster than the consumer lines. And if you're wondering about paying more for a “Fixed IP address,” trust me, you don't need or want it.

True Ultra Hi-Speed DOCSIS 10 Mbps uses DOCSIS cable TV-style cables. The basic package is a very reasonable 599 baht/month. If you want the TrueVision “Knowledge” package of TV stations hauled in on the same line, the whole thing including internet costs 899 baht/month. The “Knowledge” package includes all of the major Thai language local channels, plus

various True-branded sports and movie channels, and the Fox network. Although True is working toward bringing other TV channels in on DOCSIS cable – there are licensing problems – at this point if you want any of the good True TV channels, you have to get a TrueVisions satellite dish.

Some people have had good luck with the True Ultra Hi-Speed DOCSIS 20 Mbps line, at 1,299 baht/month (which includes the Knowledge package of TV channels). Others haven't seen any significant increase in speed over the 10 Mbps DOCSIS line. Since the 20 Mbps line costs more than twice as much as the 10 Mbps line, I personally wouldn't pay for it, but it may be worthwhile if you want local Thai language TV channels.

If TOT doesn't have Fiber near you, and True hasn't run a DOCSIS cable in your neck of the woods, the next best line isn't a line at all, really. It's a box that's nailed onto the side of your house that gets its signal from a specific kind of mobile phone tower.

The TOT AirMax WiNet service runs B 599/month and it's faster than garden-variety ADSL lines. Unfortunately, TOT doesn't have many towers up that can use the service, but it's worth asking.

If you can't get any of those packages, you're left with ADSL. TOT and 3BB have ADSL lines almost everywhere on the island,



Photo: James Cridland

DIAL UP DILEMMA: You get what you pay for.

account how much real speed you get for your money. Note that the “Mbps” (millions of bits per second) speeds listed in the brochures and advertising are pure marketing puffery and bear no resemblance at all to the real-world



HIGH-SPEED HOPES: Getting two landlines is best in Phuket. Photo: KOMU

and CAT and True are almost as well-connected. My personal experience in Patong is that True is more reliable, and a bit faster, than 3BB, but the difference isn't huge. TOT and CAT are both competitive now – they're fighting in a commodity business – and their service is reasonably well regarded, as well. In general. You can find specific instances of shoddy service with any of the carriers, of course.

All four of the ADSL providers in Phuket offer decent 10 Mbps lines for about 590 baht. For that price, with a one year commitment, you should get free installation (which is generally remarkably professional) and a truly shoddy free WiFi router.

Almost everyone has to replace the router within a year or two. They just don't hold up. But that's another story for another time.

Based on many years of observations, I wouldn't pay much more for “faster” lines. In many cases, a 10 Mbps ADSL line runs just about as fast as a 20 Mbps ADSL line. You should expect about 1 Mbps in real world international download performance from a 10 Mbps line. That's fast enough to run Skype or YouTube, but painfully slow for big downloads.

Almost all of the service providers “throttle” (put a speed cap) on torrents and some other large downloads.

You'll notice that I didn't mention using a cable TV company for an internet connection. In my experience, the cable

TV connections just don't work very well – they're technically fragile and not at all fast.

My number-one recommendation for land lines: if you need to be up most of the time, get two packages from two different suppliers. I've been running a True 10 Mbps ADSL line and a 3BB 10 Mbps ADSL line, concurrently, for many years, and the combination has worked well: when one line goes down, the other is almost always up. You have to set up your own router so you can swap between the two lines – unplug True and plug in 3BB, or vice-versa – but that's cheap and easy.

Next week I'll talk about the wireless connections available all over Phuket – indeed, all over Thailand. Our “3G” service isn't the world's fastest, but it's certainly serviceable almost all of the time.

We're running informal computer clinic roundtables every Sunday morning at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong, located 1 km north of Chalong Circle on Chao Fah East road. If you have a Windows problem that needs to be solved, or a question about internet service in Phuket, drop by and ask one of the assembled gurus. Sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.

Live Wire is Phuket Gazette columnist Woody Leonhard's weekly snapshot of all things internet in Phuket. Shoot him mail at Woody@KhunWoody.com, follow him on Twitter, @PhuketLiveWire, or “like” his page at facebook.com/SandwichShoppes.

Simple speed tip for a PC

- 1) Log on as the administrator.
- 2) Start – run – type “gpedit.msc”
- 3) Expand “local computer policy”
- 4) Expand “administrative templates”
- 5) Expand “network branch”
- 6) Highlight the “QoS Packet Scheduler”
- 7) On the right window double click “limit reservable bandwidth”
- 8) On the settings tab check “enabled”
- 9) Change the “Bandwidth limit %” to 0

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The power of your pet's senses



Dog Whisperer
By Russell D Russell

DOGS inherited keen senses from their wolf ancestors, and its these attributes that enable them to play such a massive role in our lives. With their phenomenal sense of smell, dogs are being used to sniff out illegal narcotics, explosives – even pirate DVDs.

Their sight and hearing capabilities help to assist the blind or deaf live more independent lives, and their power and strength is invaluable for dogs in an array of services such as water rescue or mountain search and rescue.

Sniffing Stuff...

A dogs' world is almost entirely organized by smell and their incredible scent detecting powers are so superior to ours, its almost incomprehensible. Dogs are able to detect scents at such low levels that even computers can't detect them.

Humans have around five million scent receptor cells in our noses, compared to around 300

million in dogs.

The structure of their noses allows them to breathe in a scent and keep it in their nose – while still managing to breathe in and out.

Dogs noses are also famously wet and with good reason.

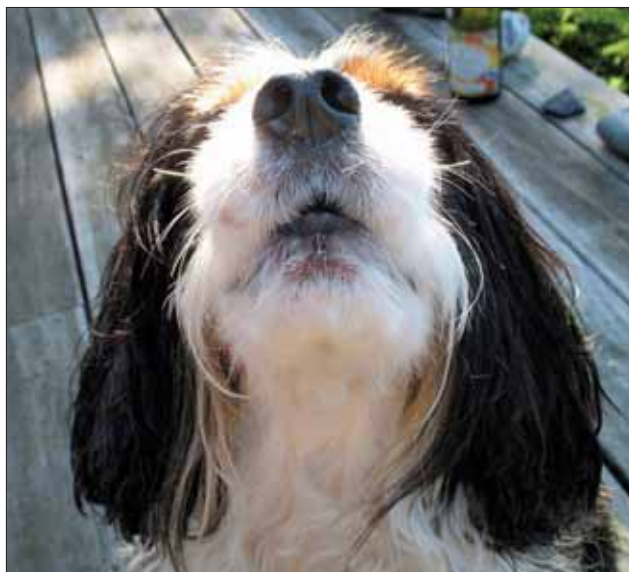
Numerous tear ducts run all the way their noses. A wet nose allows them to detect the direction of the wind and thus sniff out scents carried in the breeze.

The moisture also helps them to dissolve scent molecules so receptor cells located in the nose can identify specific odors.

This is why dogs can pick out the tiniest amount of contraband through a host of "decoy" scents such as coffee beans.

Seeing is Believing

A dog's sense of sight is very different from our own. Our vision is binocular and forward directed,



NOSING AROUND: Canines possess a very keen sense of smell. Photo: tiny banquet committee

whereas a dog's is more monocular and peripheral, allowing them to detect the slightest movements, even from behind. In humans, our eyes are located at the front of our heads, giving us a field of vision just over 180 degrees. We have to turn our heads if we want to see things that are to the side, or

behind us.

With dogs, the positioning of their eyes on the side of the head gives them a field of vision in the region of 260 degrees. A dog's vision in dim light excels, to the point that a dog can see an object at a light threshold six times lower than a human would need to see the same thing.

Dogs are not color blind, but they don't have as acute a sense of color as we do and find it difficult to differentiate between red and green.

Dogs hear far better than humans. They hear sounds over a greater range of frequencies, from much further away, and can pinpoint the origins of these sounds with exceptional accuracy.

A sound that we hear at 20 meters can be detected by a dog at 200 meters. Dogs also have movable ears, which enables them to

localize a sound to a high degree of accuracy and quickly – in about one six hundredth of a second.

There are more than 18 separate muscles in their ears which pivot, tilt, elevate or lower the ear, to ensure that the dog knows where a sound is coming from. Dogs can detect sounds as low as 67 Hz – the equivalent of thunder rumbling in the distance – much the same as we can. However, their high frequency hearing is far superior and extends up to 45,000 Hz, which is ten times higher than a soprano hitting a top C. Such sensitive hearing means that even while dogs are sleeping, they are able to detect sounds that are inaudible to us.

Rather than feeding your dog a bowl of food in the kitchen, hide a number of smaller bowls around the house, and encourage him to use his nose and hunt for his food. Its a fun interactive game to play, to stimulate your dog mentally and physically.

For more info contact Thailand Canine Academy at canineworld@icloud.com or tel. 089 588 4050

Coffee cats



A cat enjoys a coffee break at a 'cat cafe' in Seohyeon, Korea. Photo: Chantelle

INSPIRED by the Japanese custom of offering feline friendship to apartment dwellers unable to keep cats of their own, Winit and Ratika Chiemsuk recently expanded their pet shop business on Sukonthasawat Road, Bangkok to include a cat cafe.

Opened just four months ago, the cheerful pink Charming Cats Cafe and Pet Shop is a great place for animal lovers to enjoy a java juice and make friends with one or more of the 30 felines who stroll around the premises.

The large room is welcoming with a giant cat-shaped door guard and furnished with comfy beanbags, a white rattan swing, cozy sofas and chairs.

"I started feeding cats when I was a university student. Now I have almost 30 cats at home. This cafe is one of my dreams. I'd love to have a feline from each breed," says Winit. "I love cats and want to share a passion with others."

The only rule is that customers have to order a drink or dessert to play with the kitties, or pay a fee of

60 baht per hour. Winit and Ratika already have several breeds including: a Savannah, a cross between a serval and a domestic cat, a Scottish Fold, Exotic Short Hair and Exotic Long Hair as well as a cute Munchkin. They're friendly and often naughty, and Winit says most of them were acquired from farms in Japan and Russia.

In between petting the cats, you can enjoy layered soft cake stuffed with sliced kiwi, peach, cherry and cream for 75 baht, fancy coffee cake is topped with walnuts for 40 baht and cute cupcakes shaped like kittens for 49 baht. They can be washed down with coffees and smoothies as well as a 'Cat's Eye Soda' for 50 baht or an Italian soda blended with watermelon and berries, also 50 baht.

Charming Cats Cafe and Pet Shop is located at 464, SS Centre, Sukhonthasawat Road. Call (02) 553 2251 or visit Facebook/charming-cats-cafe-and-pet-shop.

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Very Versace

VERSACE is a name synonymous with quality and style and so it is with Le Versace restaurant lounge bar, which is perched high on the northern hills above Patong.

This brand new venue officially open next month, offering not only fine dining but one of finest views of Patong available.

Its not often I get to feel like a VIP, but arriving at 'Le Versace' was as close as it gets. Walking through the ornate, Gothic-arched entrance you are transported into a sumptuously decorated interior dripping in opulence. There are tables, chairs, table ware and furnishings that are all Versace originals. Chandeliers hang from the ceiling and gold statues and mosaics add to this superbly ornate locale.

Situated on three levels, each with a commanding view over Patong Bay, this is a perfect place to watch the sunset.

The Swiss-born GM and executive chef, Georges Dufresne, explains that it was this same view that caused him to have the epiphany that resulted in the creation of Le Versace.

Georges' motto is Passion for excellence and it is easy to see that this is an establishment that cherishes quality.

We enjoy a cocktail together and discuss his concept some more. "This is a fun place and apart from fine dining I want to offer a 'smiley', happy place for people to hang out," he says.

"We have a karaoke lounge and what I call 'The balcony of Patong' where friends can enjoy the sunset view with one of our four signature cocktails and some 'French touch' tapas. I have a passion for fine food and love to look into the eyes of my clients as they taste my creations," he adds.

Although there is a menu available, I get the impression that Georges has already decided what to prepare for me this evening and he disappears into the kitchen returning with a platter of his famous 'French touch tapas'.

On the platter are two servings each of beautiful culinary art and we share the tapas together. This really is a case of putting your

On the Menu

By Marc Mulloy

money where your mouth is as we start with a rich fish soup served in glass to better appreciate the frothy

cappuccino-style mousse that he has created on top. This homemade *bouillabaisse* is the most authentic-tasting French food I have had in Thailand and the same goes for the prawn served with Café de Paris and Champagne sauces and the smoked salmon and cream cheese tapas. Georges looks into my eyes for approval and gets it in bucket loads.

Before coming to Phuket, Georges, who is a member of the *Chaine des Rotisseurs*, worked as executive chef in some of the finest five-star hotels in Switzerland and it shows.

We have moved on to *Le foie gras poêlé du Chef* (590 baht small/ 900 baht large) warm, fresh *foie gras* glazed with tamarind and served with homemade vegetable chips. Divine.

After another affirmative glance from me, Georges returns to the kitchen and the quietly efficient staff clear away the beautiful Versace dishes.

I look around at the intimate, sumptuous setting and, at a nearby table, one of the other guests, also Swiss, catches my eye and we raise our glasses to each other in a silent acknowledgment that we share a love of fine cuisine. The other guest moves over to the white piano and plays us a tune. It's that kind of place.

There are only five tables available: one table for eight; two tables for six and two for up to four. Georges prefers it this way and as he put it earlier "We are open from 5pm until late – even at midnight I will cook for you. I don't want too many people as I want to keep the atmosphere and to be able to lavish attention on each customer. If I can't do that well I'd prefer to turn people away."

In other words reservations are highly recommended, as is the main course that Georges has produced for me tonight: *Filet de boeuf, Café de Paris, avec gratin dauphinois au senteur truffe blanche* or Beef filet with Café de Paris sauce served with layered potatoes perfumed with white truffle oil. (700 baht small/1,270 baht large).



Making an entrance, Le Versace style.



HIGHLIGHTS: Le Versace may have the best sunset view in all of Patong. Inset: Their neon sign.

I am in heaven.

The sauce is divine and Georges explains how he has made it his own. The original Café de Paris sauce is a complex butter-based sauce, the ingredients of which remain a trade secret. Two recipes exist from the original Café de Paris in Geneva which opened in 1907 and Georges was able to obtain one of them. He modified it by removing the heaviness of butter and cream and this has now become his own secret recipe and the press still talk about it. He walks over and drizzles some over my beef.

Menu items come in two sizes and prices, as Georges wants his guests to leave feeling they have eaten well but are not overfed. He has judged my portion to perfection with just enough fresh vegetables on the side. We wash it down with a New

Zealand Pinot Noir from the extensive cellar. Prices are not excessive but reflect the fact that only the finest imported ingredients are used. Prices are listed without the ten per cent service charge and seven per cent VAT.

There are also set menu options ranging from 'Silver' at 1,150 baht, 'Gold' at 1,400 baht and 'Platinum' at 1,800 baht.

Dessert is a plate of fresh fruit, coconut sorbet and a chocolate covered crunchy cake that was so good I do not even remember what was in it. But I do remember feeling like a VIP.

Le Versace is situated at 206/5-6 Prabaramee Road. There is limited parking in front and valet parking is available. Reservations are recommended at 076 290 492 or 082 448 4887. Visit: leversace.com for more info.



Clockwise are 'French touch' tapas, the *Foie gras du Chef*, Filet steak with *gratin dauphinois*, and the dessert plate. Photos: Marc Mulloy



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Marilyn Band to show at Mom Tri's



VITALITY: Strong colors and graphic shapes dominate the work of Marilyn Band. Photos: Marilyn Band



By Bruce Stanley

MARILYN BAND sailed into Patong Bay in 1980 with husband, Nick, aboard their cruising yacht, *Musichana*. After sailing around the Indian Ocean, the adventurous couple had a sense they had found their new home.

"We spent many long days at sea and I made small drawings and paintings using my lap as an easel. We visited islands from Madagascar to Chagos and around Indonesia. I was always visually interested in the shapes, colors and vitality of the different cultures across the Indian Ocean."

During the 1980s, the couple continued to charter their yacht and purchased some land in Rawai which gave Marilyn a chance to develop her artist's studio.

When the King's Cup Regatta was launched in the late 1980s, Marilyn began printing her own unique series of apparel for visiting yachtsmen and the popularity of her work has warranted a one-person-gallery show at Mom Tri's Boathouse. She

became known as 'Phuket's most visible and talented artist'.

"I've never been interested in pursuing a traditional career in art as I enjoy the freedom of travel and creating art that appeals to me in the moment. I focus on my natural response to the places and people I meet on my travels."

It wouldn't be fair to call Marilyn a reclusive artist but it is often difficult to find her valued work as she does not have a stable gallery representation. Instead, she chooses to have the occasional show of her paintings, collage, watercolors and prints when she feels she has enough work to make it public.

She currently has collected a new body of larger pieces that she will be presenting at Mom Tri's Villa Royale Gallery in a show that

opens next Thursday evening, November 29 at 7pm and will run into the new year.

"I'm enthusiastic about this new work as I've created a number of

able exercise. Many of these new paintings have a subtle cut-out of the female form floating over the canvas. While sailing and spending long periods out to sea, I sometimes

imagine that the clouds take the form of the female form."

Marilyn grew up in a family of artists from Buckinghamshire, England.

Her great great grandfather established Clayton and Bell studios, which produced stained glass – primarily for church decoration.

Her father's studio was in the family's back garden and the young Marilyn

took an early interest in illustration.

She attended Buckinghamshire University, studied graphic art and spent her youth travelling and working in television production and for ad agencies in London.

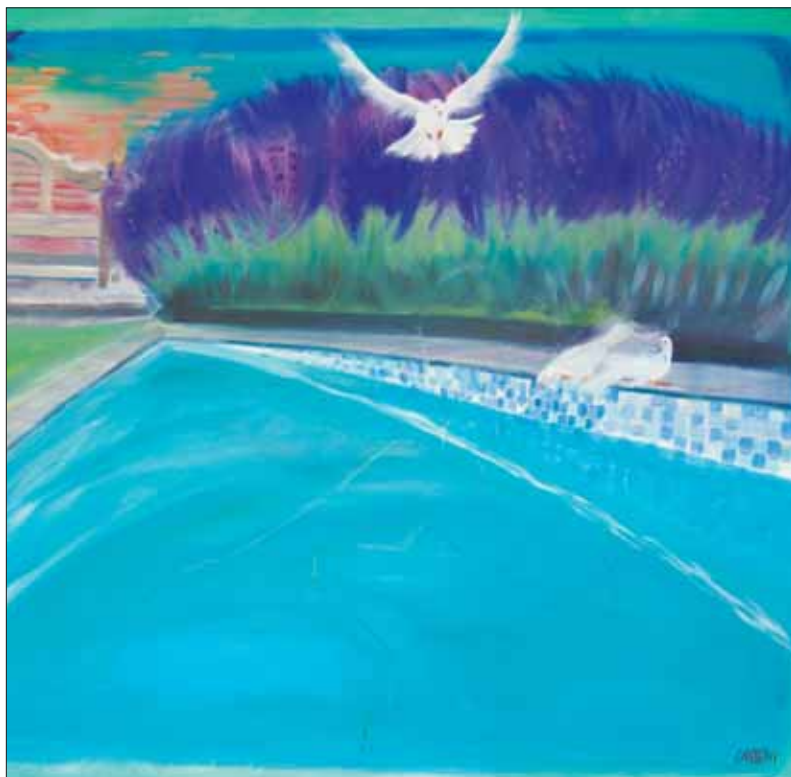
When she met her future husband, Nick Band, on a holiday in the Seychelles in the late 1970s, he invited her to join him living on the sea and visiting exotic regions between Africa and Southeast Asia. She recorded her visual memories by creating her talented drawings that are found on the walls of many of Phuket's long term expats.

Marilyn Band creates authentic art that reflects the cultures of tropical Asia. This will be one of the most important gallery shows of the season.

Visit marilynbandart.com for more information.



oil paintings, a new medium for me, that has been a thoroughly enjoy-



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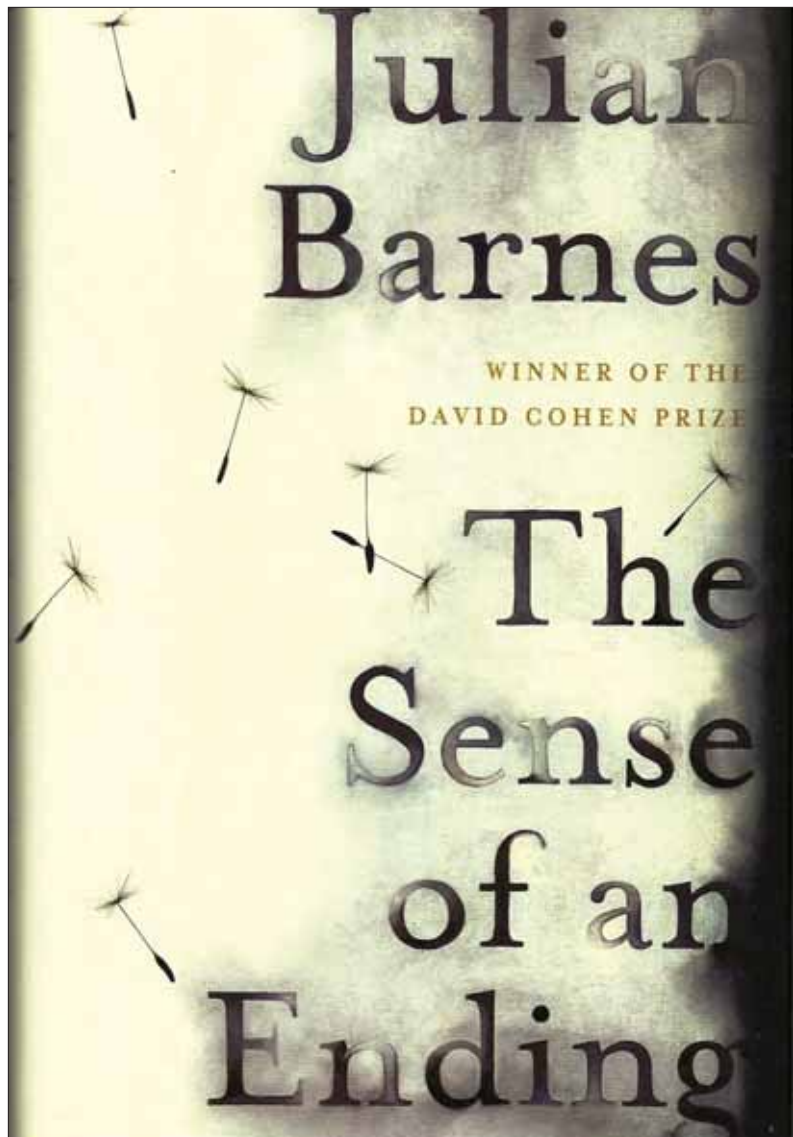
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An English literary institution



Books

By James Eckardt

THE Man Booker Prize is a big thing for the Brits. The Americans used to have the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction till that turned insufferably stodgy and was eclipsed by the National Book Award. But it still does not compare to the Man Booker.

A great deal of fanfare goes into announcing the long list of candidates, then the short list, then the winner itself. There's also the prize money of 50,000 pounds, a boon to many an impoverished novelist.

The prize will also make your name for life. I've read half the 44 prize-winning novels and all but a few deserved it.

One of these few is the 2011 winner, *The Sense of an Ending* (Vintage Books, London, 2011, 150pp) by Julian Barnes.

I'm no authority on Julian Barnes. Previously I'd only read one of his 13 works of fiction. Barnes was shortlisted three times but failed to win.

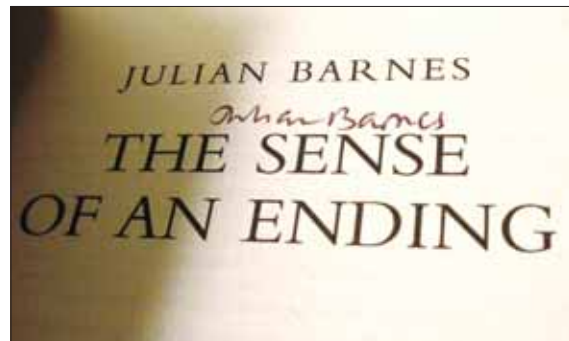
A contemporary of previous winners Martin Amis and Ian McEwan, perhaps he became a sentimental favorite the fourth time around for his slight novella.

The tale revolves around an epistemological question: how do I know what I know? How can I trust my memory, especially if there are no documents to support it? The text is liberally peppered with related questions and this becomes tiresome. The narrator disputes the idea that memory equals events plus time:

"But it's all much odder than

that. Who was it that said that memory is what we thought we'd forgotten? And it ought to be obvious to us that time doesn't act like a fixative, rather as a solvent. But it's not convenient – it's not useful – to believe this; it doesn't help to get on with our lives; so we ignore it."

The story is a common enough one for the author's generation and starts in a secondary school in London in the early 1960s. The narrator, Tony Webster, and his two friends Alex and Colin, yearn to escape their grubby middle class lives for the real, true,



important things that: "Literature [is] all about: love, sex, morality, friendship, happiness, suffering, betrayal, adultery, good and evil, heroes and villains, guilt and innocence, ambition, power, justice, revolution, war, fathers and sons, mothers and daughters, the individual against society, success and failure, murder, suicide, death [and] God."

The trio are joined by a fourth, a newcomer named Adrian Finn who greatly outshines them.

He leaves his history teacher dumbfounded by observing, "History is that certainty produced at the point where the imperfections of memory meet the inadequacies of documentation."

At Bristol College, Tony has his heart broken by his first love Veronica Ford who is ambitious and conniving enough to leave him for Adrian Finn who has won a scholarship to Cambridge.

After graduation, he goes off to the US to wander about for six months on his first real adventure and his second romance with an American girl named Annie.

Then, he decides to return to England and lead an absolutely normal life: job, marriage, daughter, divorce and retirement into weary and whimsical reflections like this nugget: "Just as all

political and historical change sooner or later disappoints, so does adulthood. So does life.

Sometimes I think the purpose of life is to reconcile us to its eventual loss by wearing us down, by proving, however long it takes, that life isn't all it's cracked up to be."

The only drama after his return from America is that he learns that Adrian Finn has committed suicide. Thus ends part one and you think: This won the Man Booker Prize?

There are surprises in part two. Tony receives a 500 pound inheritance from Sarah Ford, Veronica's mother, whom he only met once at their stifling home in Kent. She also leaves him Adrian Finn's diary, but Veronica has stolen it, so Tony must track down his old love and unravel the mystery of Adrian's history that ended in suicide.

More surprises are in store. So the shock of his life in the end springs from the dead horse that Tony has a history of beating. But the novella still doesn't deserve the Man Booker.

The Man Booker Prize for Fiction is a literary prize awarded each year for the best original full-length novel, written in the English language, by a citizen of the Commonwealth of Nations, Ireland, or Zimbabwe. The winner of the Man Booker Prize is generally assured of international renown and success; therefore, the prize is of great significance for the book trade. The *Booker Prize* is greeted with great anticipation and fanfare. It is also a mark of distinction for authors to be selected for inclusion in the shortlist or even to be nominated for the "longlist".

Fighting for feminism

By Ina Parlina

FOR restless Balinese writer Oka Rusmini, the fight for feminism is far from over. "Many people think that in Indonesia, feminism has succeeded in the form of texts and theories," Rusmini says. "So, for as long as some women are still being discriminated against by their society, culture and religion, gender equality has not been established yet – not here, not anywhere."

This is why she writes.

Rusmini has published several works that center on the unjust treatment of Balinese women, who still suffer gender discrimination.

"My books are for women. It's too far-fetched to want men to understand and embrace feminism. It's the women who need to understand how to deal with their bodies, religion and society," she says.

Rusmini's publications include the poetry collections: *Monolog Pohon* (1997), *Patiwangi* (2003),



Oka Rusmini

Warna Kita (2007) and *Pandora* (2008); the novels: *Tarian Bumi* (2000), *Kenanga* (2003) and *Tempurung* (2010); the short-story sets *Sagra* (2001) *Akar Pule* (2012). *Tarian Bumi* has been translated into German and English.

Born in Jakarta in 1967, she spent her youth in Bali, in a rigid patriarchal community. She says she "faced a harsh socio-cultural reality as a Balinese woman".

"People, not only Balinese, can shun me. I tell them this is fiction, but it echoes the facts in our society," she laughs. "The big picture covers the common things that can happen to women in many societies, but the frame is the Balinese community."

A mother and an editor of a leading newspaper in Bali, Rusmini started writing short stories and poems in elementary school but didn't publish anything until her second year of junior high.

This year, Indonesia chose Rusmini's novel *Tempurung* to receive the SEA Write Award. Earlier this month she was among eight Southeast Asian writers to accept their award in Bangkok.

Tempurung is about a woman who lives in an absurd marriage. The main character doesn't want to get married, though she does want children. The novel originated as a collection of articles published in newspapers.

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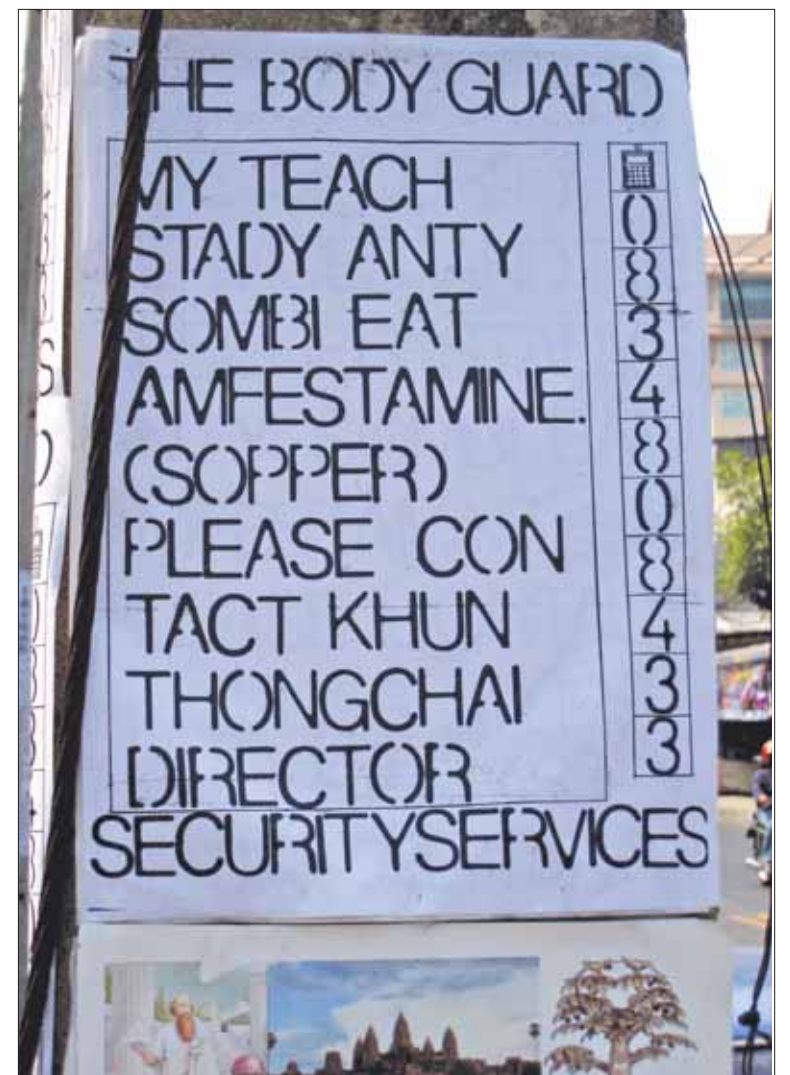
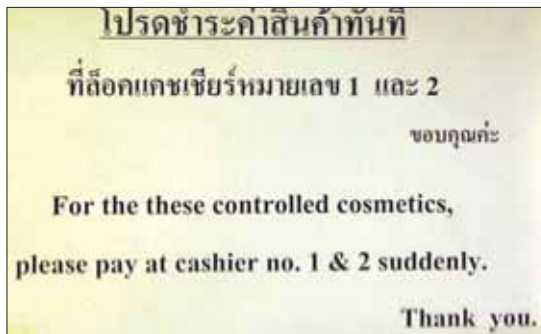
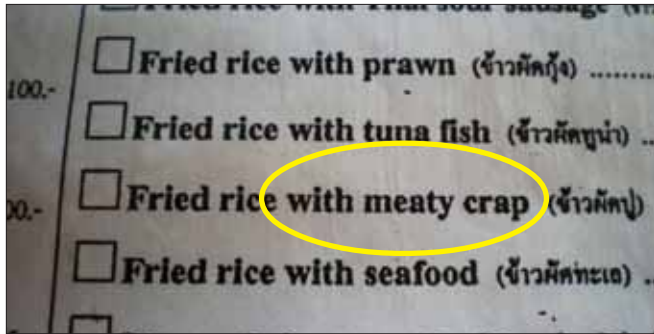
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Signing off



Travel experts

LIVING in Thailand, I think we all hate to be thought of as tourists. After all we have fought tooth and nail with Thai Immigration or are spending way too much time on visa runs to be considered by such a term.

It conjures up examples of visitors, new to our homeland. who we quite rightly feel are below us.

Top of the list is The Bottled Water Adventurer. This timid yet often seen creature (usually in restaurants) would probably be happier in an oxygen tent viewing the world they have come to visit through the safety of the sheets.

They think that every mosquito bite brings dengue fever and that a teaspoonful of local water brings on total paralysis.

The opposite of The Bottled Water Adventurer and yet even more unbearable are the Thailand Experts.

The Thailand Experts, probably best viewed (or better still avoided) in locations such as Kho San Road, drone on and on about 'real' experiences.

Though we all have on-line access to current and free travel information The Thai Expert regales us with insights on Asia in general. They love to tell us that "Goa is dead man! If you want to see real beaches you go to the Andaman Islands," or "Oh Everest is just a tourist trap these days, a rubbish dump for the bourgeois escapist, if you want to see real mountains stick to the Anapurnas..... Man!"

or "Of course Real Thai cuisine is best enjoyed..."

Will you shut up!

Nobody gives a damn what you think and as you haven't worked for anything in the whole of your trust-funded existence we can say without fear of contradiction that



your grasp on reality is somewhat tenuous.

What is this big deal about 'real' experiences anyway? Does anyone visiting England want to see the 'real' England?

"Oh the Regency Hotel near the British Museum that's not for us, way to touristy, we want to stay in a council estate in Peckham where the kids murder each other in the stairwells. See the 'real' England."

One of the reasons places become popular is that they are worth seeing. They are extraordinary, entertaining, beautiful and maybe even spectacular and that is why, to put this quite simply – people want to visit them.

Expat residents not wanting to be The Bottled Water Adventurer or Backpack Expert can do him or herself a tremendous disservice with a denial which is bordering on masochistic. The resident does nothing except live an ordinary life perhaps even more ordinary, albeit with better weather and cheaper beer, than the ordinary life they escaped from in their country of origin. People whose idea of roughing it is not having HBO.

It really is a shame and, without needing a Sherpa, many of the ordinary day trips on our island are delightful and a simple Tuesday spent experiencing any of them would bring tears of envy to even the richest of next door neighbors we left behind.

Ever been to James Bond Island? Asking this of an island dweller is tantamount to enquir-

ing about venereal diseases with some individuals. They would not sit in a bus with the types already mentioned to see... well they wouldn't know because they're above seeing anything.

The name is a put-off for a start, christened after a terrible Bond movie that doesn't even star Sean Connery but that other bloke with the effeminate run and over quizzical eyebrows. Yet *The Man With The Golden Gun* was filmed when the crew had to literally beat into scrubland with machetes to create shooting space. It was the first time the area, with its unique limestone islands, had been used as a movie set and it has since developed into a money earner for locals as visitors flocked in. Even today they marvel at what they are seeing for the price of a pair of copied Ray Bans, two hours from their Nata beach guest house with more photo opportunities than.. well, any of the places your 'supposed to see before you die' in that book they have in B2S.

The day also provides a bamboo raft trip.

It has to be said that if you are in possession of a cynical cool which puts you above these harmless and wonderful doorstep experiences then Thailand is just not influencing you enough and you might want to consider returning to Stoke Newington or wherever it was that this tiresome attitude was spawned and still thrives.

With a New Year upon us would we not be right to make use of what is all around us?

Without turning into Pollyanna maybe we should admit that we made a good decision in coming here and once in a while at least make the effort of leaving the comfort of our air conditioning to enjoy the scenery.

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Floaters and Stalkers

More aquatic plants for pots



WET AND WILD: Invasive Water Chestnut in Northeast USA. Photo: US Fish and Wildlife Service



LET US ALONE: Water lettuce in bloom in Florida. Photo: Kafka4prez

AS READERS of last week's column will have noted, there are, in

essence, two kinds of aquatic plants: first, those that produce erect stems and flowers that keep only their roots in the watery element; and second, those with leaves and flowers that float, either with their foundations embedded in mud at the bottom, or, as in the case of the water lettuce, simply dangle their rootlets beneath buoyant leaves.

The water lettuce (*pistia stratiotes*) is very common in Thailand – some would say too common – but it produces rosettes of emerald green leaves, and it will usefully cover any fresh-water surface in a matter of weeks.

Sometimes known as the hell-flower, its leaves are deeply ribbed and scalloped, thus provid-



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

ing a textural contrast when mixed with free-standing plants. In common with the water lily, it not only provides excellent cover for small fish, but out-competes algae in obtaining soluble nutrients, thus helping to prevent the discoloration of the water in your pot.

The water chestnut (*trapa bicornis*) operates in a similar way – a low floater whose leaflets grow on the surface and form attractive diamond-shaped patterns. But unlike the water lettuce, these leaflets are attached to a submerged, brown, edible fruit. It is, moreover, less invasive than the shell-flower and does not grow quickly enough to overpower other species. Along with the much more substantial, fleshy leaved water hyacinth, which has the advan-

tage of producing prominent clusters of hyacinth-like, mauve flowers, these “floaters” are all candidates for shallow, wide-rimmed pots. And as with nymphaea, they look best if the container is positioned well below eye level.

If these low-lying fellows are hardly the aristocrats of your budding container gardens, then the reed-like *typha angustifolia* certainly is.

Formerly known the world over as the bulrush of Moses and then as the reedmace, this distinctive plant carries itself with an upright swagger. Like all these aquatic plants, its roots can be completely immersed in water, but because it is so substantial, it is more likely to suit a large, deep pot.

Typha grows on strong erect stems up to six feet in height, and has stiff narrow leaves at the base of the stalks. But its really unusual feature lies in its rich brown cylindrical spikes of densely packed florets up to twelve inches in length, which look like symmetrical sausages and feel velvety to the touch.

There is nothing in the plant world quite like *typha*. Surprisingly, since it grows all over the Northern Hemisphere, it will tolerate tropical sun.

A splendid column of these thriving in a friend's roof garden is evidence of that. These spikes can, furthermore, be dried and used in floral arrangements where they will last for years.

Finally another aquatic plant that stands tall. The cyperus, a native of Madagascar, is nonetheless widely available here in Phuket, and is often seen gracing slender containers outside spas and resorts. A dainty but vigorous foliage plant, it possesses green ramrod straight stalks three or four feet in height, at the tops of which are grass-like leaves which radiate out like the spokes of a wheel.

The variety usually found in plant nurseries is *alternifolius*, but there is a finer form which has feathery, slightly pendulous leaves. Known as Egyptian papyrus, and possibly the real ingredient in the biblical story, it is, in my experience, less hardy than its cousin. Both, however are perfect accompaniments to an elegant, ceramic pot.

As for conventional garden shrubs to go with giant ceramic pots, that is yet another story.

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



Typha female flower head. Photo: Dominic Alves

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Tip of the Week

A READER whose fan palm is “sick”, asks if the pruned outer fronds will re-grow. She does not say what variety of *livistonia* is involved, but the answer is probably no. However, provided the spear leaf is healthy, new fronds should spread out from this growth point, and ultimately give the plant a better shape. Fan palms are temperamental. The fronds sometimes dry out, die back at the outer margins, and take on



Fan Palm. Photo: wworby

an ugly brown appearance. This can be the result of too little or too much water, even over-zealous applica-

tions of fertilizer. Fan palms can also suffer from fungal disease (*fusarium*) which blocks the water-carrying tissue.

These problems are much more likely to happen with potted specimens. At the summit of Rang Hill, plantings of magnificent, broad-leaved fan palms are flourishing in filtered sunlight. Some of the fronds are nearly two meters across. No sign of disease.

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SUDOKU: Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. © Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)

COFFEE break

Across:

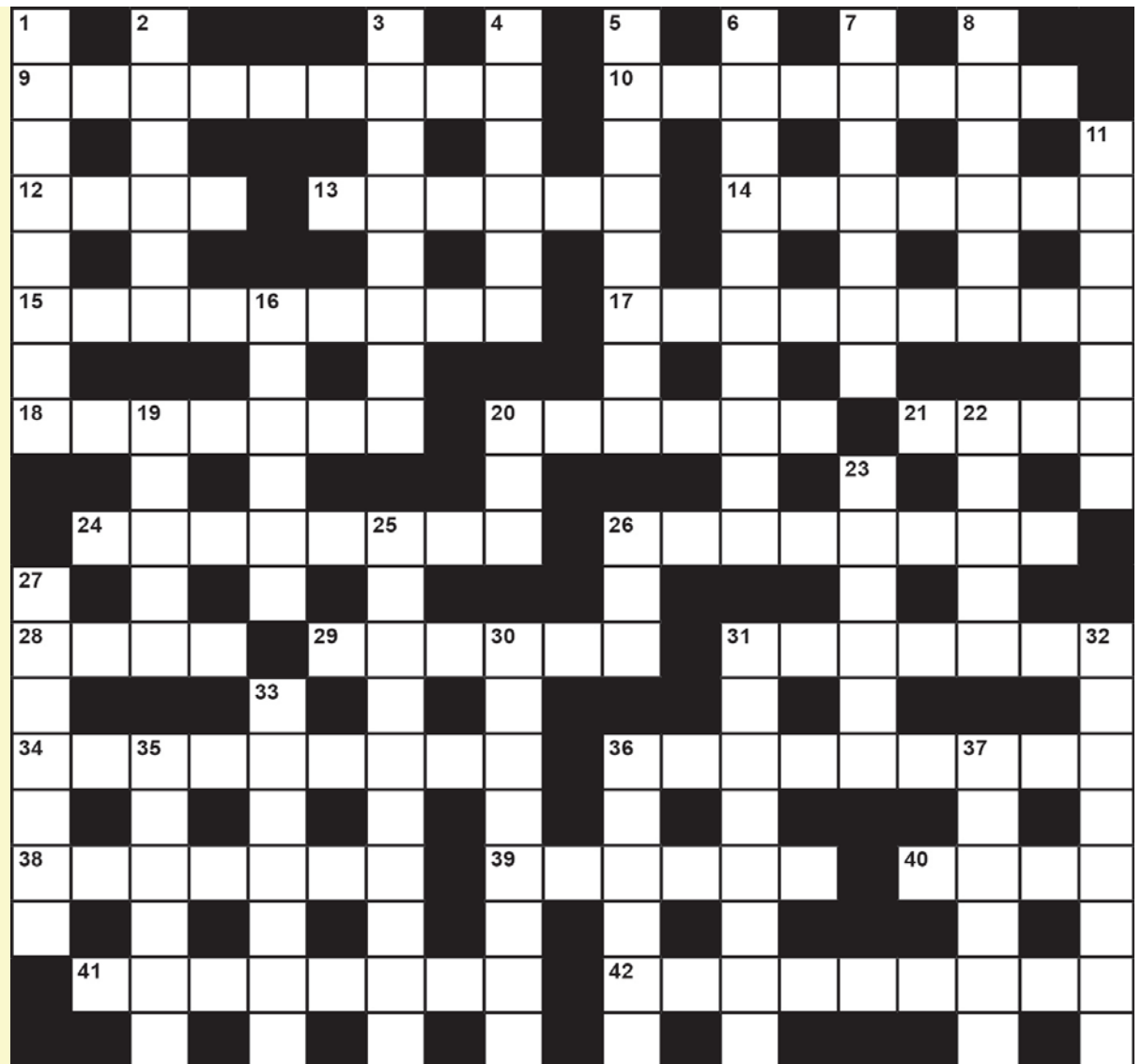
9. Peas, tripe cooked as hors d'oeuvres (9)
10. Train Len to be on the inside (8)
12. I had each concept (4)
13. A revolutionary painter? (6)
14. Print unit one hundred and forty four, to express in legal terms! (7)
15. Emphasize inferior ancestry (9)
17. Green mess made by errand-boy (9)
18. Cause to go along with intern a different way (7)
20. Supporter for lumbar region, note restricted (6)
21. Mark second vehicle (4)
24. Satisfies as the subject matter (8)
26. Very accomplished teacher left

unknown (8)

28. Tentatively mean end of prayer (4)
29. Assist new stoppage of circulation (6)
31. Upset by greed, an aberration (7)
34. Financially support forests in remote areas (9)
36. Wriggling in pit, real slimy and unpleasant (9)
38. Try once more to repeat the visit (2,5)
39. And other similar things, in short, he'd engraved (6)
40. Body odor about to be tedious (4)
41. Tale far out, left in view of the circumstances (5,3)
42. Old building remains, not a one ordered for destruction (9)

Down:

1. Member of crew in charge, turn about to take care of hands (8)
2. Add software application, finish (6)
3. Northern Spanish ruin sat a



wreck (8)

4. Pair nice about heir to the throne (5)
5. Detective Inspector or a Master in charge like a spectacular painting (8)
6. Not causing anxiety, emphasize to a smaller degree (10)
7. Time manipulator set off (7)
8. Continued grand place for 'visa run' (6)
11. Loan sharks more confident in us (7)
16. Pans the Sunday joints (6)
19. Type of shirt and socks not

these! (5)

20. Advance of wages turns up in public transport (3)
22. Pass or show embarrassment (5)
23. Rough fabric one for the Russian (6)
25. Avoid being close, not excessively miserly! (3,3,4)
26. The wee wife? (3)
27. Refuse a beggar when broke (7)
30. I try less to become like a sibling (8)
31. Computer application I peel off,

perfectly arranged and tidy (5,3)

32. Maybe guns done in old prisons (8)
33. We rest a skittish jumper (7)
35. Chinese tea of a Phuket weekend market (4,2)
36. Register the best time achieved (6)
37. Prominent in chosen field I study one chapter (6)

Cryptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Answers on page 31.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):



The stars remind Sagittarians to pay it forward as November draws to a close. Someone close to you could use good luck and you will be in a position to help that happen. Finances are well-starved this week, with focus on property matters becoming more lucrative. Those with a birthday in the coming days put more value on personal relationships in the year ahead. Romance with an earth sign appears promising.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):



The stars advise that you dance to your own tune this week. There are hints that influence from others could cause Capricorns to move in the wrong direction. Where work is concerned, another earth sign is predicted to pass on misleading information. In the realm of romance, there is a fine line between being sensitive and caring too much about somebody else's feelings. Wear the color charcoal to encourage more grounding.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):



Unexpected encounters are well-starved for those born under the sign of Aquarius this week. Passing the time of day with a fire sign can lead to

interest being shown in your skills and the possibility of financial rewards on the horizon. In the realm of romance, your tendency to leave arrangements to the last minute can become a bone of contention this weekend. Single Aquarians enjoy attention from an earth sign.

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):



Excitement mounts in your world of work, with focus on new challenges coming next month. Those Pisceans who are ready to try something different are forecast to leap into action and this is an ideal week to consider how you can delegate more. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, the stars suggest that an air sign partner could have some loaded questions this weekend. Your lucky color this week is turquoise.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):



The stars suggest that this will be an unpredictable week and Arians are advised to guard against rocking any boats. Where work is concerned, an air sign will not appreciate you taking too much interest in their business. In the realm of romance, those who were worried about proposing a cooling off period to a water sign could be taken aback by events this weekend. Best days for finances are Sunday and Monday.

YOUR horoscope By Isla Star

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):



Taureans are entitled to spoil themselves during the last week of November. Much has been accomplished this month and there are signs that December will be a busy time with holiday happenings requiring your organizational skills. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, following up on an introduction to an air sign is recommended. Dreams of a relationship with a fire sign are likely to go up in smoke.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



Spiritual matters are forecast to occupy your attention as November draws to a close. The stars indicate that an earth sign can have influence on this, and those born under the sign of Gemini should find more peace of mind. In the world of work, your trust in a water sign proves to have been valid. Expect a project that is close to your heart to get the go-ahead sooner than hoped for.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):



Mixed messages at work can make this a muddled week for those born under the sign of Cancer. The stars advise that listening to a fire sign colleague is the wrong thing to do, but another water sign has the right idea. You will need to remain patient where a financial matter is concerned, but there are hints that December will bring closure. Romance with other water signs sparkles.

LEO (July 24-Aug 22):



Confessions are highlighted this week. Where work is concerned, Leos are likely to hear something from another fire sign that gives hope for future success. In the realm of romance, an air sign's words can cause you to have second thoughts about making a casual relationship more committed. Your luck with money matters takes a turn for the better as November ends. Wear the color primrose yellow to encourage harmony.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):



Change is in the air this week and Virgoans are forecast to be inspired. A dream stands chance of coming true by the end of this year and the stars indicate that you will soon

see how this will happen. Where romance is concerned, making a spur of the moment invitation this weekend can impress another earth sign. Sharing your practical outlook on finances is appreciated by a fire sign friend this week.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):



Librans are advised to stop and take a deep breath during the last week of November. This will have been a month of ups and downs and starting December without balanced energy is not recommended. A water sign friend can be the right person to share some personal pampering with this weekend. Those who have been waiting to receive romantic signals from an earth sign could be disappointed.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):



If your conscience is clear, there are no worries for Scorpios this week. However, the stars suggest that those who know their behavior was out of line recently should take steps to make up for this. In your world of work, multi-tasking is not the way forward as November draws to a close. Certain responsibilities will demand your full attention and opportunities can be missed. Hot days for romance are Wednesday and Thursday.

INTERNATIONAL
Sport

Beckham leaves Galaxy

By Mark Lamport-Stokes

WHEN David Beckham ends his playing stint with the LA Galaxy, in what he expects to be a very emotional MLS Cup final, he will take pride in how he has helped raise the game's profile in North America.

Since the former England captain, with his global celebrity status, joined the Galaxy in 2007, Major League Soccer (MLS) has grown significantly and become much better known in the soccer world.

"This sport now has the foundation of becoming much bigger here over the next 10, 20 years," Beckham told reporters at the Home Depot Center on Tuesday, a day after announcing his decision to leave the Galaxy after six seasons with the club.

"I've seen first-hand the new franchises that have come into this league, I've seen the attendances grow to the point where they are competing with baseball and basketball, and I've seen the quality of players that have come into this league.

"We've also seen huge television deals signed and this league is taken very seriously in Europe and different parts of the world now. I am very proud to have been part of that."

At the age of 37, Beckham remains one of the most marketable figures in the game and was the biggest soccer name to move to the United States since Pele,

Franz Beckenbauer and Johan Cruyff in the 1970s.

Galaxy head coach Bruce Arena described Beckham's influence on the sport in North America in glowing terms.

"He's done more in MLS and for the Galaxy than any of us would have imagined," said Arena. "He's worth a lot more to the league than we ever could have thought.

"He has done wonders for the Galaxy. We have accomplished much on and off the field, and he's done incredible amounts of positive things for MLS. We are now a well known league around the world and I attribute a lot of that to David."

Asked whether he had achieved all the goals he had initially set for himself in North America, Beckham replied: "It's for other people to decide what my impact has been in this league over the last six years.

"It might have been different 20 years ago but now we have the foundations, we have the owners, we have the stadiums that have been built so the foundations are there for this sport to grow.

"I've seen it grow in the last six years and we all want it to continue to grow. Soccer's potential has no limits in this wonderful country," added the London-born midfielder who plans to continue his playing career elsewhere.

Beckham, who won six league titles with Manchester United in the English Premier League before



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE: David Beckham playing for LA Galaxy earlier this season. Photo: Reuters

enjoying success with Real Madrid in Spain, hopes he can end his Galaxy career by winning a second successive MLS Cup.

"I always want to win any game, whether it's a game with my kids in the backyard or the MLS Cup final," he said.

"To be able to finish my career as a Galaxy player in my own stadium in a Cup final is special enough, but hopefully to win it would finish everything off for me."

The MLS Cup final will take place on December 1 when the Galaxy host Houston Dynamo at the Home Depot Center, having beaten the Seattle Sounders over two legs to clinch the Western Conference championship.

"I was actually quite emotional after the game in Seattle because it was the last game in a different stadium in my career here with the Galaxy," said Beckham.

"But I've got a feeling it's

going to be even more so next Saturday because this has been my home for the last six years. I've had some amazing times, one or two difficult times, but some amazing memories here in this stadium with this team.

"I will continue to support this club because I love the players here, I love the fans, I love the ownership. It's an exceptional group of guys and I am sad to be leaving that."

EPL round up

MANCHESTER City capitalized on Manchester United's shock 1-0 defeat by Norwich to go top of the league after beating Aston Villa 5-0.

Aston Villa held out until a David Silva goal in the 44th minute. Two goals apiece in the second half from Sergio Aguero and Carlos Tevez sealed the emphatic win and ensured Manchester City moved to the top of the league for the first time this season.

Norwich pulled off the surprise of the weekend beating Manchester United.

The canaries' defense was expected to struggle against the strike force of Van Persie and Hernandez but goalkeeper John Ruddy along with center backs Sebastian Bassong and Michael Turner kept Manchester United at bay.

West Brom climbed to fourth after their victory over Chelsea.

Chelsea went a fourth league game without a win after this 2-1 loss, and Roberto Di Matteo was once again let down by a poor Fernando Torres. The Spaniard is really struggling this season and his poor form is hindering the attacking threat of Oscar, Hazard

and Mata.

Torres seems to be the weak link at the moment and owner Roman Abramovich may feel the need to move him on to help invest in a new high profile striker in the January transfer window.

Arsenal beat Tottenham by an identical scoreline to last season's corresponding fixture, 5-2.

Adebayor put Tottenham in front after 10 minutes but his red card after a rash challenge on Santi Carzola ultimately cost Tottenham the game, and Arsenal never looked back.

Luis Suarez scored twice to help Liverpool beat Wigan 3-0. The Uruguayan is in fine form this season scoring his ninth and tenth goals of the season to help Liverpool continue their unbeaten run to seven games.

Newcastle lost 2-1 at home to Swansea.

Reading beat Everton 2-1.

Mark Hughes continues to feel the pressure as his QPR side lost 3-1 to Southampton.

Sunderland beat Fulham 3-1.

West Ham drew 1-1 with Stoke

This week's fixtures and table are on the right.

— Andrew Scott



Chelsea's Fernando Torres

PREMIER LEAGUE TABLE		PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES	
TEAM	PTS		
1 Man City	28	SAT, 24 NOV 2012 19:45	SUN, 25 NOV 2012
2 Man Utd	27	Sunderland vs West Brom	Chelsea vs Man City
3 Chelsea	24	SAT, 24 NOV 2012 22:00	23:00
4 WBA	23	Everton vs Norwich	WED, 28 NOV 2012 02:45
5 Everton	20	Man Utd vs QPR	Sunderland vs QPR
6 Arsenal	19	Stoke vs Fulham	WED, 28 NOV 2012 03:00
7 West Ham	19	Wigan vs Reading	Aston Villa vs Reading
8 Tottenham	17	SAT, 24 NOV 2012 00:30	THURS, 28 NOV 2012 02:45
9 Fulham	16	Aston Villa vs Arsenal	Chelsea vs Fulham
10 Swansea	16	SUN, 25 NOV 2012 20:30	Everton vs Arsenal
11 Liverpool	15	Swansea vs Liverpool	Southampton vs Norwich
12 Newcastle	14	SUN, 25 NOV 2012 22:00	Stoke vs Newcastle
13 Norwich	14	Southampton vs Newcastle	Swansea vs West Brom
14 Stoke	13	SUN, 25 NOV 2012 23:00	Tottenham vs Liverpool
15 Sunderland	12	Tottenham vs West Ham	THURS, 28 NOV 2012 03:00
16 Wigan	11		Man Utd vs West Ham
17 Reading	9		Wigan vs Man City
18 Aston Villa	9		
19 Southampton	8		
20 QPR	4		

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INTERNATIONAL
SportFormula 1
By The Digby

Interruptions and Interlagos

AUSTIN was a great race for McLaren. Hamilton, on the dirty side, lost ground on the first corner, but after four laps passed Webber. Then he hunted down Vettel and when Karthikeyan momentarily slowed Vettel, swooped into the lead on lap 42.

Button started on the dirty side, dropped to 15th and fought back to fifth by the end. McLaren is now only 14 points behind Ferrari for runner-up in the constructors' stakes.

It was a great race for Ferrari, who deliberately broke a seal on Massa's gearbox to get a five-place grid penalty and promote Alonso to the clean side of the grid. Alonso went from seventh to fourth on the first corner, and moved up to third after Webber's demise with alternator problems. Massa fought brilliantly to finish fourth.

It was an OK race for Red Bull. Vettel's gameplan was interrupted by Hamilton, but he increased his lead to 13 points, and Red Bull won its third consecutive constructors' championship.

So it's on to Interlagos, located in São Paulo between two lakes, in the slums of Cidade Dutra. The track was inaugurated in May 1940. The first real F1 Brazilian GP was held at Interlagos in 1973.

When I first went to Manila in the early seventies, maps were useless, because official street names reflected transient government namings in favor of heroes



AWAY THEY GO: Cars go into the first turn at the Circuit of the Americas, Austin, Texas. Photo: AFP

of the time. People ignored the ephemeral foibles of politics, and stuck to old names. To get to Roxas Blvd, a taxi driver needed to be told to go to Dewey. It's like that with Interlagos, renamed Autódromo José Carlos Pace in 1985, after a Brazilian driver who won his only race there in 1975.

Deemed unsafe, Interlagos was abandoned by F1 in favor of the Jacarepaguá circuit in Rio de Janeiro in 1978.

In 1988 Jacarepaguá was

renamed Autódromo Internacional Nelson Piquet, but I have never heard anyone use that name either.

F1 returned to a shortened and modified Interlagos in 1990.

Brazil is traditionally the season's final race, which often means that everything is often decided before the circus reaches them.

To win this Drivers' Championship, Vettel realistically just needs to finish. Alonso needs Vettel's alternator to melt.

So I expect Vettel to drive a defensive race. Hamilton will really try to win again, and Button and Räikkönen are both in contention.

The 4.4 kilometer Interlagos circuit is anti-clockwise, hard to drive and demands power from engines.

The race is tough on cars, and tough on drivers. Cars need outstanding balance to manage the technical middle sector, and speed for the rest. Weather is always a factor in Interlagos, and rain is

quite likely for the race.

It starts on the "Tribunas" straight, followed by the "Senna S". This connects with "Curva do Sol" left-turn that leads to "Reta Opota", the track's longest but not fastest straight. Then a pair of downhill left turns called "Descida do Lago" into a short straight that goes down again.

This is followed by a slow and difficult section, with small, kart-like turns and elevation changes.

Turn 6 is downhill and "Laranjinha" is a very slow right. Turn 8 leads into "Pinheirinho".

Then "Bico de Pato" is an easy right kink into the near-hairpin that gives it its name, followed by a constant-radius left-hander that slings the driver straight into a harder left at "Junção".

A left uphill kink marks the start of the long, top-speed section. Rising up through "Subida dos Boxes", the driver encounters a long left turn, which demands a lot of power. At the end of it is the "Tribunas" straight.

From the exit of Junção all the way into Senna's S is one of the longest full-throttle stretches in F1, and demanding on engine's reliability.

Interlagos has one of the longest pit-lanes ever used in Formula One, so pit stops are expensive.

Pirelli will again provide the medium and the hard compounds, but this track is more abrasive than Austin. So expect two-stop strategies.

The race is on the big screen at the Green Man 11pm on Sunday, and the race is 11pm on Saturday.



YOUNG AND FREE: Dylan with his new race car sponsor KU DÉ TA.

Sponsors put Dylan on track

Phuket-based race car driver Dylan Young is pleased to announce that Indigo Pearl Resort Phuket has followed in the footsteps of lifestyle venue KU DÉ TA Singapore by becoming a support sponsor for his MRF Challenge Formula 2000 Championship season.

The new MRF Challenge Championships credibility is supported by Indian Formula 1 star Narain Karthikeyan, who is acting as the series ambassador.

The cars are powered by 2.0-liter, 210 brake horse power Renault engines that propel the drivers to speeds of up to 260km/h. MRF has supplied specifically designed ZLO slick tyres and the cars' performance levels are similar to that of international Formula 3 standards.

The championship features 10 races over four weekends from October through to February and is broadcast on ESPN Star Sports across Asia. The first races were held in New Delhi at the Buddh International F1 Circuit late October. The series then moves back to the F1 Circuit in India from November 30 to December 2, before the final

two races in Chennai in early February. The championship consists of 18 drivers from 19 countries. Young is the only driver flying the flag for Australia and also representing the island of Phuket.

Young, based in both Australia and Phuket, is thrilled to be linked with such successful brands in the Asia Pacific region. "I would like to express my gratitude to KU DÉ TA Singapore as my major sponsor and Indigo Pearl Resort Phuket for their invaluable support and am excited about where these partnerships could take us, as I'm



Dylan Young at a recent race.

hoping to emulate on the track what they have achieved as successful and iconic brands."

KU DÉ TA, perched on top of the Marina Bay Sands overlooking Singapore's Formula 1 circuit, came on board as Dylan's major

sponsor for the championship prior to the opening two races at the Airtel Indian Formula 1 Grand Prix in late October.

KU DÉ TA's support has now paved the way for other lavish brands in the region to support Dylan's career such as award winning luxury design resort Indigo Pearl Resort Phuket.

Equally pleased with the new sponsorship was Indigo Pearl's General Manager Kelly Lewis who said, "We are very excited about this new partnership with Dylan. He is a proven winner in his field. To be affiliated, achieve such a distinction and industry endorsements inspires him and the team at Indigo Pearl to continue its winning ways."

Dylan raced in Formula BMW Pacific and the JK Racing Asia Series from 2010 to 2011 but faced an uphill battle this year due to budget problems until KU DÉ TA Singapore threw their support behind the speedster as his major backer, with Indigo Pearl Resort Phuket following suit for the upcoming races. — *Phuket Gazette*

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RESTAURANT Off Course

Sport

Laguna Phuket Triathlon starts



Endurance athlete Paul "Turbo" Trebilcock aims to triumph against the pro field at Ironman 70.3 Laguna Phuket with his global challenge partner Simon Donato.

THE 19th Laguna Phuket Triathlon (LPT) takes place Sunday November 25 at 6:30am. The event has attracted a world class international field to Asia's premier destination triathlon. The LPT consists of a 1.8 kilometer swim, 55km bike ride and 12km run through the tropical scenery of Laguna.

Australian Chris "Macca" McCormack, the two-time Ironman World Champion and one of the most successful athletes in triathlon history, has signed up to compete in the Laguna Phuket Triathlon (LPT) on November 25 and Ironman 70.3 Laguna on December 2.

Macca has won 200 races around the world since 1993 including 12 Ironman victories, more than any other male competitor. He is also the only triathlete ever to be Olympic Course and Ironman World Champion.

Chris McCormack remarked: "I've heard so much about Laguna Phuket over the years but have never managed to make it there. I'm really looking forward to finally get there and race in this iconic triathlon location."

Both LPT and Ironman 70.3 Laguna Phuket will attract a field of about one thousand athletes from around the world, and are linked by a 'tri-fest' of training and social activities at Laguna Phuket during the week between the two Sunday races.

With some athletes opting to take on the challenge of competing in both events, there are a number of intriguing duels in store. One of the most prominent will be between Laguna veteran Belinda Granger of Australia and Czech Olympian Radka Vodickova, who are both vying to become LPT's first-ever women's triple champion.

Italian Massimo Cigana, LPT's first-ever triple champion in the men's field, returns to defend his title in a bid to be a four-time champion.

He will face stiff opposition from elite pros such as American Chris Lieto – an Ironman champion renowned as the 'fastest cyclist in triathlon racing'.

The reputed fastest cyclist in triathlon, Chris Lieto, is heading back to Phuket to compete in the Laguna Phuket Triathlon (LPT) and Ironman 70.3 for his second year.

Lieto says he is keen to make up for his Phuket debut last year, when he was forced to retire from the 70.3 after crashing on the bike course.



Leanda Cave



AND THEY'RE OFF: Competition at last year's Laguna Phuket Triathlon was fierce. Photo: Laguna

Renowned as the fastest American Ironman and one of the top professional triathletes in the world, Lieto has recorded 15 major victories, including three Ironman wins, a U.S. Ironman Championship and three Top 10 finishes at the Ironman World Championship in Kona, Hawaii, highlighted by a second-place finish in 2009.

The recently-crowned 2012 Ironman 70.3 World Champion, Leanda Cave, signed up for the Laguna Phuket event less than 24 hours after completing her epic World Championship victory in Las Vegas on September 9, and before resuming training for her next title bid at the Ironman World Championship in Kona, Hawaii on October 13.

Laguna's confirmation of Cave's participation has set the stage for a thrill-

ing duel with 2011 Ironman 70.3 World Champion and defending Laguna Phuket 70.3 Champion Melissa Hauschildt of Australia who was beaten into fourth place on September 9 by Cave, more than seven minutes behind Cave's winning time of 4:28:05.

At Laguna Phuket, Hauschildt will be aiming to hold off the challenges of Cave, Rodickova, Granger and a field of other top pros to hold on to her 2011 title, which she won with a course record of 4:17:01.

Two intrepid endurance reality TV stars are also making Ironman 70.3 Laguna Phuket the final leg of a global adventure challenge that will be seen by millions of viewers across North America and elsewhere around the world.

Laguna Phuket Triathlon is on Sunday November 25 and the Ironman 70.3 is December 2. A number of events will be held in the week between the triathlons to keep those in attendance busy.

– Phuket Gazette

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Futsal buzz only beginning

Phuket United, the island's pro futsal team, officially begin their inaugural season in Thailand's elite league



MEET THE TEAM: Above, from left, Head Coach Suphol Senapeng, Brazilian players Rogerio Moreira and Jackson Santos, and Assistant Coach Patt Sriwijit. Below, from top left going clockwise: Saharat Inpan, Benjarong Panbob, Anuwat Pathan, Anurak Petchluan, Teerachit Jantaramat, Aukkadech Chuaikhlai, Konok Chitchiew, Korait Seawgoa, Nattaphong Buachary, Parinya Pandee, Piya Rookon and Taweesak Cheeplek. The two Brazilians and Nathapong scored the goals in last Wednesday's 3-0 away-victory over Samut Prakarn FC.



By Steven Layne

LAST week's conclusion of the FIFA Futsal World Cup, Thailand, has set the stage for exciting local league action, with the island's professional club, Phuket United to debut in their first home match of the Thailand Futsal Premier League 2012-2013 season, tonight (November 24) against Bangkok FC.

The match follows Phuket beating Samut Prakarn on Wednesday night

Recently appointed honorary advisor of the club, Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut remarked: "Futsal is an exciting sport that requires [high levels of] concentration among athletes. If I get some free time, I want to

cheer on the team... I want them to succeed and would everyone in Phuket who has time to come to home matches."

The 2012-2013 season officially started on October 10, with all 16 teams in the country's elite league playing their first game.

Pitted against Highways Department FC in their league debut, Phuket United lost 1-2, despite controlling pace and possession for most of the match.

The club comprises a total of 15 players – 13 Thai and two Brazilians.

Head Coach Suphol Senapeng has high hopes for this season.

"I'm satisfied with the performance in

the game with Highways Department, even though the result was not a victory. In sports, there is losing and winning, and besides, we only trained for three weeks leading up to the season opener."

The coach has set a goal for the team to finish within the top 5 ranks of the league. This may be not be a difficult goal to reach, especially with the help of two key Brazilian players, Jackson Santos and Rogerio Moreira.

"Jackson Santos has played for many teams in Thailand and Brazil and I believe in him. He's an extraordinary player with many skills," the coach said, "Although, he wasn't able to score in our match with the Highway Department FC, since players were still getting use to each other, but we still had lots of chances and it will take time to see the full potential of the team."

A native of Fortaleza City, in Brazil's Ceara state, 26-year-old Francisco Jackson Alves Dos Santos will alternate between winger and pivot (center forward) positions.

He has played for several clubs in Brazil such as John Deere, Fortaleza, Matelandia and Medianeira. In Thailand, before joining Phuket, he played for I Am Sport, Chonburi Blue Wave and Samut Prakarn United. Other than this, he has also played for a club in Kazakhstan: Mfk Tulpar.

Jackson told the *Gazette*: "I'm happy to play in Phuket this year, I want to have a good season. A new team, new people and one ambition – to win the league."

Coach Suphol also praised Phuket's returning Brazilian star, Rogerio Moreira: "He is a key foreign player of the Thai league, and quite a strong shooter. I'm confident that his form will explode onto

UPCOMING MATCHES	
HOME:	SAT, NOV, 24 VS BANGKOK
AWAY:	SAT, DEC, 8 VS SURAT THANI
HOME:	SAT, DEC, 15 VS SAMUT SONGKHRAM
AWAY:	WED, DEC, 19 VS NONTHABURI
AWAY:	SUN, DEC, 23 VS THAI PORT
HOME:	WED, DEC, 26 VS SAMUT SAKHON
AWAY:	SUN, DEC, 30 VS LEO BANG SUE
Home matches will kickoff at 7pm at Phuket's brand new 4,000-seat Indoor Sports Complex in Saphan Hin.	

the pitch for our team this season."

A native of Maringa in Brazil's Parana state, 29-year-old Rogerio Moreira will play as a left winger, but has told the *Gazette* he is a universal player – comfortable to play in any position.

In Brazil, he has played for: Internacional de Porto Alegre, Banessa, Wimpro, Sao Paulo, Santa Fe, Osvaldo Cruz, Palmitos Santa Catarina, Assis, Palmeiras and Juventus; in Spain, for: GSI Bilbao and Boadilla.

Prior to joining Phuket last year, Moreira played for Thailand's CAT Telecom FC for two seasons.

Moreira was an integral part in Phuket United's promotion campaign last season, helping the team to become crowned Southern and overall champions of the CAT National Championship. The Brazilian was named tournament MVP, before signing with Phuket for his second year.

Southeast Asia Cup kicks off

THE AFF Suzuki Cup comes just in time to cure any futsal hangover Thai fans may be feeling. Eight teams from across South East Asia will compete in two groups to see who will go on to the knockout stage and eventually be crowned the 'King of Asean football'. Group A has been dubbed the "Group of Death" and consists of Thailand, Vietnam, Philippines and Myanmar.

Thailand go into the tourney as one of the form teams after a pre-tournament run that saw them beat the Thai Premier League All-Stars 5-1, Laos 2-1, shock the reigning AFF Suzuki Cup champions Malaysia 2-0 and hit five goals past both Bhutan and Bangladesh. Thailand were knocked out of the AFF Suzuki Cup at the group stages in 2010.

Group A matches will be played at Rajamangala Stadium and Muang Thong stadium in Bangkok. Group B, consisting of Malaysia, Singapore, Laos and Indonesia, will play their games at Bukit Jalil National Stadium and Shah Alam stadium, Kuala Lumpur. Malaysia are the defending champions, while Indonesia topped group A in 2010 and lost in the final to Malaysia. The Reds and Whites will be hoping for a similar showing this year.

The AFF Suzuki Cup is a biennial football competition organized by the ASEAN Football Federation (AFF) and accredited by FIFA. The top six-seeded teams contest the cup along with two qualifiers, this year Laos and Myanmar. The tournament runs from November 24 through December 22.

– Andrew Scott



Katie (on the right) at IronKids.

By Andrew Scott

THIS week's featured IronKids are Chris and Katie Thomson. The brother and sister duo have lived on Phuket for the last six years and competed in every IronKids event held at Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club.

Phuket Gazette: Why do you compete in IronKids?

Chris: I really enjoy triathlons. I swim in Silver Fins, enjoy cycling and am always running around, so it makes sense for me to compete in IronKids.



Chris at an IronKids event.

Iron siblings

Katie: It's fun to do and I like to compete.
What's your training schedule like?

Chris: I swim four times a week, cycle when I can and do various other sports.

Katie: I swim four times a week and play football.

Which is your favorite part of the IronKids race – swim, bike run?

Chris: Cycling.

Katie: Cycling.

Why do you both enjoy cycling?

Chris: It allows me to go fast and it's my strongest leg [of the race].

Katie: It's fun going down hills

Which is the hardest part of the IronKids race – swim, bike, run?

Chris: Running.

Katie: Running.

Why do you both find running the hardest part?

Chris: I'm not a natural distance runner and because it's the last event, I tend to be tired and it's hot.

Katie: It's the hardest because it's so hot.

What do you hope to achieve at this year's IronKids?

Chris: Win my age group – hopefully. If not, then I'd like to improve on my time from the practice race.

Katie: To have a fast time and win a trophy.

What other sports do you play?

Chris: Football, tennis and basketball.

Katie: Football.

When did you start competing in sporting events?

Chris: When I was six.

Katie: When I was six.

Why do you like them [sporting events]?

Chris: I like the competition and it makes the training worthwhile.

Katie: I like to hang out with my friends.

Who are your favorite athletes?

Chris: Lionel Messi, Usain Bolt, Alistair Brownlee and Jurgen Zack.

Katie: Jaray Jearanai (I think he's going to win the world championship) and Jurgen Zack.

What does being an IronKid mean to you?

Chris: It's great being able to train with top athletes and the triathlon is a really tough sport, so I think it's an achievement when I do well.

Katie: It's cool.

Tennis at Thanyapura



CHANG CHAMPION: From left: Craig Johns, Thanyapura director of Sports Academy, Mikhail Fufygin, Russia and Alexander Ward, Great Britain.



The Plexicushion tennis courts at Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club.

THE Chang ITF Men's Thailand Pro Circuit 2013 recently finished at the Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club. The tennis event attracted a world-class field, who competed over three tournaments for prize money worth US\$10,000.

Alexander Ward of Great Britain won the singles trophy with 6:3, 6:1 victory over Russian Mikhail Fufygin. Australian Ryan

Agar and Austria's Sebastian Bader beat Alexander Ward and his French partner Antoine Escoffier in the Doubles final 7:6, 2:6, 10:8.

Thanyapura's Tennis Academy was chosen to host the tournament by the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) for its renowned state-of-the-art facilities, including six floodlit Plexicushion tennis courts and stadium seating for more than 600 spectators.

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Relay Team & Individual Entries Available

RACE DISTANCES AND AGE GROUPS

Juniors (6-8yrs)
50M Swim / 3KM Bike / 500M Run

Intermediate (9-11yrs)
150M Swim / 6KM Bike / 1.5KM Run

Seniors (12-17yrs)
300M Swim / 12KM Bike / 3KM Run

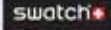
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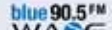
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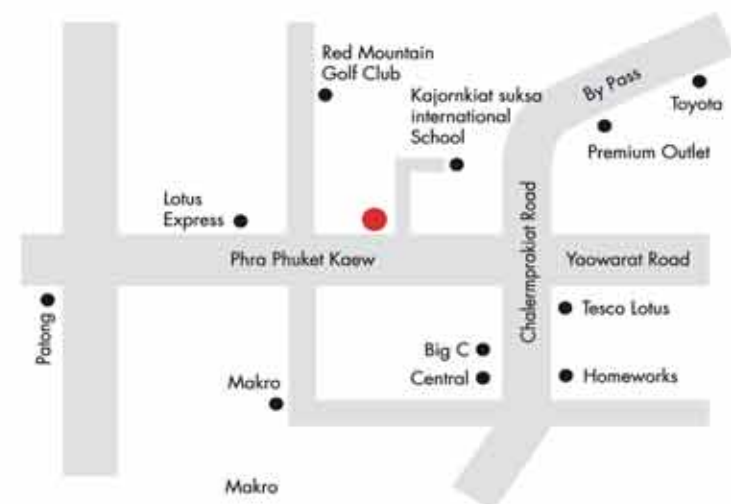
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Sansiri encourages iodized salt consumption to help boost IQ of children