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IT'S INSIDE TODAY

December 1 - 7, 2012

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■ **ALL MOBILE TOUTS NEED TO TAKE A HIKE, SAYS KARON MAYOR**

Karon Beach touts hit hard

■ Walking tous along Karon, Kata Beaches face imminent legal action as raids continue

By **Irfan Jamdukor**

THE Mayor of Kata-Karon Municipality this week ramped up his campaign to clear all walking tous from the beaches and beachfront roads in the popular tourist areas of Kata and Karon.

Municipality officers targeted the illegal beach tous during the Loy Krathong festival, which was observed by millions of Thais across the country on Wednesday.

The beach-cleanup campaign began softly last month with the municipality issuing warning letters to beach food vendors in the area, including those selling food at beachfront roadside stalls or from motorbikes with sidecars, Mayor Tawee told the *Gazette* on Tuesday.

"After issuing the warning, we fined many vendors, with each one facing a fine of up to 2,000 baht," he said.

"However, some of them came back to sell food on the beach. Three vendors in particular are always there. They're not going anywhere," he added.

The disrespect for the law earned all mobile vendors a series of raids by municipal officers evicting them from their usual stomping grounds on November 1...

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FANNING THE FIRE: Tous showing blatant disregard for the law. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo



**Extradited Aldhouse
to arrive from UK
Saturday to stand
trial for slaying
American Marine**

Full story on Page 2

**Clock still ticking for
Paris Hilton New Year
beach extravaganza**

WITH only a month left, Sydicitve Element has yet to win over local authorities and gain the necessary approval for the three-day New Year beach party announced by Paris Hilton in October.

Full story on Page 4

**Officers to establish
routes for underpass
emergency vehicles**

PHUKET City Police and staff at Phuket International Hospital are working together to determine viable emergency routes for ambulances during rush hour as the Central Festival junction construction gets underway.

Full story on Page 3

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This Week



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HotelTravel reveals B760mn 'partnership' deal. **p 12**



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David Mayes explains investment bonds. **p 16**



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Gary Hawkins tells you what SSI is all about. **p 38**



Food

Chef Cheryl finds that cooking is a breeze. **p 40**



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A look back at LPT and a look forward to Laguna Ironman 70.3 **p 48**

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Prosecutor readies charges over Tiger Disco fire deaths

By Chutharat Plerin

THE Phuket Public Prosecutor's Office is in the final stage of preparing its case against the operators of Tiger Discotheque over the fire that broke out at the Patong nightclub on August 17.

The popular night venue on Patong's Soi Bangla erupted into flames just before 4am, while hundreds of patrons were still inside.

Four people died in the inferno, including two tourists.

"We are now checking our documents to make sure we have a good legal case to present in court," Phuket Chief Public Prosecutor Chiengsean Panhya told the *Gazette* on Monday.

However, he added that his office was still waiting for more evidence to bolster its case. "We are waiting on more witness statements to be provided by Patong Police before we can make the final decision on which charges to pursue and to make sure our case is strong," he said.

Patong Police Superintendent Chiraphat Pochanaphan told the *Gazette* that the key parts of the investigation had been completed.

"The main part of the investigation has been done and submitted to the Public Prosecutor, including the gathering of evidence regarding the electrical short that started the fire," he said.



Tiger Discotheque Legal Counsel Thamrongsak Boonrak has appealed for a fair hearing into any allegations of wrongdoing. Photo: Gazette file

Col Chiraphat added that his officers were also gathering witness statements related to the club trading after hours.

"The Public Prosecutor asked us to get more specific witness statements detailing exactly what time the club was open. Many witnesses have already testified that the club was open after hours, but none of them said exactly what time the club was open," he said.

"We expect to have those witness statements ready soon and we will hand them over to the Public Prosecutor as soon as we have them," Col Chiraphat added.

Thamrongsak Boonrak, Legal Counsel for Tiger Discotheque,

confirmed to the *Gazette* that police have charged Tiger Group CEO Piya Isaramalai and Sara Entertainment Co Ltd, the company that runs Tiger Discotheque, with negligence causing death and physical and mental injury to others and with trading after hours.

"I have submitted a letter to the Public Prosecutor appealing for a fair investigation into any allegations of wrongdoing, which include claims relating to trading after hours, the electrical short [that experts believe started the fire], flammable materials used throughout the nightclub and modification of the building's structure," he said.

Police appeal to identify body

POLICE are appealing to the public for help in identifying a body of a man found floating off Koh Racha Yai on November 23.

The body was reportedly spotted and first reported by a passing recreational dive boat.

Police believed the deceased man, dressed only in underwear, may be a foreigner based on the heavy bone structure.

Lt Wuttiwat Liangboonjinda of the Phuket City Police described the body as that of a middle-aged male, about 172 centimeters tall, with a tattoo on the inside of his right forearm.

Officers were unable to determine what the image was.

"We believe the corpse had been in the water for several days

because of the state of decay," Lt Wuttiwat told the *Gazette*, but added that it was unlikely to have been more than 10 days.

"We have checked with hotels and resorts on Koh Racha Yai, but none reported any missing guests. One possibility is that the man died elsewhere and drifted with the currents.

"We have contacted every police station in Phuket, requesting that they check with the hotels and resorts in their area to see if they have any missing guests," Lt Wuttiwat explained.

Any persons with information that may help are urged to call Phuket City Police Station at 076-212129.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

Aldhouse in Phuket this weekend

BRITISH national Lee Aldhouse, wanted in Phuket for the stabbing murder of former US Marine Dashawn Longfellow in August 2010, will be extradited from the UK and will arrive in Phuket on Saturday (December 1).

New Scotland Yard confirmed to the *Gazette* on Tuesday that Aldhouse "was arrested on a provisional extradition warrant on 24 September 2012 and appeared at Westminster Magistrates' Court that afternoon where he was remanded in custody to re-appear at the court on the 30 September 2010."

Aldhouse, also known by his kickboxing nickname "The Pitbull", will arrive at Phuket International Airport about 7pm,



Police have confirmed that Lee Aldhouse is on his way. Photo: AFP

said Chalong Police Superintendent Sirisak Wasasiri.

Chalong Police will form part of the police protection unit assigned to transfer Aldhouse from the airport, he added.

"We have received official notice to escort Mr Aldhouse from

the airport, where he will be arriving at about 7pm. At this stage, that is all we know," Col Sirisak said on Tuesday.

Aldhouse, now 30, successfully fled Thailand after he allegedly stabbed Longfellow to death in August 2010. He was later arrested at Heathrow Airport on an unrelated charge when he tried to re-enter the UK.

The Office of the Attorney General in Bangkok, citing a preponderance of evidence in the case, moved quickly to request the extradition of Mr Aldhouse.

The OAG assured the British Government that he would not face the death penalty if convicted.

— **Phuket Gazette**



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Big Buddha pickup flips



The truck overturned en route to the Big Buddha monument.

EIGHT people were injured last Sunday when a pickup converted into a small bus flipped onto its side while descending Karon Hill.

Phuket City Police Capt Thada Sodarak told the *Gazette* that the accident occurred at about 10am near the sharp "Sator Curve" while the vehicle was descending the hill heading towards Chalong Circle.

Officers arrived at the scene to find a white Isuzu pickup emblazoned with "Phuket Big Buddha Association" lying on its side.

"Not far from the vehicle we found the driver and seven passengers," Capt Thada said.

"The pickup was heading from Karon to the Big Buddha. The driver could not control the vehicle in the wet conditions and it flipped over," he said.

— *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

Ambulance delay fears

Hospitals worry underpass construction will affect response times

By Irfan Jamdukor

STAFF at Phuket International Hospital and officers from the Phuket City Police Traffic Division are working together to come up with viable routes for ambulances to make sure they can get patients to the facility in an emergency during rush hour.

The news follows project contractor Italian-Thai Development Co placing concrete blocks on the inside lanes of the north side of the Darasamuth Intersection on November 23 so that work on the 600-million-baht underpass could begin.

"We are seriously concerned about the underpass roadwork causing delays in ambulances reaching the hospital during rush hour," a senior manager at Phuket International Hospital told the *Gazette*.

"This is a big issue. We have to ensure direct access to the hospital while the underpass is under construction. We have two ways that ambulances can bring patients: the bypass road [Chalermprakiat Ror IX Road], where the construction is, and Bang Yai Road [which



There is genuine concern that underpass construction will affect ambulance response times at Bangkok International (left), Vachira Phuket (center) and Phuket International (right) Hospitals. Photo: Gazette file

runs behind the hospital and the Big C shopping center]."

Narong Kittiphongwiwat, Chief Inspector of the Phuket City Police Traffic Division, also rated the issue as high priority.

"This is an important issue that we have to handle. The Phuket Highways Office and the contractor have already consulted with us on coming up with a solution.

"We must add more traffic



police officers to regulate traffic flow through the junction during the construction," he said.

"Also, people should learn which other routes to take in order to avoid adding to traffic congestion at the intersection," he added.

Narongrit Havarungsi, Director at Bangkok Hospital Phuket, said that his staff were monitoring the effect the underpass roadwork is



having on traffic in the area and ambulance response times, but at this stage – and due to the hospital's location – were not considering the issue critical.

"We are keeping an eye on how the traffic will affect us in case it becomes an issue in the future. However, we are not overly concerned at this stage and have yet to adjust any operational policies related to this," he said.

Mobile touts targeted in Karon, Kata Beach raids

From page 1

Mayor Tawee explained that vendors may continue to sell fruit on the beach and massage operators would remain unaffected.

However, Chief Administrative Officer of Karon Municipality Weerasak Anakewongsawad said that all mobile beach touts had to clear out.

Mayor Tawee said he had support from the officials at Provincial Hall to carry out the campaign (see page 6).

"Officials from the Provincial Office, Chalong Police and Karon Municipality will conduct joint raids in a big cleanup of the area," he said.

"After the raids, we will discuss with Provincial Hall officials what the permanent rules for Karon beach vendors will be so we can avoid further problems and be fair to everyone so that beach vendors will still be able to make a living," Mayor Tawee added.

Wanchaloem Hemsalamad of



Kata Beach touts. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

Karon Municipality's Public Health and Environment Office clarified that legally registered restaurants that have been inspected and approved by health officials and issued a license to prepare and sell food may continue to do so

Additional reporting: Chutharat Plerin

Krabi gang yet to stand trial

THE two youngsters charged with the vicious attack on a British couple on holiday in Krabi last month have yet to stand trial.

Lt Col Niwat Pimket of the Ao Nang Police, who is the leading investigator into the attack on British tourists Jack Cole and April Clifton, told the *Gazette* that both teenagers had been presented in court and charged with gang-attack causing serious injury and carrying a knife as a weapon in public, but the pair had yet to stand trial.

"I expect to receive the documents, which detail the 17-year-old's background, soon;



British tourist Jack Cole in hospital last month. Photo: Gazette file

then his case can be tried in court," said Col Niwat on November 23.

The case against the other teenager charged over the attack, Anusorn Kullak, 18, is ready, but his trial must wait as the charges

against the two men have been presented to the court to be heard as the same case, Col Niwat explained.

The news follows Mr Cole and Ms Clifton appearing in an in-depth report in leading UK newspaper *The Sun*. The report stated that, "They were found guilty and jailed for three and ten years respectively. Three others have been arrested, but so far there have been no more convictions."

However, Col Niwat explained that only two suspects were charged, let alone tried, as Mr Cole could positively identify only two of his assailants.

— *Atchaa Khamlo*

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Paris Hilton beach party still battling for approval

By Chutharat Plerin

PRESSURE is building on event organizer Sydictive Element to win over local authorities in order to gain approval for the three-day New Year Phuket beach party announced by Paris Hilton in Bangkok last month.

Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut told the *Gazette* on November 22 that he had reservations about the depth of the effort and resources being committed to make sure that such a large-scale event does not adversely affect local residents and businesses.

"In my opinion, the organizer must explore the small details, not just the overall picture. Identify exactly what the impact will be on the environment with regard to noise and how the locals are affected. Perhaps the organizers could consider down-sizing the party, as managing 50,000 people is a tall order," he said.

However, he also said he would



Cherng Talay OrBorTor President Ma-ann Samram says he doesn't want the party on Surin Beach – but he will approve it if the organizers gain approval from local residents and businesses. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

give his approval if all the key stakeholders who will be affected by the party agreed to the event.

"I'm very much the middleman in this issue. I've had hotel owners, local government and other business operators coming to see

me regarding this event.

"They should sort the problem out themselves. I have tasked President [of the Cherng Talay OrBorTor] Ma-ann [Samram] to get this resolved and inform me of the result," he said.

Hoteliers at Surin Beach petitioned the governor on November 6 to cancel the party, claiming that just the announcement of the party alone had cost them 8 million baht in room cancellations.

Meanwhile, Ma-ann Samran has yet to be convinced that the party would be a positive development for Surin Beach. "I have talked to villagers in the area and my concern is the damage to the local environment, especially the trash that will have to be cleaned up after the party," he told the *Gazette* last Friday.

In light of the controversy surrounding the event, the *Phuket Gazette* ran a two-week online poll, asking "Should Phuket host mega-event beach parties such as the Paris Hilton mega New Year Party at Surin Beach?"

The poll closed on Tuesday, with more than 83% of the 3,489 respondents voting, "No – Never. Events such as this do Phuket tourism more harm than good."

Mystery drugs suspected in tourist death

POLICE suspect unbranded drugs may have contributed to the death of a British tourist whose body was discovered in his resort guest room on Tuesday morning.

The man, a 64-year-old British national, was found dead by his female companion in the couple's room at a resort at Nai Thon Beach at about 9am.

"At the scene, we found several unidentified medicines in the room. We have sent these for testing to determine precisely what the drugs are," said Pol Capt Prakorp Boonkwan.

The man's body was found lying on the bed and there were no signs of a struggle in the room, he added.

"The body will be sent to the Institute of Forensic Medicine at Police General Hospital in Bangkok in order to determine the cause of death," explained Capt Prakorp.

"We will continue our investigation, but we will have to wait for the test results before we can confirm the cause of death," he added.

– *Thawit Bilabduddar*

Police not to post response to 'Evil man from Krabi'

KRABI Provincial Police will not post any further video response to the "Evil man from Krabi" YouTube music video, which accused them of dereliction of duty in the case of the rape of a Dutch tourist.

The original video response posted by the police was in Thai only and has subsequently been taken down.

"I have discussed the matter with Krabi Governor Prasit Osathanon and other officials and we agree that it would be counter-productive to post any 'The Truth From Krabi' video on YouTube," Krabi Provincial Police Commander Nantadech Yoinuan told the *Gazette* on Monday.

The video "The Truth From Krabi" was posted on YouTube as Krabi Police's response to the accusations by the father of the tourist reportedly raped while on holiday at Ao Nang, across Phang Nga Bay from Phuket.

The video explained why the accused was released on bail and what progress had been made in the case so far.

Krabi Police, after meeting with provincial officials including Governor Prasit, also considered posting an English-language version of the video.

However, they have now changed their minds.

Gen Nantadech told the *Gazette* that the "Evil man from Krabi" video had not stopped tourists from visiting Krabi, despite a leading local tourism figure saying the video had already cost the local industry income through room



Given the current situation, we do not believe that posting the video would have any positive effect, said Maj Gen Nantadech Yoinuan.

booking cancellations.

"Given the current situation, we don't believe that posting a response will have any positive effect," he added.

Gen Nantadech explained that Thailand's laws are different from those of other countries.

"In Thailand, once police have collected all evidence, questioned witnesses and the suspect has surrendered himself, the police hand him over to the public prosecutor and provincial courts.

"Whether or not he will be released on bail is firmly under the court's jurisdiction. He has the right to apply for bail," he said.

"In the 'Evil man' video, it says that the police 'easily' released the suspect. Absolutely not. It was the judge who granted bail. The police were not involved with that final decision," Gen Nantadech explained.

– *Chutharat Plerin*

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Protesters home after rally

By Orawin Narabal

THE hundreds of Phuket protesters who joined the Pitak Siam anti-government rally in Bangkok [see page 9] last weekend have arrived home safe in Phuket.

Concerns were raised on November 24 when police officers enforcing a cordon around the protest site at the Royal Plaza fired tear gas into the crowd and clashes between the protesters and police ensued.

Police Spokesman Maj Gen Piya Uthayo went on national television later that night to explain that the scuffles broke out after police responded to efforts by the protesters to break through the police ranks lined up to force rally attendees to parade along the mandated route to the protest site.

An eye-witness account published by the *Gazette* partner publication *The Nation* reported that demonstrators were told to confront police by unknown members of the crowd with a loudhailer.

Apharat Chartchutikumjorn, the Pitak Siam coordinator for

Phuket, confirmed to the *Gazette* last Sunday afternoon that none of the Phuket contingent was injured in the scuffles.

"Some Phuket supporters suffered eye irritation from the tear gas, but fortunately none of us suffered any serious injuries," she said.

"Also, none of the Phuket protesters at the rally were detained by police. And all the supporters who were detained were released after we agreed to end the rally," she explained.

Ms Apharat said that the protest leader General Boonlert Kaewprasit called off the rally because he saw that the number of protesters was gradually becoming fewer and fewer.

"They were being blocked off [from reaching the protest site] by police officers," said Ms Apharat.

"Gen Boonlert was also worried that the situation might become more violent because he was told by some authorities that if the protesters insisted on staying, the officers would take stronger measures, as well as cut off the electricity and water.



Apharat Chartchutikumjorn (2nd from left), the rally coordinator for Phuket, and three colleagues arrived home in Phuket last Sunday afternoon.

"They were forcing us away," she said.

Since then, normalcy has returned to the capital.

Police Commissioner-General Adul Saengsingkaew has since announced that police have lifted

barriers on the nine roads where public access had been restricted.

Despite the protest not achieving its objective, Ms Apharat was happy to be back in Phuket.

"Although we were not successful, I am happy that we

have arrived home safe," she said.

Some analysts reported that the handling of the protest was likely to have made Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra's administration stronger and boosted public confidence in her leadership.



The rally site before police fired riot gas at protesters, who the police said were attempting to breach the barricades. Photos: Apharat Chartchutikumjorn/Facebook

Patong hotel fall survivor out of intensive care

TWO weeks after falling from the 18th floor of a Patong hotel, a 39-year-old Australian tourist was moved from the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) to an orthopedic ward at Vachira Phuket Hospital this week.

The man, originally from Sydney, suffered broken ribs, a punctured lung and serious injuries to his left leg when he fell from the balcony adjoining his room at the Royal Paradise Hotel & Spa in Patong.

A spokesperson for the hospital's International Department told the *Gazette* on Monday that the Australian was breathing unaided and had been taken off life-support equipment.

"He still cannot sit, but responds well to stimuli and can eat and speak normally. However, he will need treatment for at least a month to allow the multiple fractures to start to heal," she said.

The spokesperson added that although the man is now on his own, his sister had visited and remained with him for three days before she returned to Australia.

— Orawin Narabal

Rawai councilor death prompts by-election

THE death of councilor Samart Piman in September led to San Changlek being elected councilor to Rawai Municipality after a close by-election on November 18.

According to the preliminary count, Mr San received 895 votes, just 32 votes more than those cast in favor of Sommai Yukunakorn, his only rival for the Ward 1 seat on the Rawai Municipal Council.

Phuket Election Commission Director Kittipong Thiengkunakrit told the *Gazette* that 1,884 voters turned out at the polls.

"Of all the votes cast, 1,758 ballots were valid, 54 were 'spoiled votes' and 72 people chose the 'No Vote' option," said Mr Kittipong.



Samart Piman Photo: Rawai Municipality Office

The council seat was designated vacant after Samart Piman died in a road accident on September 14, he explained.

Rawai Mayor Arun Soros told the *Gazette*, "Mr Samart was riding his motorcycle home when he was hit from behind by another motorbike. He was waiting to turn right to enter his driveway, just over 100 meters from the Sai Yuan traffic lights on Wiset Road.

Mr Kittipong said that his office must now send the preliminary election results to the Election Commission of Thailand's head office in Bangkok for confirmation before Mr San can officially be installed as councilor for Rawai Ward 1.

— Chutharat Plerin

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Teacher's helper suspended over smack claim



Ms Ratkaphat filed the complaint with Prapan Kanprasang, chief of the Damrongtham Center.

A FEMALE teaching assistant at Koh Kaew Child Development Center has been suspended pending an investigation over a mother's claim that the assistant slapped her 4-year-old son in the face.

Ratkaphat Tonnum, 41, mother of the student at the center of the incident, told the *Gazette* that she had originally filed a complaint with the Koh Kaew Tambon Administrative Organization (*OrBorTor*).

Having not heard of any progress, on November 22 she filed a separate complaint with Prapan Kanprasang, the chief of the Phuket Damrongtham Center (provincial ombudsman's office) at Provincial Hall.

Ms Ratkaphat recounted the incident, which allegedly occurred on November 14.

"After my son had returned home from school I noticed a red mark on his cheek. After badgering him for about 20 minutes, he finally told me that he was slapped by a teaching assistant at school," Ms Ratkaphat explained.

In response to the allegations, Koh Kaew *OrBorTor* council president Khuakiet Chitkhua told the *Gazette* that he was taking action.

"If the allegation proves to be true, her employment will be terminated," said Mr Khuakiet.

— *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

Vice governor targets slew of beach management woes

By Atchaa Khamlo

PHUKET Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada has ordered every municipality and local administrative organization on the island to report all of their beach related issues.

The move is an attempt to redress a slew of problems ranging from floating lanterns affecting air traffic at Phuket Airport to illegal beach vendors counter-suing officials as a "stall tactic".

The news follows a meeting at Provincial Hall on November 19, where Vice Governor Chamroen heard a long and varied list of complaints by local authorities.

Beach encroachment was identified as a key issue at Laem Singh, Surin, Nai Yang and Yanui beaches.

Fireworks and floating lanterns – the latter especially enjoyed by tourists and celebrants during the annual Loy Krathong Festival, held this year on Wednesday – were identified as another source of complaint.

"The use of fireworks and floating lanterns must be restricted. I would like to permit such activities only for special celebrations," said Karon Deputy Mayor Itthiporn Sangkaew.

The complaint by Deputy Mayor Itthiporn follows Winai Chidchiew, the chief of Karon Subdistrict (Kamnan), being accused of allegedly threatening municipal officers into allowing firework displays to be held late at night in Karon.

"Also, tuk-tuks and taxis in the popular tourist beach areas of Kata and Karon need constant supervision and steps need to be



V/Gov Chamroen (left) heard a raft of problems from officials, from floating 'fire lanterns' affecting the airport to Winai Dechanupap's complaint that illegal vendors were counter-suing officials to delay eventual eviction.

taken to stave off damage to the environment," Mr Itthiporn added.

Concern was raised that hotels in Sakoo and at Mai Khao, on Phuket's northwestern shore, allowed guests to set alight the floating lanterns and fireworks, releasing them skyward, potential affecting air traffic arriving at Phuket International Airport.

As a result, it was requested that such activities be banned from being held within a six-kilometer radius of the airport to ensure air traffic is not affected, and that the Provincial Office issue a formal notice to hotels in the area.

Winai Dechanupap, of the Sakoo Tambon Administrative Organization (*OrBorTor*), raised another troubling issue: illegal

beach vendors counter-suing local authorities as a delaying tactic to allow them to continue trading until their case is heard in court.

"More beach vendors have set up stalls on Nai Yang Beach. We are trying to stop them, but it seems they want to present their cases in court. The process of a judge hearing the case can take years, thus allowing them to continue to operate their businesses until the judge hands down a decision," Mr Winai explained.

An officer from Rawai Municipality explained that Rawai Mayor Aroon Solos is currently facing legal action for Rawai Municipality attempting to repair a badly damaged section of footpath that

was washed away by strong waves over the years.

"The mayor is being sued by a developer who claims to own the land," the officer said.

Concerns were also raised about untreated wastewater being piped into the sea at Yanui and Nai Harn Beaches, and at Koh Racha Yai Island – all three of which are popular swimming and snorkeling locations for tourists.

V/Gov Chamroen gave all local authorities until November 30 to file their list of complaints.

"Then we will discuss what action to take and we will dedicate one beach as a 'pilot beach' to launch a beach management project," he said.

Kata Reef roped off for safety

A REEF line has been installed around the North Kata Reef to protect swimmers, scuba divers and snorkelers from boat traffic and to prevent damage to the reef.

Staff from the Marine Safety Center in Kata and volunteers from the environmental conservation organization Go Eco Phuket joined forces with local government agencies to complete the task.

"It's important that we set the buoy line out at the beginning of each high season in order to keep the jet-skis, longtail boats and speedboats from damaging it, and to prevent them from colliding with divers and snorkelers," Go Eco Phuket member Joe Blasy told the *Gazette*.

"Much of Kata Reef lies just a few centimeters below the surface at low tide. We have secured 10 mooring lines in six to 10 meters of water," he explained.

Bouy lines were strung between the 10 mooring lines in order to clearly mark off the reef area.



Marine Safety Center personnel (pictured) were widely praised for their assistance. "We couldn't have done it without them," said Ms Leach.

Jet-skis and longtail boat operators were briefed to steer clear of the buoy lines at a meeting, explained Go Eco Phuket organizer Kerry Leach.

"There is now an area where tourists can enjoy the reef without being scared to death of boat traffic," she said.

Mr Blasy explained that the Go Eco Phuket marine conservation group had many more projects in

various stages of progress (see page 38).

"We have a lot of ideas on which direction to take Go Eco Phuket, including but not limited to education of Thai youths on the importance of conservation and environmental consciousness, fishing net 'buy-back' programs and even sinking more artificial reefs in the area," he said.

— *Isaac Stone Simonelli*

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Krabi police silence noisy exhaust pipes



Krabi Governor Prasit and Maj Gen Nantadech oversee the crushing of the illegally modified exhaust pipes.

KRABI Police destroyed more than 600 illegal motorbike exhaust pipes seized during police checks in September.

At a ceremony on November 20 to mark the culmination of a campaign entitled "Youths join together: ride motorbikes without modified exhaust pipes", Krabi Governor Prasit Osathanon and Krabi Police Commander Nantadech Yoinuan witnessed the crushing of the impounded modified exhaust pipes.

"The destruction of these pipes is part of a greater Royal Thai Police campaign to stamp out illegal [exhaust] pipe modifications," said Maj Gen Nantadech.

Krabi City Traffic Police officer Piyarat Buakhao, who is in charge of the project locally, said that many youths created excessive noise by fitting non-standard exhaust pipes to their motorbikes.

"Some youths handed over the illegal pipes to police. Other modified pipes were confiscated after arrests. We will carry on with checks for illegal pipes to put a stop to the noise pollution they cause." Lt Col Piyarat said.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

Hard Rock Cafe says thanks to first responders

THE Hard Rock Cafe Phuket celebrated "Thanksgiving" by inviting 20 firemen for a Thanksgiving lunch at their venue.

These were the first responders from Patong Municipality Fire Department who assisted with the Hard Rock Cafe patio fire that took place on October 18 causing only superficial damage.

The firefighting team, led by Visit Mathasontornpoj, general administration officer of Patong

Municipality, was able to enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving meal and a memorabilia tour by Hard Rock's Acting General Manager, Roland Nicolich.

The patio itself was re-opened on November 8 with a live performance by the Rock Evolutions band, who are on stage nightly.

It is not known whether they performed the Talking Heads classic *Burning Down The House*.

— **Phuket Gazette**



The Patong firefighters were given lunch and a guided tour of the club.

Governor unveils 'Seven Wonders'

By Chutharat Plerin

PHUKET Governor Maitri Inthusut in an exclusive interview with the *Gazette* on November 22 revealed his personal philosophy in handling the high-level decisions and complicated issues that Phuket faces as a resort province.

"This is my seventh week as the Governor of Phuket and the *Phuket Gazette* is the first English-language publication I have had a chance to talk to exclusively," he said.

Friendly, open and focused on people broadening their perspectives in order to better achieve their goals – Governor Maitri explained that he adhered to several key principles that he calls his "Seven Wonders".

So deeply does Governor Maitri believe in these fundamental approaches to work and life that he has published a book entitled *Seven Wonders: learning how to develop your career potential*.

"The seven strategies altogether focus on being aware of your environment. You must know what is going on; you must 'know all around'," he said.

"First, you must know the people who surround you – the people you work with. Second,



Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut meets the *Gazette*. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

you must know what those people do, and what they are responsible for achieving. That way you know who to approach directly in order to fix problems," Governor Maitri explained.

The third wonder was "Know How", he added. "You have to

know the rules, processes and how to push forward within the organization," Governor Maitri said.

"The fourth strategy is 'Know When'. You must know when to 'knock on the door' to have problems fixed.

"The fifth strategy is called

'Give & Take Management', followed by 'Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats' [SWOT] management. The more you know people's strengths and weaknesses, the better you can manage them," he said.

The final strategy Governor Maitri has branded as "Charm management".

"You must know how to manage yourself to be charming so people want to talk to you. This way they come close to you and feel at ease when they talk to you," he explained.

"These are just some of the philosophies I use in performing my work as governor, but anyone can employ these strategies to improve their lives.

"I have found that these truths provide genuine benefits. I applied them during my time as governor in Trang and Phayao provinces – they worked well. I am now adjusting these strategies to apply them here in Phuket. I am sure they will work well here, too," Governor Maitri said.

"I have handed copies of the book to officers here, so anyone can take this advice and use it in their working lives. There are many good things in the book, which can make everyone happy," he added.

'Mad scientist' Elon Musk aims for a Phuket-sized city on Mars

ELON Musk, the billionaire founder and CEO of private spaceflight company SpaceX, has unveiled plans to build a colony on Mars that would accommodate around 80,000 people and occupy as much real estate as the size of Phuket Town, *Gizmodo* reported on their website.

NASA landed the Curiosity Rover on Mars earlier this year, but Musk is already talking plans. Initially, the company would send about 10 people at a time aboard a huge reusable rocket powered by liquid oxygen and methane.

The first arrivals' top priority would be to see if living on the Red Planet is viable – probably as the Mars equivalent of conducting an Environmental Impact Assessment at Saphan Hin.

The colonizers would need tons of equipment, including



MARS PLOTS: Chanote title deeds may be available soon. Photo: NASA

construction materials to build transparent domes to cover the newly built "shophouses" that will be pressurized to allow them to grow crops, as well as machines

that will produce fertilizer.

It would appear that Musk is thinking about "sustainability", a concept that that Phuket authorities are really only just getting to grips with. "On Mars, you can start a self-sustaining civilization and grow it into something really big," Musk told an audience at the Royal Aeronautical Society in London on November 16.

The whole plan is estimated to cost US\$36 billion which, Musk hopes to be funded jointly by SpaceX and the US government. Eventually, he hopes to offer to taxi passengers to Mars at US\$500,000 a ticket.

That said, he didn't mention how he would deal with the inevitable queue at immigration, taxis from the spaceport and hawkers trying to sell you a made-to-measure Armani spacesuit.

— **Phuket Gazette**

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Anti-government rally fails

LAST weekend's anti-government protest by Pitak Siam ended in failure on the day it started, with leader Gen Boonlert Kaewprasit calling off the rally on Saturday evening and declaring that the group had "lost to evil".

The declaration came after some 137 people had been arrested, many in possession of weapons. Many more were injured by tear gas as police tried to prevent protesters pushing through barricades.

Two police officers were seriously injured.

The government took a hard line on the protest, invoking the Internal Security Act that gave security forces more powers to suppress the demonstration.

Police estimated the number of protesters at 20,000, while organizers put the figure at 50,000. Earlier, Gen Boonlert had vowed the protest would draw 1 million people.

Gen Boonlert said he called off the protest because the number of participants was smaller than expected, *The Nation* reported.

All over the country, supporters

AROUND THE nation

of the protest were blocked from travelling along the main roads to Bangkok, such as Phetchakasem, Sukhumvit and Phaholyothin, he said.

He added that he was concerned about the well-being of protesters after police fired tear-gas canisters at them. He claimed that signs of bullets having been fired were also found at the protest site.

Gen Boonlert said he would not lead such a street demonstration again.

"General Boonlert is already dead. I have lost to evil," he said in an emotional announcement on the protest's main stage.

All 137 protesters arrested were later released, with the exception of one man detained for allegedly driving the truck that hit and seriously injured a police officer.



Police scuffle with anti-government protesters near a government house in Bangkok. Photo: Reuters

Both Pitak Siam and the authorities have since traded accusations over the protest.

While Pitak Siam claims the

government had broken agreements to let the "peaceful and democratic" protest take place, the government claims that the group

had attempted to incite violence with the intention of provoking the Army into staging a coup to restore order.

Dems target govt in no-confidence debate

ALMOST as soon as Pitak Siam's attempt to oust the government ended, the Democrat Party launched its own bid to fell the Yingluck Shinawatra administration – this time by more democratic means.

November 25 saw the first session of a three-day no-confidence debate in which the opposition launched attacks on major government figures, including Deputy Prime Minister Chalermsak Yooamrungsak, Defence Minister Sukumpol Suwanat and Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra herself.

With the government controlling three-fifths of the seats in Thailand's lower house, it was never likely to lose the vote. However, the debates were an opportunity for the opposition to attempt to damage the current administration's credibility.



MP Chuwit Photo: The Nation

Particularly heated were exchanges between Mr Chalermsak and maverick MP Chuwit Kamolvisit, *The Nation* reported.

Former brothel tycoon Mr Chuwit implied that Mr Chalermsak, who oversees the Royal Thai Police, had taken bribes from gambling den owners.

Surapong moves on with ICC

FOREIGN Minister Surapong Towichukchaikul is pushing forward with his bid to have the International Criminal Court (ICC) investigate the deaths during the 2010 red-shirt protests.

Mr Surapong was due to meet on Thursday with representatives of relevant agencies to discuss giving the ICC jurisdiction over the issue.



He hopes to allow the international court to take cases against the previous administration of Abhisit Vejjajiva relating to the deaths of 98 people, mostly during crackdowns on April 10

and May 19, 2010.


He said the recognition would not be tantamount to losing the country's court sovereignty because the ICC would not interfere in cases that could be handled by Thai Criminal Court.

"We want to speed up the issue because we don't want to see more coups and more undemocratic actions or killings of Thais," Mr Surapong said.

Meanwhile, a Criminal Court inquest concluded on Monday that a red-shirt protester was killed by bullets fired by soldiers.

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In brief...

Gaza thanks Iran for war rockets

GAZANS offered public thanks to Iran on Tuesday for helping them in this month's conflict against Israel, when Iranian-made missiles were fired out of the Palestinian enclave towards Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

"Thank you Iran", said large billboards on three major road junctions in the Gaza Strip – the first time there has been such public acknowledgment of Iran's role in the arming of Islamic militants in the tiny territory.

The message was written in Arabic, English, Hebrew and Farsi.

Call for return of Red Army scrolls

HUNGARIAN Jews have asked Russia to return scrolls and valuable religious items looted by Nazis and the Red Army during World War II. Their claim has received public support from the Budapest government.

Up to 400 Torah scrolls and thousands of vestments, crowns and other articles are being held in museums and storage in Russia, said Slomo Koves, executive rabbi of the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation.

Yuan, me: US

THE Obama administration said on Tuesday that China's currency remained "significantly undervalued," but stopped short of labeling the world's second-biggest economy a currency manipulator.

Although Beijing controls the pace at which the yuan can rise, the US Treasury said in a congressionally mandated semi-annual report that China did not meet the legal requirements to be deemed a currency manipulator.

Arafat assassination woes spark exhumation probe

By Jihan Abdalla

FORENSIC experts took samples from Yasser Arafat's corpse in the West Bank on Tuesday, trying to determine if he was murdered with the hard-to-trace radioactive poison, polonium.

Palestinians witnessed the funeral of their hero and long-time leader eight years ago, but conspiracy theories surrounding his death have never been laid to rest.

Many are convinced their icon was the victim of assassination by Israeli agents, and may have been poisoned wittingly or unwittingly by a Palestinian. They may remain convinced of that, whatever the outcome of this autopsy.

Arafat's body was uncovered in the grave and samples removed without moving the corpse. The tomb was resealed in hours and wreaths placed by Palestinian leaders including Prime Minister Salam Fayyad.

The head of the Palestinian investigation committee, Tawfiq Tirawi, said the procedure went smoothly. A Palestinian medical team took samples and gave them to each of the Swiss, French and Russian forensic teams.

"We need proof in order to find those who are behind this assassination and take it to the ICC [International Criminal Court]," he said.

"Israel is occupying our land, and assassinations are not new, they have committed several, publicly and secretly... what's to stop them from assassinating Abu Ammar [Arafat]?"

French magistrates in August opened a murder inquiry into



Palestinians walk past a mural depicting late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat (R) in Gaza City. Photo: Reuters

Arafat's death in Paris in 2004, after a Swiss institute said it had discovered high levels of polonium on clothing of his which was supplied by his widow, Suha, for a television documentary.

"The state of the body was exactly what you would expect to find for someone who has been buried for eight years," Health Minister Hani Abdeen told a news conference. "There was nothing out of the ordinary."

Jordanian doctor Abdullah al Bashir, head of the Palestinian medical committee, said about 20 samples were taken and analysis would take at least three months.

"In order to do these analyses, to check, cross-check and double

cross-check, it will take several months and I don't think we'll have anything tangible available before March or April next year," said Darcy Christen, spokesman for Lausanne University Hospital in Switzerland that carried out the original tests on Arafat's clothes.

Arafat was always a freedom fighter to Palestinians, but a terrorist to Israelis first and a partner for peace only later. He led the bid for a Palestinian state through years of war and peacemaking, then died in a French hospital aged 75 after a short, mysterious illness.

No autopsy was carried out at the time, at the request of Suha, and French doctors who treated him said they were unable to de-

termine the cause of death.

But allegations of foul play surfaced immediately. Arafat had enemies among his own people, but many Palestinians pointed the finger at Israel, which confined the leader to his West Bank headquarters in Ramallah for the final two and a half years of his life, after a Palestinian uprising erupted.

Israel denies killing him. Its leader at the time, Ariel Sharon, now lies in a coma from which he is expected never to awake. Israel invited the Palestinian leadership to release all Arafat's medical records, which were never made public following his death and still have not been opened. – Reuters

Bangladesh mourns factory fire victims

BANGLADESH officials said on Tuesday that a fire that killed 111 textile workers was sabotage as protesters took to the streets for a second day and garment factories across the world's second biggest clothes exporter stopped work to mourn.

The fire, the country's worst-ever industrial blaze, broke out on November 24 and consumed a multi-storey building of a Tazreen Fashions factory. More than 150 workers were injured.

The fire has put a spotlight on global retailers that source clothes from Bangladesh, where some workers are paid as little as US\$37 a month.

Interior Minister Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir said a preliminary inquiry indicated the fire was the result of arson. He promised to bring the culprits to justice.

"We are finding out as of now



Garment workers shout slogans as they protest against the deaths of their colleagues in the nation's worst factory fire. Photo: Reuters

who exactly the saboteurs are and all culprits will be brought to book," Alamgir said.

Earlier, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said she suspected the fire was an act of sabotage, but she did not identify any suspect or say why she thought the cause might have been arson.

– Reuters

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Scout in Style

Chapel bells boost dress sales

The *Gazette's* student intern Wisuwat Romin interviews Narin Tongsaiklaeng, MD of a leading, local wedding studio operator

THE business of love continues on an upward trend, with Phuket's Modern Wedding Studio reporting a spike in monthly sales volume by as much as 75% over the last three years.

"Business shot through the roof after we were featured on a game show called 'SME Tee Tak' a few years ago."

Mr Narin explained that the nationally televised game show, produced by Workpoint Entertainment Studios, assesses the quality and viability of local businesses.

Having passed the competitive judging criteria and eventually winning the game show, Mr Narin is thankful for the valuable exposure his firm has received.

"Our monthly income used to be about 4 million baht per month, but after the game show aired it went up, and is now at about 7mn baht per month," he said.

Mr Narin is a businessman who has vast experience in the service sector, having worked in the industry for decades.

"Wedding studios are in huge demand in the Phuket market. I believe that our studio is now the [market] leader in Phuket," he

said, adding that a majority of his clients are Thai nationals.

"Our main target is locals, who make up about 80% of our clients, while the other 20% are tourists."

His wedding studio group comprises four branches across Phuket, including the Modern Wedding Studio, Number One Wedding Studio, Time to Love Studio and the Memory Studio.

"In the next five years, we are planning to expand with the goal of having 10 branches," he said.

This year, Narin has invested about 10mn baht on his company's expansion, which has been focused on branch refurbishments and upgrades.

"Our investments have been aimed at adding more convenience to customers' experience and in our quality of service... We want to leave a good impression about our service."

He added that the annual investment figure did not include overheads such as employee wages and operational costs, which he revealed are about 2mn baht per month.

Mr Narin went on to talk about Phuket's service sector, which he



One of the many gowns on offer.

believes has immense opportunities. From his viewpoint, the quality and standard of customer service on the island is unmatched.

Elaborating more on his company's offerings, he said, "We have more than 300 international styles of wedding suits and dresses. The wedding dress is a special part of any wedding... [clients] want to look perfect on their wedding day and our designs incorporate the finest elegant gowns made from the highest



A MAN WITH A PLAN: Narin wants to open six more Modern Wedding Studio branches in Phuket in the next five years. Photo: Wisuwat Romin

quality fabric, that can't be matched anywhere else."

In addition to the popular styles, the company also provides tailor-made designs, specific to customers needs and requests.

"We have more than 300 traditional Thai wedding gowns with unique designs."

"We are particularly proud of our Thai dress offering; the designs have been carefully researched and are creative pieces of work, chosen for their beauty and elegance, quality of the fabric and decorations."

As the business of Modern Wedding Studio grows, so does the quantity of its designs.

"We also have beautiful modern designs that fuse Thai tradition and international fashion designs, which will delight and please anyone who sees them."

"Whichever design clients choose, they are guaranteed to be dazzling on their wedding day."

Commerce chief: economy grew by 5%

PHUKET Commerce Office (PCO) chief Prakong Rukwong said that Phuket's economy had expanded in the first nine months of 2012.

According to a report published on the PCO website, Mr Prakong based his assessment on an observation that supply in the services and tourism sectors had increased, at the same time that demand in the investment sector, namely in corporate operations and consumerism in the private sector, was also on the up.

In the first nine months of the year, Phuket customs recorded a total of 1,945,887 passengers,



BEACH BUMS: Tourists relaxing on Karon Beach. Photo: Chris Hudon

representing a year-on-year (y-o-y) increase of 5.62% from the same period last year.

This figure includes 1,799,216

passengers who entered the island at Phuket airport, which he said was a 2.02% decline, y-o-y, as well as another 146,671 passen-

gers who came via boat or yacht, a rise of 4.45% y-o-y.

New hotel investments in the first nine months of the year slumped y-o-y, he said.

Only two new hotels were granted building permits in accordance with hotel construction laws, half that of last year.

Likewise, new Board of Investment approved projects also declined, with a total of four projects in Phuket being approved during the period, down from five in the same period last year.

- Ministry of Commerce PR

Borrowing on the rise

NON-performing personal loans have soared to more than 56.5 billion baht in the third quarter of this year, the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) revealed recently.

"A number of people have been spending beyond their means," NESDB deputy secretary-general Suwannee Khamman remarked.

According to her, the number of personal loans taken to purchase vehicles jumped by 33.6% from July to September, compared to the same period last year; the number of loans for new homes rose by 10.3% and loans for other types of products/services jumped by 30.3%.

- The Nation



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HotelTravel: here to stay

Phuket based website poised for strong corporate growth thanks to strategic partnership



HANDS-ON PARTNERS: Executives from HotelTravel and MakeMyTrip.

AFTER 13 years building his company from the ground up, Phuket expat Blair Speers set a local business benchmark last month when he sold HotelTravel.com (HT) to the Indian based travel and e-commerce group that operates MakeMyTrip.com.

Shortly after the US\$25 million (760mn baht) acquisition was finalized, executives from the MakeMyTrip Ltd Group (MMYT) met with employees at the HT headquarters on the South of the island.

HT founder and CEO, Speers commented that the future of the new partnership is just the beginning of fantastic things to follow: "HT has been given a very high level of autonomy by MMYT. They believe in us, they have confidence in us, and they are excited about what HT brings to their group of companies."

Mr Speers said that HT will take the best things from MMT and build on them as to move forward.

"This partnership is an ideal situation for HT as it allows us to better challenge our competitors in Asia.

Competition is much needed in the marketplace and is only going to continue to add increased innovation, value and savings to our customers," Mr Speers added.

MMYT Co-Founder and COO Keyur Joshi, said: "We are extremely excited to have HT joining the MMYT family and we are looking forward to working together in the future.

"The road ahead is clear for both of us and it is going to be business as usual at HT, just at a faster, more efficient pace, backed by all the resources that a NASDAQ listed company has available.

"MMYT intends to provide all the necessary means to make HT a dominate player for Internet customers booking international hotel reservations.

"This allows MMYT to concentrate on strengthening our position as India's top domestic hotel provider and largest e-commerce company in the country.

"This is only the beginning of great things for both companies; we plan to create history together."



SPEER-HEADING: Founder and CEO of HotelTravel.com, Blair Speers set a business benchmark in Phuket.

What the deal means

MMYT paid approximately US\$25 million for the acquisition of 100% equity stake in HT. Additional earn outs and incentives over the next three to four years will be based on the HT Group meeting certain revenue and EBITDA targets, that can range in excess of US\$35mn. The total consideration for the business and earn outs are payable partly in cash and partly in the form of MMYT shares.

How the acquisition affects the companies

This acquisition will strengthen HT's relationship with hotel partners and travel suppliers in key markets worldwide focusing on traditionally strong Indian outbound destinations. It significantly expands HT's range of best value hotel offerings available to Indian customers by:

- 1) Providing inventory access to MMYT's customers to HT's extensive hotel portfolio of over 85,000 properties that include some of the world's leading brands and travel suppliers. Making available HT content-rich travel information that it has developed through content-integration from over 150,000 hotel sites.
- 2) Leveraging HT's direct hotel contracts and Destination Management Company relationships. Customers of both HT and MMT will benefit from this partnership as the unique strengths of both companies are leveraged to create best-in-class value-based offerings.
- 3) HT's customers will also benefit from MMT's core strength of over 10,300 hotel-partners in nearly 400 cities in India. Plus more travelers in the Southeast Asia region will be able to access HT's value-based hotel deals and services, strengthening MMT's position as India's most popular travel portal and the largest e-commerce business in the country.

Long-term goals and growth strategy

The acquisition fits with MMYT Group's objective to create a stronger hotel presence in the South-east Asia region. This huge and growing market has very similar attributes the Indian on-line travel market and is quickly becoming one of the top destinations of choice for Indian outbound travelers. The Asia Pacific (APAC) hotel reservations market had an estimated worth US\$100 billion in financial year 2011 and is slated to grow by 9% CAGR to US\$118bn by financial year 2013.

The Southeast Asian market comprises 10% of the APAC hotel on-line gross bookings and the growth in the sub-region's on-line market has outperformed that of the greater region's as a whole.

In financial year 2011, the Southeast Asian market grew by 25% while APAC market rose by 14%. Southeast Asia's on-line market is expected to grow more than twice as fast as APAC's anticipated annual growth rate for financial year 2012 and financial year 2013.

Southeast Asia is slated to eclipse Australia-New Zealand and become the third largest on-line market for hotel reservation services in APAC after Japan & China. HT is a well-established brand in the Southeast Asian region, with a history of over 12 years and a product inventory exceeding 85,000 hotels.

The acquisition will help the MMYT Group strengthen its presence in the hotel segment and increase its brand strength in Southeast Asia, and result in enhanced product acquisition across a broad spectrum of hotel relationships.

The acquisition will also lead to a reduction in customer service costs, improved conversion rates, an increased throughput of technology in the areas of hotel supply, content management and on-line marketing, and continuous innovation of hotel technology and expansion of both reward and affiliation programs.

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PROPERTY Gazette

Top-10 Thai property firms' performance up in 2012

RECOVERING demand for home purchases in the third quarter boosted the financial results of most of Thailand's top 10 listed property firms over the same quarter of last year.

As a result, financial performance in the first nine months also improved, though some firms did report reductions in revenue and net profit in the first nine months.

However, these firms are expected to report full-year gains as they have a number of projects in the construction process, which are scheduled to be transferred to customers before the year-end.

Pruksa Real Estate reported revenue of 18.77 billion baht, up 0.26%, and net profit of 2.63bn baht, up 7.3% over the first three quarters of 2011. As such, the company ranks as the market leader in terms of revenue during this period.

Land & Houses reported revenue of 17.47bn baht and net profit 4.13bn baht in the first nine months, up 5.05% and 5.89% respectively. The company ranked second in terms of revenue but surpassed Pruksa in net profit.

Sansiri showed revenue of 16.01bn baht and a net profit of 1.2bn baht, up 24% and 26% respectively. The company also had presales worth 26.34bn baht in the

first nine months. It targets presales of 42bn baht for the full year.

Quality Houses reported revenue of 9.54bn baht and a net profit of 1.66bn baht, up 16.19% and 107.5% respectively.

Asian Property Development reported revenue of 10.78bn baht in the first nine months, down by 0.9% year-on-year. However, net profit, recorded at 1.42bn baht, was up by 18.33%.

Property Perfect recorded revenue of 6.49bn baht in the period, up 2.04%, while net profit was down 49% to 238.99 million baht.

SC Asset Corporation reported declines in both revenue and net profit, to 4.49bn baht and 511mn baht. Those figures were down 22.78% and 46.16% from the first three quarters of last year.

Supalai also suffered declines. Revenue was down 42.62% to 5.95bn and net profit down 48.91% to 1.18bn baht.

LPN Development reported revenue of 6.37bn baht and net profit 982.63mn baht, down by 43.92% and 47.02% respectively.

Sansiri president Srettha Thavisin said that the company had seen presales worth 31.01bn baht since the beginning of the year and targeted 42bn baht for all of 2012.



WEALTH: Most top 10 property firms increased their profits in the first nine months of 2012. Photo: images of money

The company has 12 condominium projects that will be transferred to buyers during the remainder of the year worth 15.3bn baht. This will drive its 2012 revenue to 26bn baht

LPN Development managing director Opas Sripayak said it

would deliver 7bn baht worth of condos in the current quarter. This will boost its presales to achieve this year's target of 10bn baht.

A survey by *The Nation* found that at least 50bn baht's worth of homes would be transferred to buyers this quarter, by both listed

and non-listed firms.

Sansiri will transfer at least 15bn baht's worth, LPN Development about 7bn baht, Asia Property Development about 6.4bn baht, SC Asset Corp about 4bn baht, and Pruksa Real Estate about 5bn baht. — *The Nation*

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Lifestyles of the rich and famous



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

NEWS reports from around the world have lamented the passing of the actor Larry Hagman, who was best known as TV villain, JR Ewing.

Now trending across the Internet, it's somewhat surprising how global the JR brand still is, despite being missing from the airwaves for more decades than I care to count.

Villains, tycoons, bad guys, and all around ultra entrepreneurs, the world has a love-hate relationship with those men (and women) at the top, whose sinister dealings stop at nothing for a few dollars more.

From the fictitious Gordon Gekko in Wall Street (the movie) to a hair-challenged Donald Trump, almost everyone secretly loves a successful billionaire. Even if they have to idol worship in the privacy of their very own home. I guess everyone has their own personal guilty pleasures.

There was a time when Phuket loved the luxury set. We even had our very own chronicle of the day; the *Indigo Real Estate Magazine*. Kudos to Nick Anthony for presenting the glossy, which to this day, comes up in conversations far outside of the Kingdom, as a reference point about the island lifestyles of the rich and famous.

Now of course, we have the blogs with the good, the bad and the ugly; we 'like', 'unlike' or

crawl into a cave (or the nearest pub). The sound of early morning 'Tweets' wake us up and damned if anyone can say what's the point of Pinterest please explain?

All of a sudden Phuket's celebrity skin is under a microscope. The bold and beautiful now equate to over the hill Hollywood B-list celebrity Paris Hilton, who is being recruited for the contentious Sydictive Element New Years Eve bash at

'There was a time when Phuket loved the luxury set. We even had our very own chronicle of the day the *Indigo Real Estate Magazine*. Kudos to Nick Anthony for presenting the glossy, which to this day, comes up in conversations far outside of the Kingdom, as a reference point about the island lifestyles of the rich and famous.'

Surin Beach.

While the preposterous figure of 50,000 attendees is being touted, perhaps they could relocate the Phuket International Airport (HKT) departure lounge to Surin, as the crushing high season volume of charter flights could easily top that figure.

Just this morning on YouTube, a Dallas-like drama is unfolding as the event organizers are now going on the offensive with an interview by the promoter Jirat Petnunthawong who is singing out the benefits of living big.

Where is JR when we need him? He'd be able to sort out this mess, but unfortunately he remains dead.

For the moment at least.

If the Surin organizers really want to capture worldwide attention they'd drop the ditsy

Paris in favor of a cremation of a symbolic JR.

Theme it like a Viking ceremony and burn the effigy at sea in a blaze of glory. How many YouTube views would that get?

Later, with the announced floating stage off the beach, perhaps even arrange a resurrection. I mean, with all the modern miracles of science couldn't we get JR back?

Phuket needs a holiday miracle. This year we are again about to enter another media flurry with the Hollywood premiere of the tsunami movie *The Impossible*.

While up in Bangkok there are more reds and yellows than a contentious hard fought London football derby.

The battle is on for what will be the headline of the year for our island.

It's nose to nose and entirely possible that a play from left field may show up, which no one saw coming.

My head feels like it's in a vice with one of those horror movies bad guys slowly tightening the screws. All this pressure over what exactly may go wrong.

Thinking back to JR for a moment I am reminded of one of his most eloquent quotes "A conscience is like a boat or a car. If you feel you need one, rent it."

Love them or hate them, villains remain a colorful part of our collective existence. The more we hate them the more we love them.

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



VIEWING EWING: Larry Hagman died six episodes into the production of Season 2 of the revived *Dallas* series. Photo: giovanni



WHEEL OF FORTUNE: Everyone secretly loves a billionaire. Photo: Garry Knight



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Singing to a different tune

THE Tune Hotel in Patong, the fourth Tune Hotel to open in Thailand and the third this year, opened for public sales on November 26. Room rates will start from as little as 399 baht for guests checking in from January 3 onwards.

Regular room rates start from 920 baht and rooms feature powerful showers, a central location, clean environment and 24-hour security. Guests who require extra facilities and service can pay a little bit more.

The Tune Hotel chain now has 27 hotels available for booking across destinations such as:

Malaysia, Bali, England, the Philippines and Thailand.

Tune Hotels is part of Tune Group, a lifestyle business conglomerate co-founded by Tony Fernandes and Kamarudin Meranun, who are the group chief executive officer and deputy group chief executive, respectively, of Asia's largest low cost carrier, Air Asia.

All four Tune Hotels in Thailand are owned and operated under a franchise agreement by Red Planet Hotels.

Guests are encouraged to book early at tunehotels.com.



WHERE DREAMS ARE MADE: The Legend Studio master bedroom at the Sports Hotel. Photo: Thanyapura

Check in, work out

SET on a 23-hectare plot within the Thanyapura compound is the new dynamic 77-room Sports Hotel.

The hotel offers guests modern conveniences and access to the leading-edge facilities at Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club.

The hotel comprises 34 Sports Rooms, 34 Energy Rooms, 1 Champion Studio and 8 Legend Studios.

Guests receive complimentary wireless internet in their rooms and throughout the hotel. Rooms also offer LCD flat screen TVs with cable and satellite channels,

complimentary baby cot and eco-toiletries among other amenities.

The hotel has a 25-meter outdoor lap pool, child sitting service, laundry and dry cleaning, free transfer to/from Thanyapura Sports Hotel – Retreat – Sports & Leisure Club (TSLC) and free access to TSLC fitness center' outdoor 50m and 25m lap pools and athletics track.

Thanyapura offers a diverse portfolio of unique properties centered on one idyllic campus in the heart of Phuket, including:

Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club (TSLC), a world-class sports and training facility for elite athletes and amateur enthusiasts; Thanyapura Mind Centre (TMC), which offers programs for the cultivation of mental and emotional balance; Thanyapura Integrative Health Centre (TIHC), an optimal health facility with athletic performance, family medicine and anti aging capabilities and Phuket International Academy Day School (PIADS).

– *Phuket Gazette*



BASIC COMFORT: Tune Hotel will offer 144 rooms. Photo:redplanet hotels



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Bonding with your portfolio

Island Investor

By David Mayes

PEOPLE usually think of bonds as safe investments, although I have written before about the dangers that are not so obvious to investors.

The reason they can be dangerous in a low interest rate environment, such as we are in now, is because as interest rates rise, the market value of a bond or portfolio of bonds drops, and you can lose principal if you need to sell them. One way to avoid this risk is to buy shorter maturity bonds and hold them until they mature.

When looking at bond quotes you will notice that there are several yields quoted. In an environment such as this, you need to make sure you use the 'yield to maturity'. If you use 'coupon yield' or 'current yield' you may be in for a big shock when you get less than your principal back at maturity.

Coupon yield is simply the percentage return based on the face value of the bond. So a 10% coupon on a US\$1,000 bond would be \$100 per year. However, when you buy the bond it is often trading at a premium in an environment such as we are in now, let's say

\$1,100 to use easy numbers.

Thus, you lose \$100 at maturity because you only get \$1,000 back, so your total return, or annual yield to maturity, will be less than the 10% quoted coupon rate. The \$100 annual payment you receive is also actually less than 10% for you, because you paid \$1,100. The current yield also faces a similar problem



A \$10 Irish Bond issued in support of independence. Photo: Lee Cannon

caused by the fact that you are getting back less principle than you put in.

Of course, if interest rates are higher than normal, bonds will often sell at a discount. If you purchased the same bond in the previous example for \$900 you would not only receive more than 10% per annum from the annual \$100 payment, but upon maturity you would receive an extra \$100 back in principle.

Yield to maturity is the calcu-

lation that takes all of these considerations into account and tells you what you will receive per annum in percentage terms, assuming you hold the bond until maturity based on the price you would actually pay for it today. You don't need to know how to calculate it, as it should be included in the quotation for any bond offered to you. If it isn't, make sure you ask for it before making a decision.

The important thing to understand is, if you need to see the bond prior to maturity, you are not likely to receive the same yield, as you may make a loss on the principle if interest rates in the market have gone up. If you are five years away from maturity and inflation becomes an issue, you are also at risk of losing purchasing power as you cannot take advantage of rising interest rates.

One more risk to be aware of is, if you buy bonds denominated in a foreign currency, you could potentially lose more on the exchange rate than you gain from the higher yield (of course this could theoretically go in your favor too).

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



REAL STEAL: Bonds have historically been safe investments. Photo: US Archives



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Currently under construction. The developer reserves the right at any time to make changes to the project at its own discretion. Images are computer generated and for visual reference only.



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Motoring misery

AS WORK on the 600-million-baht underpass at the Central Festival Phuket intersection gets underway, mounting concern among commuters now turns to seeking out ways to cope with what promises to be a whole new level of motoring misery.

Government agencies, including traffic police, have freely admitted that work on the project, scheduled for completion in mid-October 2014, is expected to cause unprecedented traffic jams.

Unfortunately, their advice “to devise alternative routes to avoid the area” will come as little help to the many thousands of people who live, work and study in the area.

Traffic flow is now reduced to only two lanes each way – if no parked cars block the left outside lane in front of the Central Festival shopping complex – a situation that is expected to prevail throughout much of the two-year construction period.

Pleading for patience, authorities have effectively told the public that the short-term pain will justify the long-term gain.

About this, the *Phuket Gazette* maintains some very serious doubts. For a start, two years will seem more like an eternity to parents who try to get their children safely by car to the two schools located in the immediate vicinity: the Darasamuth and Wichit Songkram schools. There are many other large school complexes nearby that will likewise be seriously affected: HeadStart, Phuket Tai Hua and Kajonkietsuksa, to name just a few.

Many of these parents will be forced to leave their cars at home and take to the streets by motorbike. As is always the case in any sample among motorbike riders in Phuket, a certain percentage of these will inevitably be injured or killed in road accidents.

Tens of thousands of workers at many hundreds of retail outlets in the area will also suffer, as will unsuspecting tourists who find themselves entrapped in the gridlock.

Indeed, tourists will now face the prospect of having much of their holiday time swindled by the ever-increasing traffic problem – in addition to the norm of being ripped off by overpriced taxis.

The entire project appears to have a very serious design flaw. Those travelling east-west through the junction will eventually see some benefit, but the much larger volume of traffic north-south along Chao Fa West Road will find that the underpass does little to help them. This is because the underpass does not address the main cause of all the current congestion in the area: the bottleneck just south of Wichit Songkram School, where Chao Fa West abruptly reduces to just one-and-a-half lanes in each direction.

When the project is finally completed, expect traffic congestion in this area to persist – if not worsen – as ever more vehicles pour in from the completed underpass and other directions. For now, however, motorists may for the first time find themselves frozen in tailbacks with nothing but concrete walls to view and polluted air to breathe. Perhaps that might be a good time for them to contemplate the intentions of the architects of public transport deprivation on Phuket, and to reflect upon the reasons for the inability of so many successive governments to rectify it.



Military aid to the civil powers

Re: Gazette online, Work to commence on the Phuket underpass tonight, footbridge to go, November 23

In many other countries when a bridge is needed quickly, military engineers are called upon to undertake the task. They have the know-how, manpower and equipment available to rapidly put together a structure to span point A to point B. I wonder why the Thai Army can't be asked to erect a footbridge to span the road, thus negating the need for a very dubious shuttle bus service.

On a similar note, how about requesting the Thai military medical services to deploy a very basic, small field surgical team at a practical location before the road-work traffic jams. That would allow seriously injured casualties to receive at least minimal life-saving aid rather than dying in a traffic jam en route to hospital

Mark Dee
Chalong

Fishing for answers

Re: Gazette online, Phuket mass fish deaths put flood-prevention project on hold, November 20

The dredging causes 'silt' [to be stirred up] which clogs a fish's gills causing it to suffocate. Adding an aerator to the pond would help immensely.

Also, placing several large floating decks out in the middle [would help]; they provide a safe area for the fish to hide while the dredging is going on... Simple solution.

Ivan Gort
Gazette forum

Measuring the truth

Re: Gazette online, Phuket teaching assistant suspended over 'child hitting' allegation, November 23

The mother did well by reporting the incident. Hitting seems to be common practice among Thai

Letters to the Editor

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

teachers and it really should stop. The only way [to put a stop to it] is for parents to keep filing complaints. It's true that little kids can get their facts wrong, but some things are obvious.

If, for example, your kid plays teacher with his or her dolls and starts slapping them with a ruler, you have a big clue.

Tinkerbelle
Gazette forum

Location, location

Re: Gazette online, Phuket officials target beach management issues, November 22

V/Gov Chamroen: "... and we will dedicate one beach as a 'pilot beach' to launch a beach management project," he said.

If they want a 'pilot beach', let them choose Patong. It is without question the most popular destination in Phuket, with what is probably the dirtiest beach and water in the province. Disgusting! Not to mention the speed boats and jet-skis, which are not only dangerous, but further pollute the water. You can smell the fuel in the sea if you are foolish enough to go in. Thailand is being ruined by greed and corruption.

Bjay
Gazette forum

You turn on u-turn required

Re: Gazette online, British expat dies in Phuket motorbike crash, November 7

The u-turn mentioned in this tragic story is an extremely dan-

gerous one and using that u-turn on a daily basis is risky at the best of times.

Several comments allude to the habit of vehicles making wide turns, often in darkness, and having cowboys attempting to turn four-abreast, totally obscuring the speeding oncoming traffic.

A year or two ago a dedicated turning lane for both north and south turning traffic was set up daily during the peak traffic periods, similar to the one set up just north of Supercheap.

Perhaps returning to this system might allow traffic to turn in a far safer manner and save more innocent lives in the future.

Andrew Collins
Thalang

Strapped for solutions

Re: Gazette online, Phuket police nab bag snatchers in Patong, November 19

"Also, wear your purse or bag strap across your chest if possible," advised Col Arun."

I'm not convinced that this is the best course of action. I know of two ladies who were pulled off their motorbikes in separate [bag snatch] incidents – both had the straps going across their chests.

Alien
Gazette forum

Consider conditions

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Big Buddha pickup truck flips in Karon, 8 injured, November 25

Vehicles should be driven according to road and weather conditions, as well as the specifications of the vehicle and the "load" it is carrying.

The most obvious cause of this and many other accidents is speed. Can anyone show me a speed sign greater than 60 kilometers an hour.

Laurie Howells
Gazette forum

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Safety first, with urban growth a close second

LETTER FROM THE GOVERNOR

PHUKET is a small place, but it bears a huge responsibility. I see seven distinct management issues in Phuket. All are connected and all need fixing.

With the tourism industry growing at 10 per cent per year, the safety of tourists and residents must be our top priority.

Phuket already has more than 2,400 closed-circuit television (CCTV) systems and there are plans to increase that by another 2,000 publicly accessible CCTV systems across the island. Having more CCTV will make people feel safer and help police to arrest criminals.

Another important issue in Phuket is the vast number of complaints over land ownership and the very high price of land. All of these cases are complicated. So far as the business of unlawful issuance of title deeds by officials; well, I'll be taking care of that. Concerning the matter of land ownership, please understand that the legal process does take time to complete.

The third issue that concerns me is the island's traffic. We are currently trying to add alternative routes to get around the island. The Darasamuth [Central Festival] underpass started on Friday, November 23. The next project will be the Tesco Lotus intersection and by the end of this month we will have selected the project contractor for that project. Following on from those projects are the Bang Khu Intersection and the Klong Koh Pee flyover project.

A mass-transit system is



Maitri Inthusut arrived on the island to take up the position of Governor of Phuket on October 8.

With a master's degree in political science from Thammasat University, he joined the National Security Council, rising to the position of NSC Secretary-General, before taking up the position of Chief Secretary for Secretariat of the Cabinet.

He has also served as Governor for the provinces of Trang and Phayao. Here, in his inaugural 'Letter from the Governor', he identifies his top issues for the island and why they are important for Phuket's future.

another thing that has my support. This week we are being visited by the Office of Transport and Traffic Policy and Planning. I will use that opportunity to raise the mass-transit project with them.

The next concern on my list is disaster management, man-made or natural. We have projects for flood prevention and we have specialist teams to respond to a variety of disaster scenarios, such as landslides, or as happened recently a wall collapsing on residential buildings. On that occasion, I put a team together to deal with it.

The fifth risk to be managed is urban growth problems. This includes public safety of locals, tourists and migrant workers. All kinds of environmental issues such as pollution, overcrowding, waste management and general cleanliness have to be addressed. Other matters falling into this category that require special

attention are the needs of the sea gypsies, local fishermen and the mangrove forests.

My final concern is one of consumer protection, including scams targeting tourists. Phuket has the Damrongtham Center to receive complaints from people and it's working very well.

What has impressed me during my first seven weeks as governor is the strong bonds between the private sector, non-governmental organizations and local government. So many good projects that benefit society have been undertaken by this cooperation.

For tourists who intend to visit Phuket, we are all ready to welcome you. Phuket is improving for the better. Soon there will be no longer be "tourism low seasons" in Phuket, as you can visit us anytime of the year. Once you've visited Phuket, I'm confident that you'll be impressed and that we will see you again.

When brown becomes clear

AFTER reading the ongoing stories about the "Evil Man from Krabi" YouTube video and the bungled response from the Royal Thai Police in the bayside province there, I cannot help but think how the police officers involved in the case are being targeted by outlandish Western cynicism.

The Dutch father who posted the video has every right to be outraged. His daughter has suffered a horrific ordeal and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Yet, the police have replied openly to the accusations that the suspect was released on "police bail" with one of the clearest answers one would ever expect to hear in Thailand: they didn't, it was the provincial court that released the suspect on bail despite police arguing against it.

It doesn't get much clearer than that.

The same goes for the terrible story about the British couple Jack Cole and April Clifton on holiday in Ao Nang – the same area where the Dutch woman was allegedly raped – being subjected to a vicious attack by gang of teenagers.

It was heartening to hear that the leading police officer investigating that case was "exasperated" that he was powerless to do anything about the attempted rape allegations. Imagine a police officer being told about a heinous crime and having the suspects in custody, but not being able to press charges for that specific crime because the victim him or herself has not substantiated the claim by simply telling police? A horrible position to be in.

If Mr Cole and Ms Clifton wanted to amend their "complaint" with the police, they have had certainly enough time to do so. Apparently, they haven't.

So, with just these two cases in mind, where in the Western world would reporters have direct access to the actual officer



Officers in Thailand often offer more transparency than can be found elsewhere. Photo: Gazette file

Island View

By Damian Evans

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

leading the investigation? Even if they did, how often have we seen public statements by police in Western countries being cut down so much that the words were meaningless? I have seen more than enough.

I understand the police wanting to stay out of the media circus and not contribute to contentious stories in the press. Their job is policing, not public relations. But the police here in Thailand understand the serious effect such stories can have on the tourism industry here that so many people here depend on to make a living.

I just wish the police here could be more professional in their public appearances. They already outstrip their western counterparts with access to information. If only they could improve their public communications. Come on TAT (Tourism Authority of Thailand), where are you when you are needed so much?

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

Working in multiple provinces

I have a company that is based in Phuket, but my work requires that I am able to work in other provinces. What do I need to do in order to prevent any issues with my work permit occurring while working away from Phuket?

*Ydedive
Phuket Town*

Jareerat Phetphan, Work Permit Department officer of Phuket Provincial Employment Office, replies:

You do not need to get a new work permit to work in another province. If you have a company based in Phuket then you should get your work permit here. To work in other provinces you need to visit the Phuket Employment Office to add the "other work places" to your work permit. We



That's one thing you don't have to worry too much about.

coordinate with every employment office in Thailand so you should not have any problems when working away from Phuket. However, you will need to contact us before adding a new work location. For more information call us at 076-219 660, Monday to Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm.

Are Burmese workers camps stealing our electricity?

When a Burmese workers' camp springs up, why is the electricity always supplied by thin white wires supported by a single pole? Is this electricity piggy-backed off someone else's power supply, and does that person pay?

Is this the best way to supply electricity to the Burmese workers? If so, who pays for the electricity they use?

It is very dangerous and a serious threat to man and beast alike. Come and see the camps just after Supalai Hills, the camp opposite the power substation on Thepkra-sattiri Road and various other camps around the island.

*Dun B
Srisoonthorn*

Sonthaya Thabunprug, manager of the Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority (PPEA) Operations & Maintenance

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

Department, replies:

When installing power supply to a Burmese workers' camp, PPEA officers connect the power supply wire to the nearest large power pole. If you see any connections you suspect may be illegal, please call the PPEA Operations & Maintenance Department at 076-210379 and we will check it out.

I have not heard of any cases of Burmese construction camps stealing electricity from their neigh-

bors. What they always do is have the construction company contact us to provide a temporary electricity meter to be used during the construction at the site. The company will rent the meter from us.

The company has to show our officers the construction area and the employment contact or construction contract. Our officers will check the documents and examine the area where the power is going to be supplied. They then will install the power meter at or near the camp, and connect the power supply cable to the nearest large power pole.

The construction company is held responsible for paying for the electricity used. The fee is "triple rate" – around 5 to 6 baht per unit.

The company also has to pay a deposit for the meter. The deposit is refunded when meter is returned.

YOUR Phuket

Phuket Governor

Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut in an exclusive interview with the *Phuket Gazette* this week revealed his personal philosophy in handling the high-level decisions and complicated issues that face the resort province.



From left: Mrs Krisana Matzenberger; manager - advertising and television promotions - PGTV; Mrs Oranee Hildebrand, managing director of Phuket Gazette; Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut and Mr John Magee, Phuket Gazette Publisher.



Laguna Phuket Triathlon 2012

Back row (l-r): Debbie Dionysius, AVP-destination marketing, Laguna Resorts and Hotels; Prasert Tanhansa, manager of district sales office, Thai Airways; Wannaprapa Sooksomboon, assistant director TAT with the athletes.



Birthday Anniversary

A Birthday Anniversary party was held to honor Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwansupana at the Roof Top room, Pearl Hotel in Phuket Town.



Arts for the Planet

The third 'Arts for the Planet Thai Youth Painting Exhibition' was held at the Amari Coral Beach Phuket

Mr Chairat Sukban, deputy mayor of Patong Municipality presided over the opening ceremony of the third 'Arts for the Planet Thai Youth Painting Exhibition' at Amari Coral Beach Phuket on Monday, 26 November, 2012.

Wine and Taste

Wine and Taste held a French wine dinner at Maikhao Dream Villas Resort recently.



From left: Mr Pierre Bolis-Moueix, wine exporter from Bordeaux Rive Droite; Mr Robert Wigman, owner Wine and Taste; Mr Robert Mujagic, executive chef at Maikhao Dream Villa Resort and Mr Eric Leruste, export manager of Asia Club Cépages France. Photo: Marc Mulloy

15TH ANDAMAN

MOTORSHOW 2012

5 - 10 DECEMBER

AT HOMEWORKS PHUKET

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

PROPERTY of the week

**50% CHAPER
SEAVIEW LAND**

See page 23

DEAL of the week

mobile
car rental



See page 30

JOB of the week



FAMOUS PHUKET

See page 27

BOAT of the week

**BOAT
INSURANCE**



See page 31

All Property, Boat and Business Ads are **PAID!**

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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

SALE DOWN PAYMENT CONDO

Condominium at Kathu. 5 minutes drive to Patong. 38sqm, 1 bedroom, top floor at the corner, mountain view. 325,000 baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 086-478 0201. Email: laongfa@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, proratable. 8.5 million baht. Direct by owner. Tel: 085-654 4011, 089-404 0737.

6 RAI LAND FOR SALE

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

KARON HILL CONDO FOR SALE!

Foreign freehold. Great sea view. 100sqm, 1 bedroom, fully furnished. Near the beach. Luxury upgraded. Good rental return. Bargain price: 6.9 million baht. Agents welcome. Tel: 086-747 9292. Email: claudstrey@gmail.com

THIDA HOUSE SALE 27 MILLION



Thai-style modern townhouse with land. Size: 10.50m x 10.85m. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with living room, dining room, kitchen and car park. Single house on land size: 15m by 10.85m. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with living room, dining area/kitchen, terrace and car park. Soi Mountain View Kathu Waterfall. Tel: 081-535 7585, 084-119 4262, 081-356 9754. Email: peecho74@hotmail.com

COTTAGES BY THE SEA

Cute Little Eco Cottages in Seaside Phuket Resort
Small Freehold Plots: 1.5 million Baht
Small Cottage w/Plot: 2.5 million Baht
www.jindarin.com
ph: 083-5200020

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

HOUSE IN PHUKET VILLA 5 FOR SALE



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

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.saeatan@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

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.

MUST SELL QUICKLY

Kata beach house, 3 storeys, 4 bedrooms, big balcony. Sale: 3.3 million baht. Tel: 081-303 2202.

PHUKET VILLA 5 VILLAGE



For sale. Price 4.5 million baht. No agents, no furnished, with 4 aircons, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen and car park. Behind Kajonkiet International School on Chao Fa West Road, 5 minutes to Central Festival. For short or long-term rent, 16,000 baht per month. Call to see 087-270 9093.

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

NICE PLOT FOR SALE



Near Layan Hill Estate. (Manik-Bang Jo area). Ready to build housing/pool villas. 1,400sqm. Chanote title. Price: 7.2 million baht. Neg. Contact owner on 080-520 2989. Email: edc9designs@gmail.com

HOUSE & FURNITURE

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

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

30 RAI IN TOWN

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

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.

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).

2 BEDROOMS PATONG

Fully furnished, 2 bathrooms, parking. 4.9 million baht. Tel: 081-612 4187. Email: nicolaas5@yahoo.com

SEAVIEW LAND 16 RAI

At Koh Yao Noi, 16 rai 73sq wah. 300m to beautiful beach. Sale: 76 million baht. Tel: 084-837 4429. www.chokechaiproperty.com

PATONG TOWER NEW 1 BEDROOM

Newly renovated 1-bedroom condo. On the beach in the centre of Patong. Beautiful mountain view. Tel: +45-523 9377 (English). Email: deherder@hotmail.com

URGENT SALE/ RENT



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

LAND NEAR MISSION HILLS



Pa Khlok. 2 rai 32sq wah, 60m wide. Chanote. Located on Tha Ruea-Pa Khlok-Muang Mai Rd. 11 km from Heroines' Monument. Price: 7.8 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118. Email: honda.1437@hotmail.com

NICE HOUSE 88SQ WAH



4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 aircons, sofa, cable TV. Near Jomthong Village on Khwang Rd. 6.5 million baht. Tel: 086-774 2034. Email: hataimata@hotmail.com

LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

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

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.

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

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Properties For Rent

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

2-BED BEACH CONDOS WITH POOL

Spacious, 2 beds with en-suite bathrooms, kitchen, large gardens, pool and free WiFi. 3 minute walk to beach. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

DELUXE BEACHFRONT CONDO

At Kalim Beach, 2 beds. Also in Phuket town, 1 bedroom, kitchen, lounge, many facilities. Tel: 081-892 0038.

PATONG APARTMENT LONG-TERM RENT

8,000 - 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-290 9567.

HOUSE AT PRIME PLACE VILLAGE



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

PERMSAP VILLA, HOUSE FOR RENT



Near Cherng Talay. Plot size: 520sqm with living area 156sqm. 4 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms with garden. Semi-furnished. Automatic gate. 50,000 baht per month. More information please call sales office. Tel: 076-527 869, 081-270 8940. Email: enquiries@richmondth.com

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

KAMALA NEW POOL VILLA

3 double bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, beautiful kitchen, gated community. Long-term rent: 55,000 baht per month. 6 months minimum. Tel: 080-697 7729.

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: luckphichit@gmail.com

2 BEDROOMS - BANG TAO BEACH

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

SURIN CONDO

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

RAWAI POOLVILLA-PAY IN 30 YEARS

25,000 baht per month. 6 bedrooms, wifi, furnished, 300m to beach. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: rawai4@yahoo.com www.thaidream.villa.com

APARTMENT KATA BEACH FOR RENT

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

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

TOWNHOUSE IN KOH KAEW



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

2-BEDROOM HOUSE, BANG TAO



2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, terrace, living room, parking, fully furnished, cable TV, internet, 2 aircons, hot water. Only 5 mins to Surin Beach, Bang Tao Beach and Lotus Cherng Talay. Tel: 089-470 7488. Email: nattamon.m@gmail.com

POOL VILLA IN MAI KHAO



For rent/sale, fully furnished, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, European standard. 15 minutes to airport, close to Yacht Haven Phuket. Long-term rent: 60,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-470 8926, 081-719 7015. Email: jyfieviet@gmail.com

BAR, SHOP FOR RENT-RAWAI BEACH

8,000 baht per month, free wifi, pool, garden, ready to move in, Siam BB Resort, 60m to beach. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: rawai4@yahoo.com

KAMALA VILLA FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, pool, 2 storeys with 2 entries. Great for 2 families, top security system, top cable package, two 50" TVs, aircons in all rooms. Bike and Fortuner truck may be included in long-term lease. Available on December 1, 2012 to March 1, 2013. 125,000 baht per month. Contact Harold for details. Tel: 084-446 8965 (English). Email: haroldmccarthy@gmail.com

VILLA AT FRONT BEACH



For rent. 5 bedrooms. 110,000 baht per week. Agency welcomed. Tel: 081-719 7015. Email: jyfieviet@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

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.

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

CHALONG BEACH TOWNHOUSE

Furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, carport, garden, internet, cable TV. 14,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-415 2900.

RENTAL APARTMENT, PATONG CONDO

Pool, security, 46sqm, fully furnished. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

PATONG SEAVIEW

2 and 3 bedrooms, near Simon Cabaret, quiet, clean, furnished. Short or long-term rent. Tel: 081-892 8208.

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

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.

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.

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OCEANIC
MANAGEMENT

English- speaking house-keeper wanted in Laguna, immediate start, live out. Contact Brian. Tel: 084-877 5001 (English). Email: kiwipeace@gmail.com

ASC Phuket Co Ltd offers full home maintenance services. Gardeners, maids, pool service, urgent minor repairs (electricity, plumber, etc). Give us a call and we'll take care of your villa, condo or office. Tel: 076-388 065, 081-693 1509 (English & Thai). Email: bytonyk@gmail.com

Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.

See more classified ads at www.phuketgazette.net

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@bayshoreprojects.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

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@bayshoreprojects.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

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@bayshoreprojects.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@coralseekers.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

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

MANAGERS WANTED

Suzy Wong's Group is looking for an Operations Manager and a Marketing Manager. Tel: 081-476 4700 (English & Thai). Email: suzywongs@gmail.com

RECEPTIONIST - KATA

Bliss Boutique Hotel is looking for a receptionist. Good salary offered. Thai national only. Call for info. Tel: 090-705 4373 (English & Thai). Email: info@blisshotelphuket.com

THAI DRIVER WITH LICENSE

Bayshore Projects Co., Ltd is looking for Thai driver. License required. Tel: 081-968 5963 (English). Email: c@bayshoreprojects.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

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

MARKETING REPS NEEDED

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

ARCHITECTURE

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

THAI RECEPTIONIST

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

COOK / MANAGER / WAITRESS

A manager, a cook and a waitress urgently needed. Contact us (as above) for details. Tel: 082-270 6385. Email: tkoschig2000@hotmail.com

COOKS, MAIDS, MANAGERS

Luxury villas looking for cooks, maids and managers. Live in and live out positions available. Tel: 080-699 2436. Email: kokakat@gmail.com

FREELANCE WEB DESIGNER

Bayshore Projects Co Ltd are looking for professional a web designer on a freelance basis to help in creating content pages in html/CSS3. Tel: 081-968 5963 (English). Email: c@bayshoreprojects.com

STAFF WANTED FOR BEACH BAR

All staff needed for new beach bar on Surin Beach. Competitive wages, good hours and a fun place to work. Please e-mail your resume. Everyone considered. Email: jessezum@hotmail.com

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

REPORTER

- ▶ Thai national (able to read, write, speak fluent Thai)
- ▶ Ability to communicate clearly in English
- ▶ Clear thinking in order to identify what makes a good news story
- ▶ Initiative and enthusiasm to track down a story
- ▶ Photography skills
- ▶ Able to manage own time effectively
- ▶ Knowledge of Burmese an advantage
- ▶ Driver's license

Good salary for the right candidate.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to Isaac@PhuketGazette.net

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79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew
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Tel: 076-273555 Fax: 076-615240

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@brainyhouse.com

GUESTHOUSE MANAGER

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

SALE / MARKETING

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

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

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@brainyhouse.com

THAI STAFF WANTED

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

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

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- ▶ **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

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

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

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

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

REQUIRES AN EMPLOYEE

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

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Must have at least two years' experience as a webmaster and be able to create websites using flash and others. Good knowledge of computers, IT graphics/photoshop. Ability to edit video would also be helpful. Tel: 081-979 9911. Email: vrit@boatlagoonyacht ing.co.th

SALES & MARKETING MANAGER

Luxury yachting company looking for someone with experience of at least 3 years in sales and marketing, especially of high-end luxury products. Industry knowledge of luxury yachts and marine lifestyle, especially of Thailand and Southeast Asia, will be an advantage. Tel: 081-979 9911. Email: vrit@boatlagoon yachting.co.th

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



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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

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

CASABLANCA RESTAURANT

Needs experienced cook and chef. High salary for qualified person. Tel: 081-892 8208.

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

SPA RECEPTIONIST

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

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@phuketwake park.com

SECURITY GUARDS WANTED

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

QUALIFIED TEACHER NEEDED

Female teacher needed to teach 3-5 year old kindergarten students. Send CV and photo please. Tel: 076-521550, 084-847 0732. Email: info@smiley-kidz.com

EMPLOYMENT WANTED

Reliable English-speaking Thai woman with cooking experience in hotels and villas requires fixed-term cooking, childcare or housemaid work, live-in if required. Contact Taew. Tel: 081-084 2708.

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

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- ▶ 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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Kebab Machine 25,000 baht. Tel: 089-666 6726 (English). Email: lasonth@gmail.com

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HOTEL + RESTAURANT FOR SALE

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

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

Business Opportunities

BAR PIZZA, 100SQM COVERED



Rawai Beach. Long-term rent: 12,000 baht per month. No key money. + 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 rooms added, negotiable, swimming pool. 60m to Nikita's. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: rawai4@yahoo.com

SURIN BEACH BAR FOR RENT

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

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

BAR + RESTAURANT + 3 ROOMS

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6 double bedrooms, big kitchen and bar, hillside location. 4 and 1/2 years on lease left, extendable. All key money prepaid. Rent: 24,000 baht per month. Sale: 1.6 million baht. Tel: 087-078 6379, 082-286 5171 (English & Thai). Email: nanaisauna@yahoo.com

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In Kamala. Good furniture. Only 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-289 1508.

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Nice hair salon and spa in Nai Harn. 2 floors with professional equipment and products. Price: your budget possibility (make an offer). Tel: 089-622 0101.

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BAR FOR SALE RAWAI

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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.

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086 948 6836

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

BLUE CANYON CC

Family membership. Price negotiable. Make an offer. Free transfer. Call: 081-895 4790. Email: rroswech@aol.com

Personals

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Players wanted for tournaments and ring games, everyone welcome. Tel: 084-755 3118 (English). Email: lpashak@hotmail.com

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Personals

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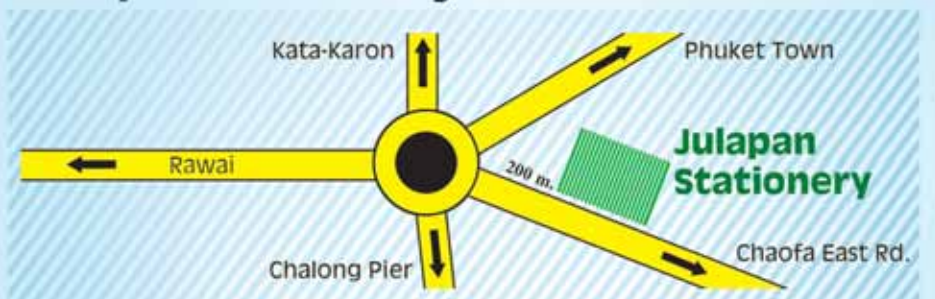
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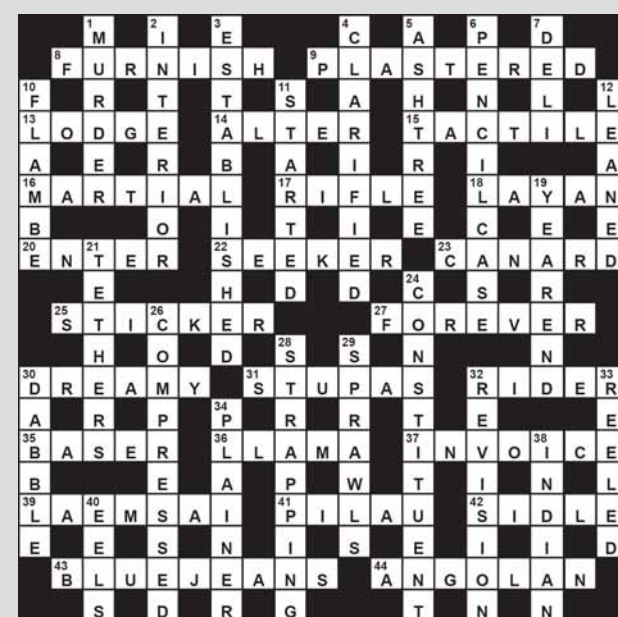
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TECNAM P-92

- Price: 1.5 million baht
- Registration: U-B08
- Year of Manufacture: 2002
- Equipment: Full standard equipment
- Engine: Rotax 912-80HP 350hrs.

Please contact for more information. Aircraft is based at Klong 15. Tel: 081-840 8418.



Notice from Thai Flying Club: There is a very nice Piper Cherokee airplane at the Thai Flying Club (TFC) in Bang Phra. It has fallen into disrepair. Someone took out the seats and some other parts... and then went away.

Owner Wichai Pettongkam loves this airplane and wants to get it back in the air. If you like flying and might want to be a partner in the plane, please come to the TFC to have a look, or contact **Khun Tom** (email tom@thaiflyingclub, Tel: 089-092 2711). Or talk to **Khun Wichai** directly on 081-633 7082.

Khun Wichai does not want to sell the plane, but would welcome a partner who can help to get it flying again. This could be a very good opportunity for someone to get a share in a nice airplane for a very good price. All negotiable.

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| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
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| Top Speed: 166 kts | Empty Weight: 2094 lbs |
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| Stall Speed (dirty): 55 kts | Range: 700 nm |
| Rate Of Climb: 1088 fpm | Fuel Av Gas 100LL |
| Ceiling: 17,400 ft | 1 crew plus 3 passengers |

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Price: 3.75 million baht. Located at Thai Flying Club, Bang Phra.

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A photograph of three men standing behind a large ceremonial check. The man on the left is wearing a white t-shirt and glasses. The man in the center is wearing a light blue polo shirt, glasses, and a dark baseball cap. The man on the right is wearing a light blue polo shirt. They are holding a large check from 'Phuket Sunshine Village' dated '24/1/2012' for the amount of 'FIFTYTHREE THOUSEND BAHT B 53.000,-'. The check features a logo of a house with a sun and trees. The background is a wall covered with various logos, including 'IGTV', 'SOPA', 'swift', and 'Phuket Sunshine Village'.



88

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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

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

Laguna Phuket will again be the focus of worldwide triathlon attention with the iconic Ironman 70.3 Laguna Phuket on Sunday, December 2, 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 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, 5pm to 12am: Big Night Out @ Boat Lagoon

Live music with *Elephant In The Room*, *DJ K May*, *MC fool*, *Legends of Siam* and the *Fuzztonez*. Doors open 5pm. Free entry. There will be live rugby on the TV. For more info: facebook.com/events/365802023512371/

King's Cup Regatta 2012

December 1-8



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, 12 to 3pm: Saturday Brunch @ Two Chefs Bistro
Every Saturday we are setting up

our brunch buffet, filled to the limits with home made delights. In our smoke house, we smoke all of our fish and meats by ourselves, and in the bakery we bake all our bread. With very well trained chefs and a Swedish head chef, we can promise you that you won't leave hungry or thirsty. All this for only 395 baht. For more info, please visit: twochefsbirodeli.com

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 complementary 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 lifehomeproject.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.

December 6, 6pm to 12am: Martini Manicure Ladies Night at RE KA TA

Free express manicure for ladies. Free Martini for ladies on arrival, and 50 per cent off the drink list all night long. Cocktail flaring. From 6pm to midnight – DJ till late. Contact 076-3300421.

December 7 to 13, 7 to 11pm: Indian Curry Buffet at Navrang Mahal in Karon Sea Sands Resort

All you can eat, authentic Indian Curry Buffet, at 449 baht net per person. Come enjoy our cold Mango and Strawberry Lassi with our delicious Mutton Vindaloo, Dal Makhani, Bombay Aloo, Mutter Paneer, Butter Chicken and mouthwatering Chicken Tikka, Samosas, and freshly baked Naans and more. For more information or to make a restaurant reservation visit: navrangmahal.com or Tel: 076-286-464

December 8, 7pm to 12am: The Full Monty Beach Charity Party at Bliss Beach Club, Bangtao Beach

Tickets at 2,500 baht per person. Children under 12 years: 1,000 baht. Includes cocktail, dinner and free flow of wine. 1,000 baht per ticket and all proceeds of the auction will support the SKÅL childrens' fund and the Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation. This event is presented by the *Phuket Gazette*, PGTV and the *Gazette's 'Phuket Today'* show, six times a week on UBC/True Visions channel 99. Contact: Urs Aebi at 66-76-371900 or email: contact@skalphuket.org

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. Sponsored by Woody's Sandwich Shoppes and the *Phuket Gazette*.

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Nothing but blue skies

"We are proud to be the first school in the Phang Nga province, maybe even all of Thailand, to have its own solar panel field."

YAOAWAIT School and Lodge is getting greener with a new solar PV field donated by solar solution and service provider Conergy, The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany to Thailand and freight-forwarding company Logwin Air + Ocean (Thailand) Ltd.

The school celebrated the installation with a presentation to students, faculty and the community.

"We were very happy when we heard about the opportunity to install a solar panel field in Yaowawit, since it will not only give our students the opportunity to learn about how solar energy functions, but it will reduce our energy costs for the next 25 years.

"The Yaowawit School is very grateful for this generous donation. We are proud to be the first school in the Phang Nga province, maybe even in all of Thailand, to have its own solar panel field.

"We will do our best to make it a learning center for both our students and those in the neighboring communities and it will serve as a role model for others," said Yaowawit School headmaster Kunchana Mailaeaid.

With the launch, the Yaowawit School will have 324 solar modules adjacent to the school covering nearly 476 square meters

and producing 227,400 watts of power per day. Construction on the solar field began in June this year. The school anticipates using the energy to operate lights, air-conditioning, computers and other appliances and reduce its energy cost by 50 per cent.

The Yaowawit solar installation is the result of a partnership between the German government and German private enterprise.

The Yaowawit School and Lodge is a private charitable boarding school, which started educating students in 2006 and was inaugurated by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Sakri Sirindhorn.

Currently, the school educates and provides shelter to 110 students, that come from very poor and broken families or suffered consequences from the 2004 tsunami.

The school teaches students life skills, such as English, hospitality and farming, in order to be able to break the circle of poverty.

The school's aim is to one day become self-sufficient by leveraging the small lodge and the 70 rai large farm.

Today the school still depends on donations and sponsorship and offers many programs to help supporters get involved.

— *Phuket Gazette*

For more information, or to donate to the school visit: yaowawit.com



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A few pints for charity

By Kathy Manthei

A PUB Quiz event, hosted by the Mövenpick Resort and Spa Karon Beach, will help support the Life Home Project, a charity which makes a difference in the lives of those affected by HIV/AIDS. Held on December 1, World AIDS Day, from 6:30 pm until late, the event will host a fun-filled night of challenging quiz questions, food by Mövenpick and drinks by the Irish Times Pub. The auction and raffle prizes will include business class flights from Etihad Airways, local dinner and



Children pose at a recent Life Home Project event.

spa packages, as well as Mövenpick international hotel packages.

Proceeds will benefit the life-affirming services of the Life Home Project. Located on Koh Sirey, the Life Home Project provides a safe,

supportive shelter for women who are HIV positive and their children as well as for those orphaned by HIV/AIDS. It also provides an Outreach and Community Action Program, which includes hospital visits, prevention programs, training seminars, awareness raising activities and a telephone support service, in addition to educational scholarships for children who're particularly vulnerable. The Life Home Project currently houses 10 women and 22 children on a permanent basis with outreach to 100 families.

For more visit: lifelhomeproject.org.

Suwit Pattamakanthin

A NOTED Danish marine biologist once called him a “formidable conchologist,” but Suwit “Jom” Pattamakanthin, the man behind the establishment of Phuket’s first seashell museum, refuses to be labeled as such.

“I am nothing of the sort, and I am not a dealer either,” says Suwit, who prefers to be known by his nickname.

We’ll just settle on the title “collector.” But Jom is also a naturalist, entrepreneur, artist and writer, whose life happens to evolve around the study, classification and collection of seashells.

Having set up three museums devoted to this species alone, Jom and his family hold an extensive collection of shells from around the world, including some rare pieces that have a market value in the thousands of dollars.

Jom inherited his love for seashells from his father who, as a supplier of marine aquarium fish in the 1970s, developed a deep appreciation for the species.

“My father used to say that if you understand shells, you will understand the world. And I don’t think he was too far off from the truth,” muses Jom.

His father, Jom says, has laid the foundation for the kind of life he leads today and the quest to continue his legacy has taken Jom far and wide. He travels the world to source rare shells, attend

THAI gallery

By Nanthapa Pengkasem

conferences on the subject, network and make friends with like-minded people. He has visited many exotic coasts; Mauritius; the Seychelles; the Philippines; Indonesia; Sri Lanka; India and Africa. He has been cheated, mugged, robbed, and almost died, all in the name of seashells.

“Shells are a big deal for me, having opened up and enriched my life no end. My wife complains that I spend more time with seashells than with her,” he chuckles.

His passion for seashells has inspired him to publish his adventures in the form of a short diary complete with drawings and delicate watercolors.

Having handed over the management of the Phuket Seashell Museum in Rawai to his uncle, Jom opened two smaller exhibition spaces for exotic shells, one in Bangkok and another in Jungceylon in Patong in 2010.

However, he admits that a shopping mall doesn’t exactly provide the ideal space to display his precious collection. He is rethinking his approach and is now in the process of finding a more suitable

space to house his rare pieces.

He reveals: “I’d like to create a space that will not only show off the beauty of shells but also highlight their rich social and cultural associations. In ancient times, shells were used as part of architecture, jewelry and as a form of money. They were important enough to be put in the burial ground for the dead to use in the afterlife.”

An immense project by any standard, but Jom is undaunted. His extensive knowledge and his museum experience will stand him in good stead for the task ahead.

But before that, he has another quest to complete. Ever since he was a boy, one unique shell species has captured his imagination, *cypraea moneta linnaeus*, used widely as money in the old days. However, in its exceptional form – comprising a raised, curled rim on porcelain-like yellow and white skin – the species is considered the king of all shells.

Over time, two have come Jom’s way. Now he is on a mission to acquire a third, which he believes to be the last of the lot. The search will take him to New Caledonia and will cost him a lot, though he refuses to reveal its market value.

“Decidedly it’s a lot of money but the complete collection will prove invaluable for our future museum,” says the 36-year-old.



About Thai Gallery

The individuals profiled in “Thai Gallery” are chosen on the basis of their contributions to Phuket as an *international* community, and, often, for having made those contributions through successful social and/or working relationships with foreigners. This implies some foreign language skills and an interest in interacting with different cultures. They are people who in our experience help make the lives of expats far more enjoyable here than might be the case without them.



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Phuket and ignorance about SSI

Diving

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

THERE are almost a hundred dive training agencies in the world. Over a dozen specialize in cave diving, even more in technical diving, but the market is dominated by recreational dive training agencies. Even the second largest agency in the world is hardly more than a name to many divers on the island.

Scuba Schools International (better known simply as SSI) has grown in leaps and bounds in Thailand over the last eight years – increasing their market shares by around 40 per cent year on year.

Despite this, it has only a fledgling grip on Phuket, leaving many divers unsure and unaware of the program's core philosophies and practices.

With SSI holding its biennial Global Meeting of Area Office on Phuket in November, and opening up an office in Chalong in December, it is obvious that basking in pure ignorance of the institution is no longer possible.

In an exclusive interview with the Director of SSI Southeast Asia, Gary Hawkins, the *Phuket Gazette* has been able to get a better idea of what SSI is all about.

Phuket Gazette: Gary, I have heard a lot about SSI recently, but honestly, still don't have a firm grip of what it's all about. So, what is SSI?

Gary Hawkins: It started 40 years ago in the US. Initially it was set up to service retailing dive centers, as opposed to the other large [diving certification] organization that went towards doing an association of diving instructors. So, from the very

beginning we've always had a philosophy that we'll only deal with full-service dive centers. In return we get a lot more retail sales going on in dive stores. Divers who own equipment are proven to generally continue diving, and our philosophy is to train all divers to always take advantage of full-service dive centers, whether it be for taking vacations... buying equipment or just for further education.

We are currently the fastest growing agency on the planet... As an agency we are very inventive, for example, we brought out the first instructional DVD, and were the first ones to bring out online learning.

And what we are bringing out in January-February will also be a first.

What is that?

It is a much more modern approach to education. At the moment a lot of people in the diving industry are saying they have gone digital in some way shape or form. And right now what that actually means is that [they] save money on print [costs] and [have] started distributing PDFs.

That's not going digital, that's distributing PDFs. The road we've already started to go down is making it a full digital interactive experience... The accessibility of our materials will also be huge. Because it means any mobile device, any computer, anyone anywhere can actually access their materials. What's revolutionary about it is how we are going to distribute that, and how we are



Director of SSI Southeast Asia, Gary Hawkins at Koh Phi Phi.



SAFETY FIRST: SSI has open water courses for rebreathers so your first dive can be bubble free.

going to reach out to our consumers and our customers – but that will have to wait until January.

What changes do you have to offer to divers?

Most of the agencies out there, offer fantastic training anyways, just different.

From a diver's perspective where we tend to differ is, because we work with dive schools instead of individuals we can give a little more flexibility, so we have the 80/20 rule. Where 80 per cent of what the diver gets taught is a 100 per cent of the SSI program.

Then they have 20 per cent that they add on top to do local conditions environmental challenges... And that is also brought about by our core philosophy that we will only teach real-world skills that work under the worst possible conditions.

So the most common statement I get from instructors crossing over to us is that 'SSI allows me to teach how I've always taught without breaking standards'. And it's just common sense to us. So flexibility in training. The rest is customer

service, encouraging people to travel and giving the ultimate diving experience is how we call it – rather than just teaching diving.

In modern terms we have phone apps that are free of charge. Customers always have their certification with them, so there is no more lost card. [The apps also have] all the hand signals and all the dive tables on there... including open manuals that are free.

What is the range of dive certifications on offer at SSI?

Everything from messing around in the swimming pool, Try Scuba, right the way up to training instructors. As far as specialties are concerned, we have all the core specialties. For example, rescue, deep, night, navigation, boat, a lot of unique specialties, a lot of environmental based specialties. It's growing all the time basically.

I know specifically in Thailand, language has been a huge hurdle for many Thai divers wanting to break into the ranks of the professionals, what languages are SSI texts available in?

We do have Thai language texts. That was a challenge, but we've done it. Also, in December we are going to have Thai online learning. So for the entire Thai market it will be free of charge. So they can go online, and basically study for their

open water in their own language. That's full interactive experience. There is a minimum of 27 but I know for a fact there are 38 languages planned. We stock 27 languages for most of our core products.

What weaknesses do you see SSI having as an agency?

The weakness is a double-edged sword, which is also our strength. Specifically here in Phuket, it's killing me. That weakness is that we don't allow individual instructors from a business perspective. If we allowed the independent instructor who works out of [his or her] home to do business with us, without affiliating with a full-service dive center, our market share in Phuket would just (snaps) double overnight. And I know that, because I'm talking with these guys. So that business-wise is a weakness, but it's also our strength. If we did do that then it would be much easier for us to get market penetration... In an established market it's a strength.

We simply don't have the volume... that we need to cope with the growth that we currently have... it's a weakness, because I can't go into a store and say, 'Here are 50 instructors, choose'. From an instructor's point of view it's a huge plus. Because we will personally place them in jobs. As quick as we get them they get employed.

Go Eco beseeches beach cleaners

GO ECO Phuket, known on the island for staging the world's biggest reef cleanup earlier this year, are gathering again with fellow community members, Kata Municipality workers, Hilton staff and an estimated 500 students from local schools for a Kata and Karon Beach cleanup.

Participants of the event will target both the beaches and the associated reefs that are along the Kata-Karon coastline on December 4.

Registration will start at 8am

and five longtail boats are expected to leave for nearby reefs with divers and debris bags around 9am, Kerry Leach from Go Eco Phuket told the *Gazette*.

Space for divers will be limited explained Ms Leach, so those wanting to take part must book in advance by contacting organizers through the Go Eco Phuket Facebook page.

"Beach cleaners are more than welcome to show up the day of the event," she added.

– Isaac Stone Simonelli



Karon Beach. Photo: Chris Hudon



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3G WiFi offerings in Phuket

IN THE first installment of this series, I talked about the general state of internet connections in Phuket. Last week, I covered the current offerings in land lines, with TOT Fiber 2U 10 Mega bits per second (Mbps) representing the best bang for your baht (sometimes; 1,500 baht/month), True DOCSIS "Ultra" coming in second (if you can get it; 599 bt/mo or 1,299 bt/mo for a moderately faster line), then TOT's WiNet hybrid wireless-to-your-home (599 bt/mo), and finally all of the ADSL lines, which are generally indistinguishable from one another, and run 599 bt/mo.

While you'll find advertisements for 20 Mbps or even 100 Mbps land lines in Phuket, it's rare that we get a line that clocks much more than 2 or 3 Mbps consistently, judging by international single-threaded downloads (see: phuketinternetspeed.com). Lately, even some of the Fiber 2U lines have slowed down to the point where they're indistinguishable from plain-vanilla ADSL lines.

A speed of 2 to 3 Mbps isn't bad: it'll keep a Skype video connection going, and you'll be able to see YouTube and other low definition video sources without much dropping or pausing. But, if you want to stream high definition TV, particularly if it isn't cached in Bangkok, chances are awfully good that you'll be disappointed with any line in Phuket.

This week I want to take a look at 3G wireless offerings in Phuket. I hate the term 3G because anybody can sell anything and call it "3G". In Phuket, we had one telephone company that used the term 3G for a wireless internet service that's not even close to the commonly accepted definition of 3G. That service is gone now, so I guess it makes a little bit of sense to talk about 3G in Phuket. I'll begrudgingly follow the common parlance.

If you don't understand the difference between 3G and WiFi, you aren't alone. Many of the people who sell 3G and WiFi in Phuket don't know the difference either. If you need a primer, I went over the main factors in my May 25 Live Wire column last year.

When you start looking at wireless connections, one of the first bits of terminology you'll find is "3.9G". Saints preserve us. Since there's no real definition of 3G, you can rest comfortable in the knowledge that there's even less of a definition for 3.9G. It's all marketing flim-flammy.

In Thailand, the term 3G is synonymous with HSPA wireless technology. If you pay for 3G, what you're actually getting is HSPA. There's a greatly improved version of HSPA called HSPA+, and that's what TOT calls 3.9G.



Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

While HSPA+, in theory, should run almost twice as fast as HSPA, the fact is that TOT hasn't built out its infrastructure to support faster speeds. We rarely see 3.9G HSPA+ connections running any faster than 3G HSPA.

And all the fluff about 42 Mbps – the advertised speed for some 3G services in Phuket – it's drivel. Utter fantasy. The technology may be theoretically capable of running 42 Mbps, in a lab. Our measured speeds out in the field here typically come in between 0.6 and 1.2 Mbps – and that's both 3G and 3.9G. The speed varies greatly depending on your physical location: Phuket isn't blanketed with 3G towers. If you get a slower connection, expect to have trouble connecting with Skype. If you get a faster connection, you can certainly watch YouTube

Like all of the 3G vendors, CAT advertises that its package is "unlimited" but that's ridiculous. Every "unlimited" package, regardless of vendor, has a limit to the amount of data you can download in a month – some 2 GB, some 3 GB, at least one has 4 GB, and after you download the maximum amount, your speed is cut back so severely you'll think you're using a tin can and string. Most people can get by with 2 or 3 GB per month, but only if they use the 3G connection for viewing YouTube videos or checking Facebook or email. Heavier use – including tethering a computer to your phone – will no doubt blow through the data cap in much less than a month.

TrueMove-H and DTAC both use the CAT network. As far as I can tell, all three networks work equally well (or poorly, depending on your location). The main difference: CAT is half the price of the other two. You may find that one of the three has a deal that you can use – a discount on the iPhone 5, say, or a Samsung Note II.

Sometimes True runs a discount on 3G when you buy TrueVision (formerly UBC) satellite TV service. But when it comes to the 3G network, they're all the same.

AIS uses the TOT network. While CAT has had 3G service and towers in Phuket for years, TOT is a

relative newcomer.

Although they seem to have good coverage, neither CAT nor TOT publish detailed maps that reliably tell you where their



WIFI WASTELAND: Parts of Phuket are like an internet desert. Photo: Florian

services drop off. As a result, you may find that either AIS/TOT or CAT/True/DTAC provide stronger signals in your particular location.

Prices are subject to change without notice – heaven knows the web pages won't be updated – but as things stand right now, the wireless line speeds from all of the vendors are pretty close to identical, and CAT has a big advantage on price.

Next week I'll step you through the procedures involved in getting a new internet connection.

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/SandwichShoppe.

| Date/Time | Provider | Location | Reporter | Speed Down | Speed Up | Latency | Note |
|------------------|------------------------------|----------|-----------|------------|----------|---------|--|
| 2012-11-27 07:34 | TOT - 4 Mbps | Kaew | David Esh | 303 | 500 | | |
| 2012-11-28 21:00 | CAT - EV-DO | Kaew | Isk | 340 | 310 | 172 | |
| 2012-11-28 08:21 | TOT - 4 Mbps | Kaew | David Esh | 365 | 510 | | |
| 2012-11-28 07:42 | TRUE - ADSL 9 Mbps | Kaew | smucker | 1,801 | 672 | | Internet - West Coast |
| 2012-11-28 07:14 | TRUE - ADSL 9 Mbps | Kaew | smucker | 1,403 | 745 | | Parangay |
| 2012-11-29 19:21 | TOT - 4 Mbps | Chalong | Isk | 358 | 444 | 321 | slow as hell most. Flash does not like Firefox |
| 2012-11-29 16:01 | TRUE - Ultra 10 Mbps (Cable) | Chalong | Valent | 1,000 | 861 | 192 | Parangay |
| 2012-11-29 11:11 | TRUE - ADSL 9 Mbps | Kaew | smucker | 1,733 | 722 | | Internet - West Coast |
| 2012-11-29 11:07 | DTAC - HSPA+ | Kaew | smucker | 419 | 0 | 803 | |
| 2012-11-29 11:05 | TRUE - ADSL 9 Mbps | Kaew | smucker | 1,504 | 779 | | Parangay |

Phuket internet speeds by region. Source: khunwoody.com

videos on a phone or low quality tablet, but you may see a lot of drops and stutters on a 10-inch tablet, including the iPad.

Last week I talked about the dearth of information on the web about land lines: you can't go to a vendor's site, click a button or two, and see a full list of what's offered and how much it costs. Same with wireless services. To get the latest prices, you need to physically go to a shop and ask.

One of the enduring, endearing features of 3G in Phuket is that the Thai government hasn't figured out what it's doing with 3G. As a direct result, not all 3G phones/tablets/USB dongles will work on a specific carrier's channels. You should take your phone (tablet, dongle) with you when you buy a 3G package, and make sure that it's working before you leave the shop.

Here are my recommendations for 3G package vendors, in order:

CAT My Click has a new HSPA+ network that isn't really new. It's the old TrueMove-H network, which was bought and built by True subsidiaries, but then under terms of the obligatory contract reverted back to CAT. The big advantage? CAT sells the service for about half of what the other 3G companies charge: 590 baht per month.



Contemplation

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A great place to shoot the Breeze

IT IS always a treat to share a meal with a friend after the demands of work or even just driving around Phuket. Thankfully, there are a refreshing number of new restaurants that continually pop up around the island which make for delightful dining adventures. One of the best is the recently opened 'Breeze' near the entrance to the upscale Cape Yamu.

Located 7.4 kilometers east of the Heroines' Monument, Breeze was originally built as a lounge and club house for residents in any of the surrounding luxury villa projects. Peter Hamilton, a principal in Campbell Kane developments which includes Cape Yamu, decided to create a restaurant where people could chill out, enjoy beautiful views and some of the world's best cuisine and wines.

"I often travel around the world and have made a number of friends in the wine and restaurant business. It seemed like a good idea to import talented chefs and fine wines for a unique restaurant on the hillside overlooking the bay. I was fortunate to find Cheryl Johnson who had just left Toque, one of Montreal's top restaurants, and who was available to take over kitchen operations at Breeze," says Peter.

Cheryl graduated from the Culinary Institute of America, one of the world's top training academies for chefs and worked in the kitchen at Toque for nine years where the chefs are referred to as 'passionate artists'.

"Even as a child, I've always loved being in the kitchen. I did my intern training at Toque which gave me the chance to work with the

On the Menu

By Bruce Stanley

freshest seasonal ingredients acquired by artisan growers in the Montreal region. I started at Toque as an intern and left as 'Executive Sous-Chef'."

Cheryl arrived on Phuket earlier this year and was faced with a rather simple clubhouse building. Together, she and Peter put a roof over the dining area made of wooden rods from local casuarina trees giving the space a light and natural feel. Peter then added some sculptures from his extensive art collection. Outside is a long infinity pool for guests to enjoy, next to a large chess board where customers can play while sampling wines that Peter imports.

While Peter looks after the identity of the wine list which includes a Yamu Special Reserve Mas Neuf, Cheryl takes full control of the lunch and dinner menus offering the quality of dishes that have people driving from all over the island to experience. Cheryl's food is not only an adventure in taste but in artful presentation. She darts in and out of the kitchen presenting what she has created to her guests. The atmosphere in Breeze is relaxed and comfortable like a great family gathering.

Menu prices are quite modest for the experience of dining on top of the island.

Cheryl maintains a boutique menu of light appetizers and main courses that combine surprising taste combinations that can be found nowhere else. Her crispy pork belly

(375 baht) is enhanced with apple, pine nuts, greens and a mint-mustard sauce giving the palate a wonderful kaleidoscope of tastes in the one dish.

Her cuisine often gives a nod to Asian influences such as her light 'Fish and Chips' with the pomfret fried in tempura batter and served with thin crisps and a sweet and sour 'chili liquide' (350 baht).

Even the classic burger gets a look in with a grilled lemongrass pork burger (400 baht) served with lettuce, shallots, cucumber and mustard on a homemade bun.

Everything is homemade from the sauces to the bread and the papardelle pasta.

As refreshing as the omnipresent sea breeze is the fact that all prices include VAT. The only 'plus, plus' here is the decor and the view.

Cheryl changes the menu every few days depending on what fresh ingredients she can find at the local market and what she thinks will excite her guests.

Breeze is a great destination for those wanting to enjoy what Phuket is all about. Expansive tropical views in a world class space with distinctive cuisine and wine available.

A great place to take a friend to catch up on life or a spot for a romantic assignation. It's the kind of place that makes you feel good about living on Phuket.

Breeze is open for lunch from Wednesday to Saturday and for dinner from Tuesday to Saturday. Reservations can be made at E:breeze@capeyamu.com or call on 081 271 2320.



BRIGHT AND BREEZY: Chef Cheryl has fresh ideas on cuisine.



SALAD DAYS: Some ingredients are sourced from Cheryl's own garden.



CRISPY: Even the 'Fish and Chips' are a healthy option. Photos: Marc Mulloy



CULINARY ART: Clockwise are the Lemongrass pork burger, apple crumble, and vanilla meringue with caramel mousse (with ice-cream)



FINE ART: A bronze sculpture by Chinese artist Yue Minjun looks on.

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BUSTED BUS: This Phuket bus was being towed by a water truck until the bumper came off. Photo: Mark Shedden

Foiling the e-scamsters



YOU'VE received them. I've received them. Everybody who uses the Internet receives them. If there's one experience common to all of us, it's the e-mail scam.

Typically this takes the form of an e-mail from somebody with an exotic name like Abu Musa, Blessing Konkobo, or Mr Bright S Zongo.

Sometimes the writer asks for money, often with a touching message in the 'Subject' box, such as 'MY HEART CHOOSE YOU' or a heart-rending 'PLEASE I AM CRYING TEARS FOR HELP'.

But the approach varies. Often the writer professes to be a bank manager or a finance minister who needs to transfer a huge amount of money into your bank account. The owner of the money has perished or disappeared in some convoluted way, and the writer needs to get the money out of the country for reasons that are sometimes murky. In return for your cooperation, he offers you a handsome cut of the boodle. Of course, you have to supply your banking details, and sometimes even your internet password.

I am fascinated by the writers' names. Most of them sound vaguely African to my untutored brain: like Vincent Zango, Waraka Koko, Miss Love Kabore, and Wahib Dicko. I wonder what the mother of Dr Pissa Abubaka was thinking when she named him.

But hold! We must not malign the noble citizens of Africa. Nikolai Sintsov is not an African name, nor Chen Hoa, nor Madame Mei Changpu. Many of the names are not nationality-specific: for instance, Beauty Johnson, Smith

Washington, Dr Diim Michael, Grace Ace, and Princess Sonia Brown. Some may even belong to other species, like Mr Julius Gull and Georgina Yak.

Occasionally the senders are quite prestigious. I once received a request from Saif Gaddafi, the son of the late dictator, who wanted to liberate a large fortune from Libya. His mother, Mrs Safiya Gaddafi, and his sister, Miss Ayesha Salamatou Gaddafi, made similar requests.

I even received a message from Madame Christine Lagarde, head of the International Monetary Fund, offering to release a huge amount of blocked money into my hands. Oddly enough, Madame Lagarde was running the IMF from Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

Puzzled as to how I should respond to such messages, I consulted a knowledgeable friend, the illustrious Eustace T ("Bubba") Hogwaller of Skunk Junction, Tennessee. "It's a scam, Curm," he informed me. "Don't answer them e-mails. Just delete 'em. Them fellers'll get into your bank account and clean it out faster'n a Pattaya bargirl." Despite this unkind slur on the integrity of some of the charming maidens of Pattaya, I sensed that his assessment rang true.

Nevertheless, I was tempted to respond to women with names like Princess Bea Mungo. I envisioned Princess Bea as a stunning embodiment of African royalty – a dusky, sloe-eyed beauty of blouse-busting mammarian magnificence, smoldering with lust and hungry for the erotic ministrations of a mature and distinguished gentleman like myself. But then experience triumphed over fantasy, and I hit the "Delete" key.

Ye Olde Curmudgeon can be scolded for his cynicism c/o s.t.sow@ymail.com, except when he's fantasizing over the rich endowments of Princess Bea Mungo.

Complete and finished

NO ENGLISH dictionary has been able to adequately explain the difference between the words 'complete' and 'finished'.

However, in a recent linguistic conference held in London, attended by some of the best linguists in the world: Samsundar Balgobin, a Guyanese, was the clear winner.

His final challenge was this: "Some say there is no difference between 'complete' and 'finished'. Please explain the difference between 'complete' and 'finished' in a way that is easy to understand."

Here is his astute answer: "When you marry the right woman, you are 'complete'. But, when you marry the wrong woman, you are 'finished'. And when the right one catches you with the wrong one, you are 'Completely Finished'."

His answer was received with a standing ovation lasting ages and it entitled him to receive a case of 25 year old Eldorado rum for his answer.



SIGNING OFF: At least Kindergarten teachers are welcome.

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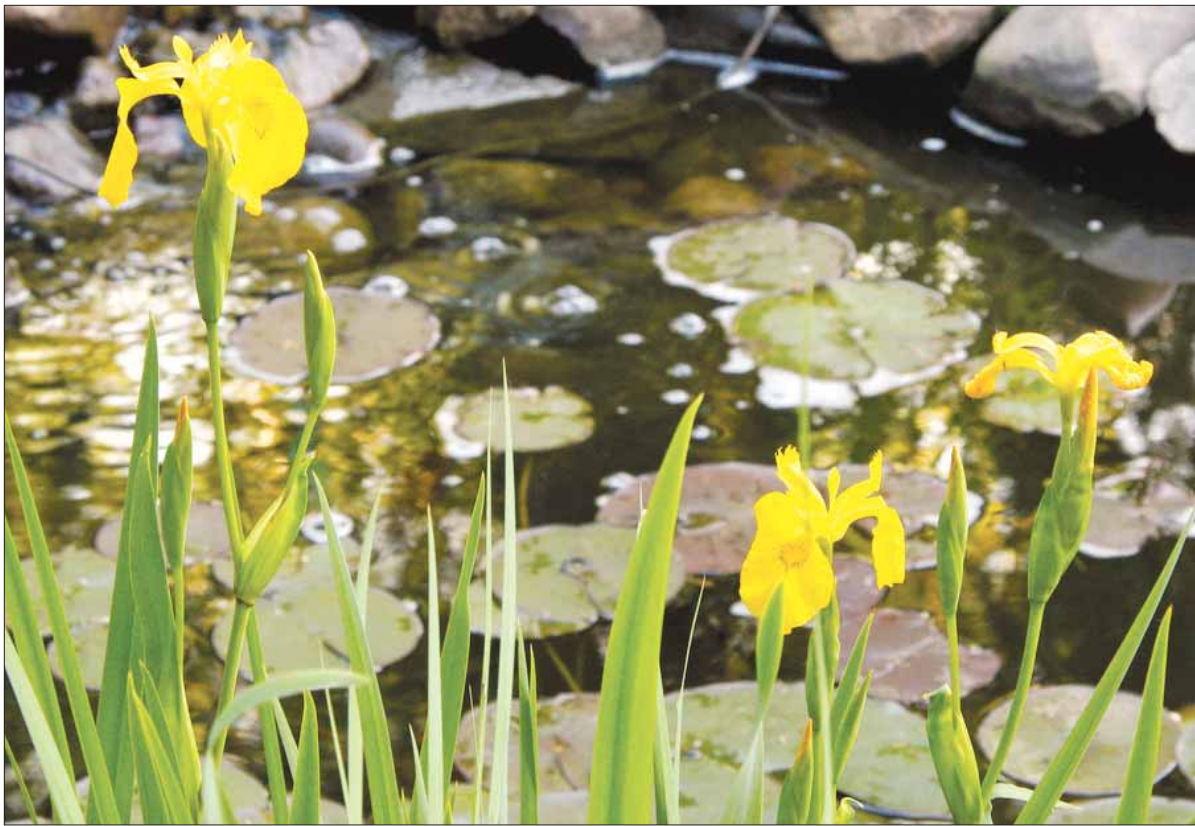


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Marginal Choices

Plants for a marshy environment



MARGINALIZED: Water Iris' habitat is typically along the fringes of lakes and rivers. Photo: Tundra Ice



SUB-TROPICAL: Iris Louisiana Black Gamecock. Photo: Henryr10

THERE has been lots of hot air expended about marginals during the run-up to the American presidential election. In political terms, "marginals" are states where a few key votes may swing *all* the seats either in a Republican or Democratic direction. In the case of Florida, all 28 members elected to Congress. Marginals can be very important.

In the world of flora, marginals have different connotations. True, they exist in *marginal* situations, straddling the divide between land and water, plants that flourish in shallow water, or mud, or in soil that is more-or-less permanently moist.

More crucially, they normally grow, as the name suggests, at the *margins* or fringes of expanses of water – lakes, rivers, even your



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

domestic fish pond. And normally they are not "floaters" such as lilies (*nymphaeas*)

or water hyacinths, but erect growers with tall, stiff stems and foliage. In fact, the waxy, emersed leaves not only tend to repel water, but utilize light in the way of terrestrial plants, photosynthesizing in the same manner.

These plants can also be grown in pots, but preferably with more mud than water, in order to simulate their natural marshy habitat. And they will need feeding. It is worth dividing these marginals into two groups: those that need to have their feet permanently in shallow water or saturated soil; and those (canna lilies, for instance) that can put up with somewhat drier conditions for short periods: for example when pond levels temporarily recede.

In the former category, you might include the eponymous lotus, though in natural conditions, it does tend to spread out across entire lakes, and certainly the varieties of *cyperus* mentioned in earlier articles. Tall and graceful, the Egyptian papyrus will enhance the appearance of any water garden. At least one variety can be cultivated in temperate regions, so if you still have a residence outside the tropics, it is worth thanking about.

The papyrus, with its cylindrical stems, is actually a sedge. Like the rush family, of which the bulrush (*typha angustifolia*) is the best known and most widely distributed, both rushes and sedges are familiar waterside plants in temperate regions, useful because they fringe the margins of lakes, streams and rivers. Look out for them. Some varieties also grow here.

One, (*juncus variegata*) a variegated form known as the gold strike rush, has beautiful yellow stripes along the length of its narrow leaves. I have not seen it in garden centers, but it is worth prospecting for. Sedges tend to be characterized by hollow, hairless, circular stems, rushes more often have flat, spathe-like leaves. Both sprout from rhizomes beneath the surface of the water, and can cope with infertile soils – including sandy ones.

With conventional irises, one is in the realm of plants, as with marsh-loving canna lilies or *calocasias*, that may survive without constant moisture. Not the case though with water irises, which come from wetland habitats, and prefer permanently water-logged soil. They have large, attractive, tri-sepal flowers which droop – hence the blooms

are called "falls" – and they come in a huge range of colors (iris means rainbow).

Moreover, they are vigorous growers, some producing blooms as tall as two meters in height. As with all these plants, they are good for containers, but will need feeding with fertilizer tablets placed in the mud.

Many varieties have been developed in the southern USA: for example, "Black Gamecock" a deep purple Louisiana hybrid; others, more familiar to Europeans, include the yellow flag iris (*pseudocorus*). Like sedges and rushes, they are generally temperate or sub-tropical; whether they can tolerate conditions here is open to speculation.

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



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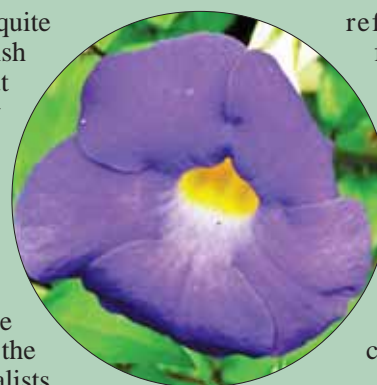
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Tip of the Week

What's in a name?

AS FAR as plants are concerned, quite a lot. They have common English names and Thai equivalents, but also botanical names – usually two Latinate words with the second epithet providing useful information about such matters as growth habit, type of foliage, size or shape of blooms, or even medicinal properties. Tongue-twisting they may be, but these botanical names are recognized the world over by many horticulturalists. Worth remembering.

For example *fragrans* means sweet smelling, *floribunda* and *grandiflora* respectively



Allamanda cathartica
Photo: Ramesh NG

refer to abundant and large flowerers. *Rotundifolia* suggests round leaves, *variegata* bi-colored foliage. *Nocturnum* implies a night flowerer, *mutabilis* blooms that change color. *Japonica* reveals a Japanese origin, *chinensis* a Chinese one. Every so often these epithets, which are linked to the plant's name – the first word – contain surprising information.

In the case of *allamanda cathartica*, the second word shows that this climber can be used as a purgative (cathartic). Or once was...

ROBERT A. CARO THE YEARS OF LYNDON JOHNSON THE PASSAGE OF POWER

Tale of a titan

Books

By James Eckardt

THE historian Robert A Caro has won just about every literary award that it is possible to win. His debut biography in 1974 was *The Power Broker: Robert Moses and the Fall of New York*. The urban planner (and destroyer) changed the face of New York, for better or ill, while never holding an elective office. This is a story of raw political power.

And what better subject for raw political power than Lyndon Johnson? Caro has been working on a five volume biography of the former US president for nearly 40 years until the overall title *The Years of Lyndon Johnson*.

The fourth volume of the series is *The Passage of Power* (Alfred A Knopf, New York, 2012, 712pp) and covers the years 1958 to 1964, ranging from Johnson's six years as Democratic Majority Leader during which time he wielded unprecedented power as the Master of the Senate.

But his ultimate ambition was to become President, one that he constantly pronounced as a boy. He was also deathly afraid of humiliation, of becoming the failure that his father was, and this prevented him from contesting the 1960 primaries that saw John F Kennedy advance to the Democratic nomination in the convention at Los Angeles.

To win Texas and other southern states, Kennedy tapped Johnson as his running mate. Liberals, labor chiefs, civil rights leaders and, most of all Robert Kennedy, were appalled and adamantly opposed. Bobby made no less than three trips to Johnson's hotel room to dissuade him from accepting the offer. Bobby hated Johnson.

Yet Johnson was not merely a master politician, capable of stealing an election when necessary. He was also a sincere believer in the causes of fighting poverty and

promoting civil rights. Robert Kennedy's character was no less complex than Johnson's.

"Bobby Kennedy's behavior during the Cuban Missile Crisis had not been the first indication that behind the Torquemada glower, the prosecutor's jabbing fist, the insistence that all surren-

'Beneath an idealization of his father, the need to attain his approbation, which seemed to be a constant motivation in his life – that beneath all this, there was something more, something quite different, within Robert Francis Kennedy.'

ders be unconditional that made the adjective 'ruthless' an apt description no matter how deeply he resented it, beneath an idealization of his father, the need to attain his approbation, which seemed to be a constant motivation in his life – that beneath all this, there was something more, something quite different, within Robert Francis Kennedy.'

The above sentence is typical of Robert A Caro, the lofty Augustan tone, the orotund and serpentine sentences. It's a kind

of writing that has largely gone out of style in English prose and can be a delight to read.

Caro's prose is, however, overwrought and repetitious and all of his books would benefit from editorial pruning. However, he has attained such a lofty literary eminence that no one seems to have the temerity to try.

Caro details exhaustively how Attorney General Robert Kennedy tormented Johnson while he languished in the powerless office of the Vice President.

Then came John Kennedy's assassination in Dallas on November 22, 1963.

Johnson showed impeccable leadership in the chaotic transition, including a tour de force speech before the joint houses of Congress. He was now back as Master of the Senate and began pushing through all the long-stalled Kennedy programs for tax cuts, education

and, most of all, civil rights. Johnson's Voting Rights Act in August 1965 would enfranchise American blacks and change the face of political power forever. Johnson would bestride Congress like a titan, until his downfall over the Vietnam war in 1968.

Caro is 77-years-old. Each of his books about Johnson took around a decade to write. Let's hope he's around at 87 to present the final volume of Johnson's presidential years.

LITERARY LEGEND: Robert A Caro (below) has managed to win almost every prestigious award for historical biographies that exist.



Going back to the 'Drawing Room'

By Chris Hudon

STROLLING through Phuket Old Town one night last week, I happened upon a hidden treasure called 'The Drawing Room', where a local Phuket artist named Aree Kongpol was showing his work in an exhibition entitled *Buddhist Art for 15 years*.

The Drawing Room is an art gallery on Phang Nga road, nestled among the many quaint Sino-Portuguese buildings that define Phuket Old Town. The gallery has a space upstairs that is being used to rotate exhibitions of local artists.

Downstairs has a comic book

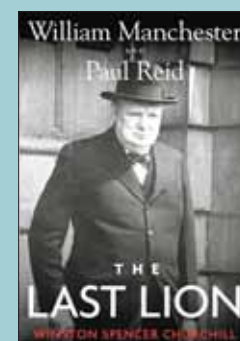
feel, using a lot of black and white stylized sketches. The vibe inside is that of an artist's personal studio. The large main room has easels scattered about, which display quirky paintings ranging from realism to abstract pieces.

An overfilled ash tray piled high with cigarette butts sits tucked away in the corner – a telling sign of the many late nights spent in pursuit of the 'creative process'.

Walking to the back of the downstairs studio you'll find mixed-media displays. Follow those displays around the corner and up the stairs to find the exhibition hall. For more info call: 081-326-2084



BLACK AND WHITE BEAUTY: A painting hangs in The Drawing Room.



You might also enjoy:

WILLIAM Manchester was a hugely successful popular historian and biographer whose books include *The Last Lion*, Volumes 1 and 2, *Goodbye Darkness*, *A World Lit Only by Fire*, *The Glory and the Dream*, *The Arms of Krupp*, *American Caesar*, *The Death of the President*, and assorted works of journalism.



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Father of the Nation

By Nanthapa Pengkasem

ON December 5, HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej, or King Rama IX of the Chakri Dynasty, the longest reigning Thai monarch, will turn 85 years old.

Looking back in time, the circumstances surrounding HM King Bhumibol's 1946 ascension to the throne couldn't have been more remarkable.

Born the second son to Prince Mahidol of Songkhla, the brother of King Prachadhipok (Rama VII), neither the King nor his elder brother Ananda Mahidol were in any way expected to be part of the long line of the Chakri Dynasty that had ruled Siam since 1782.

His father, Prince Mahidol na Songkhla, was the heir presumptive but when he passed away and the childless King Prachadhipok died in 1935, the crown was, by law of ascension, bestowed on Bhumibol's elder brother Ananda when he was 9-years-old.

However, when King Ananda died in 1946, the crown was once more passed on, this time to his younger brother, the present King Bhumibol. He was 18 then.

HM King Bhumibol returned to Switzerland, where he had lived since then, to study law and political science and his uncle, Rangsit, Prince of Chainat, was appointed Prince Regent. HM the King returned to Thailand in 1950, when his coronation took place. His full name – Bhumibol Adulyadej – means 'The Strength of the Land: Incomparable Power'.

The King is a great achiever. He has been called the revolutionary king, the reformist king, the development king, the jazz king (he has composed no less than fifty songs), and the people's engineer. To the Thais however, he is known fondly as "the Father of the Nation," or *Por Luang*. Indeed, his birthday is also

celebrated as a Father's Day in Thailand.

Having a lifelong interest in agriculture, the King has developed agriculture-related projects that include soil management, drought and flood mitigation, and wastewater management, among others.

A gifted inventor, the King has engineered modern and cost effective machines to solve difficult farming and environmental situations such as the Royal Rain and the aerator for polluted water, for example.

But for the Thais, he is most renowned for his philosophy of Sufficiency Theory or *setsakit por pieng*, that he proposed to the nation during the economic crisis in the late 1990s.

Sufficiency Theory advocates a livelihood of moderation and a development model based on small incremental steps devoid of high risks or speculations.

Giving a definition, the King says: "...Self Sufficiency doesn't mean each family has to grow their own food or weave their own clothes. That is too extreme. In fact, it could mean wealth as long as the money earned is not the result of exploitation of others..."

During the two decades of its application, *setsakit por pieng* has become the byword for many Thais who genuinely embrace the concept and successfully apply it to their lives.

While the foreign press is happy to point out that King Bhumibol's wealth based on assets held by the Crown Property Bureau (oblivious to the fact that the resources of the Crown are passed on from monarch to monarch, and don't belong to the King alone). As for the argument that



HM The King with President Barack Obama during Mr Obama's visit in November. Photo: The Nation

Sufficiency Theory flies in the face of the King's wealth, many farmers up and down the country will tell you otherwise.

Thamrong Jaibut, farmer and member of Khao Hin Sorn Development Education Centre, says:



HM The King cares for the poorest and most vulnerable people.

"Our community is now strong because we are united in our aim to be self reliant. We pool our re-

sources and do not exploit others. We lead simple and economical lives. When we are focused, wisdom comes. The King's theory is not only applicable to farming but to other areas of life as well. It actually teaches us that to sustain our livelihood, we must also be good citizens. The result of the Sufficiency Theory is that small communities can be the building blocks of a secured nation."

In 2006, on the 60th anniversary of his rule, the *United Nations Development Programme* (UNDP) presented to HM King Bhumibol the first Human Development Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition for his tireless work.

In his speech accompanying the presentation, UNDP's then Secretary General Kofi Annan credited the King with "Extraordinary contribution to human development," and called him "the world's Development King, who reached out to the poorest and the most vulnerable people of Thailand regardless of their

status, ethnicity or religion."

Since 2005, HM The King has been residing at Siriraj Hospital due to health issues. This has in no way prevented him from doing his "duty", as he still receives government and foreign dignitaries, reads, writes and plans more development projects.

As preparations to celebrate HM The King's birthday are underway in Bangkok and throughout the country, and his songs are being played in schools, government offices and even shopping malls, the whole nation looks forward to his customary appearance and speech at Ananta Samakhom Throne Hall in the Grand Palace on December 5.

The Thai people hope that in this time of fragmented and partisan politics, a father's words may help ease anxieties, erase doubts and confirm beliefs. Most of all, they hope that HM The King will work his usual magic and through his speech unite the nation once and for all.

¹ Excerpt translated from *Following in the Footsteps of the Father*, edited by Suwat Asawachaicharn, Sarakadee Press, Bangkok: March 2012.



FATHER'S DAY: HM The King turns 85 this week has many agricultural projects.



HM The King addressed the nation from the balcony of Chakri Maha Prasat Throne Hall on his 84th birthday in 2011. Photos: The Nation and Bureau of the Royal Household



SUDOKU: Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. © Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)

COFFEE break

Across:

8. Provide new furs, covering back in hotel (7)
9. Drunk in sticky dressing (9)
13. Stay in the gatehouse (5)
14. Change later, perhaps (5)
15. In diplomacy, lie could be a tangible feeling (7)
16. Spoil scattered tail, being combative (7)
17. Right, file out to get gun (5)
18. For a song, a new small beach on Phuket (5)
20. Note rent changed, put on record (5)
22. Hunter reeks badly out East (6)
23. Be permitted to a way to make a false report (6)
25. Persistent one second, mark

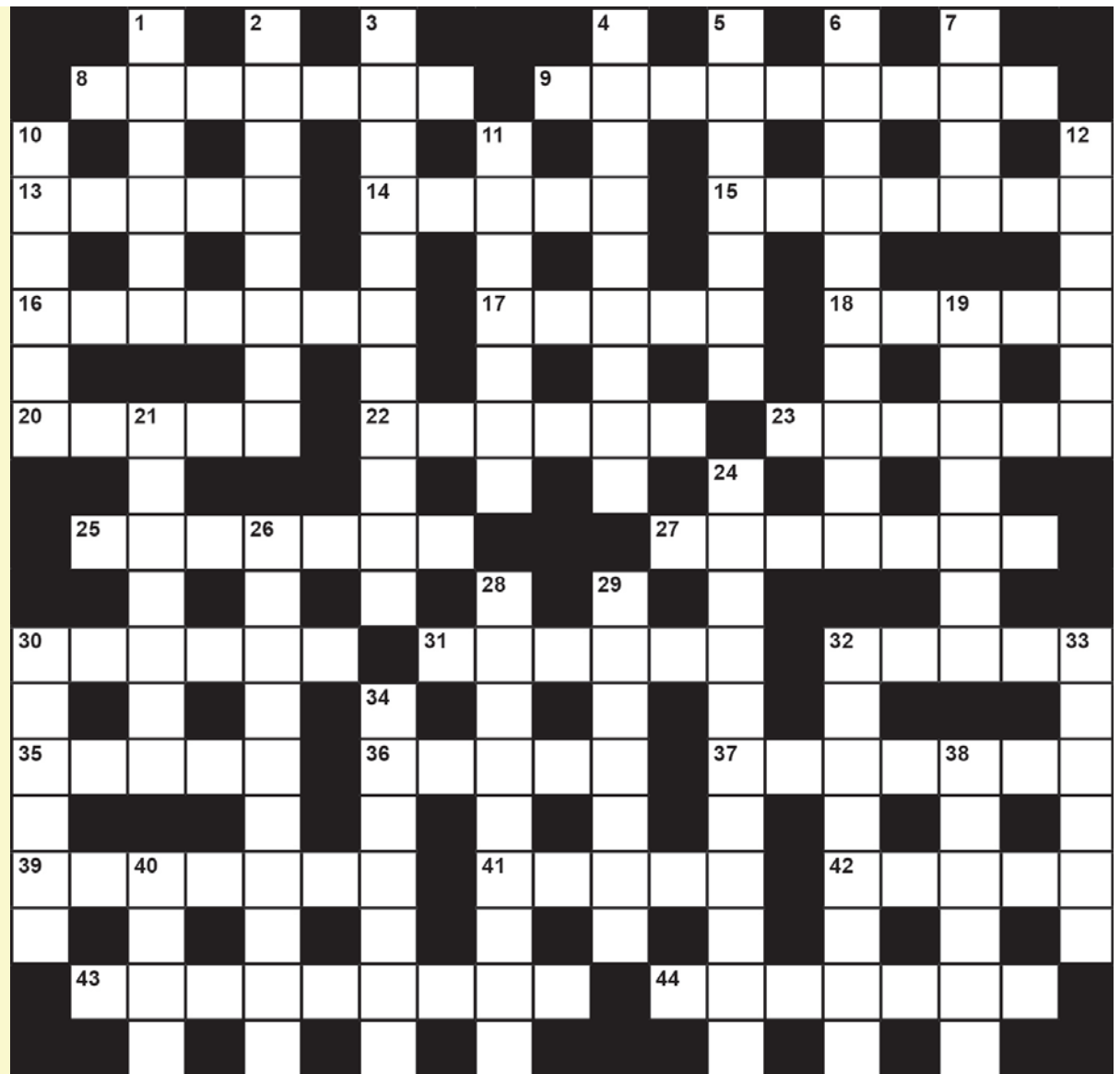
correct note right (7)

27. Or fever, perhaps without cease (7)
30. Unaware of what is happening, wonderful! (6)

31. Buddhist repositories of holy relics moving past us (6)
32. Supplement for a horseman (5)
35. Lower whirling saber (5)
36. Learner left morning article on wool producer from the mountains (5)
37. Fashionable to say what you think, Bill (5)
39. A point in Phuket, males can be first class (4,3)
41. Paul, I can make spicy rice (5)
42. Is led around edge (5)
43. Pants for sad girls (4,5)
44. In goal, an unusual North African man (7)

Down:

1. Dispatch red rum in turn (6)
2. Bury one round river in the hinterland (8)



3. Set out, sailor left one small building. Accepted (11)
4. Made clear, caught disorganized I fled IRA (9)
5. Does this forest timber burn to a powdery residue? (3,4)
6. Nice clasp fixed note in writing instrument holder (6,4)
7. Lied about shop selling ready to eat food (4)
10. Light liquor! Fine lamb! Ecstasy! (6)

11. Suddenly moved and began (7)
12. The French dean, shaken, had an inclination (6)
19. Yearned surprisingly for conclusion of the twelve months (4,3)
21. Secures hotel in walking street (7)
24. Voter is a component part (11)
26. Compacted with comperes to move around the South on the date (10)
28. Strong fastening (9)
29. Reaches far and wide, having left warp up inside vessel (7)

30. Pursue superficially in bad turn, black the French (6)
32. Correction about mental image (8)
33. Staggered about, leered (6)
34. More obviously unattractive to a greater extent (7)
38. One in, and maybe a South Asian (6)
40. Else could be fish (4)

Cryptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Answers on page 31.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):

In the world of work, water that you believed was under the bridge can flow back during the first half of December. The stars suggest that Sagittarians do whatever is necessary to put this matter firmly behind them. Romance with an earth sign blossoms, but a water sign's interest is lukewarm. Those celebrating a birthday during the days ahead will make important commitments in the coming year. Your lucky number is seven.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):

The stars indicate that December will be a time to make or break it at work. Strong energy at the start of the month should be utilized to your advantage; taking a stand against another earth sign can put you in an influential position. Those who are tiring of playing a waiting game where romance with a water sign is concerned should face up to facts. Number three brings good luck this week.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):

Those born under the sign of Aquarius should have the wind in their sails as December starts. You will be in the right frame of mind to reach compromises and see

possibilities that others are blind to. Romance is up and down until the middle of the month. Aquarians who recently experienced a parting of the ways should hear something that cheers them up this weekend. Number one can be special.

PISCES (Feb 20-March 20):

Pisceans are likely to be more selective about who they spend time with during December. There are signs that recent disagreements have shown you how important it is to know who your friends really are. In the realm of romance, another water sign has your best interests at heart when they introduce you to someone who can become special in your life. Number five comes alive this week.

ARIES (March 21-April 20):

In the world of work, the stars advise that you have made a good impression on someone without being aware of it. Expect another fire sign to make an attractive offer during the first half of December. This could result in important decisions being made about where you want to see yourself in the future. Romance sparkles on Tuesday and Wednesday. Your lucky number this week is eight.

YOUR horoscope By Isla Star

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):

Those born under the Taurus will have to face some facts as December begins. Taking on extra work is forecast to become too much to handle and the stars advise being realistic about present commitments. Where romance is concerned, your efforts to ignore another earth sign's interest could reach breaking point. Sunday is an auspicious day to make your feelings clear. Number nine appears important for Taureans this week.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

Giving an honest opinion is one thing, but too much criticism will not go down well with others this week. A fire sign is particularly likely to take your words the wrong way midweek. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, the stars recommend allowing another air sign to learn from their mistakes. Money matters are auspicious on Sunday and Monday. Gemini's lucky number this week is four.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

Your intuition can be affected by cloudy astral conditions this week. Cancerians should wait until the middle of the month before making any moves that cannot be undone. The stars suggest that property matters are best put on hold until the start of next year. Where romance is concerned, an air sign wants to get closer, but an earth sign gives the wrong impression. Number two can be fortunate this week.

LEO (July 24-Aug 22):

Your curiosity is aroused by what you see and hear as the month of December commences. Romance can also be influenced by this mood of the moment – a passing encounter this weekend may lead to a relationship with an air sign. Cutting a financial tie becomes possible, and the stars forecast that Leos will end the year with a healthier bank balance. Number six stands out this week.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):

Personal relationships can be put to the test during the first half of December. Another earth sign's actions may come as a disappointment, and Virgoans could decide to take distance from this person. Getting

to know a water sign romantically is made harder when friends get involved. The stars suggest that you will have to wait a while before spending quality time alone with this person. Your lucky number this week is two.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):

Finances fall under the spotlight for those born under the sign of Libra during the first week of December. Your earning power remains strong this month, but being too sympathetic to another air sign's plight could cost you more than expected. Budgeting ahead for the holiday season is recommended – those with a fire sign partner are advised to make spending limits clear. Number seven can bring good fortune this week.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):

Short cuts are not well starred for those born under the sign of Scorpio during the first half of December. The temptation to take an easy way out at work will be strong, but the stars advise that hard work is the only route to success. This is an auspicious time to consider learning new skills, with associated travel well starred. Number nine has good luck written on it this week.

The 2012 season's 'Buttoned' up

INTERNATIONAL

Sport

INTERLAGOS was a stunning event with weather changes that kept us guessing to the end. It was thrills and spills all the way, to end one of the great F1 seasons in splendid form.

Sebastian Vettel had a chance to lose the Drivers' Championship, and it seemed he had done so at the beginning of the race.

Fernando Alonso had a chance to give it to Vettel the way he did in Abu Dhabi in 2010. Neither driver did that. Vettel battled back, and Alonso battled on.

Louis Hamilton had a chance to leave McLaren on a win; it might be his last chance for a long time.

Then Nico Hulkenberg looked like he would finally make Force India a winner. In the end *The Hulk* took Louis out of the race, and we did not get what we wanted to see.

Jenson Button drove excellently to show he can be a

No 1 driver, and Felipe Massa also drove brilliantly.

It was bittersweet to see Michael Schumacher in his last race, and it was disappointing to see him allow Vettel to pass him so easily. But Schumie never played a correct game.

Button won the first and last races of the season, and one in the middle. He will be humming.

Hamilton left on a low, headed for the outer darkness that is

Mercedes. McLaren is looking so strong. Red Bull has a great car, but it was not as strong as McLaren at the end of the year.

Force India has had a technology agreement with McLaren, which has helped them a lot, but that ends this season. So, for next year, Force India has announced a further 50 million pounds sterling investment. That is interesting, given the apparently shaky state of its promoter's businesses.

Alonso came second but his body language looked as if he had come last. I understand he could hear the Red Bull pits blasting 'We are the Champions' above the po-



RACING LINE: Alonso goes through the S of Senna turn, followed by Webber, Hulkenberg and Vettel. Photo: AFP

dium ceremony, which will have hurt. He will be thinking how it might have been if he had not failed to finish in Belgium and Japan.

There will be hard questions at Maranello after being behind Red Bulls, McLarens and, in the last couple of grands prix, behind Wil-

liams and Force India. Alonso said: "We were clearly slower than them in pace so this is something we must improve next," he added, "We can be a little bit slower but not that much and this year it was something strange, combinations that allowed us to

fight until the end. But, I'm not sure we'll be this lucky in the future."

Next week I shall give a roundup of the season, which was a year of two distinct halves.

But for now it's a long wait to the next race.

Tiger would like more major success

TWELVE months after ending a two-year victory drought at the tournament he hosts, Tiger Woods is excited about his prospects for 2013 as he prepares to defend his World Challenge title this week.

His one-shot triumph over fellow American Zach Johnson at last year's World Challenge set the tone for a successful 2012 PGA Tour campaign highlighted by three wins, the only disappointment being his continued barren run in the majors.

"I'm very excited because last year at this point in time I was still not quite where I wanted to be physically," Woods, who has battled assorted knee injuries during his career, told reporters at Sherwood Country Club on Tuesday.

"This year has been fantastic in that regard. I've felt good. I've played a full schedule for the first time in a very long time, and I'm just very pleased with what I've done overall with my game.



YEAR OF THE TIGER: Woods in action.

"At the outset of the year I didn't really putt well. Towards the end of the year I really started putting well. My short game has really come around... I am becoming more consistent."

Woods won his 72nd PGA Tour title at the Arnold Palmer Invitational in March, then followed up with victories at the Memorial tournament and AT&T National.

However, he has not triumphed in the majors since the 2008 US Open at Torrey Pines and has set his sights on removing that blemish from his otherwise glittering record during his 2013 campaign.

"I've had some really nice years, some really good years in there, but winning a major championship just takes it to a whole new level," said Woods, who will celebrate his 37th birthday next month.

"I know how it feels when you win a major championship, and it feels incredible. It lasts with you, and that's something that I would like to have happen again.

"That's something I haven't done since '08 so it's something I'm hoping I can do next year."

Woods has fond memories of his World Challenge victory last year at Sherwood where he birdied the last two holes to snatch a one-shot win from Johnson.

"I hadn't won in a little bit there, and it

was nice to not only win but to go head-to-head against Zach and to do it the way I did," the 14-times major champion said. "I had to earn it.

"Against a guy like Zach, he's not going to go away. That really started the year off for me on a positive note, and consequently I ended up winning three times this year.

"But there are always things we need to work on, and this off-season we have a list of things we want to get done. That'll start probably a couple of weeks after this event."

Woods, who has been working with coach Sean Foley on the fourth swing change of his professional career, faces a strong field this week in the US\$5 million invitational event.

Among the 18 players competing at Sherwood are US Open winner Webb Simpson, 2012 FedExCup champion Brandt Snedeker and Ryder Cup player Ian Poulter of England

— Mark Lamport-Stokes/Reuters

Thailand motor through in Suzuki Cup

THAILAND qualified for the semi finals of the AFF Suzuki Cup after an emphatic 4-0 victory over Burma.

A hat trick from Teerasil Dangda and a headed goal from substitute Apipoo Suntornpanavej eased Thailand to victory on Tuesday night at Rajamangala Stadium, Bangkok. The victory put them at the top of Group A with maximum points after two games.

The Philippines beat Vietnam 1-0 in the other match on Tuesday night. The Philippines were in second in Group A with Vietnam and Burma joint bottom on one point at the time of going to press.

Thailand played Vietnam on Friday in their last Group match. The semifinals will be played on December 8.

PREMIER LEAGUE TABLE

As of Nov 28

| TEAM | PTS |
|----------------|-----|
| 1 Man Utd | 30 |
| 2 Man City | 29 |
| 3 WBA | 26 |
| 4 Chelsea | 25 |
| 5 Everton | 21 |
| 6 Arsenal | 20 |
| 7 West Ham | 20 |
| 8 Tottenham | 19 |
| 9 Swansea | 17 |
| 10 Fulham | 16 |
| 11 Liverpool | 16 |
| 12 Stoke | 16 |
| 13 Norwich | 15 |
| 14 Newcastle | 14 |
| 15 Wigan | 14 |
| 16 Sunderland | 13 |
| 17 Aston Villa | 13 |
| 18 Southampton | 11 |
| 19 Reading | 9 |
| 20 QPR | 5 |

PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES

| SAT, 01 DEC 2012 |
|---------------------------|
| WEST HAM VS CHELSEA 19:45 |
| SAT, 01 DEC 2012 22:00 |
| Arsenal vs Swansea |
| Fulham vs Tottenham |
| Liverpool vs Southampton |
| Man City vs Everton |
| QPR vs Aston Villa |
| West Brom vs Stoke |
| SUN, 02 DEC 2012 |
| READING VS MAN UTD 00:30 |
| SUN, 02 DEC 2012 23:00 |
| Norwich vs Sunderland |
| TUES, 04 DEC 2012 03:00 |
| Newcastle vs Wigan |

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Rocket man sails



Photo: Helena Darvelid/VestasSailrocket

THE *Vestas Sailrocket 2* broke the world sailing 500-meter speed record three times in a week at Walvis Bay, Namibia in November. Australian Paul Larsen piloted the *Vestas Sailrocket 2* and he is a familiar face to sailors in Phuket as Davinci' brought Paul out to skipper Davinci' catamaran in the Multi Hull Class sailing regatta at Phuket Race Week in 2011.

Paul and his team initially broke the record on November 16 when *Sailrocket 2* reached an average speed of 59.23 knots smashing the original record of 55.65 knots set by kite surfer Rob Douglas. They then raised the record to 65.45 knots with a peak speed of 68 knots.

The record was ratified by the World Speed Sailing Record Council (WSSRC) and is open to all water borne sailing craft, from kite surfers to maxi multihulls.

Vestas Sailrocket 2 was launched in April

this year in East Cowes, Isle of Wight, UK. She was then shipped to Namibia where initial trials, system checks and low to medium speed sailing up to speeds of 40 knots, were carried out over six weeks.

Paul told the *Phuket Gazette* last year why Walvis Bay is a great location,

"We chose Walvis Bay in Namibia for the wind conditions in the area that spill out from the headland and coastal dunes – ideal for our requirements.

"A massive amount of power is generated by using the speed of the boat itself to make more wind. I start off at 90 degrees to my course with a good wind and as the boat accelerates, the wind created by the boat speed is added to natural wind. It's like being able to convert a strong breeze of 32kph into a gale force of 80kph," he said. – AS

Dinghy series finished



THE final series of the Phuket King's Cup Dinghy Series was held at the Thai Naval Base in Panwa last weekend.

Established with the aim of providing youngsters with an opportunity to sail competitively in Phuket, and test their skills against sailors from other regions, Santi Kanchanbandhu, a member of the Phuket King's Cup Regatta Organizing Committee spoke to the *Phuket Gazette* about what the Dinghy Series has achieved,

"It was the perfect set up for the fleet as we had different locations this year. We started at Nai Yang, then Bang Tao and now here at Panwa. A lot of kids from different clubs competed with each other and they can learn from each other. We also had an advance sailing clinic during every race," he said

"In the fleet, we can see a good level of development which is in contrast to the beginners that started three years ago."

The top three Optimist sailors are:

- 1st Anaphat Ngamdee (Chonburi)
- 2nd Sumet Pandam (Phuket)
- 3rd Surassawadee Sukpraw (Phuket)

The top three Laser sailors are:

- 1st Auckarapong Chayim (Chonburi)
- 2nd Teeranai Petcharat (Phuket)
- 3rd Jittawat Boonrat (Songkla).

The top three sailors from each class will now race at the International Dinghy Class in the King's Cup against sailors from Burma, Singapore and China.

The Phuket King's Cup Regatta will be held December 1-8 and is proudly sponsored by the Phuket Gazette, PGTV and the nationally televised Phuket Today show on UBC/True Visions. Phuket Today, co-produced by PGTV and MCOT World, will be providing coverage of this event. The half-hour show runs six times a day, seven days a week, on channel 99. – Andrew Scott



Martial arts maniacs

By Chris Hudon

LAST week at the Underwood Art Factory, as storms swept the island in waves, alternating intense heat with thick humidity, half a dozen Phuketians took part in a two-day self defense and weapons training seminar.

Taught by Mr Mark Stewart, an American who has toured the world teaching self defense for several decades, many of the seminar's techniques are those used by law enforcement and military professionals.

The event attracted people of all skill levels and combined parts of Bruce Lee's personal martial art 'Jeet Kune Do' with the Filipino art of Kali (sword/knife fighting).

Have you ever thought about what you would do if someone attacked you or your loved ones with a weapon? Probably not, since most of us don't ever plan to be in such a situation. But, what if? Wouldn't it be nice to know basic ways to disarm and/or avoid that person?

These 'what if' scenarios are what the seminar addressed.

"Basically Bruce Lee created *Jeet Kune Do* (better known as JKD) about 1967. JKD in Cantonese means, 'Way

of the intercepting fist'," says Stewart to half a dozen students standing at attention. "What he sought to do was simplify combat into its highest level by doing what he called 'stopping them at the gate'.

Stewart explains that it essentially means not having to block an attack and then return a blow, thus fighting a war of attrition. JKD teaches followers to stop someone from getting close enough to your body to attack you by attacking them first, using offense as defense.

Two days and six hours later, students said they were beginning to feel the brunt of the lengthy workout. Not to be deterred in the least, local Dubstep, DJ, Matt Rogers said, "I really feel like we've all bonded over the last two days. I wish we could keep it going."

Stewart is off traveling again but says he'll be doing online training beginning in the new year. He currently instructs at seminars all over the world – including in Bangkok and Pattaya.

The event was organized by Som Sanuk Entertainment and BlueWave radio. For more info on JKD or Mark Stewart visit: ijkd.com.



Annissa on the crest

PHUKET'S young surfing star, Annissa Flynn, has done it again, this time winning at Asia's home of surfing – legendary Kuta Beach on the island of Bali.

In the Open Women's division, Annissa won every heat and the final, establishing a good points lead on the Asian Surfing Tour (AST).

In the groms event (boys and girls under 16), Annissa was the only female surfer to make it to the finals stage. Despite leading in the early stages of the heat, she eventually lost to the boys.

As the top female grom surfer in Asia, she has earned herself an invitation to next year's World Grom Search Final to be held at the home of cold water surfing in Australia, Bells Beach in Victoria.

Annissa will represent Asia and Thailand against talented surfers from Australia, the US, Hawaii, Brazil and Japan, who have won their respective regional competitions.

It will be the first time Annissa has surfed outside of Asia and will be a big step up in terms of the quality of the competition.



IN THE CURL: Annissa surfing

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A Wild day at Laguna triathlon

By Andrew Scott

THE Laguna Phuket Triathlon (LPT) was held last Sunday and nearly 700 athletes from across the world gathered on Bang Tao beach close to the Dusit Thani Hotel for the 6.30 am start.

The first leg of the triathlon was a 1.8-kilometer swim in the sea and across the lagoon towards the transition area, where the athletes then jumped on their bikes and set off on a 55km bike ride up the coast towards Nai Yang and back down to Laguna passing through Thalang and Cherng Talay.

After the grueling, hilly bike ride, a 12km run through the Laguna complex lay in store for the athletes, before finally finishing to the cheers of the gathered spectators and the vocal MC Whit Raymond urging them across the finish line.

On the Saturday before the Triathlon, race organizers, sponsors and some elite athletes gathered at the Banyan Tree Hotel for a press conference. Last year's men's winner Massimo Cigana and last year's women's winner Radka Vodickova were joined by Chris McCormack, Chris Lieto and Belinda Granger.

The friendly press conference gave event sponsors, Thai Airways



RUNNING WILD: Swiss Olympian Ruedi Wild won the Laguna Phuket Triathlon, in just under two and a half hours.

and TAT, the chance to talk about the Triathlon along with Debbie Dionysius, AVP Destination Marketing and the elite athletes. Chris McCormack was making his debut at Laguna Phuket Triathlon and the superstar of the sport jokingly said that the reason it has taken him so long to compete is because he is lazy and a hopeless organizer. Belinda Granger, who competed in her 10th Laguna Triathlon last week-

end, said: "When I did the race in 2001 it was the most amazing race I had ever done and a lot of pros now see it as their bucket list race."

Defending men's champion Massimo Cigana told those gathered that he was excited to race again at Laguna but he was feeling a bit sick.

Women's champion Radka Vodickova believes the LPT is the best experience out of all the races and Chris Lieto talked



Women's winner Radka Vodickova (center) at the finish.

about his passion for the 'More Than Sport' foundation and how he wants to help the 'Fully Booked' learning campaign while in Phuket.

The men's event was won by Swiss Olympian Ruedi Wild, making his debut at the Laguna Phuket Triathlon, in just under two and a half hours.

In the women's field it was another Olympian, Radka Vodickova of the Czech Republic, who triumphed with her third Laguna Phuket title to bring heartbreak for Australian Belinda Granger, the fellow two-time Champion also vying for Triple Crown in her 10th appearance at the event.

Wild finished in 2:29:22, with a swim of 23:06; bike of 1:22:29; and run of 41:22, he was followed home in second place by Germany's Tim Meyer in 2:29:3, with Alberto Cassadei of Italy third in 2:31:42.

But it was a disappointing day for defending champion and three-time title holder Massimo Cigana, who could only manage fourth place in 2:33:41. Lieto finished seventh in 2:40:29 and legendary two-time Ironman World Champion Chris McCormack of Australia finished eighth in 2:45:44.

Radka Vodickova finished first in 2:50:41 with a swim of 24:16; bike of 1:34:11; and run of 49:43. Granger followed her home in 2:57:14, and Edith Niederfringer of Italy was the third woman in, with

a time of 2:58:49.

Top amateur male finisher was Ben Greenfield of the USA, who took ninth position with 2:47:02 and the top amateur female was Nickey Barnard of South Africa who finished in 3:10:44 the 67th overall to take the fourth women's place.

Top Thai male finisher was Jaray Jearanai who finished 17th in 2:52:15; and top Thai female was Nampetch Porntharukcharoen the 280th overall in 3:40:10.

The relay section was won by Tabitubbies of the UK in 2:49:48, with Outrigger Laguna Phuket second in 2:59:25 and another Thai team, AJ Bruckner, third in 3:12:05.

Lieto, McCormack and Cigana will have a chance for revenge this weekend when they race the Ironman 70.3 Laguna Phuket against Wild and some 150 other athletes who raced last weekend at the LPT.

Ironman 70.3 is on Sunday December 2, at Laguna. The competition consists of a 1.9km swim, a 90.1km bike ride and a 21.1km run. The athletes cover a total distance of 113.1km (70.3 miles).

The Laguna Phuket Triathlon is proudly sponsored by the Phuket Gazette, PGTV and the nationally televised Phuket Today show on UBC/True Visions. Phuket Today, co-produced by PGTV and MCOT World, provided coverage of this event. The half-hour show runs six times a week, starting every Sunday at 7:10pm

On Your Bike for Rich

TRIATHLETE Richard Holland set out on his bike in the early hours of October 11 in Dubai to train for the upcoming Laguna Phuket Ironman 70.3, when he was hit from behind by a car. He sustained multiple life threatening injuries, including broken ribs, punctured lungs, a fractured sternum, fractured right fibula, and severe injuries to his brain. This tragic accident left Rich in a coma and thus he cannot compete in the upcoming Ironman 70.3 as planned.

To show their support and spread the appeal for Rich and cycling safety, several of his friends and fellow athletes from Dubai (and around the globe) will be competing in the Ironman event in his honor. They, and anyone else who would like to show their support, will be donning 'Back On Your Bike' wrist bands. The Back On Your Bike campaign has been established to raise money for Rich's medical recovery.

The campaign hopes to raise a minimum of US\$1.7 million. Given the uncertainty of Rich's recovery period, this target is based on calculations from his first month of treatment and the projected amount of rehabilitation treatment he requires. This amount was validated by information available from the DANA Foundation, which calculates the lifetime expense of a coma patient to be between US\$600,000 and US\$1.88mn.

Reachable fund raising goals have been set for the various stages of Rich's recovery process. The first fund raising target is \$150,000 to cover his immediate medical costs and the next few months of rehabilitation. The target will be adjusted as more is learnt about Rich's recovery prospects.

Rich and his friends planned to celebrate his 30th birthday while in Thailand (Rich turns 30 on November 30). Rest assured that his friends and fellow triathletes will celebrate in his honor.

For more information on Back on Your Bike, how you can participate, or to donate visit: backonyourbike.com.

PIST hooks all as Sunshine Village cleans up

THE fourth Phuket International Sportfishing Tournament, held last weekend, produced a thrilling end to three great days, particularly for two teams.

The Danish Clean team trailed by a minnow required to catch Team Captain Hook as the boats headed out under grey skies for the final day of competition.

Ian Tubby, captain of Thai Two On, implemented an all-or-nothing strategy, along with the Danish raiders, to try and reel in the leader and steamed to Koh Racha Yai for the big fish.

With the help of the God of the



LET ME GO: Sailfish caught and released by the Clean Team. Photo: D Noble

sea, finally a bite took and a stunning Sailfish was snared, photographed and released.

Back on semi-dry land, at the Tamarind Bar, the all important ultimate weigh-in took place.

Team Captain Hook clocked 426 points maintaining their slender advantage by 19 points to take the

overall title. The Danes collected two trophies, including "Most Caught and Released Billfish".

Other notable winners were: Rachel Boyd, best lady angler and Louis Kapschefskey as best junior.

The event raised 63,000 baht for the Phuket Sunshine Village.

— Dean Noble

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Pearl outshined by Capitals

Phuket United fall 3-5 to Bangkok Futsal Club in Thailand Futsal Premier League home debut

By Steven Layne

THE island's professional five-a-side soccer club fell 3-5 to Bangkok FC, in an intense match-up in Phuket Town last Saturday.

Played in front of nearly 1,000 spectators at Phuket's 4,000-seat Indoor Sports Complex in Saphan Hin, the match was both sides' third match of the 30-fixture, GMM Sport Thailand Futsal Premier League (TFPL) 2012-2013 season.

Marking the Andaman Pearl's home debut in the elite TFPL, the match opened with both sides enjoying equal attacking pressure.

It was the visitors who broke the ice, three-quarters of the way into the first half, with Nawin Rattana-wongsawat scoring on the 15th minute.

Capitalizing on the Bangkok momentum, Thawit Kingkaeo doubled his side's lead a minute later, while Pratchaya Srimanta found the back of the net two minutes after that.

Stunned, the Andaman Pearl regrouped and in the final minute of the half, Brazilian import Jackson Santos made good of an assist from his comrade Rogerio Moreira to put Phuket on the board with a beautiful strike from the left wing.

Down 1-3, Phuket came out of

the locker room ever-determined to level the score.

Cheering from the vocal crowd intensified as Phuket increased pressure on the ball.

Bangkok's defences were tight, and their keeper Katawut maintained good positioning for the most part.

Phuket finally got their break on the 33rd minute with a long shot out by Nattapong Buachai, bringing the score 2-3 and much of the crowd to their feet.

Bangkok found themselves in foul-trouble, having reached the five foul limit. Had they fouled again, Phuket would have had a penalty kick – but that never happened.

With the clock winding down, Phuket employed a strategic 'power play' formation, bringing their keeper out of the net to help on the attack.

However, the tactic proved to work in favor of the visitors, who managed to capitalize on the vulnerable Phuket defense to score two consecutive goals by Phubet Kongthong and Warut Wung Sammma-al on counter attacks.

With the score 5-2 to the visitors, Phuket pushed on, and Moreira scored from the right wing in the final seconds of the match to bring the final score 3-5.

Speaking to the *Gazette* after the match, Bangkok coach Wisaan



GOLDEN BOYS: Nattapong (8), Moreira (15) and Santos (25) each have two goals this season. Also pictured, Saharat In-pun (10) Photo: Steven Layne

Maiwichit said: "It was a fun game. As the away-team, we had to be patient and bear with the pressure... Phuket fans were quite vocal. The fans have a part and can affect the result, but I'm satisfied with how my team kept with it to win..."

Phuket Head Coach Suphol Sena-peng was regretful: "In the second half, we had many chances to come back, especially when the score was 3-2, and we had momentum. However, we couldn't finish, and a few mistakes in the end cost us this game."

| TFPL WEEK 3 RESULTS | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| PHUKET | 3-5 BANGKOK |
| SAMUT SAKHON | 1-4 PRACHIN FC |
| LAMPANG UTD | 2-2 SI SA KET |
| BANG SUE | 2-3 SAMUT PRAKARN |
| S SONGKHRAM | 4-4 SURAT THANI |
| NONTHABURI | 6-3 HIGHWAYS DEP |
| CAT FC | 2-4 CHONBURI |
| NAVY | 2-3 THAI PORT |

| TFPL WEEK 3 TABLE | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----|----|----|
| | TEAM | PTS | GS | GD |
| 1 | Chonburi | 9 | 20 | 11 |
| 2 | Bangkok | 9 | 14 | 9 |
| 3 | Navy | 6 | 12 | 5 |
| 4 | Highways | 6 | 9 | 2 |
| 5 | Thai Port | 6 | 9 | 0 |
| 6 | Nonthaburi | 5 | 8 | 3 |
| 7 | Prachin | 5 | 6 | 3 |
| 8 | Si Saket | 4 | 9 | 0 |
| 9 | CAT | 3 | 12 | 0 |
| 10 | Phuket | 3 | 7 | 0 |
| 11 | Samut Prakarn | 3 | 6 | -6 |
| 12 | Surat Thani | 2 | 7 | -3 |
| 13 | Samut Songkhram | 2 | 4 | -4 |
| 14 | Leo Bang Sue | 1 | 4 | -3 |
| 15 | Lampang Utd | 1 | 8 | -7 |
| 16 | Samut Sakhon | 1 | 4 | -8 |

| UPCOMING MATCHES | |
|--|--------------------|
| 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. | |

Phuket's next match is an away fixture to be played on December 8 against Surat Thani.



Bang Jo United at the Futsal World Cup, and with Bankok Christian College boys. Photos: Tanapong Khongpatcharasak

Bang Jo United boys 'bring it' to Bangkok

AFTER winning four Southern Thailand football tournaments, Phuket's own Bang Jo United U11s were invited by Thai Premier League club, Bangkok Glass FC and the Football Association of Thailand (FAT) to visit Bangkok last week.

Bang Jo toured Bangkok Glass' home ground, Leo Stadium, watched the Futsal World Cup and played a match against the Thai National Champions U12 squad from Bangkok Christian College.

It was the first trip to Thailand's capital for ten out of the fifteen Bang Jo kids. The team was greeted at Leo Stadium by coaches

and players from Bangkok Glass FC.

The kids were given a tour of the football pitch, owners boxes, journalist zone, teams' locker room, executive offices, fitness facilities and the training field.

Once the tour had finished, FAT arranged for a van to take the kids to the Huamark Indoor Arena to watch Paraguay play Portugal and Japan against Ukraine in the FIFA Futsal World Cup second round.

Nine year old Bang Jo striker Faad Thaksin exclaimed after the games: "I never thought I would have a chance to see the Futsal World Cup. That was the most fun I've ever

had in my life!" The team was invited back again the next night to watch Russia and Argentina play.

The following day saw a high intensity 7 v 7 friendly match between Bang Jo United and national champions Bangkok Christian College youth squad.

The game was attended by scouts from the Thai national team and various Thai Premier League team representatives.

Although the Phuket side fielded players ranging from seven to eleven years old, they still held their own against the much stronger and older side from Bangkok.

Islanders name new head coach

PHUKET FC introduced their newly-signed head coach to the media last Saturday.

Panipon "Tu" Kerdyam, a former coach of Thai Premier League team, Army United, fills the vacancy left by Anurak "June" Srikerd, who coached the struggling team in the final six matches of last season. On loan from premier league, Bangkok Glass, Coach June could not continue with Phuket despite pleas from fans and team executives for him to lead the team in the 2013 season.

The new coach, Tu, has coached several division-2 regional teams including Kasetsart University FC, Loei City and Chachoengsao FC.

Most recently, he helped Army United finish runners up in this year's Thai FA Cup, losing to Buriram United in the final. Under his leadership, BGFC finished in 10th place of the 18-team elite league.

Coach Tu remarked: "I consider [myself] lucky... As soon as Army United canceled my contract, Phuket FC contacted me. Then I met with the club president, Pamuk Achiriyachai who told me all about the team's plans and goals for next season.

"I promise to the Phuket people that my team and I will give it our everything to meet the goal of getting the team promoted to the Thai league." A spokesperson from Phuket FC said that the club's budget next season will be between 40 and 60 million baht. – *Steven Layne*



Pamuk Achiriyachai and Coach Tu.

The first match started out with Bangkok Christian taking a 5-0 first half lead. The second half started with two quick Bang Jo goals by Hassan Yayee and then an exciting third goal by 7-year-old Jonah Duchowny. Unfortunately, it was not enough and they lost 8-3.

The second match was much

closer, decided in a penalty shoot-out. Bang Jo keeper, Nong Bate, made an amazing save before Micah Duchowny knocked in the final penalty to win the game for Bang Jo.

All of the kids had a great time and made lots of new friends along the way. Phuket was well represented.

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