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Phuket Gazette

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No more blockades?

By Janpen Upatising

THE four tuk-tuk drivers who allegedly beat two Dutch tourists and then blockaded Patong's beach on August 1 will surrender to police by the end of this week, a key spokesperson for the Patong tuk-tuk drivers has told the *Phuket Gazette*.

"We are now talking to Mardlee 'Bang Lee' Sawangpon, who is speaking on behalf of the tuk-tuk drivers involved.

"Patong Deputy Superintendent Kittipong Klaikaew is now coordinating with him in having the four suspects brought in," Patong Police Superintendent Arayapan Pukbuakao told the *Gazette* on Wednesday.

"Mr Mardlee promised that he will bring the four drivers to turn themselves in at Patong Police Station and he promised that the blockades will not happen again," he added.

Mr Mardlee was a little more reserved. "I will go to the police station first to ask precisely what legal action they want to take, then take the four drivers to the police station later," he said.

However, Mr Mardlee confirmed to the *Gazette* that he expected to hand over the drivers "by the end of this week".



Tuk-tuks tootle along Patong's beach road, where blockades might become a thing of the past.

Col Arayapan said police had CCTV footage of the blockade and that they were obligated to take legal action.

However, the penalty will be light.

"Under Thai law, the fine can

be no more than 1,000 baht per person for blocking traffic. There is no imprisonment. The penalty is not severe because the blockade was not on a designated highway," Col Arayapan explained.

Patong Police were now pur-

suing a conciliatory approach to resolving issues raised by tuk-tuk drivers in an effort to improve the relationship between local police and Patong's key transport consortium, added the superintendent.

Continued on page 3

Phuket to get speed and traffic cams

THE Phuket Provincial Administration Organization will spend 17 million baht on installing speed cameras and traffic cameras to catch people running red lights.

"The cameras will not be of the same type used in a project launched recently in Bangkok. [With this type] we will know who exceeds the speed limit and who breaks traffic laws – and tickets will be sent to the drivers' houses later," Phuket Police Commander Pekad Tantipong told a meeting on August 11.

"I believe [drivers] will stop speeding and the number of road accidents will fall," he added.

Maj Gen Pekad explained that the Phuket Highways Office is currently planning to make safety upgrades at 12 "black spots" by October, at a cost of 9 million baht.

A further 85mn baht will be used on improving 38 other black spots during the coming fiscal year, starting October 1.

Continued on page 3

TAT confident in big numbers for 2011 Veg Fest



Director Bangornrat Shinaprayoon

THE current economic climate will have no effect on the Phuket Vegetarian Festival this year, says the director of the southern regional office of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT).

The festival last year generated about 500 million baht in revenue for the local economy, said Director Bangornrat Shinaprayoon.

She expects this year's event, to be held from September 29 to October 5, to generate about the same.

"Asian travellers are always interested in this festival. Last year, tour agents in neighboring countries such as Singapore and Malaysia had package deals especially for

Phuket's Vegetarian Festival so their tourists could experience the vegetarian dishes and pray at each shrine.

"I think that this year those tour agents will do the same," said Director Bangornrat.

Her office expects the accommodation occupancy rate in Phuket Town in October to climb to over 80 per cent, with the rest of the island holding at around 60 per cent.

"Accommodations in Phuket Town have the advantage of being close to the activities," Director Bangornrat pointed out.

She said the island was "still doing well" with an occupancy rate last month of 70 per cent, up from 55 per cent in July last year.

Most tourists visiting Phuket during the low season are from China, India, South Korea, Australia and Russia, she added.

"I think tourists from these countries are coming to Phuket during this time of year because airlines are providing direct flights across many routes to Phuket. It is convenient for them," Ms Bangornrat said.

As for the upcoming Vegetarian Festival, she said, "We are now coordinating with the shrines involved to compile a full list of activities to be held at each shrine. We will publish the list on brochures to be handed out to tourists," she said.

– Janpen Upatising

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This Week

Inking a real deal



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Business



Phuket's golf course boom set to head into the rough. **Page 11**

Education



Eric Haeg investigates corporal punishment in Thai schools. **Page 15**

Life & style



World-class rehab center opens in Cape Panwa. **Page 16**

Film



Do the apes rise to the occasion and please audiences? **Page 18**

Sport



Read about FC Phuket's away game and the League Cup. **Page 42**

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Record meth bust

By Yodsak Jarana

CUSTOMS officials have arrested a Thai woman for trying to smuggle a record 3.2 kilograms of *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine) into Thailand at Phuket International Airport.

The haul, valued at 10.5 million baht, was touted to be the biggest meth bust in the airport's history.

The suspect, 39-year-old Ratchanee Chidnaporn, from Khon Kaen Province in Northeast Thailand (Isarn), arrived from Doha via Kuala Lumpur last Saturday afternoon on Qatar Airways flight 624, said Montira Cherchoo, Director of Customs at the airport.

"The suspect was behaving suspiciously while officers were checking her bag with an x-ray machine.

Officers saw something odd in the scan and searched her luggage. They found the *ya ice* hidden in the bag's lining," Ms Montira explained.

A chemical test conducted by the officers identified the substance as 100% pure crystal meth, she said.

"We suspect that she [Ratchanee] was working for one



The suspect covers herself with a jean jacket as police show off the haul.

of the international drug rings that are now targeting Phuket Airport as a way of smuggling drugs into Thailand," she said.

Ms Ratchanee, who sat through a police press conference at 10pm that night with her head covered by a denim jacket, denied any knowledge of the drugs.

"I got the luggage from a friend. I first met him about six months ago. My luggage was the small bag inside the big one. The big one had the *ya ice* hidden in the lining," she said.

"My friend asked me to bring

it to give to one of his friends in Thailand," she added.

Ms Ratchanee explained that after she and her new friend had known each other for a while, he asked her to travel out of Thailand.

"He bought me a round-trip ticket," she said.

"Before I came back to Thailand, he took my small bag and put it in his big one. He asked me to bring his clothes back to Thailand.

"I had no idea what was in the luggage until I was arrested at the airport," Ms Ratchanee said.

Patong road to get facelift

WORK on surfacing Phang Muang Sai Kor Road in Patong, which runs behind the Jungceylon shopping complex, will begin before the end of the year.

"The construction contract was signed in Bangkok and work on the road will start by the end of this year," Teeraporn Jira-rattanakorn, director of the Department of Rural Roads Phuket office, told the *Phuket Gazette*.

The entire 2.9 kilometers of the road, from Phra Barami Road to the intersection with Prachanukroh Road, Nanai Road and Sirirat Road at the south end of Patong, is to be resurfaced.

"The road will be four lanes wide – two lanes each way – with a median strip dividing traffic flow and breaks staggered along the length of the road to allow U-turns," he said.

Work will commence at the Phra Barami Road intersection.



Construction continues on the road behind Jungceylon.

The project is contracted to finish within three years – now with two years remaining – at a cost of 250 million baht, said Mr Teeraporn.

The road surface will be concrete, just like Phang Muang Sai

Kor Road in Phuket Town, which opened December 24 last year, explained Mr Teeraporn.

"Both sides of the road will also have sidewalks," he added.

– Chutharat Plerin

Russian business owner and friend die in crash

TWO expats were killed when their Toyota Fortuner hit a footpath and overturned into wetlands at Land & Houses residential estate in Chalong on August 9.

The women were named by Chalong Police as Elena Evseeva, 39, from Russia and Lilia Kodenzka, 36, from Ukraine.

Ms Evseeva had just obtained her Thai driver's license that day and asked Ms Kodenzka to join her in celebrating the achievement, Chalong Police said.

Police suspect Ms Evseeva was driving at high speed while returning from a restaurant in Karon to her house in the estate when she

lost control on a curve, hitting the footpath and palm trees before ending up in the wetland.

"The central locking system prevented them from exiting the car and there was no way out," Chalong Police officer Nitikom Rawang said.

Rescue workers were impeded by foliage and the fact that half the car was submerged. Both victims were dead at the scene, a Phuket Ruamjai Rescue Foundation worker said.

Ms Evseeva owned a Russian tour company in Karon and a seafood restaurant in Bang Tao. Ms Kodenzka was employed by Phuket Snake Farm Co Ltd.

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HOLIDAY INN RESORT PHUKET MAI KHAO BEACH

Tourist dies after beach rescue effort

A SWISS man died after falling unconscious while swimming at Kata Beach on Monday.

Kathu Police confirmed that a Swiss man was pronounced dead at around 5pm at Patong Hospital following an incident at Kata Beach.

Witnesses reported to lifeguards at about 4:30pm that they saw the man "swimming" about 150 meters from shore, Uten Singsom, head of the Kata-Karon Lifeguard Club told the *Gazette*.

Lifeguards found him floating face-down and pulled him ashore, he said.

"The waves were not strong... From what I could tell, I don't think this was a case where the death was due to drowning. He was an older man and health issues could have been involved," Mr Uten said.

"When a person is experiencing difficulties in the water, they will call for help, but in this case there were no calls for help. The lifeguards were scanning the water and witnesses said they saw him swimming out there about 150 meters from shore, which is quite far," Mr Uten added.

Mr Uten also explained that the man was found face down on the surface of the water, which is unusual because a person's body normally sinks during drowning.

Koreans step up campaign for Phuket light-rail project

By Chutharat Plerin

KOREAN mega-project developer Dohwa Engineering Co Ltd has unveiled a series of proposed light-rail service routes across Phuket.

Sung-Min Lee, president of Dohwa's Railway Metro Division, explained to Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha at a Provincial Hall meeting last week that the proposed routes were part of the company's draft master plan.

Although other mass-transit options that were presented included modern trams, articulated buses and small bus networks, much of the focus of the presentation was on developing a light-rail service for Phuket.

"We have been inspecting Phuket's public transportation for two days. So far we have seen that Phuket has transportation problems and we have seen a lot of traffic jams," said Mr Lee.

He highlighted that the first stage of the proposed service would link the airport with Phuket Town, which he dubbed the "Phuket Airport Rail Link".

Phase 1, covering 76 kilometers, would include:

Route 1 - Phuket Airport to Chalong Circle

Route 2 - Phuket Town to



Dohwa Engineering proposed several routes (left) for a light-rail commuter train (right).



Patong

Route 3 - Bang Khu intersection to Chalong Circle

Phase 2, covering 77 kilometers, would include:

Route 4 - Heroine's Monument to Patong, via Cherng Talay

Route 5 - Patong to Kata, then direct to Chalong Circle

Route 6 - Kata to Chalong Circle, via Phromthep Cape

Route 7 - Heroine's Monument

to Muang Mai, Thalang, via Pa Khlok

Phuket Tourist Association Vice President Sarayuth Mallam gave a word of warning to the visitors about developing a light-rail service in Patong.

"Please be mindful if you would like to have light-rail in Patong, think carefully about where the station would be, because Patong is already a mess now," he said.

Mr Lee explained his team would return to Korea to draw up a final draft of their plan.

He also formally invited Gov Tri to see firsthand Dohwa's accomplishments in Korea.

Governor Tri confirmed to the *Gazette* that the tender to develop a transit system for Phuket was with the Phuket Attorney General's Office in order to approve the wording in the contract's terms.

Traffic cams on the way

From page 1

Among the locations slated for upgrades is the hilly section of Phra Barami Road from Kathu to Patong.

Also, flashing warning lights will be installed at Kuan Yang curve, in front of Wat Suwankeereewong (Patong Temple), and a median strip will be installed along Wiset Rd from Chalong Circle and Rawai Beach - as reported earlier by the *Phuket Gazette*.

The news came at the same meeting at Provincial Hall where Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha announced that the 94 million baht will be spent on fixing 50 road accident "black spots" across the island.

The project will see more traffic islands, traffic lights, street lights, signs, adjustments to traffic lanes, road surface repairs, additional shoulders and speed bumps among other measures to help curb the high accident rates at the hot spots around the island.

The project is part of a national campaign initiated by the previous government and commenced on April 1 under the supervision of a committee headed by Phuket Provincial Police, Gov Tri said.

Phuket's road accident rate was among the nation's worst 10 provinces, with 249 road accidents



Police will get some much needed help with monitoring the roads.

resulting in 15 deaths and 11 people seriously injured in July alone, Gov Tri said.

The accidents were caused by poor driving, the breaking of traffic laws as well as poor-quality roads, he added.

- Pimwara Choksakulpan

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Police open door to tuk-tuk talks

From page 1

This message echoed that of Phuket Provincial Commander Pekad Tantipong during a Tuesday meeting he ordered at Patong Police Station.

"If they have a problem with us, they can hand a letter to Police Commander Pekad Tantipong or to me. These matters can be handled by talking," said Col Arayapan.

"We also explained to the tuk-tuk drivers that blockades are illegal. It causes trouble for others. It harms tourism. In the end, it affects themselves, business operators and Patong residents," he said.

However, the colonel added, "If this kind of situation happens again, the officers will try to negotiate first... But if they persist with such behavior, we will have to proceed with legal action."

As for the Dutch tourists, Col Arayapan said that police could not take further action because the tourists had not filed a complaint.

"They said they would return to the police station to give their statements after their trip to Phi Phi Island, but they never showed up.

"I think they might not want to take any action, and we have already reported the incident to the [Dutch] consulate," he said.

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NEW BRANCH 'SAMUI'

'Lao' jab incites stabbing frenzy

A DRUNKEN Bangkok security guard flew into a rage and almost stabbed a colleague to death because the victim made the mistake of calling him "Lao".

After viciously stabbing 43-year-old Sa-ngiam Khongchudi in the neck and stomach with a knife, Chawalit Thongprakhon fled the scene and was later nabbed by police while hiding in the parking lot of his workplace.

Captain Burapha Thanongrakhtham of Phahonyothin Police Station received a report of a stabbing in front of Chang Tower in Chatuchak District around 10:30am on August 12.

At the scene he found Mr Sa-ngiam, a security guard at the building, on the ground in a pool of blood with large stab wounds to the neck and stomach.

Nearby was a 10-inch knife covered in blood.

Police found the alleged perpetrator, Mr Chawalit, who also worked as a security guard at the building, hiding inside the property's



parking lot and arrested him.

Mr Chawalit told police he had finished his shift at 8am and started drinking liquor in the security guards' quarters.

At 10am, he punched out, having forgotten to do so when he finished his shift.

When he went back to the quarters to get his things, Mr Sa-ngiam followed him and started scolding him for finishing his shift and forgetting to punch out.

In doing so, Mr Sa-ngiam made the near-fatal mistake of calling Mr Chawalit "Lao".

Mr Chawalit responded by pulling out a knife and stabbing him in the neck and stomach before fleeing.

- Daily News

Gov takes drug test

By Chutharat Plerin

PHUKET Governor Tri Augkaradacha last Friday passed a drug test as part of the grand opening ceremony for the new drug testing center in Phuket.

The governor officiated at the event at the Regional Medical Sciences Center in Thalang and offered a urine sample which was then screened for all five classes of illegal narcotics.

After a few minutes' wait, the negative results were announced prompting the crowd of about 25 attending officers and officials to give a celebratory ovation.

"I am glad to have the drug testing center so we can work together to solve Phuket's drug problem," Gov Tri said.

The center's director, Dr Kamon Foihirun, explained that test results offer a 90 per cent accuracy.

"The Phuket center can now test for narcotics including amphetamines, ecstasy, marijuana, cocaine and psychotropic substances," he said.

Gov Tri said that the large numbers of people coming to Phuket,



Gov Tri is assisted by a staff member in testing his urine.

including tourists, contribute to the developing market for drugs and spread of drug problems.

"Therefore, the problems will not be solved so simply," he said. "Having the center here in

Phuket will help the investigation processes.

"Instead of transferring samples to Surat Thani to be tested, we will save a lot of time now by testing in Phuket," he explained.

Airport limo kills buffalo in crash

A PHUKET airport limousine plowed into and killed a roaming buffalo early Monday morning at the same location where a tourist passenger van killed two buffaloes late last month.

No people were injured in this latest accident.

"The car was heading toward Phuket Town at about 1:30am. The driver said the buffalo appeared from nowhere, crossing the road right in front of the car. He could not stop in time," said Thalang Police Duty Officer Lt Praman Yappayak.

The Toyota Altis struck the buffalo in front of the Shell gas station in Thalang, about 100 meters from the Bank of Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives, Thalang branch.

A tow truck was called to the scene - now becoming known as



The car was heavily damaged.

a buffalo black spot - to remove the airport limo, which suffered such extensive damage that it could not be driven away.

Lt Praman said the owner of the buffalo had yet to step forward to complain of the vehicular bovicide.

Police will keep the carcass as evidence to be used in the investigation to identify its owner, he added.

Road-name winner chosen

PHUKET City Municipality on August 9 announced the winning name for the road that connects Saphan Hin and Chao Fa East Road.

The 50-million-baht road, which runs from Saphan Hin behind Phuket Provincial Employment Office to Chao Fa East Road near Suan Luang Park, will be dubbed "Tha Kraeng Road".

Narumon Phakdeemai, a first-year high-school student at Phuket Wittayalai School in Phuket Town, was the lucky

winner, receiving 10,000 baht in prize money.

The stretch was opened in late December last year with the uninspiring name of Phang Muang Sai Khor Road. Phang Muang Sai Khor roughly translates as "Urban Planning Road B".

"Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwansupapana will give Ms Narumon her prize during an official event, the date of which is still to be announced," a Municipality officer told the *Phuket Gazette*.

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Tattooists to ink code of ethics

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

TATTOO artists on Phuket took a step closer toward their goal of becoming a recognized, regulated industry this week with a proposed code of ethics to be presented to the Ministry of Culture in Bangkok.

Phuket Culture Office Director Prayoon Noosuk presented the draft code at a meeting at Provincial Hall attended by artists from across the island.

The code, drafted after a meeting with Phuket tattooists on June 10, was presented last Wednesday in order to solicit more input from local artists.

“After we present this code of ethics to the ministry in Bangkok, they will review it to see what measures can be taken to stop any ‘misunderstanding’ on the use of religious tattoos...They may even pass laws,” said Mr Prayoon.

The move follows the fallout over religious tattoos earlier this year, which saw the ministry first impose a ban on inking any religious tattoos, then backing off to a ban on tattoos of any images related to Buddhism.

However, for many of the local tattooists at the meeting, the code, which lists nine ethical guidelines for artists to follow, is just the first step toward recognition and regulation of their trade.

“We will form an association as soon as possible in order to develop skill and ethical standards for artists to adhere to,” said Pornchai Kleothong, head of Phuket Tattoo Artist Club.

“We also would like to show our responsibility to society,” he added.

Mr Pornchai explained that the recent problems over religious images on inappropriate parts of the body was the result of lack of regulation.

“Some artists walk along the streets asking people if they want tattoos.

“If any customer wants to, they will apply the tattoos in hotel rooms, where you cannot even control hygiene standards.

“One time, I saw one of my customers with a Siam Ganesh image on his ankle. He said that he got this tattoo from an artist walking along the beach,” he said.

Restricting the sale of tattooing equipment to registered artists would also help, said Mr Pornchai.

“One time, a high-school boy asked me to sell him tattoo equipment. He was too young to be skilled in tattoo work, and young people are less likely to appreciate the effect that creating religious tattoos will have,” he said.

To avoid all these problems, Mr Pornchai, along with many vocal



The tattoo artists hope to create a code of ethics and certification process to protect their integrity.

supporters at the meeting, called for individual practicing certificates recognizing each tattoo artist’s level of skill, and for tattoo parlors that have been inspected and approved by local

authorities to have their own club logo stickers prominently displayed at their place of work.

“Just like the Clean Food, Good Taste project,” Mr Pornchai said. “This will help us gain the trust

of our customers and other people, and will certify that we know how to respect our guardian spirit of tattoo art – that we don’t do anything to disparage our beliefs,” he said.

Code of ethics drafted by the Phuket Culture Office

All tattoo artists abiding by this Code of Ethics:

1. Must be responsible and use hygienic equipment and practices for the health of their clients
2. Must provide truthful information and advice to their clients to the best of their knowledge
3. Must be honest and strive to perform the highest standard of work they are capable of
4. Must strive to improve the reputation of tattoo artists through their work
5. Must be work responsibly in creating each work of art
6. Must use their skill and knowledge honestly to the best benefit of the customer
7. Must continually strive to improve their skills and pass on their knowledge to others learning the trade
8. Should not reproduce images of religious symbols, religious people or symbols representing the country of Thailand on any inappropriate part of the body – especially below the waist. If an artist is to apply an image to such an area, the artist should pay respects accordingly for performing such an act.
9. Must inform their clients honestly all information and advice about religious tattoos to the best of their knowledge so the client is aware of the importance of the image being applied

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Airpark canal access rights under probe

By Janpen Upatising

A PROVINCIAL investigation into complaints against the Phuket Airpark, in Pa Khlok, this week ruled that local villagers had no right to trespass onto the site in order to access a public canal.

However, the committee is investigating complaints into whether the developer started filling in a public canal that borders the property.

The investigation followed local resident Pien Kruathong, 55, filing a variety of complaints with the Damrongtham Center (Ombudsman's office).

The complaint, which was forwarded to the Governor's Office, resulted in a provincial investigation committee being formed, headed by Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkhaosutthirak.

Also on the investigation team were officers from the Damrongtham Center, Pa Khlok Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*), Thalang District Office, Phuket Land Office in Phuket Town and its Thalang branch, and the Phuket Marine



Suchard Raksangob, owner of the Phuket Airpark development.

Office, which is responsible for public waterways.

In replying to the claims that villagers were no longer allowed to access a section of the canal bordered on both sides by the development, Suchard Raksangob, 60, the owner of Phuket Airpark, showed V/Gov Somkiet his copy of the map issued by Thalang branch of the Land Office.

He explained that the total area of the airpark is 124 rai, comprising plots he started buying in 2006.

Mr Suchard said that he had no



Phuket Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkhaosutthirak (right) with complainant Pien Kruathong (blue shirt) go over maps with the land plots for the Phuket Airpark project marked in yellow and the public canal marked in blue.

issue with people fishing in the canal. "But don't step onto my land because I consider this as intruding," he said.

Vice Governor Somkiet then calmed the two parties down.

"We have to accept that it is Mr Suchard's right to stop people from crossing his land. Everyone can come to the canal, but not through his land," he explained to Mr Pien.

"The *Phu Yai Baan* [village head] has to explain to local residents that they can fish in the canal, which is government property, but they have to access the canal via public land, which means going along the waterway," the

vice governor added.

Regarding the complaint that the developer was filling in the banks of the canal, V/Gov Somkiet said the committee could not make any conclusions as they had yet to determine the boundaries of the plots involved, all of which have been issued Chanote titles.

"We cannot accuse Mr Suchard without facts. Everything must be based on facts and laws," V/Gov said.

"The Phuket Marine Office and Thalang District Office need to determine the boundaries of the public canal. They will need to request the Phuket Land Office to conduct the survey.

"I have assigned the Phuket Land Office and its Thalang branch to investigate where the pins are [marking the Chanote-titled plots] to confirm which areas are public and which are privately owned," he said.

However, V/Gov Somkiet warned of legal action if public land had been encroached on.

Mr Suchard explained to the *Gazette*, "The land used to be farmland and it flooded all the time, so I excavated my land along the banks of that part of the canal, making the waterway wider. I used the excavated soil, and soil brought in from other areas, to level other parts of the project."

Yacht web check-in to launch

THE long-awaited "one-stop shop" online check-in system for yachts arriving in Phuket will launch on September 1.

Vice Governor Weerawat Janpen announced the news on Monday at a meeting at Provincial Hall to discuss the final details for the new service.

The Software Industry Promotion Agency (SIPA) has worked on the project since last year.

"We have finished developing the system. It is now in a trial period that also provides training to business operators and government authorities so they will be well prepared to put it to use," said project manager Pracha Asawateera.



The online system is expected to make entry simpler and quicker.

Karokot Khotcharit, a SIPA systems analyst, explained that the system will reduce the time it takes for yacht owners to submit

forms to Immigration, Customs and the Marine Department.

"It combines three forms into a single form. Yacht owners can file their information via the internet before they reach – or leave – Phuket," Mr Karokot said.

Yacht owners must first register online to use the system. After that, the vessel's name, arrival time, crew list, passenger list, cargo manifest and other details must be submitted, Mr Karokot explained.

"When yacht owners and passengers arrive at the marina [at Chalong Pier], they only need to bring documents such as passports and yacht registration. Officials can also plan how many officers need to be at the marina because they will know how many yachts will be arriving," he added.

Mr Pracha explained that the URL being used during the current test phase is <http://pyccs.dyndns.info>.

However, the official domain name will be changed once testing is complete.

Phuripat Theerakulpisut, chief of Marine Department Phuket office, said the marina itself was 90 per cent complete. "The contract stipulates that the project is to be completed by September 19. I think the marina will be officially opened around the end of this year," Mr Phuripat said.

– Janpen Upatising

Local publisher Ken Brookes dies

CANADIAN Barrister and long-term Phuket resident Ken Brookes died in hospital in London last Wednesday.

He was 67.

His wife Lori Ashton was with him on a holiday when Ken fell ill.

Both Ken and Lori are best known for the successful *Art and Culture* publishing business. They lived in Rawai for several years.

Born Kenneth JA Brookes in the UK and later moving to Canada, he graduated from Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, with a law degree. He was a member of the Canadian Bar Association, the Nova Scotia Barristers' Association and the Canadian Real Estate Association.

After moving to Phuket, Ken, who was an avid sailor, worked in the yachting business and later as a consultant with the Phuket International Law Office.

He and Lori moved to Ao Por on Phuket's east coast last year in order to enjoy more time sailing on the couple's yacht.

Ken was known for his sharp wit, intelligence, generosity and love of his wife.

He leaves behind his wife Lori, a son Geoff living in the UK with wife Doreen and son Jonathan, his



Ken Brookes with son Geoff and grandson Jonathan on Ken's birthday two weeks ago.

brother Peter in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, and many friends in Phuket and abroad.

The cremation, meant to be a simple gathering before the charging, was scheduled to be held in Beckenham, Kent, on Thursday, August 18.

In lieu of flowers, donations are suggested, with details to be provided as soon as possible.

There will also be informal memorial gatherings in Wales, Thailand and Canada, on dates yet to be announced.

– Bill Barnett

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New FM intervenes for Thaksin

THAILAND's new foreign minister has intervened to secure a visa for fugitive former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra to enter Japan, fueling suspicion that the new government plans to rehabilitate the controversial telecoms billionaire.

Just days after being appointed to the post, Foreign Minister Surapong Tovijakchaikul last week admitted to sending a request through the Japanese Embassy for a visa for Mr Thaksin, who remains a highly divisive figure in Thailand.

The move follows the appointment of Mr Thaksin's younger sister Yingluck as the 28th prime minister of Thailand and the first woman to take the position.

Mr Thaksin is believed to have played a key role in helping to allocate ministerial positions in Mrs Yingluck's first Cabinet.

Japanese immigration law forbids the entry of people who have been convicted of a crime and sentenced to a jail term of more than one year.

It allows exceptions for those who have been convicted of political offenses and permits the justice minister to override the

AROUND THE nation

rules in other cases if there are reasonable grounds.

Mr Thaksin was convicted in absentia of abuse of power in 2008 for allowing his wife to bid for state land in an auction.

He claims the conviction was politically motivated.

On August 13, Kyodo News reported that Japan had agreed to issue a special entry permit for Mr Thaksin.

Mr Thaksin plans to visit Japan between August 22 and 28 to give a lecture and visit Miyagi prefecture, which was devastated by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami.

"In my opinion, the case against Thaksin was a political one," Surapong told reporters.

Former premier Abhisit Vejjajiva, now leader of the opposition, said any officials who helped Mr Thaksin should face a probe.

"Thaksin is still a fugitive, running away from a prison sentence in Thailand.

"There are still also some trials pending in the Thai court.

"Therefore, any Thai officials found to be facilitating and helping him on any matter have to face investigation," Mr Abhisit said.

Mr Abhisit's government revoked Thaksin's normal and diplomatic passports upon taking power in late 2008.

Mr Thaksin has been travelling on a Montenegro passport.

On Monday, Mr Surapong issued a statement denying that the government was working to reissue Mr Thaksin a diplomatic passport.

Mr Surapong said that if the Foreign Ministry had to consider reissuing a diplomatic or "red passport" to the former prime minister, the process would be done in accordance with the law.

Following Mrs Yingluck's election victory on July 3, foreign countries have changed their positions on her older brother.

Germany revoked a visa ban for Mr Thaksin a couple of days after the result of the July election became known.



Foreign Minister Surapong Tovijakchaikul Photo: The Nation

NZ backpacker killed by toxic agent: report

A YOUNG New Zealand backpacker who was one of several tourists who died within days of each other while staying at the same Chiang Mai hotel was likely killed by toxic chemicals, pesticides or gas, a new report has concluded.

The report was the result of a long investigation by Thai health and forensic authorities into the deaths of Sarah Carter, 23, and five other Western tourists.

Mrs Carter died on February 6 after falling ill at the Downtown Inn in the northern Thai capital. Two of her travelling companions also fell ill but survived.

Four other foreigners and a Thai guide also died in Chiang Mai between January 11 and February 19 of this year. Most were staying at or had connections to the Downtown Inn.

While the report said there were links between the cause of death for the six deceased, "the specific agents that caused the deaths and illnesses in these events can not be identified and it can not be determined exactly how people were exposed to them", the *New Zealand Herald* reported.

The three New Zealanders and a Thai woman were most likely to have the same cause of illness, "probably exposure to some toxic chemical, pesticides or gas, but the agent can not be identified", the report added.

In May, an investigation by New Zealand TV show *60 Minutes* suggested the cause of deaths was likely an insecticide used to kill bed bugs. The Thai authorities denied that the spray was the cause of death.

Obama congratulates Yingluck

US PRESIDENT Barack Obama called Yingluck Shinawatra to congratulate her on becoming the 28th prime minister of Thailand.

Mr Obama hailed her victory as a sign of the "success of the democratic process". During the call he "underscored the enduring nature of the United States-Thailand friendship and alliance, and pledged to strengthen the bilateral relationship and work together to ensure peace and stability in the Asia Pacific," according to the White House.

Mrs Yingluck, 44, recently became the world's youngest-ever

female head of state after defeating former prime minister Abhisit Vejjajiva in elections on July 3.

In a message on the US Embassy's website, Mr Obama added, "I am pleased to convey my congratulations and those of the American people on your election as Prime Minister of Thailand."

"I am confident that the strong bonds between our countries will deepen further in the years to come. I look forward to forging an even closer partnership between our two democratic and free nations based on shared values and mutual respect," the message added.



Image courtesy of Singapore Tourism Board.

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Pure and simple

IN MID-July, the chief administrator of the Portland, Oregon Water Bureau in the US made a hasty decision after learning that a young man had been caught on a CCTV camera urinating into the local reservoir: he ordered all 7.8 million gallons drained from it.

While Portland is far from Phuket, the controversial move that cost taxpayers there an estimated US\$600,000 does raise some important questions about public perception regarding the quality of the local water supply – or lack thereof.

The Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) is currently holding a series of public hearings over the proposed development of public parks, at costs estimated at up to 500 million baht, at the two major public reservoirs on the island: Bang Wad in Kathu and the newer Bang Neaw Dum Reservoir in Thalang.

A similar project is also on the drawing board in Kamala.

While the *OrBorJor*'s actions in this regard seem well-intentioned, we ask that its members consider not only tourism promotion but also the possible effects on water quality – especially given that in many cases it is the same water we use to bathe ourselves, wash our dishes and even drink.

It must be noted that there is a fundamental difference between the situation at the Oregon reservoir and the two basins here in Phuket, where water treatment takes place after the water leaves the reservoir and before it enters the mains pipeline.

It was this that led the Oregon administrator to ask, "Do you want to drink pee?" when asked for the rationale behind his decision.

As many have pointed out, the concentration of such little urine dissolved in such a large body of water would render any resulting contamination negligible, certainly much less than that of inputs from wildlife that live in or around it.

The man who started the controversy, and who may hold the world record for embarrassment when it comes to being caught in a clandestine rabbit shoot, told officials, "I thought it was a sewage treatment plant."

Unfortunately, far too many officials in Phuket seem to think the same way when it comes to water supply sources, which is why we see Loy Kratong ceremonies held in them, dead bodies pulled from them, and so on, with little or no comment.

Current treatment methods on the island rely mainly on chlorination, which is effective against biological agents, but does nothing to address a wide variety of inorganic compounds that aren't even tested for.

Given that it is important to keep the water in our reservoirs as pure as possible, and there are already so many other recreational areas on the island, we should be seeking ways to better protect our precious watersheds rather than develop them for tourism.

– The Editor



Students and tablets

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket students to have tablet 'e-textbooks' next year, August 12*

Hi, I'm a school teacher based in San Diego, California. I teach 8th grade, meaning my students are 13 years old – plus or minus a year.

We started using tablets a year ago and I can assure you that 30 per cent were either lost, "lost" or damaged within that first year.

If this is true of 13-year-olds, what will happen with seven-year-olds? And there is no way – no way at all – for your Ministry of Education to stop them from visiting "inappropriate" sites, and those will be among the first sites they will want to go to.

Anyway, good luck!

Ellie Ryan
Gazette forum

An outsider's take on Phuket's problems

Re: *Gazette online, Tuk-tuks: no more beatings, blockades – warns Phuket police chief, August 16*

I have been coming to Thailand for 20 years and love Thailand and the Thai people.

Coming from Africa and having to deal with a lot of police inefficiency regarding lack of law enforcement, I was deeply saddened by this story of aggression, total disregard for the law and the possible negative consequences for Phuket's tourist industry.

More importantly, problems for tourism will eventually affect the bottom of the line traders who can just barely scrape together a living.

Brian
Gazette forum

Letters to the Editor

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

"Asset testing" government officials

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket Gov first to be drug tested, August 12*

I think it's great Gov Tri passed his drug test today. But what about assets?

I think all governors and government officials should be required to pass an assets test. That is, the amount of assets you and your spouse own as compared to your incomes.

The failure of officials to pass such a test represents the true failure of governing Thailand in a proper way, at all levels.

The Tester
Gazette forum

Paperless system good on paper, but...

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket ready to launch online check-in for yachts, August 15*

So now all arrivals must use Chalong marina before moving on to the other marinas?

I like the idea of speeding a very slow system, but why don't they allow yachts with a marina booking to submit their documents and go straight to the marina?

Then those arriving on yachts can continue in person to Chalong just like they do in nearby countries! This still need some fine tuning!

Yachty
Gazette forum

Where are the big fish?

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket airport lands record meth bust, August 14*

Why is it these mules are the only ones who get pinched? The Customs department never seems to follow the bag and the mule to its final destination. That has been the case in every bust this year.

I wonder if they are afraid of where or who the trail might lead them to.

Colonel Mustard
Gazette forum

Keep it simple

Re: *Gazette online, Koreans step up campaign for Phuket light-rail project, August 11*

Let's face it, buses would be simpler and more practical. A light rail plan of that type would only end up with contract problems as happened with the Bangkok systems. The taxpayer would end up out of pocket.

Keep it simple and there will be less corruption too.

Peter
Gazette forum

Bangkok Hilton it is

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket's Swedish murder suspects may not do 'hard' time, August 15*

This is very, very bad news. Being a Swede I know that the prisons in Sweden are like hotels and I really do not want them to serve a punishment in Sweden.

I would prefer to have them in a Thai jail for at least 20 years.

Steffo
Gazette forum

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Karon beachgoers: Take heed, be safe

FIRST PERSON

KARON Beach is beautiful but tourists may not know how dangerous the surf can be.

Despite this, we cannot keep them from entering the water because we are not experts at judging sea conditions, but we do take measures so that guests can make informed decisions.

We have a notice board in the lobby that shows the seven-day weather forecast and describes what the colored flags on the beach mean. The information is printed in Thai, Chinese, Russian and English.

In their rooms, guests can also find information about the colored flags and staff members will tell them to be aware when they request a beach towel from the front desk.

Karon Municipality has erected warning signs that can be seen while walking from hotels to the beach and lifeguards are there to patrol and advise of dangerous conditions.

The trouble is that while guests may understand the information about the flags, sometimes they do not return to shore when a lifeguard signals them from the beach.

Measures are also in place to make the handling of an accident as swift and efficient as possible. Hotel staff will first ask guests for information about the booking process they used.

If a guest involved in an accident made their booking through a tour company, we will report the situation to their agent immediately.



Unyuma Prasopphol, 43, is Resident Manager at Woraburi Phuket Resort and Spa in Karon. She studied hotel Management at the International Hotel and Tourism Industry Management School in Bangkok and has 19 years of experience in the hotel industry. Here she talks about what hotel operators should do to handle sea accidents involving guests.



Agents will send their staff to help, which reduces miscommunication.

If they made their booking directly, we will contact the Karon Municipality Sea Rescue Center, who help us by contacting the relevant authorities.

I don't think that accidents will affect Karon's reputation, but hotel operators and residents don't want them to happen. We have tried to provide as much information as we can, tourists should

listen and respect what they learn.

The most important thing is that when an accident occurs, we help those involved.

I think roped off areas should be set up in Karon, similar to those in Patong. They are used to separate jet-skis and swimmers elsewhere but since we have no jet-skis here, the ropes can be something for swimmers to grab if they are in trouble and also define areas where it is safer to enter the water.

Surfing sewage in Patong Bay

AS A resident of Patong Beach, I have again been totally disgusted these past few days, August 6-10, by the discharge of untreated sewage water into the bay.

The seawater has been putrid and chocolate brown even though there hasn't been any rain and we did not have a problem with the electrical supply either.

I especially feel sorry for the thousands of international tourists who have worked very hard, saved their money, and flown thousands of kilometers in the expectation of enjoying a holiday on the supposedly beautiful beaches that the Tourism Authority of Thailand promotes around the world.

These tourists must feel as deceived as those buyers of bogus timeshare units, and the negative word-of-mouth publicity about Phuket when they get back home is tremendously damaging to future business here.

I recently visited the the Philippine beach-resort island of Boracay, an up-and-coming competitor to Phuket.

Upon arrival all tourists are charged a small "environmental fee" of about US\$1. No-one complains about paying this fee because the local government assures everyone that the revenue collected is used to ensure that their beaches are maintained in a pristine condition. This guarantees that everyone's hard-earned vacations will not be ruined.

We enjoyed every day of our holiday on Boracay. The seawater was always crystal clear and the beaches were totally free of plastic and other garbage. The only

Island View

By Monica Plume

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



A sewer pipe in the UK.

debris on the sand was seaweed, driftwood and seashells.

It would be great if the Phuket government would implement a similar fee that could be collected upon arrival at the airport. I'm sure that few people would mind paying a nominal fee of about 30 or 50 baht if it would guarantee that their beach vacations will not be ruined by the filth that we so often endure.

I would also suggest that the government should act quickly to extend the wastewater discharge pipe by another three or four kilometers out to sea. It just makes no sense at all that this pipe is now emptying raw sewage just a few meters from the shoreline. The extension of the discharge pipe has already proven to be effective in parts of Hawaii and at Bondi Beach in Australia.

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

Being serviced by airport immigration

When I recently came home to Phuket from a business trip, I was charged a 500-baht "service fee" at the immigration counter.

My papers and stamps were 100 per cent correct. There were no errors to find anywhere.

The "immigration officer" asked me a few questions regarding my work, how long I have lived in Thailand, and so on.

Then he asked me if I would mind giving him 500 baht. He indicated that it was a small "service fee" for his signature in my passport.

He told me to hide the money inside my passport and hand it to him.

He took the money and stamped my passport.

I know very well that we don't have to pay a service fee upon arrival if all documents are correct. We all know about Thailand's problems with corruption, but does it have to be that obvious?

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

Is immigration not worried about first-time visitors to this country witnessing such frustrating behavior from immigration officials?

What a disgrace and what a great loss of face for the Phuket Immigration. Does the airport have no qualms about hiring these type of "officers" and not training them properly?

Are you - whoever is responsible - aware of the negative image Phuket already has?

I know that probably nothing will be done at all and I personally know how to avoid this incidents in the future but this should be a clear warning to anybody entering Thailand or Phuket. Don't

speak Thai with the immigration officers and be very careful to ensure a nice stay from the beginning.

Not very welcome
Phuket

Phuket International Airport Immigration Superintendent Pol Col Theerayut Budnampeth replies:

Tourists coming to Phuket don't need to pay any fees apart from 1,000 baht when asking for a visa on arrival (depending the person's nationality) and a 500 baht fine for every day they have overstayed their visa.

If the case above actually did happen, please send me an email with all information including the officer's name and surname, your name, the date and time of your arrival and details regarding what happened at hktairportimm@hotmail.com or call me at 076-327138 between 8:30am to 4:30pm to tell me in person.

I will investigate this incident to the best of my ability.

This kind of behavior only gives Thailand a bad image.

What is the age of consent?

What is the legal age to have consensual sex in Thailand?

Mark F

Chestavit Tantiphawadee, a prosecutor at Phuket Superior Court, replies:

Thailand's Criminal Code states that it is legal to engage in consensual sexual activities with a person that is over 15 years old. Non-consensual sexual activities with a person over 15 is illegal. Sex with a person under the age of 15, whether consensual or not, is illegal.

Anyone can be the victim of sexual assault, whether they are male or female. Engaging in sexual activities with a spouse without their consent is also regarded as assault.

Before 2007, sexual assault was defined as the sexual organ of one person intruding into the sexual organ of another. This was changed to cover the intrusion or contact of an object or sexual or-

gan and any other part of a another person's body, including the anus and mouth.

In sexual assault cases, a settlement between the parties is a possibility except for assaults that occur in a public area, when the victim is seriously injured or killed during the rape or when the assault is perpetrated by a guardian. For example, the assault of a student by a teacher or a child by a parent.

The punishment for sexual assault of a person over 15 is four to 20 years imprisonment and a fine between 8,000 and 40,000 baht. Engaging in sexual activities with a person under 15 carries the same punishment.

Engaging in sexual activities with a person under 13 years old carries a seven to 20 year prison term and a 14,000 to 40,000 baht fine if the suspect confesses, doesn't have an extensive criminal history and cooperates with investigators. Otherwise the sentence is life imprisonment.

Pork price peaks, profits slashed

By Janpen Upatising

THE price of pork is at a historical high in Thailand due to a shortage of healthy pigs to supply Thai markets and an increase in the price of feed, the government has announced.

Supacha Bunplit, acting chief of the Phuket Provincial Internal Trade Office explained that the amount of pigs supplying Thai pork markets has decreased by 30 per cent in the past few months.

"The reason [for higher prices] is a disease epidemic among pigs coming from China, which is affecting pig farms in [Thailand's] northeast and central regions. Pigs in the southern region however are fine," she said.

"Pigs are sent to Phuket from a Charoen Pokphand (CP) farm in Phang Nga, as well as other farms in Phatthalung, Chumphon, and Ratchaburi provinces. The pigs are then butchered in Phuket City Municipality's slaughterhouse," she said.

To minimize the impact, the chief said that the Ministry of Commerce's central committee on commodity and service prices has enforced six-month nationwide pricing controls since August 6.

"For the South, the price of pork must not exceed 162 baht per kilogram," she said.

She added that when she checked last week, the price of pork at Phuket's market vendors was about 140 baht per kg and gave assurances that the situation in Phuket



KNIFE-EDGE: Pork vendors like Nuchanat Wongsitchoke have been losing out on profits.

was not a cause for concern.

However, some of Phuket's affected pork vendors and restaurants owners aren't at ease with the worsening situation.

Nuchanat Wongsitchoke, a vendor who has been selling pork at Phuket City Municipality's Fresh Market on Ranong Road, supplying restaurants, hotels and schools for nearly 20 years, complained about her decreasing profits.

"There are only two options: making a slight profit or suffering loss. Earlier, we sold pork for about 115 baht per kg. Now, the price varies from 120 to 130 baht per kg," she said.

"Previously, the highest price we paid for pigs was 72 baht, but now it is up to 89 baht per kg. If the situation continues, I may have to stop selling pork," Ms Nuchanat said.

Ms Nuchanat added that she usually buys pigs from a CP farm and sometimes from a farm in Phatthalung province, and she has suspicions that big companies are collaborating with each other to increase prices.

Another vendor who has been selling pork at the market for 23 years, but wished to remain anonymous, agreed.

"When CP raises the price, smaller farms soon follow. CP is the biggest company in this industry and controls everything, start-



Pigs on their way to a Phuket slaughterhouse.

ing from pig feed," he said.

"In the past three to four months, the price of farmed pigs has jumped from 52 baht up to 87 baht per kg, and has increased by three to five baht every week," he added.

He went on to explain that since pork is a prime food ingredient, its increased price causes the price of other foods to increase as well.

Kasorn Teeraumpornpant, a restaurant owner on Surin Road, Phuket Town who has been selling food for 20 years, said that her restaurant hasn't been profitable recently.

"I lose about 10,000 baht every week so I've had no choice but to increase the price of pork dishes from 40 baht to 50 baht per serving," she said.

"I have never experienced this kind of situation before in my life. Everything is so expensive this year - not just pork but also chicken, fish and shrimp," she added.

Asia Books targets Phuket bookworm market

ASIA Books has opened its first branch in Phuket and hopes to capture the island's literary market with a selection of more than 200,000 English-language titles.

The company has ambitious expansion plans for the island and is aiming to open stores in all of Phuket's major tourism destinations. The new branch is located on the ground floor of Jungceylon shopping mall in Patong, in the "Silang Boulevard" zone opposite Starbucks.

Nantawan Suwandej, assistant vice president of sales and marketing at Asia Books, said the company had identified a sizable contingent of consumers in Phuket

who placed a high importance on reading books, and English-language books in particular.

In addition, an increasing number of bilingual schools are opening on the island, she said, adding that parents in the area are supportive of their children reading English.

She said the trend was clear from the number of parents who were traveling from Phuket to the company branches in Bangkok to buy books or ordering them for delivery.

This made the Phuket market attractive to the company, she said.

"Because of this information,

we decided to expand into Phuket by opening our first branch in Jungceylon shopping mall in Patong," she added.

Mrs Nantawan said the company had opened the new store to increase convenience for its customers and to provide both Thai and foreign customers with more than 200,000 English-language books of different types.

The store can also order books from its branches across the country and deliver them to customers, she added.

Besides ordinary customers, the company also has around 100,000 members, five to seven per cent of whom are from Phuket.

As a result, the company plans to increase its store coverage by opening new branches in the island's key tourist areas.

Mrs Nantawan said the company planned to open no less than five branches across the country by the end of the year.

Aside from Bangkok, the company is also eyeing new stores in cities such as Nakhon Ratchasima, Khon Kaen and Chiang Rai.

In its 42-year life-span, the company has opened more than 70 branches of its two brands, Asia Books and Bookazine, nationwide.

Additionally, in April Asia Books launched an e-bookstore

service for its members.

The company, which handles distribution for the *Phuket Gazette* in Bangkok and three other Thai cities, said it aimed to become the e-book center for Thailand and all of Southeast Asia, saying that its e-store was already the biggest repository of digital content in the region.

Readers wishing to buy e-books must first register as members of asiabooks.com, where there are at least 500,000 titles available for download.

The company plans to double the number of titles to one million by the end of this year.

- Kom Chad Luek

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Golf industry at a developmental standstill recently

THE skyrocketing price of land in Phuket and the lack of available plots of sufficient size means the island's tally of seven golf courses is unlikely to increase in the near future, industry experts say.

Nevertheless, investment in driving ranges looks more promising, since they require much less space and capital to develop.

"Investment in new golf courses will be difficult going forward," said Bangornrat Shina-prayoon, head of the Phuket branch of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT).

The investment required to develop a new course is increasing rapidly, since new courses must be accompanied by a clubhouse, hotel and accommodation, she said.

"So investment has expanded into nearby provinces such as Krabi and Phang Nga instead," she added. Phuket's seven golf courses

include: Phuket Country Club, Blue Canyon's Canyon and Lakes courses, Loch Palm, Red Mountain, Laguna Phuket and Mission Hills.

The variety of courses on the island has increased Phuket's popularity as a golfing destination for European and Asian players.

In particular, affluent golfers from places like Hong Kong, Korea and China have ensured the golf market has grown continuously.

The TAT has played a key part in this. It set an ambitious target of making Phuket the "golf hub of Asia", and has been marketing the island by inviting golfers and media from target countries to try out the island's courses.

Chanwut Hongyok, general manager of Phuket Country Club, said his course was the island's first, and said it was developed around 20 years ago with an investment of 100 million baht, not

including land costs.

Today, however, such a project would not be possible, he said, because a new course could not be built with an investment of less than 1 billion baht. It would also require at least 1,000 rai when the accompanying facilities are considered.

"The golf business [in Phuket] has been flourishing ever since Tiger Woods came to compete at Blue Canyon about 17 or 18 years ago," Mr Chanwut said.

Mr Chanwut said the golf courses in the area weren't really in competition with each other because golfers tended to rotate around the different courses on the island, rather than sticking with just one.

"The real competitors are other countries in the region, such as Vietnam and China, which are increasing their investment in the golf business," he said.

Mr Chanwut said that even



MOVING SLOWLY: The golf industry in Phuket has reached a developmental plateau due to land availability constraints. Photo: Nicky Vermuelen

though Phuket Country Club faced little local competition, the course needed to be developed continuously in order to build confidence and increase convenience for golfers. In keeping with this, the course clubhouse is currently undergoing a 70-mn-baht refurbishment.

Mr Chanwut said the business was still growing at the rate of about 10 per cent per year, mostly due to its increasing popularity with young people.

Kitja Pongprapas, deputy president of the Golf Association of

Phuket, said the golf business had flourished over the past 10 years but had reached a plateau.

"The number of golf courses is rather large for Phuket. Because of this, further investment is quite difficult and will face tough competition, together with high course management costs," he said.

"If you're hoping to get the membership market, that's also tough because most golfers are already members of one of the existing courses," he added.

— *Kom Chad Luek*

Supercar grounded

ITALIAN sports car and carbon manufacturer Pagani has hit a snag in its bid to enter its latest and second supercar, the Huayra, into the US market.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has denied the US\$1 million (about 30 mn baht), 700 horsepower car an exemption from safety laws that require an advanced child-safe airbag system. The car needs to be able to sense when a child is on board and adjust the deployment force of airbags accordingly.

Pagani stated that complying with the regulation would have caused "substantial economic hardship", but the NHTSA argued that the company failed to demonstrate the reasons it would cause hardship and that Pagani had not made a serious effort to adhere to the regulation.

The Pagani Huayra employs a carbon fiber chassis, weighs about 1,360 kilograms and can accelerate from zero to 95 kilometers per hour in 3.5 seconds. Only five of the handmade cars were expected to be sold in the US next year but Pagani — which employs about 60 people — has not abandoned plans to sell its latest product there.

A 2013 roll-out is now expected as engineers design the advanced airbag system into the car.

— *Michael DesPortes*

Personal accident sector boosts Muang Thai

RISING concerns over risk coverage have sent Muang Thai Insurance's net profit soaring by 47 per cent to 248.8 million baht in the first half of this year.

The company has a sub-office in Phuket that opened in May.

"Our personal-accident business grew significantly, selling via the bancassurance channel, which is now its main income," president Nualphan Lamsam said recently.

Personal-accident premiums rose by 7.4 per cent or 127 mn baht, she said.

The company's total net profit generated by the growing insurance business surged by 60.9 per cent while profit from its investment in securities skyrocketed by 143.7 per cent.

Muang Thai's total premiums advanced 16.1 per cent to 2.68 billion baht in the first half of the



ON THE UP AND UP: Nualphan Lamsam, President of Muang Thai (center) and other officials at the opening of the Phuket branch in May.

year, while investment in securities rose to 197.39 mn baht from 143.7 mn baht in the same half of last year.

The company plans to do more website marketing to boost its sales. The move is part of the "Green

helps travelers apply for a visa in advance. Customers also can pay their premiums by credit card via its e-payment gateway.

The company has stepped forward on product development by launching a "single rate" premium service.

In the beginning, the product aims to lure more pickup truck drivers as customers, however, it will expand to all automotive models by year-end.

Six sub-offices have opened in Samut Songkhram, Chiang Rai, Sakon Nakhon, Nakhon Si Thammarat and Saraburi, in addition to the 10 sub-offices in Chon Buri, Hat Yai, Chiang Mai, Khon Kaen, Phitsanulok, Nakhon Sawan, Nakhon Ratchasima, Buri Ram, Phuket and Hua Hin.

The insurer also has 225 representative offices nationwide.

— *The Nation*



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WiFi you wouldn't believe

THERE'S important breaking news on the internet scene in Phuket: TOT is now offering something they call "WiFi." The first, most important thing to understand is that this isn't the kind of WiFi you know. It's completely different.

TOT has taken confusing terminology to new lows. The "WiFi" TOT is selling has nothing to do with the WiFi you probably have on your laptop, or on your phone or tablet. It's a different technology, invented by a company called Ubiquiti Networks, that relies on a box nailed to the side of your house or office. Ubiquiti calls the technology AirMax on their website ubnt.com, and that's the term I'll use.

Here's how it works. TOT puts AirMax transmitters on its mobile phone towers. The transmitters broadcast a signal that can be picked up from a long distance by a very sensitive box called the Ubiquiti NanoStation M5.

Although the transmission is line-of-sight – meaning you need to be able to see the antenna, more or less, in order to get a signal – these systems are tuned to produce remarkable reception, using something called a 2X2 MIMO antenna array. In Phuket right now we have AirMax connections extending up to 2 kilometers, and they'll certainly go much further; Ubiquiti claims their systems can transmit up to 50 km.

So, TOT puts a NanoStation M5 box on the side of your house, tunes it to receive the signal from the tower, then runs a heavy-duty Ethernet cable into your house. That Ethernet cable connects to a box that functions as your router.

You can plug a computer into the router and connect via Ethernet, or you can con-

nect a wireless access point box to it – thus producing a genuine, old-fashioned WiFi signal inside your home.

TOT likes the AirMax system because it doesn't have to run landline wires down the road. The towers are already built, and they're connected to the main internet lines on the island. Once a tower has

an AirMax base station, all of the houses in a 2 or 3 km line-of-sight radius are potential customers. Cheap and easy.

The technical details are fascinating as you can see on the Ubiquiti web site, but the thing I found most surprising is that the AirMax runs at 5 GHz.

If you recall the ongoing fights in Thailand over the 850 MHz, 900 MHz and 2.1 GHz frequencies – well, the AirMax doesn't use any of them.

As far as I know, the 5 GHz band isn't regulated in Thailand, which may be a primary reason why TOT chose it.

Leons, in Kathu, has started reporting the speeds for his TOT AirMax "WiFi" service, and they're breathtaking. He's consistently getting 5 Mbps international download speeds, which is considerably faster than almost all of the wired connections on the island.

Of course, there aren't many AirMax customers at the moment, and those speeds won't last forever. But for now they show that TOT has opened up a fast international connection for its AirMax customers: definitely a good sign.

Leons is using the TOT AirMax 5 Mbps plan which costs 599 baht per month. There's also an 8 Mbps plan at 799 baht per month. No word yet on speeds for the 8 Mbps version.

If you aren't yet reporting your speeds



Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard



NANO STATION: TOT's new AirMax "WiFi" system relies on a box like these, mounted on the outside of your house, with a wire going from the box to a router indoors.

on PhuketInternetSpeed.com, please drop by and sign up! We need your help. It's free, it only takes a few seconds, and the results help everyone figure out what's working and what's not worth the effort. Remember that all of the data – more than 21,000 reported speeds at this point – is immediately available to anyone who wants to view, download, or fiddle with the results. Also remember that the Internet

Service Providers are watching the reports.

Live Wire is Phuket Gazette columnist Woody Leonhard's weekly snapshot of all things internet in Phuket. To keep up with the latest Phuket internet news, you can drop by one of the Sunday morning Computer Clinics, follow Woody on Google+ (send mail to Woody@KhunWoody.com if you need an invitation), or on Twitter: @PhuketPC.

Handling a potential Economic Apocalypse



Island Investor

By Graham Macdonald

THIS is the first in a three-part article that describes the potential "Economic Apocalypse" approaching us, and what to do if it arrives. Follow the next few Island Investor columns for parts two and three.

ONE of the key themes of the Economic Apocalypse is the ominous Four Horsemen. All four Horsemen: The Euro, US Dollar, Japanese Yen and Pound Sterling, are in big trouble. All will suffer some sort of financial failure.

The failure of any one of the four will ultimately trigger the collapse of the others, although if the

Euro, Yen or Sterling go first it will likely send the Dollar skyrocketing, albeit not for long.

Any of the four could go at any stage, and trying to guess which will be the first to go is folly.

But that does not stop us. Previously, we had a slight suspicion that it would be the Euro. Recent events have, of course, now

changed all that. We are now certain it will be the Euro.

The European Central Bank (and by implication Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain) is living on borrowed time.

The French smoke and mirrors refinancing plan contains more holes than a large wedge of Swiss cheese.

Don't be surprised if the EU decides that the GIPSI nations (Greece, Ireland, Portugal, Spain and Italy) must leave the single currency and reintroduce Drachma, Punt, Escudos, Psetas and Lire but with a difference.

These meaningless second-tier currencies could well be artificially pegged to the Euro, meaning the GIPSI banking system would be cut adrift and their new currencies would be traded more on street corner black markets than Manhattan's money markets.

Considering the numerous problems facing debt-ravaged Japan, which by simple metrics is the most indebted of the Four Horsemen of the Economic Apocalypse, it is time to look at how the wedding between the Euro family and the GIPSI nations is bringing about increased economic chaos in, arguably, what is the most complex of our Horsemen, the Eurozone.

The Eurozone's fundamental flaw was to include the debt of lower-risk nations such as Germany and France in the same credit pool as the GIPSIs. This disaster in the making is now entering its final sequence of events.

How were nations with such disparate risk profiles able to obtain similar credit ratings and interest costs on debt?

The answer lies in the determination of the European Central Bank, on behalf of the EU, to manipulate criteria that even the weaker economies could eventually achieve.

However, it still required creative accounting, unfathomable derivative contracts and the financial engineering capabilities of Wall Street's sharpest minds before 17 members managed to gain entry

into the monetary union club, thereby enjoying years of collective cheap funding.

The periphery nations boomed as their lower cost bases and higher growth rates were combined with access to previously unimaginable amounts of cheap credit.

In the cold light of day it does seem inconceivable that Greece, having spent around half of the last 200 years in default, was granted a credit rating comparable to Germany.

However, once the credit rating agencies swallowed the deception that the Eurozone was broadly homogenous, investors, including banks, followed.

The GIPSIs are Europe's version of sub-prime, overwhelmed with debt, they are unlikely to ever be able to repay.

Greek borrowing costs, which had been running at well over 25 per cent per year, virtually converged with German debt costs at well below 5 per cent.

Membership of the Euro for countries that had previously had difficulties raising capital and whose price of capital had reflected this was like giving membership of a candy shop to children with a sweet tooth.

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Hard-hitting school realities

Corporal punishment in Thailand: The laws, the reality, the future.

In the Classroom

By Eric Haeg

CORPORAL punishment is illegal in Thailand. A video that emerged in the media last month, however, allegedly showed temple preschool teacher Pranee Jantalert hitting her students, suggesting that some Phuket teachers are not complying with the law.

In the video, "Kru Kiew" is caught repeatedly smacking kids on the head with her open hand and twice boxing the ears of a four year old. She also strikes a student on the side of his head with such force that the young child falls to the floor.

Many might think this incident is isolated but *The Nation* reported a 2006 survey of 1,300 Thai teachers that showed "up to 60 per cent strongly believed that corporal punishment was the right method to use with students".

Punishments included hitting students with open palms, fists, clothes and blunt objects, kicking, applying heated materials and slapping the face.

The now five-year-old survey was nationwide, but in Phuket's teacher community there seems to have been a surge in such behavior recently. In Samkong, one teacher witnessed another teacher hitting children with a bamboo stick.

"The teacher went down the line and hit them one by one because their hairstyles were not in line with Thai standards," the teacher told the *Phuket Gazette*.

Another teacher at one of Phuket's largest schools stated, "I've seen mostly prathom 1 to 4 students punished by Thai teachers. One teacher used one of those rubber rulers and slapped their hands. It didn't seem to me to be all that cruel," she said.

Cruel or not, one watchdog website wants teachers to stop hitting students.

Agreeing to speak exclusively with the *Gazette*, the site administrator, Bangkok lawyer and concerned parent we will call "Sue" wanted to remain anonymous since she has received threats from schools in the past.

"Whatever people think personally about corporal punishment in schools, it is a criminal act and those committing it are therefore acting criminally," Sue said.

"In brief, the law is very simple: It is illegal for any employee at a school, including teachers and directors, to apply any form of

corporal punishment on any child," she says.

Sue's website highlights a 2005 law that eliminated previous loopholes in the Child Protection Act of 2003. More details are available on her website thaiteachers.wordpress.com.

"It is not possible for schools to make agreements with students or parents, for individual schools to opt out of the law, nor to claim flexibility of the law—it is just as illegal to hit soft as it is to hit hard," Sue said.

After helping to send worldwide one video of a teacher in Nakhon Ratchasima hitting a student with a cane wrapped in electric wire, Sue's attention is now back on Phuket.

"We were contacted by a parent recently [about the alleged use of corporal punishment at another Phuket school]. The school is in the denial stage. Usually they just deny in the hope that the problem will disappear, but what they don't know is that we don't go away," she said.

Pending the results of an upcoming meeting at the school in question, Sue's investigation may be released to domestic news outlets as well as CNN and the BBC.

However, Sue holds true to her vision and says, "Our job is to protect kids not to make news".

Second to the campaign's goal of ending corporal punishment, is their

goal to see school administrators held accountable for their subordinates' actions. Currently, under Thai law, only the teacher who strikes the student can be prosecuted, Sue pointed out.

"If directors and owners were made personally liable for the actions of their employees, corporal punishment would stop," she said.

The website has a page dedicated to advice for parents whose children have been struck at school. It suggests that if the situation is not dealt with to the parents' satisfaction, they should go to the police. The police cannot take action against schools or teachers unless someone actually files a police report.

Thanks to some brave parents and hard evidence, Kru Kiew is now facing criminal charges and will not be hitting students any time soon.

For more information on corporal punishment in Thailand, advice for parents, teachers who hit, schools who hit, and a list of good schools, visit Sue's website and help end this practice.



CORPORAL PUNISHMENT: It is against the law for any teacher in Thailand to strike a child. Photo: Suchart Changate

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AL FRESCO RECOVERY: CEO of Bhavana Dr Kai Goh stands in front of the center's reception area.

World class rehab center opens doors

Bhavana in Phuket is set to become 'The Priory of Asia'.

By Alexandra Andersson

SEX, gambling, drug and alcohol addictions in Asia are on the rise as a by-product of the region's rapid economic development.

Until recently, treatment facilities in Asia for those suffering from substance addictions, compulsive behaviors and resulting mental issues have not kept pace with societal changes.

"We are seeing a big rise in the use of alcohol, drugs and social behavioral addictions like gambling, technology and sexual compulsivity in Asia," said Dr Kai Goh, CEO of Bhavana, a rehab center which opened August 5 at Cape Panwa.

Dr Goh said that the increasing

demand for treatment centers in Asia is partly because of growing affluence.

"We want to fill the big gap that is emerging when people realize they have problems they cannot cope with by themselves and need professional support," he said.

That's why Dr Goh – who trained at Imperial College and the Priory Clinic in London – decided to set up Bhavana in Phuket.

"Phuket is the right location for what we are trying to do. It is associated with relaxation and recovery, and offers a very healing environment surrounded by the sea," he said. "Moreover, Phuket is very well connected, so we can get patients not only from Thailand

but around the world," he added.

Dr Goh also cites the existence of established Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous networks in Phuket as a reason for his choice, as well as the higher tolerance Thais exhibit towards people with these kinds of problems compared to neighboring countries.

Bhavana is the first establishment in Asia that offers the integrated model rehab clinic. On-site it treats the physical aspect of addiction through detox, as well as therapy – both clinical and holistic.

The treatment center is licensed to administer medication, run a pharmacy and have doctors and nurses present 24-hours a day.

"This allows for a very seamless transition, as the patient will not be jumping from rehab to hospital and back to receive medical treatment, and will also not be kept at a hospital for extended periods of detox.

"It ensures you are not wasting your time between medication administrations, and allows for solid relationships between patient and therapists to form," Dr Goh says.

Additionally, the center has close links with Bangkok International Hospital, where the doctors at Bhavana can admit patients to directly should a serious medical condition arise, such as seizures or shock from withdrawal.

This close relationship also



HEALTHY HEALING: Bhavana is the first integrated model rehab clinic in Asia, combining emotional therapy with the medicinal aspects of recovery.



Bedrooms are designed for safety.



Accommodation is private.

complements the more cutting-edge and advanced treatments Bhavana employs, from brain scans to the use of hyperbaric chambers.

Formerly a resort, the four-rai site and center is simple, safe and secluded. With the ocean as its backdrop, you can see almost all of the facilities from the reception area.

'Compared to the West, in Thailand you see more alcohol and prescription drug abuse, specifically sedatives and benzodiazepam.' –

Craig Gagnon MA

In addition to the canteen, which provides three nutritionally balanced meals a day, there's also a pool, therapy rooms, the clinical wing, a recreation room and bedrooms.

The center currently caters for up to nine patients and is already at more than half occupancy after just a few weeks since the soft opening. Patient privacy and protection is of utmost importance at Bhavana, and the *Phuket Gazette* was restricted from any interaction with them.



Senior Admissions Coordinator Sandra Miller

Dr Goh reveals that there has been a lot of interest from overseas and many advanced bookings, with high season expected to be the busiest time.

So far, they have had Europeans, Thais and Phuket expats come and stay in the rooms, which have been redesigned and enhanced for safety to minimize patient's risks to themselves.

The cost of a stay at Bhavana varies according to the clinical treatments and lengths of stay. On average, a stay of about a month costs between US\$20,000 and

25,000 (about 600,000 to 750,000 baht).

Bhavana is part of a global network of top rehabilitation establishments, with resident therapists from The Priory in London and centers in Arizona and California visiting regularly and sitting on the international advisory board. Bhavana also offers therapy in a number of languages, including Mandarin, Cantonese, Thai, Arabic, Russian and Scandinavian, using Phuket-based professional therapists as interpreters.

"We aim to be an international center of excellence, but I think there is a need for it in Phuket's local and expat community as well," Dr Goh says, stressing the trends of alcoholism and prescription drug abuse that have been emerging here.

Craig Gagnon MA, one of the resident therapists from the US who trained at the Mayo clinic and has 15 years experience working in Bangkok, agrees.

"Compared to the West, in Thailand you see more alcohol and prescription drug abuse, specifically sedatives and benzodiazepam [Valium and Xanax]. These can be bought over the counter here but aren't as accessible in the West.

"Some areas of the medical profession here will give you medicine that practitioners in the West would be more hesitant to prescribe, and without as many follow ups. So we see a lot more foreigners getting addicted to pharmaceuticals here."

Dr Goh is also quick to point out the benefit Phuket residents have by being able to take full advantage of all that the center has to offer, from interventions to aftercare.

If you are struggling with an addiction but are unsure about getting help, the center offers seven-day "tester" programs. Read more at bhavanaphuket.com

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Tim Haddon

EXPAT
gallery
By Bruce Stanley

TIM Haddon is the Director of Golf at the Laguna Phuket Golf Club. He first worked on Phuket in 1989 at the Club Med on Kata Beach, as a Gentil Organizer (GO). Since then, he has become a valuable part of the island's expat community.

He currently spends most of his free time training for the 2011 Laguna Phuket Triathlon, on 27 November. It's a big task for Tim who has had some significant health issues. He's had two heart-related incidents, in 2005 and 2006, which required stents to open the blood flow in his arteries.

"I'm determined to improve my health. When I began my training in May, I was 115 kg. Darren Hancock, GM at the RPM Health Club, invited me to take the challenge of getting into shape in order to join the Triathlon. Under his direction, I'm training every day, losing weight and gaining muscle. My target is 80 kg by November."

Tim's training is monitored by a doctor at Phuket International Hospital who gives him stress tests to measure the full capacity of his heart during training, which includes walking, swimming and cycling.

"My whole life has changed. I've never been a morning person, and now I start walking six kilometers at 06.10 four mornings a week, and another ten to fifteen kilometers two days a week. I also do weight and cardio training four nights a week. I've been swimming and can reach

greater distances. And I've had to improve my diet. I'm determined to finish the Laguna Triathlon."

Tim was born in Echuca near the border of New South Wales and Victoria in southern Australia. He grew up playing golf with his father and took an apprenticeship at the Rich River Golf Club, a resort with two 18-hole golf courses. He won a holiday to Club Med on Bali and discovered the whole new world of expat life. He joined Club Med and after a season on Phuket in 1989, went to Singapore to work at the Bukit Timah Turf Club.

He was then offered the opportunity to work on the opening team of the Golden Valley Golf & Country Club at Malacca, Malaysia for two years. In 1994, Tim moved to Indonesia for another opening project, this time the SouthLinks Country Club at Batam. He worked on pre- and post-opening projects for three years.

In 1999, Tim became Director of Golf at the Bintan Lagoon Resort which featured two world-class courses, one by Jack Nicklaus, the other by Ian Baker-Finch.

"I spent most of the 1990s opening great golf courses around Southeast Asia. It was a time of great opportunity when I could switch between management and coaching."

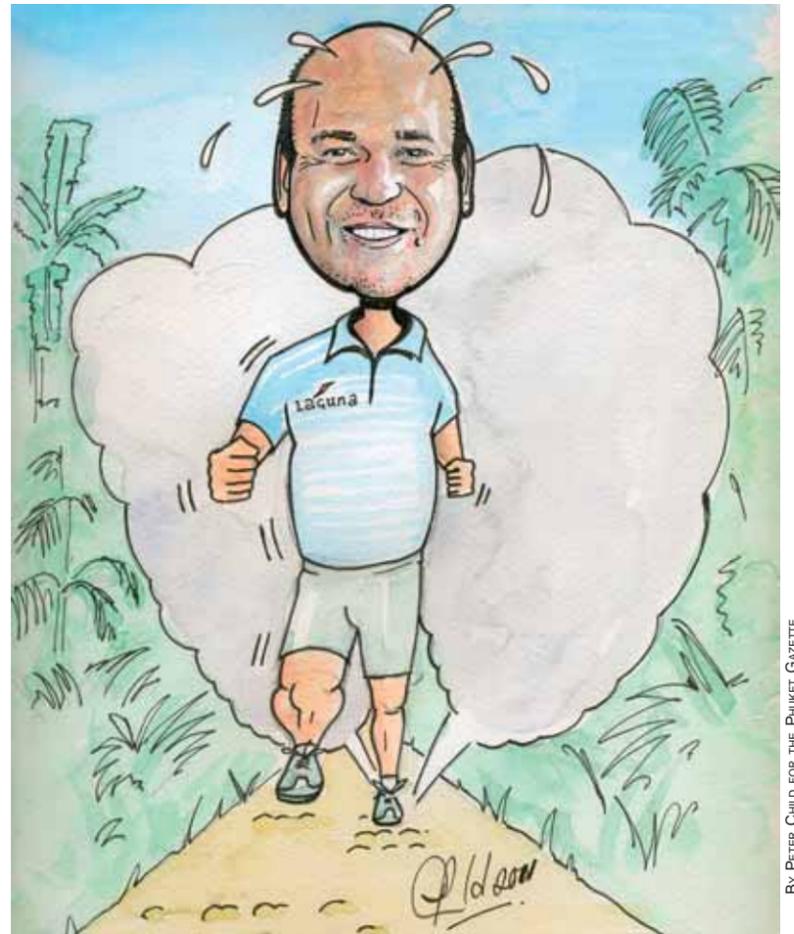
Tim returned to Phuket in 1999 as Director of Instruction at the Blue Canyon Country Club, and then for two years he taught golf at the Laguna Phuket Golf Club where he is now the Director. In 2002, he decided to return to work in Australia.

"After so many years in Southeast Asia, I enjoyed being back home in Australia. I had married and our son, Thomas, was born. I spent three years managing and coaching at the nine-hole Elsternwick Golf Club outside of Melbourne.

In 2005, Tim received a call from an owner at the Blue Canyon Country Club inviting him to become Director of Golf. He accepted a two-year contract. In 2007, he moved to the top position at the Laguna Phuket Golf Club where he has stayed.

"Golf is an expanding priority for this company. Currently, I am consulting on a new golf course set to open next year outside of Hue, Vietnam – the Laguna Lang Co Golf Club, designed by Nick Faldo."

Tim describes himself as a homebody who does not drink or smoke. He's determined to improve his fitness levels and to cross the finish line at this year's Laguna Phuket Triathlon – just three months from now.



BY PETER CHILD FOR THE PHUKET GAZETTE

About Expat Gallery

The individuals profiled in "Expat Gallery" are chosen on the basis of their contributions to Phuket, and for having made those contributions in successful partnerships with Thais. For many, the contributions have entailed significant investment, often in the mid-80s and 90s when the rules of business were, ah, not always clear. Some are not in business at all, but all have one thing in common: if there were a *Who's Who in Phuket*, they'd be in it.

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Going ape with good reason

The prequel to *The Planet of the Apes* franchise demonstrates a wonderful balance between plotline and CGI.



CRITICAL ERROR: Researcher Will accidentally enhances the intelligence of the apes when trying to develop a cure for Alzheimer's.

THE new movie is named *Rise of the Planet of the Apes* so that audiences know it belongs to the seven-film franchise that began with the 1968 Charlton Heston classic.

However, it could have been called *Caesar*, the name of the film's lead character – an ape that begins a revolution to dethrone humans as the dominant species on the planet. *Rise of the Planet of the Apes* delves deeper into the emotional journey of an animal more than any film I've ever seen.

Even *King Kong*, with its focus on Kong's loneliness and his love for the lead female character, did not approach the depth of this latest ape-blockbuster.

From the beginning of the film, when Caesar appears to have the intelligence of an ordinary ape, the filmmakers take careful steps to portray a very

personal side to his struggle.

Of course, *Rise* might not really count as a film about an animal, because it's based on a sci-fi premise in which apes become more intelligent. This basically means they become more human, so one could argue that it's not unlike any Disney movie with talking animals and furniture.

Fortunately however, these apes are more human-like and less Disney-like, so it isn't long before they develop a knack for revolt and imperialism.

The apes in *Rise* gain an evolutionary jump-start from test trials of a virus-derived-medication for curing Alzheimer's.

The chimpanzee trial subjects experience increased intelligence. To avoid any counter plot possibilities involving super-smart humans, the medicine is



SHOUT IT OUT LOUD: A strong moral message and character building are combined well with CGI technology.

Film

By Scott Phillips

Rise of the Planet of the Apes

Director: Rupert Wyatt
Starring: Andy Serkis, James Franco, Frieda Pinto, John Lithgow
Genre: Action/Adventure
Gazette Rating: 4/5

eventually found not to produce the same effect on people, instead making them cough blood.

Will Rodman (Franco) is the lead scientist of the medical project. With his father (Lithgow) becoming seriously affected by Alzheimer's, he has a strong personal motivation. However, the prime test subject 'goes ape' with her increased intelligence and ends up being shot in front of investors.

While the trials are immediately terminated and the rest of the chimps are put down, the deceased chimp's fetal infant is spared and smuggled out of the lab to live with Will.

Will and his girlfriend Caroline (Pinto) are a central part of the



BABY GENIUS: Pioneer ape character Caesar is the focus of the film.

story, but don't expect much from them. They have a small subplot romance, but they are first and foremost the human caregivers of Caesar.

Having inherited his intelligence from his mother, Caesar is no ordinary ape. He quickly gets smart, first invoking the behaviors of a well-trained dog, then having abilities akin to a child genius, and finally becoming uber-smart and eerily equipped with powers of manipulation.

Caesar doesn't pound his chest and throw stones at helicopters – he analyzes, plots, and executes with strategic complexity. As he does it, he has a look in his eyes that captures his emotions: dark and angered, intelligent and fragile.

Achieving those looks required more than a talented ape for an actor, which is where the film's impressive CGI comes in.

Caesar is actually played by ac-

tor Andy Serkis in the increasingly popular Hollywood practice of 'motion capture acting'.

Serkis has become the poster-child for this method, which has actors play out parts as characters that are later digitally enhanced during post-production.

Serkis first gained recognition after his iconic role as Gollum in *Lord of the Rings*, and then solidified his status as King Kong in the 2005 remake.

With his performance as Caesar, he once again has awards-circles rethinking their ban on digital characters' eligibility for nominations.

The technology has come far enough that every snicker, glare, and scowl is built on the actual facial movements of Serkis.

Director Rupert Wyatt captures what made the franchise popular in the first place, avoiding the modern threat of getting too carried away with special effects. In *Rise*, the CGI adds to the story instead of detracting from it.

The characters are all emotionally involved and the action has consequence.

This is no *Transformers 3*-style action in which an explosion means that filmmakers just spent US\$6 million on a shot. Rather, an explosion in *Rise* means the apes' plight is escalating, and important characters might be affected.

The final act when the apes take to the streets for their first big skirmish is expertly shot and full of nail-biting action. There will be no milking of these apes. They are mad and ready for a revolution.

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for August '11

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LOVELY LADIES: PIWC members with some students that received scholarships after the 2004 tsunami.

Learn to give, give to learn

By Marc Mulloy

THE Phuket International Women's Club (PIWC) is a non-profit organization set up in 1989 to promote friendship among women of all nationalities.

It also sponsors education, and at this time of year they begin selecting students, both male and female, for scholarships.

Due to the fund raising committee's tireless efforts, this year the PIWC are able to award a further 40 scholarships, bringing this year's total to 202 sponsored students, and a total of 705 sponsored students since the inception of PIWC 22 years ago.

Full scholarships cover tuition fees, uniforms, books, stationary and other educational expenses. Scholarships range from 10,000 baht per year for secondary school students to 60,000 baht per year for medical students.

Despite the recent economic downturn, Phuket businesses have continued to rally when called upon for the main annual fund raising event bringing in, among others, a very generous donation from the Fund Managers', Asia Brokers', and Bankers' Awards who raised enough money at a Hong Kong auction to sponsor two more medical students.

Meanwhile, the Saturday Laguna Amateur Golf Society decided to call upon their members and friends to donate any unused, unwanted vouchers or prizes they had won with the aim of raising enough to sponsor a student.

Due to the fund raising committee's tireless efforts, this year the PIWC are able to award a further 40 scholarships, bringing this year's total to 202 sponsored students.



Front row from left are Carol Fryer, Secretary; Khun Wipa Tanmanatragul, President; Carole Dux, Vice President and Sue Arnulphy, Treasurer.

They succeeded in raising enough for three scholarships.

Golfers once again proved to be a great source of funding, as the Layan Masters and the Layan International Golf Challenge committees continued with their biannual tournaments and raised enough money to fund a further five students, bringing their total sponsorship to nine.

"We would like to thank all of you who have helped us during the year, whether by donating vouchers and items for our annual ball, attending our events, hosting a lunch or by making cash donations," said PIWC President Wipa Tanmanatragul.

"For the last few weeks the scholarship committee has been assessing continuing and new students.

"All our continuing students are desperate to improve their

chances in life and have worked hard to meet the criteria required to maintain their awards and their annual funds have already been transferred," she added.

Some of these students have already graduated, and are now working as nurses and teachers. Next year they expect the first PIWC-sponsored doctor to graduate and return to Phuket to work. He just completed his fifth year at Prince of Songkla University, and came first in his class.

The annual scholarship presentation will take place on August 24 but the fund raising committee is already working hard on ways to raise more funds for next year's batch of scholarships.

The annual ball, "Once in a Lifetime... Make a Wish", will take place on Friday, November 11 at the Phuket Hilton Arcadia Hotel & Spa.

The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV are proud sponsors of this event. More information on the PIWC can be found at phuketiw.com or contact info@phuketiw.com



BRIGHT SMILE, BRIGHT FUTURE: PIWC Treasurer Sue Arnulphy at last year's scholarship award presentation.



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TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- ◆ This contest is open to all Thai students aged 14-18 years
- ◆ All entries must be in English
- ◆ Essays must be written by the student and should not be edited by others
- ◆ The submission must be 800-1,200 words long
- ◆ Submissions will be accepted from June 1, 2011 until **August 31, 2011**
- ◆ The names of the winners will be announced at the Awards Presentation Ceremony on September 15 in Phuket and the authors will be asked to read their submission

**Write your name/surname in Thai and English, age, school name, class, e-mail address and contact number at the top of your entry*

PRIZES

- 1 The Winning Author in each region will earn 10,000 baht and there are two Merit Awards per region of 5,000 baht each.
- 2 The Overall National Winner will receive 50,000 baht in cash.

WRITERS FROM SOUTHERN REGION CAN SEND THEIR ENTRIES VIA E-MAIL TO:

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For more information, please contact Khun Jane at 076-273555
or e-mail: kanjana@phuketgazette.net

JUDGING PANEL FOR SOUTHERN REGION

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THE NATION



**WHAT'S ON
in Phuket**

August 1 to 31. Mothers' month Sunday Lunch

From 12pm to 3pm, enjoy a lavish seafood buffet including sushi, live cooking stations, BBQ fare, Western and Thai spicy dishes, and all you can eat homemade desserts. From noon until 3pm at Vijitt Resort. Price: 590 baht nett per person. Half price for children from 4 to 12 years old, and free for children under 4 years old. The V Spa-Mother's day package for August features a 50 per cent discount. Additionally, if you buy one Jasmine Package you get one free. The spa is open daily from 10am to 8pm. The discount can not be applied to the Jasmine Package promotion. Contact The Savoury Restaurant at T:076-363600 E:info@vijittresort.com or visit W:vijittresort.com.

August 20. Dusit Charity Cup Bowling Tournament

Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket will hold its first charitable bowling tournament, the Dusit Charity Cup 2011, on August 20 from 10am to 8pm at CS bowl, Big C Phuket. The winning team will be awarded the Governor's Cup trophy inscribed by Phuket Governor Tri Augaradacha. Proceeds from this fundraising event will go toward the ongoing Dusit Smiles – Operation Smile Thailand program. See W:operationsmile.org for more information. The registration fee of 1,500 baht per team covers the rental of bowling shoes and refreshments. Contact Corporate Social Responsibility at T:076-362999 E:dtlphrcsrc@dusit.com

August 22 to 28. Kajonkiet opens its new international school



Kajonkietsuksa is opening the doors of its new international school, Kajonkiet International School Phuket (KISP) on August 22 to 28. KISP will be offering an education following the British National Curriculum from the Early Years Foundation Stage (Pre-Nursery, Nursery and Reception) through to Years One to Five (Key Stages One and Two). Come and visit personally to experience first-hand what sets KISP apart. Contact Khun Vipaporn Korjarunchit at T:082-4250104 E:ip@kajonkietsuksa.ac.th or visit W:international.kajonkietsuksa.ac.th.

or visit W:dusit.comdusit-thani/dusit-thani-laguna-phuket.html.

August 20. Saturday Brunch at Two Chefs Kata

Every Saturday Two Chefs are hosting their now famous Saturday brunch from 12pm to 3pm at Two Chefs Kata Center. It consists of delicious food inspired by Scandinavian cooking. This large buffet is only 395 baht and if you add another 300 baht you can drink what you want from the free flow options. The Filipino house band will perform live, with MJ &

Megan on the microphone and Mr Ollie on the drums. So don't miss it. Only at Two Chefs Kata Center. For reservations contact at T:076-330065 E:katacenter@twochefs-phuket.com or visit W:twochefs.com.

August 24. Tex-Mex at Two Chefs Karon

Wednesday night means Tex-Mex Evening from 6pm to 2am at Two Chefs Karon Beach. Every Wednesday they set up what is possibly the best Tex-Mex Buffet in Phuket. Price: only 495 baht. With great prices on drinks and MJ & Megan on the microphones, there will doubtless be a good party too. So don't miss it. Make reservations at T:076-286479 E:karon@twochefs-phuket.com or visit W:twochefs.com.

August 27. Castello de Banfi Dinner

You are cordially invited to Castello de Banfi Dinner on August 27 from 7pm to 10pm, at Mare restaurant, Centara Resort. Here you can experience the stellar wines of Castello Banfi from the Montalcino region of Italy, accompanied by a sumptuous

meal prepared by Italian Chef, Fabrizio Crocetta. Price: 1,990 baht nett per person. Make reservations at T:076-201234 ext 1276 E:fbscpbr@chr.co.th or visit W:centerahotelsresorts.com/cpbr.

August 29. Cowboy Night at Two Chefs Kata

Every Monday night from 6pm to 2am, there's a large buffet inspired by the Old West. Come on down to Two Chefs in Kata and enjoy it for only 495 baht. With Francis & Ollie performing the live music it can't be anything other than a success. Don't miss it. Make reservations at T:076-284156 E:info@twochefs-phuket.com or visit W:twochefs.com.

September 3 and 16. Curry Fridays

From 7pm to 11.30pm, Navrang Mahal Indian Restaurant at Karon Sea Sands Resort & Spa present Curry Fridays twice per month. Here is your chance to enjoy an authentic and lavish Indian curry buffet. Selections include all-time favorite Chicken Tikka Masala, very hot Mutton Vindaloo, juicy kebabs, Goan Fish Curry, Chickpea Curry and more served with Nan bread and Basmati rice. All you can eat for only 449 baht nett! Draught beer by the glass: just 50 baht nett. Special discount on beverages. Make reservations at T:076-286464 ext 4 E:sm@karonseasand.com or visit W:karonseasand.com.

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BARBECUES GALORE

Shake it for mum

Darasamuth Phuket School's English Program held a Mother's Day show that was a resounding success. The choreography, particularly the breakdancing, was popular.



Pipi busts a move (left) while AJ and Pban (above) perform a short play dedicated to mothers.



FLYING ACES: Jean d'Assonville (left) and James Pitman



WING MAP: James describing their flight and what's next in their fly-around-the-world adventure.



TOUCHING DOWN IN PHUKET: The South Africans landed at Phuket Airpark on Monday.

Intrepid duo's pit stop

**YOUR
Phuket**



INCOMING: Sling is a prototype four-seater aluminium sports utility plane set to fly around the world. Photos: Dean Noble

JAMES Pitman and Jean d'Assonville of The Airplane Factory in Johannesburg took a break in their round-the-world tour to make a welcome stop in Phuket on Saturday.

The South Africans have so far braved the Indian Ocean and had plenty of stories to tell.

James said Phuket aviators had been so welcoming they did not want to leave.

At the time of writing the pair were awaiting permission to make the 19-hour flight to Taiwan.



SWAPPING STORIES: The duo with Suchard 'Robert' Raksangop, Managing Director of Phuket Airpark and John Magee.



LETTING THEIR HAIR DOWN: Anantara's Vacation Club and Lalla Team on a night off. Photo courtesy of Kevin Sands, Director of Marketing Anantara



A meeting was held at Phuket Provincial Administrative Organization (OrBorJor) hospital to discuss handicapped support services in Phuket. In attendance were OrBorJor President Paiboon Upatising, Deputy Head of Phuket Public Health Office Dr Wiwat Sitamanote and Pinyo Udom, representing handicapped persons.



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Patong parades for the Queen

PATONG celebrated Her Majesty Queen Sirikit's 79th birthday and Mother's Day with marching bands, street parties and offerings.



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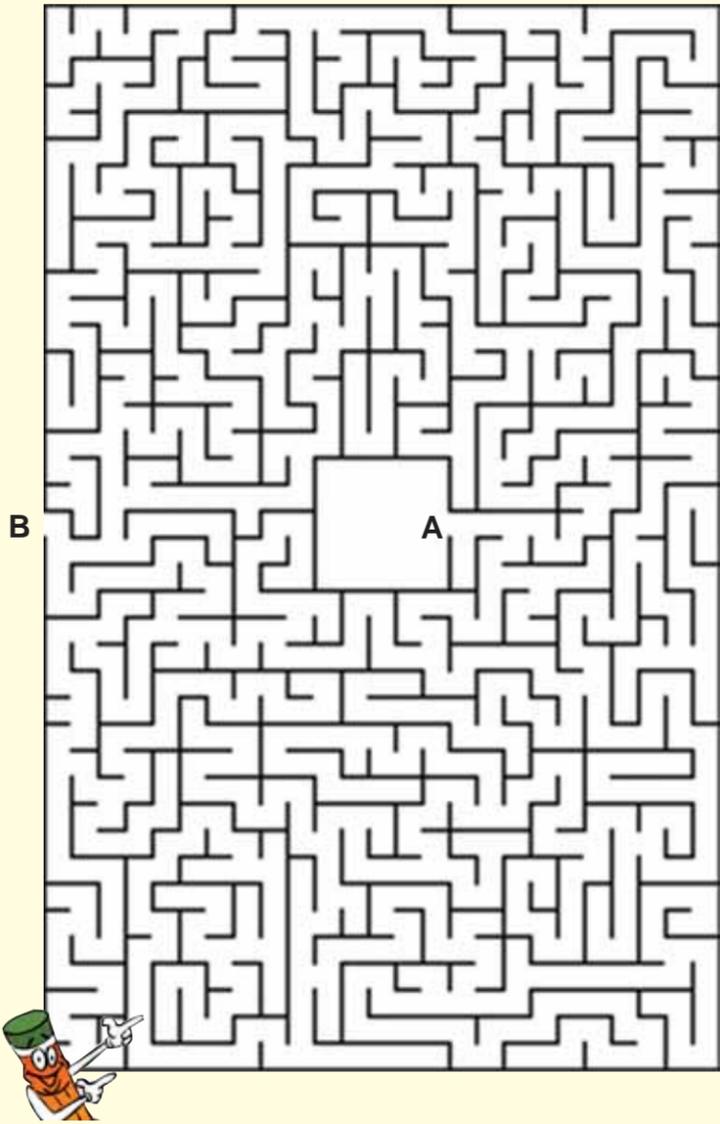
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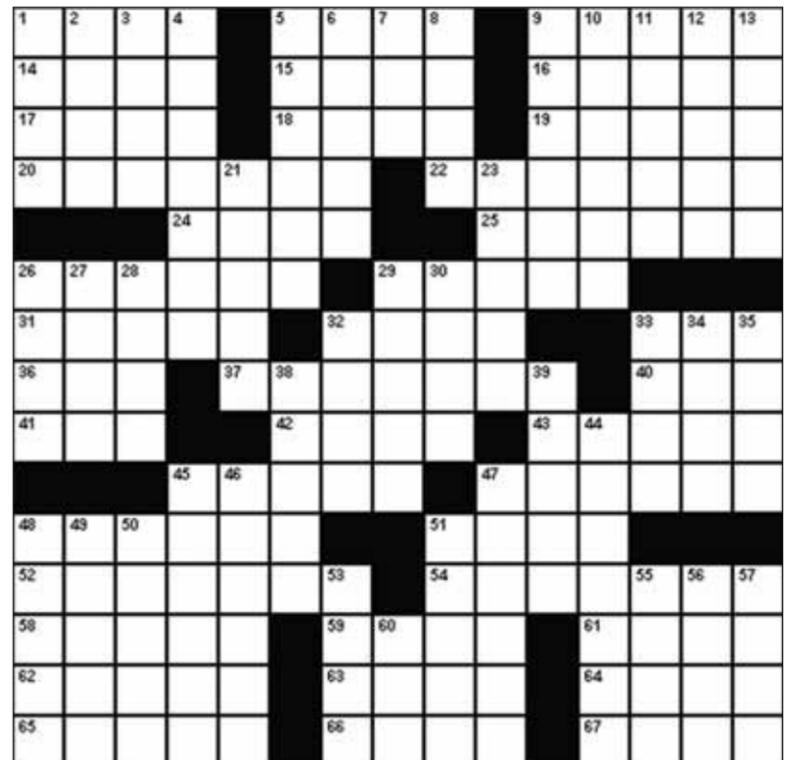


A *Gazette* staff member completed this maze in 30 seconds. Can you beat their time? Make your way out of the maze.



- Across**
- Flat-bottomed boat
 - Florence's river
 - Charged
 - Whimper
 - Oz creator
 - Satirical dialogue
 - Part of Q.E.D.
 - boy!
 - Fundamental
 - Puncture
 - Litter
 - Ancient Athens's Temple of —
 - Evening party
 - Happenings
 - Former French currency
 - Lost in Paris?
 - Dutch name of The Hague
 - Indian dish
 - Lennon's lady
 - Ruled
 - Needle hole
 - Airline to Oslo
 - Scheme
 - Histological stain
 - Young salmon
 - "Fighting" Big Ten team
 - Lessened
 - Fleet
 - U.S. space probe to Jupiter
 - Put into a list or an inventory
 - Behind
 - Copycat
 - Ovid, e.g.
 - Blackbird
 - Central points
 - Golden Rule word
 - Equipped
 - Blueprint detail
 - Actor Connery

- Down**
- Raced
 - Preserve with salt
 - Minnesota's St. — College
 - Marsh
 - Lets up
 - Gives a 9.8, say
 - Crackpot
 - Actor Epps
 - Typewriter tape



- Semitic language
- Polite refusal
- Licorice-like flavoring
- Greek goddess of fortune
- Pianist Rubinstein
- Grammarian's concern
- Epic narrative poem
- cava
- Archer of myth
- Bundle of sticks
- Carry on
- Small mountain
- He loved Lucy
- 16th letter of the Hebrew alphabet

- Filmmaker Riefenstahl
- Form of lyrical poem
- Research deeply
- Mountain of the Gods
- Smother
- Thawed
- Medical
- Brightly colored lizard
- Founder of the Mogul Empire
- Fright
- Bridget Fonda, to Jane
- Galoos
- Actress Skye
- Epsilon follower
- Collar type
- Explosive sound

Provided by BestCrosswords.com. Used with permission.

Crossword answers on page 39

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Inspiration you have for a money-making scheme gets the green light when another earth sign comes onboard. Those Virgoans who have been trying to find a way to become self-employed could see this happening within the next few weeks. The stars advise that you should assess your financial situation realistically before commitment. Those celebrating a birthday in the coming week find that romantic dreams can come true in the year ahead.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Your luck at work or in business will depend on the cooperation of a fire sign this week. The stars indicate that this person holds the key to Libran's potential success. Most auspicious days for meetings are Monday and Tuesday. Flirtation with another air sign gives you a warm feeling, but attention from a water sign leaves you cold. Wear the color gold to encourage good fortune to come your way.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): If wrestling with a dilemma has been knocking you out, it's time to take an objective look at this situation. There are signs

that some Scorpios may have to simply walk away from a problem to which there is no easy solution. An air sign may have encouraging advice this weekend. Your romantic outlook is unsettled – expecting a partner to dance to your tune too quickly is forecast to cause disagreements.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Sagittarian should guard against stretching their energy too far this week. A wave of activity at the beginning of August has probably left you feeling burned out. Another fire sign family member or close friend could try to pressurize you into helping them this weekend putting your foot down now will prevent this person trying to take advantage again in the future. Your lucky color this week is emerald green.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): A good dose of fresh air is recommended to chase away the moody blues this weekend. Those Capricorns who recently received disappointing news are advised to give themselves time to digest this information before considering how to react. The stars suggest that you will feel better when a tempting vacation invitation



arrives towards the end of August. Wear the color lotus pink to encourage a more peaceful mood.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Aquarians experiencing problems with children are advised to try harder to see things from their point of view. The stars suggest that a softening of attitude could be the key to improving family relationships. Those who had romantic interest in an earth sign could change their minds when a friend shares a secret this weekend.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Your socializing skills improve this week and there are signs that Pisceans will be making new friends. In the world of work doors are forecast to open the stars suggest that another water sign colleague has made one too many mistakes recently and this could result in your promotion. It would be wise to put more emphasis on saving as expenses are likely to be

higher than normal next month.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): The stars suggest that an earth sign friend could tell you something you don't want to hear this week. However, it will be better to have this information and act accordingly than remain in the dark. Your efforts and honesty at work will be appreciated by those with influence during the remainder of August. In the realm of romance, Cupid acts on your behalf this weekend an air sign should respond positively to your interest.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Brainwaves you have this week may not seem practical, but sharing them with colleagues could start some balls rolling. Avoid doing this with air signs as they are forecast to pour cold water on your creativity. Those Taureans who are feeling insecure in a romantic relationship should share their worries. Wednesday is the most auspicious day for a heart to heart talk.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Holiday plans could be compromised by a family member's sudden decision this week. Rather than flying off the handle, Geminis are ad-

vised to seek a solution that can be accepted by everyone. In the realm of romance, this is an auspicious week to heal broken relationships. The stars suggest that a water sign person is poised to come back into your life and you will both be ready to leave the past behind.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Jealousy could strike this week when an earth sign flaunts their expensive new possessions. Cash strapped Cancerians could remind themselves there are more things to celebrate in life than material items. Your luck in love is set to increase during the second half of August a holiday romance is predicted to turn your world around, with emphasis on possible relocation.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Progress and tangible rewards are forecast for those born under the sign of Leo this week. This should come as encouragement for those who have had trouble returning to reality after a summer vacation. Your romantic outlook depends on whether you can avoid blowing things out of proportion. A relationship recently begun with an air sign could be affected by this person's reluctance to talk about their past.

PROPERTY Gazette

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

Supalai rising in the heart of Phuket Town

Bidding to begin on Surin Stadium

PHUKET Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) will open electronic bidding on August 23 for the construction of a football stadium near Surin Beach.

The project's estimated budget is about 18.5 million baht and the winning bidder will be given a 330-day window for construction once a tender has been approved.

The tender approval and proposed price will be announced on September 2.

"Once a tender is announced, the construction contract will take effect within seven days," explained Chutaporn Chantet, Purchasing Officer of the *OrBorJor*.

"If everything goes to plan, the sports field will be finished by this time next year," she added.

An announcement issued by the *OrBorJor* outlined that the sports field will comprise a pitch, spectator stands, a retaining wall, water drain and utilities.



The construction site.

By Steven Layne

CONSTRUCTION of Supalai Park Downtown Phuket, a 15-floor, 518-unit city-condominium project in the heart of Phuket town is making considerable progress.

The concrete skeleton of what will be the city's tallest exclusively residential high-rise structure, is



A VISION IN YELLOW: What the completed project will look like.

starting to take shape.

It is located next to Sengho bookstore on Suthat Road, just south of Tor Sae Hill.

The project is expected to be completed and ready to move in by June next year.

The structure's south-facing city and ocean view units have already sold out, and at the time of going to press, there were still

limited units with a north-facing mountain view available.

Fully furnished 29.5 square-meter studios start at about 1.2 million baht and go up to just over 3mn baht for two-bedroom 66sqm family suites. The price differs by floor and size.

The complex will include a swimming pool, fitness center and private roof top park and garden.

Katathani voted top Phuket hotel

KATA Noi's The Shore at Katathani was voted by reviewers on the popular travel guide website tripadvisor.com as the "Number One Hotel in Phuket".

This achievement comes only eight months after the hotel's official opening.

The title is awarded based on reviews written on the website

by guests and travelers.

Nantida Atiset, Chief Marketing Officer of the Shore at Katathani, said: "We are extremely proud to be recognized in this way. This represents one of the most powerful recommendations – the endorsement of other guests."

Since opening, the development has added more villas.

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A NEW ISLAND BRAND: First Hawaii, then Tahiti, Bali and Phuket; now there's Hainan Island, an up-and-coming tropical island south of mainland China.

'China's Hawaii' rises

Hainan Island has experienced a tourism surge, with 60 new hotels and 25,000 rooms.



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

THE mere mention of the word "Hawaii" conjures up thoughts of gentle tropical breezes and the soft sounds of swaying coconut trees.

Throw in a magical sunset overlooking the beach and a few brightly colored fruity cocktails complete with miniature umbrellas, hula girls, surfboards and puka shells, and you have a dream

island destination that many associate with tropical paradise, Hawaiian-style.

They've even remade the television series *Hawaii Five-0* to keep the brand alive for generations to come.

And we know island brands sell. Just ask Tahiti, Bali or Phuket.

Now here comes a new island brand from Asia's factory of all things in huge quantities, one that has become known as "The Hawaii of China" – Hainan Island.

In China everything is done on

a grand scale, and entrepreneurial vision and over-achievement are the present day ethos. More is better, so let's try even more.

Looking at the market data gathered by hospitality industry firm Lodging Economics, if Hainan was considered a free-standing country, their current hotel development pipeline is only exceeded by the US, Brazil, India, UK and the Chinese mainland.

Today there are 60 new hotels and over 25,000 new hotel rooms in the Hainan development cycle. The prime area of Sanya has 35 projects and over 17,000 units underway.

The question most asked by industry players is: Is this a looming monster or will it only attract domestic tourists?

While there is considerably less interest in the housing market right now, Sanya does have a relatively healthy number of visitors from Russia and South Korea. So it isn't just a one-trick pony.

Though residential and property sales have yet to take on the scale that's expected to follow a thriving tourism boom, even the most

naive observer can look forward and see that condo hotels and villa resorts are imminent.

Is this a looming monster or will it only attract domestic tourists? This is the question most asked by industry players.

While you can argue that the world is getting smaller and long-haul tourism is rampant, regional travel is a major growth engine and the short-haul market is where all the action is.

Is Hainan a threat to Phuket, or to Vietnam, Cambodia, and the Philippines? Will the Chinese be content to simply stay local, or is the allure of going abroad too much to resist?

For most of Asia, travel choices are determined by the laws of supply and demand, and personal choice. But in China internal controls over movement inside and outside the country continue to be a wild card which is simply impossible to guess.

Wiping the dust off my crystal ball, I have to say the tourism development in Hainan will spur an entirely new sector of investment property.

Yes, as in Hawaii or Australia, Bali or Phuket, the mass condos will come with all the rest, be it the good, the bad or the fringe.

Of course, many economists say China is a "bubble in the making". This does not bode well for the shores of Phuket, given its growing reliance on the mass markets of tourists from China. If there is a blip, everyone will suffer.

While Hainan is not Hawaii, it's indicative of the growth of destination island tourism where the big, bright and new continue to dominate the headlines.

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

In brief...

Casino craze hits Vietnam, but what about Phuket?

VIETNAM is cranking up their infrastructure and mega-project pipeline with some notable mixed use gaming developments.

A joint project was recently announced between Malaysia's Genting Group and VinaCapital for a reported US\$4 billion project development located in Than Binh. Genting is best known for Resorts World projects in Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines.

In south Vietnam, the MGM Grand on the Ho Tram Strip is building a US\$4.2 billion project, set to open south of Ho Chi Minh City in 2013.

As to whether or not Phuket should look at gaming, many different views are out there on the subject. If one thing is for certain, it's that given the speed of regional development, the country is lagging in significant project initiatives.

CBRE puts Land for Krabi's Cove project up for sale

WIND back the clock a few years to the height of the property boom and many industry watchers recall the ambitious mega project called The Cove in Krabi.

A mixed use resort development complete with an 18-hole Colin Montgomerie championship golf course, multiple hotels, villas, condos and a marina were all part of the master plan.

During the launch stage the area planning jumped from 400 rai up to 600 rai and then finally to 1000 rai.

Despite all the glitz, the project never found its way into the construction phase and parts of the total land parcel reverted to individual partners over the years.

Now CBRE Thailand has come to market with the core 164-rai beach front lot with an auction and minimum pricing of 1.2 million baht per rai.

Located in Had Yao beach, the site includes 200 meters of ocean-front and includes a chanote title.

Thailand Property Awards, November

IT'S Oscar time for Phuket's real estate crowd and the 2011 award event is all set for November 5 at the Grand Hyatt Erawan.

During August, a special early bird registration fee is 4,000 baht saves you 1,000 baht over the normal price.

It's still the highlight of the property industry's annual calendar in Thailand.

For more information, email info@thailandpropertyawards.com – Bill Barnett



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MILLIONAIRES' MILE: Chingari Phuket's 14-rai development includes six open-plan designer homes, each with a gym, private cinema and six bedrooms with private decks.

Chingari launches prime villas

MEMBERS of Phuket's property industry came together last week at Paresa Resort on the Kamala headland for the official launch of the Chingari Phuket, the island's newest luxury residential property development. Over 50 agents joined the launch presentation to meet the project developer, contractor and architect.

Perched on the oceanfront with direct access to the sea below, these six impressive villas are now for sale starting at US\$7.5 million (about 225mn baht).

Each of these modern, open-plan designer homes are located a few minutes from Kamala Beach on a 2-rai plot of land. They have 700 square-meters of internal living space, and all six bedrooms have private decks and ensuite bathrooms. There is also a 23-meter pool, maids' quarters, a gym and a cinema.

"We're very excited to start building on what we feel is the absolute best plot of land on the Kamala headland," says developer Faheem Ahmed. "It's very unique



to have a development in Phuket where you are directly above the water, with completely uninterrupted views and access to the sea."

The 14-rai development's six villas are spread over two different levels to maximize privacy and seaview for each residence.

The community is walled, and has 24-hour security. There is also a large common green space with irrigation systems, stone roadways, retainer walls and garden steps with direct ocean access.

Designed by MAP Architecture from Hong Kong, Chingari Phuket villas showcase modern, Asian-influenced architecture and are complemented by luxury appliances and fixtures.

World-class smart-home technology will also be incorporated into each villa by AVC

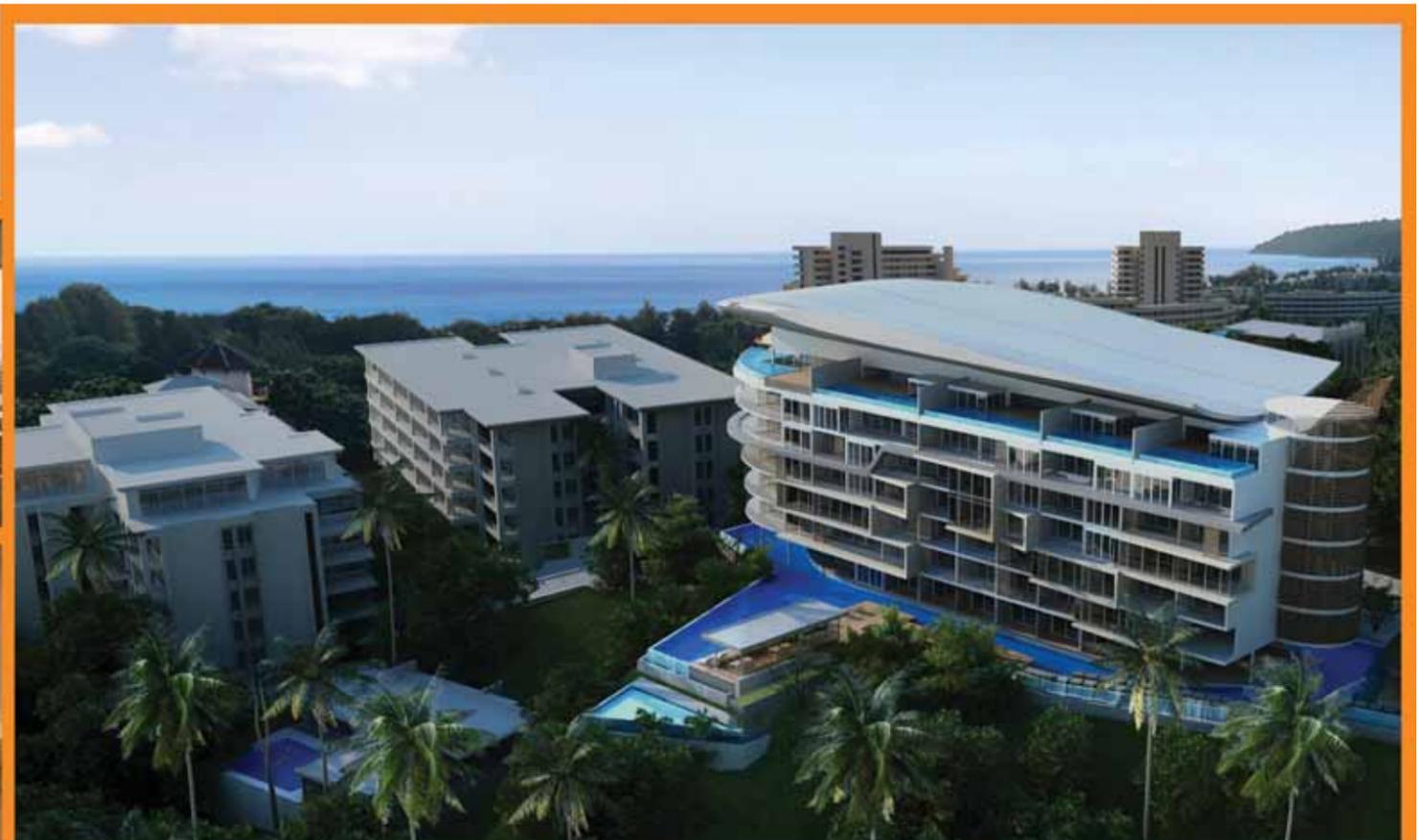
Phuket, Thailand's leading specialists in home automation.

The developer, Chingari Phuket Ltd, is a Hong Kong-based group that has specialized in building exclusive, prime residential homes for the last 25 years.

Their portfolio includes impressive mansions in Hong Kong and London, built for clients ranging from heads of state to royalty to billionaire businessmen from various parts of the world.

For full sales details, visit chingarivillasphuket.com

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HOLDING ON: Vitex roots keep beach sand in place, so the waves don't sweep the sand back into the ocean: vitex (top left), pandanus (top right). Photos: Robbie Howard Tree, Troy McKaskle

Fighting the elements

FEW trees and shrubs can survive on the seashore, where their foundations are built on shifting sands high in salt and the ocean winds blow relentlessly.

Nonetheless, a few hardy tropical plants can, and do, tolerate such conditions. You can see many examples when you walk along any shoreline in Phuket, particularly the eastern coastline.

Things are a tad easier for flora on the island's eastern intertidal zone, where the soil is boggy and fertile, and conditions are more sheltered. This is where a few gnarled mangrove trees survive, unaware that most of their brethren have already been bulldozed on other parts of the island.

These brackish and muddy wa-

ters support a range of water-loving plants and animals.

As for the sand dunes of the east coast beaches, we will have to drastically shorten the plant list.

One plant that lives in the dunes is familiar to all Phuket sun-lovers: the beach vine or vitex. It's also known as goat's foot in some parts of the world. This vine covers large areas of sand dunes on the eastern littoral zone and produces trumpet-shaped, purplish flowers.

It's related to the water morning glory (*imopoea pes caprae*) which, in complete contrast, is found in marshy areas all over the island, and is used extensively in Thai cuisine. The vitex foliage consists of twin-lobed, waxy leaves, that are light green in color. It is a



real toughie: completely at home in bone-dry conditions and impervious to the ravages of sun and salt.

The vitex provides a fascinating example of man versus nature. In the immediate wake of the tsunami, Nai Harn Beach was completely submerged in flotsam and jetsam, but the beach vine however, which populates the seaward slopes of dunes, had largely survived.

Moreover, it had enabled the sand dunes to act as a buffer from the engulfing wall of water. It had always been assumed that the vine's deep roots help to bind and stabilize sand, and this proved that the assumption was correct.

In the southern USA, the vine was introduced for the same reason: to help protect sand dunes in

the Carolinas and elsewhere from tidal erosion.

According to US sources, the plant proved to be too invasive. It took over the habitat of native plants and animals, and failed to root deeply enough to bind the shifting sands. It has now been declared a national menace and is being eradicated everywhere by arsenic and other chemicals.

It may be that the vitex, which spreads by a system of runners which snake out from woody root stock, only thrives in high temperatures. After all, it is a tropical plant. Here it flourishes: its dense ground cover (up to a foot or so tall) aids the survival of other fauna and flora.

Certainly the screw palm (*pandanus tectorius*), another toughie that survived the tsunami and also grows on the dunes, benefits from its proximity to the beach vine. *Pandanus* is not a palm, though it looks like one, with a crown of huge, strap-like leaves, arranged in a screw-like formation.

They're used locally for roof thatch. The tree, which can attain several meters in height, has distinctive, perpendicular roots, which grow straight down.

They are plainly visible above the sand, and are able to anchor the shrub by penetrating deep into the dunes. The fruit resembles a small pineapple.

Another interesting point about the vitex is that it is used by Thais as a naturopathic remedy for jellyfish stings. If you get stung by a jellyfish, spread the milky pith on the affected area.

If you like unusual plants, you can try cultivating either of these specimens in a dry part of the garden. After all, they do enjoy life in Phuket.

Tip of the week



It's a good idea to install gutters to collect water. Photo: bijoy mohan

Conserving water

GARDENERS should always collect and store rainwater. There are many plastic tanks available on the market. Some are quite attractive in appearance, and most modern homes have gutters that can channel the water into these receptacles.

In the dry season, this water provides a useful supplementary source, especially if you don't have a well. While it's not good enough to drink, it can be used for washing clothes and, more importantly, for irrigating your garden.

Rainwater is more acidic than underground water from aquifers, which is harder and contains dissolved salts such as magnesium and calcium.

Thus rainwater, while it may lack some nutrients, helps to reduce excess alkalinity in the soil.

On the other hand, excess sulfur dioxide in the atmosphere leads to a condition known as acid rain which can impede plant growth and even damage stonework.

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Club Mangosteen, Rawai Beach. Phukets newest and most exciting vacation club is now seeking experienced, outgoing and energetic timeshare professionals to join our team.

- In-house Sales Representatives (English, Finnish, Chinese, Norwegian speaking)
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- Spa Therapist

Please submit your resume or CV to david@clubmangosteenphuket.com

Professional Property Management Solutions



Phuket's premier property management company is looking for suitable, qualified candidates for the following positions:

Villa Operation Manager

- 3 years experience in property management and operations

Rental Operation Manager

- 3 years experience in reservations and holiday home rental operations

All positions require

- Good command of English language both speaking and writing
- Ability to demonstrate initiative and a high level of independence
- Good general computer skills

Positions available for Thai Nationals only

Please send your application with a recent photo to Human Resource Dept.
Tel: 076 270 750, Fax: 076 270 751, Email: personnel@pipsphuket.com

SALES EXECUTIVE



- Male / Female, 25 – 35 years.
- Bachelor's degree or higher in marketing or a related field. Thai nationality with an excellent command of written and spoken English. (Ability to speak French is an advantage).
- At least 2 years sales experience in Phuket's real estate field
- Detail-oriented, highly organized, multitasking capacity.
- Proficiency in MS Office Suite (Outlook, Word, Excel, PowerPoint etc.)
- Requires an energetic, strategically focused and creative sales achiever who enjoys the latitude of working independently and effectively using their time management skills.
- Highly motivated and well presented.
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Please send CV and expected salary to
kate@century21-andaman.com

CENTURY 21 ANDAMAN CO.,LTD.
Mobile: 086-2686047

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Base in Phuket branch office

- minimum 1 years experience in hotel (Guest Relations) and/or travel business services
- Thai national
- fluent in German language
- knowledge of English is an advantage
- good and outgoing personality
- willingness to work in shift duty
- experience to communicate and to work with foreign nationals driving license

Type of Work: Full Time

Working Place: Phuket Branch Office

Contact Address:

(Bangkok) 849, 7th Floor, Vorawat Building, Silom Road, Bangkok, Bangkok 10500
Tel: (66) 2 267 1202-4 Fax: (66) 2 267 1128
(Phuket) 241/29 Rat-U-Thit 200 Pee Road, Patong Beach, Kathu, Phuket 83150
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If you say **YES** the above then please submit your CV with covering letter stating the position you are applying for to email address
recruit_phuket@anantara.com

Contact Human Resources Department,
Anantara Phuket Villas Tel: + 66 (0) 76 336100-9 Ext 552-553
Fax: + 66 (0) 76336166



Positions Available

Sales & Marketing
• Sales & PR Coordinator

Villa Operations

- Senior Villa Host
- Villa Host Supervisor
- Guest Service Center
- Villa Host
- Bell Man

Food & Beverage

- F&B Manager
- Restaurant Manager
- Infinity Bar Manager
- F&B Supervisor
- Waiter/Waitress

Kitchen

- Executive Sous Chef
- Sous Chef
- Demi Chef
- Chef de Partie
- Cook Helper
- Steward (part-time)

Engineering

- Handy Person

Housekeeping

- Villa Supervisor
- Villa Attendant
- Florist Supervisor

A successful candidate will need to possess average to above English communication skills.

Join us to create your own story! Good Luck!

THAI STAFF NEEDED

Must speak English. Basic salary, commission and contact included. Contact Mike. Tel: 081-270 1370. Email: mike@bayshoreprojects.com

MAID WANTED

To take care of house & give quality massage to American. Good salary paid. Email: ltnesneq@aol.com

ACCOUNTANT NEEDED

Working in Rawai. Please contact Khun Wit. Tel: 084-844 0008. Email: m@bayshoreprojects.com

SALES REPS REQUIRED

Thai-speaking marketing colleagues are needed. Great employment opportunities with limited vacancies. We need enthusiastic, motivated individuals to join our successful team. Full training, great commissions and start-up packages available. Email: jengore@inspire.net.nz

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Good accommodation with living quarters above garage. Husband to work as driver and handyman. Wife to work as housekeeper in large villa with important duty of caring for 5 dogs. Tel: 088-168 9455.

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Thai female, age 25 to 30. Interest in the fitness industry. Must be active, self-motivated and driven to take on growing business. Salary with commissions. Send CV and details to cj@searaspports.com

THAI WAITRESS NEEDED

Full or part time to work in busy cafe. Good personality and spoken English essential as customers are mostly foreign. Excellent salary given. Tel: 089-648 8324, 086-509 7510. Email: simon@colonial-connection.com

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Are you a qualified Financial Advisor, Sales Pro or have working experience in financial services, sales or a related industry? Do you have a proven track record in financial services or sales industry? Native English speakers only or fluent in the English language. Please send your CV via email: careers@faramond.com For further details, please see our website at www.faramond.com

NEED THAI STAFF IN PATONG HOTEL

Waitress, cook and bartender needed. Good salary and housing included. Contact Manuela. Tel: 081-270 1370, 083-392 8462. Email: m@bayshoreprojects.com

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ICPA has long been helping Japanese clients to recruit top professionals. We are looking for a salesperson or recruiter with a drive for success, solution sales experience, excellent telephone skill, fluent in English and/or Japanese. Tel: 02-632 1536, 086-577 8356. Fax: 02-632 1539. Send CV to hr3@icpa.com For further details, please see our website at www.icpa.com

MAIDS WHO CAN COOK NEEDED

Need maids who can cook for three villas. Laguna needs a live-in maid who can cook and clean. Patong villa needs a maid who can cook and clean, live in or live out. Kamala villa needs a maid who can cook and live out. All maids must speak English very well and have experience and references. Must have flexible working hours after 5pm. Six days per week. For more info. Tel: 080-699 2436. Email: kokakat@gmail.com

WEB CONTENT MANAGER

For IT company. Thai national, degree in philology – Russian and English, good knowledge only. Computer skills. Tel: 076-304117. Email: gws.marinina@gmail.com

SECRETARY WANTED

Thaimaan Loma is looking for Thai staff, age 25+. Must be able to speak and write English. Must also have knowledge of Microsoft Office and good other computer skills. Experience in accounting or real estate broking is an asset. Good salary. Tel: 089-515 5288 (English). Email: timo.saarinen@thaimaanloma.fi

STAFF WANTED

We are currently looking for Thai office staff with the following attributes: Able to operate a computer with knowledge and have a basic computer skills, including Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel. Must also have knowledge about online booking through Microsoft Outlook, and be fluent in written and spoken English. Good salary. Send your CV to Asia Sensations Travel if you are interested. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-282906, 081-893 9925 (Thai), 089-871 5045 (English & Thai). Email: info@phuket-excursions.com

ASST MANAGER FOR MAGAZINE

Thai national, minimum 24 years old, degree in marketing or PR, customer service, strong communication skills in spoken and written English, MS office, driver's license. Tel: 076-304117. Email: gws.marinina@gmail.com

ACCOUNTANT NEEDED

We are looking for a full-time accountant to work Monday-Friday. Salary starts at 15,000 baht per month. Good English and office experience required. Tel: 076-527834, 089-871 8835 (English & Thai). Email: anamackay@hotmail.com

ACCOUNTANT WANTED

Need accountant that can multi-task. Must have good understanding of P&L and Balance Sheet reconciliation, ERP Software, Data Entry and Report Running BS in Accounting from accredited Thai UV required. Must be able to read, write and speak English fluently.

Contact:
martin@phuketfishboat.com

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You will not get an interview if you call.

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ASSISTANT SALES MANAGER

Thai resident with very good written and spoken English. Must own car and driver's license, computer and have strong communication skills. Tel: 076-304127. Fax: 076-304128. Email: gws.marinina@gmail.com

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Required to work throughout Phang Nga, Phuket and Khao Sok NP. Based in Khao Lak. Tour company offers 30+ different tours. Join our team and never have a dull day. Tel: 076-485411, 083-104 0684 (English & Thai). Or email: info@khaolaklanddiscovery.com For further details, please see our website at www.khaolaklanddiscovery.com

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Varied role for a self motivated Thai national with strong communication skills. A good command of written and spoken English is a must. Experienced on Word & Excel with the ability to create reports. Will be in charge of administration of staff hours, holidays etc and overseeing of purchasing & housekeeping dept. Drivers license a plus. Tel: 076-206705. Fax: 076-206706. Email: zara@yacht-haven phuket.com

Employment Wanted

PRIVATE CHAUFFER

Thai driver's license. Excellent driving skills. Speak fluent English. Contact Naymyo. Tel: 087-283 9707 (English). Email: floralhawk@aol.com



Construction Project Engineer

Sai Taan Villas project in Chergntalay, Phuket seeks Project Engineer to start immediately.

Candidate Background:

- Thai national, 26-35 years
- Bachelor's Degree in engineering discipline
- At least 4-6 years in project engineer role
- Good command of English, PC literacy & some knowledge of CAD
- Pro-active, highly responsible, organised & able to work under pressure

Competitive salary for the right candidate! Immediate start.

Interested Parties are invited to submit resume together with current & expected salary to info@sai-taan-phuket.com

Sai Taan Villas Co., Ltd.
3/14, Moo 5, T. Chergntalay, A.Thalang, Phuket 83110
Tel 076-271257-8, Fax 076-271256
www.sai-taan-phuket.com



Farang Food Paradise Co., Ltd., Food & Beverage supplier based in Phuket, is currently seeking for the following position:

Sales Representative

- Thai National
- Age 25 - 35
- Bachelor's degree in any related fields
- Strong English communication skills
- Good interpersonal skill, service-minded and well organized
- Experience in sales and marketing & in wine business is a plus
- Self motivated and able to work independently
- Possess a car driver's licence

Interested applicants are invited to apply in person or send resume to:

FARANG FOOD PARADISE CO., LTD.
51/109 Moo 6, Phrabaramee Rd., T. Kathu, A. Kathu, Phuket 83120
simon@phuketfood.com or Tel. 076 321 941 - 076 203 192
<http://www.phuketfood.com>



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Sales Supervisor – Phuket Based

Pro-actively hunt, develop and manage the own sales area Phuket on prospection & acquisition of new customers in order to reach the companies growth objectives in Hospitality segment, with sales of a - brouded coffee & tea system solutions

Qualifications:

- Thai Nationality, aged 25-45, resident in Phuket
- Bachelor or Master Degree in Sales / Marketing or related field
- 5 – 7 years experience with Food & Beverage / Hospitality
- Proven track record of sales success
- Perseverance, passion to excel and natural "Hunter"
- System sales background is a plus, particularly in a comparable environment as system selling or hospitality / hotel or food and beverage sector
- Self motivated a independent
- Consultative selling skills, recognising the customer needs
- Excellent Language Skills in English [spoken, written]
- Own car

Working at: Phuket, Krabi, Khao Lak areas

Working day: Monday – Friday
8.30 am. – 17.00 pm.

Contact: Human Resources Division
Sara Lee Coffee & Tea (Thailand) Ltd.
Cyberworld Tower: A , 34th Floor, 90 Ratchadapisek, Huai Kwang, Bangkok 10310
E-mail: recruitment.bangkok@saralee.com
Tel: 02-6886792

Project Manager (Phuket)

Responsibilities:

- Manage and coordinate ongoing projects, estimate construction costs and prepare budget, quality control management

Required Qualifications:

- Male, not over 45 years old. Southerner is preferred
- 7 years experience in construction management, or project management
- Strong planning and leadership skills, systematic thinking, and interpersonal skills

Property Consultant (Phuket)

Responsibilities:

- Responsible for property, project, property resale, leasing and other work assigned from the supervisor.

Required Qualifications:

- At least 1 year experienced in sales, customer service, or hospitality.
- Age 22 – 30 years old.

All position required:

- Thai Nationality
- Fluent in English
- Own car and driving license will be an advantage.
- Able to work 6 days a week.

Plus Property Company Limited.
Please send resume to nattha@sansiri.com, chuthamas@sansiri.com

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For more information please contact 0 2201 3173, 0 2201 3072

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International Law Office, Patong Beach Co., Ltd.

OPEN POSITION (Patong Office)

- **Office Assistant**

Requirements:

- Female, 25 years or older, bachelor's degree
- Background in administration an advantage
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Fluent written and spoken English
- Ability to work well under pressure and adhere to strict deadlines
- Computer skills

Please email resume in English with work experience, references, recent photograph and expected salary to: bernd@ilo-phuket.com; sam@ilo-phuket.com

International Law Office Patong Beach Co., Ltd.
55 Rat-U-Thit 200 Pee Road, Patong, Kathu, Phuket
Tel: 66-76-344180 to 1, 340 731
Fax: 66-76-340767

Location Patong Branch, Phuket, Thailand

Phuket International Hospital

Phuket International Hospital provides high quality hospital services to both Thai and Foreign Nationals, and is seeking to employ a German speaking coordinator.

GERMAN COORDINATOR PHUKET INTERNATIONAL HOSPITAL

This is a full time position open to both Thai and Foreign nationals

The German Coordinator's primary role is, at a macro level, to act as an interface between the foreign community and the hospital and at a micro level, between the patient and healthcare providers.

Essential Qualifications

- Fluency in German or more European languages
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills

Desirable Qualifications

- Clinical, nursing or other relevant health care skills or experience
- Thai language proficiency
- Marketing or Management experience
- Professional presentation
- Demonstrated ability to meet defined objectives and deadlines
- Computer skills

Interested candidates should contact James Cawood or Lotte Dietrich for a position description and forward their CV-supporting documents by August 29th, 2011 to james@phuketinternationalhospital.com or lotte@phuketinternationalhospital.com

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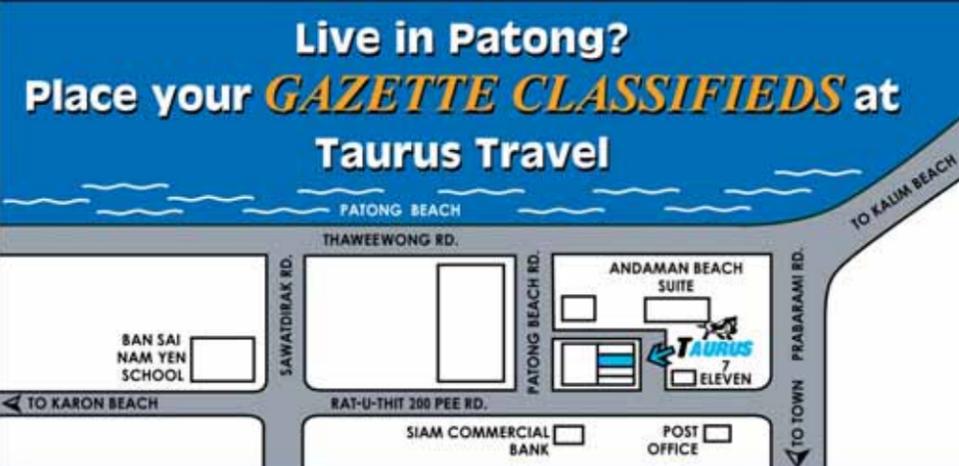
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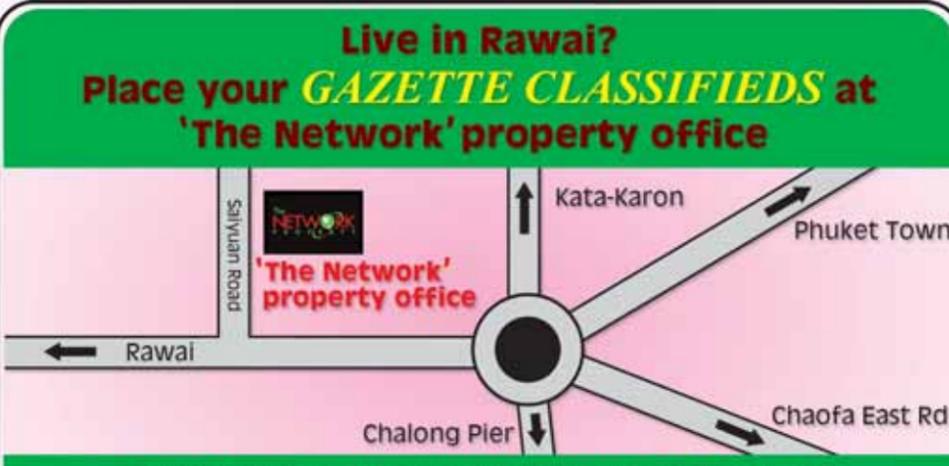


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TEAMWORK: Scott Duncanson, Trent Pedersen, Jason Corral, Kevin Scott and Sam Dickson on *The Ferret*.

FINAL DAY DECIDER: At the end of day two the Ferret had a slight lead.

Ferret takes Platu prize

By Michael DesPortes

PHUKET resident Scott Duncanson, along with fellow crewmen manning *The Ferret*, won the 2011 Platu National Championships held earlier this week in the waters off the Ocean Marina Yacht Club, Nakhon Si Thammarat in Chonburi.

Joining Scott Duncanson on *The Ferret* were Trent Pedersen, Jason Corral, Kevin Scott and Sam Dickson.

The regatta, the third in a series of four, was contested among a nine-boat fleet. Though smaller than in previous years, it was bolstered by strong entrants from New Zealand and Japan.

The crews encountered ideal seven to 10-knot sailing conditions on day one, in which there were three races scheduled. *The Ferret* took an early lead with a 1-1-1 score line.

Long-time Thai resident Morten Jakobsen's *Emma Matilde* held second place at the end of the day with 2-2-3 and *Pine Pacific*'s all-Thai crew followed

in a close third with 3-3-4.

Day two brought lighter three to seven-knot conditions that made it challenging for all.

Planned strategies were no longer possible and the overall classification changed significantly as some crews were able to exploit very big wind shifts.

It was very close at the top of the order by day's end. *The Ferret* finished 4-3-2 and held a very slim one-point lead over *Emma Matilde* while *Pine Pacific* gained ground by winning the day with two firsts and a second.

It would come down to a final day decider of who would take home the championship title.

The start was delayed due to breathless conditions and glassy seas, the race organization seeing no point in sending crews out to merely "drift about".

Racing finally got underway at 1pm with two to four-knot winds. The fleet was even after the start until Jakobsen guided the *Emma Matilde* into a one-boat-length lead on the left hand

side of the course.

He soon sacrificed the position to place a tight cover on *The Ferret* and a tacking duel ensued, finally ending with Jakobsen favoring the left-hand side of the course and leaving Duncanson to run his own race.

The Ferret gained back two boat lengths to take the lead with the *Emma Matilde* and *Pine Pacific* less than a meter behind. The two chasing boats elected to gybe set on to port and protect the favored starboard layline to the leeward mark.

After some tense moments, Duncanson chose to keep *The Ferret* on starboard as they were

in what appeared to be slightly better wind pressure.

This proved to be a great call by the boat's tactician, Trent Pedersen, as *The Ferret* rounded the leeward mark with an eight-boat-length lead.

The wayward leg was equally nail-biting with very little wind and 25 degree shifts. Duncanson and the crew of *The Ferret* held on to win by five boat lengths from *Pine Pacific* and the *Emma Matilde* crossed the line in fourth.

The race organization decided to end the competition as the last boat finished at 3pm under two to three knots of wind.

Duncanson and his crew regained the title they won in 2009, becoming the 2011 Thailand Platu National Champions on nine points.

Jakobsen finished second with 12 points and the ever improving crew of the *Pine Pacific* placed third on 13 points.

In addition to the Platu National Championships, the Platu 25, Thailand's hottest sailing class, attracts crews from across the globe to compete in four major regattas including the Platu Open Championship (March 12-14), Coronation Cup (April 29 - May 4) and the Platu Cup to be held from October 8 to 9.

Sign up for the sail to Sabang

THE Sabang Regatta – which combines characteristics of a rally and race – is set to take place from September 15 to 25.

The event starts at Ao Chalong, where boats participate in a rally to Langkawi and then a race from there to Sabang in northern Sumatra. Free entry is available to sail and power boats alike, with a free three-month Indonesian cruising permit (CAIT) given to each accepted entry. The Indone-

sian Customs bond is paid for.

Trophies and cash prizes are available to winners and the application deadline is August 30.

For more information visit sabangregatta.com.

Event organizers advise it is better to overestimate when submitting crew numbers as additional members cannot be added, but it is possible to sail with less crew than initially stated on the application form.

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FC Phuket escape with one all score

Phuket is the only team yet to win on the road.



One of FC Phuket's Watcharapong Jun-ngam's efforts to break deadlock. Photo: Siam Sports

By Steven Layne and Stephen Fein

YET TO secure an away victory, FC Phuket came back from being one goal down on Saturday evening at Thupateme Stadium in Pathum Thani to escape with a 1-1 draw against JW Rangsit.

Rangsit scored the opening goal in the 35th minute when Suphachai Maiyong converted a well-executed pass from Mongkon Nokkasak.

Phuket's Jongrak Pakdee scored the equalizer just two minutes later after deflecting a long ball by teammate Wacharapong Jun-ngan.

The second half of play saw chances from both sides but the score board re-

mained unchanged through to the final whistle.

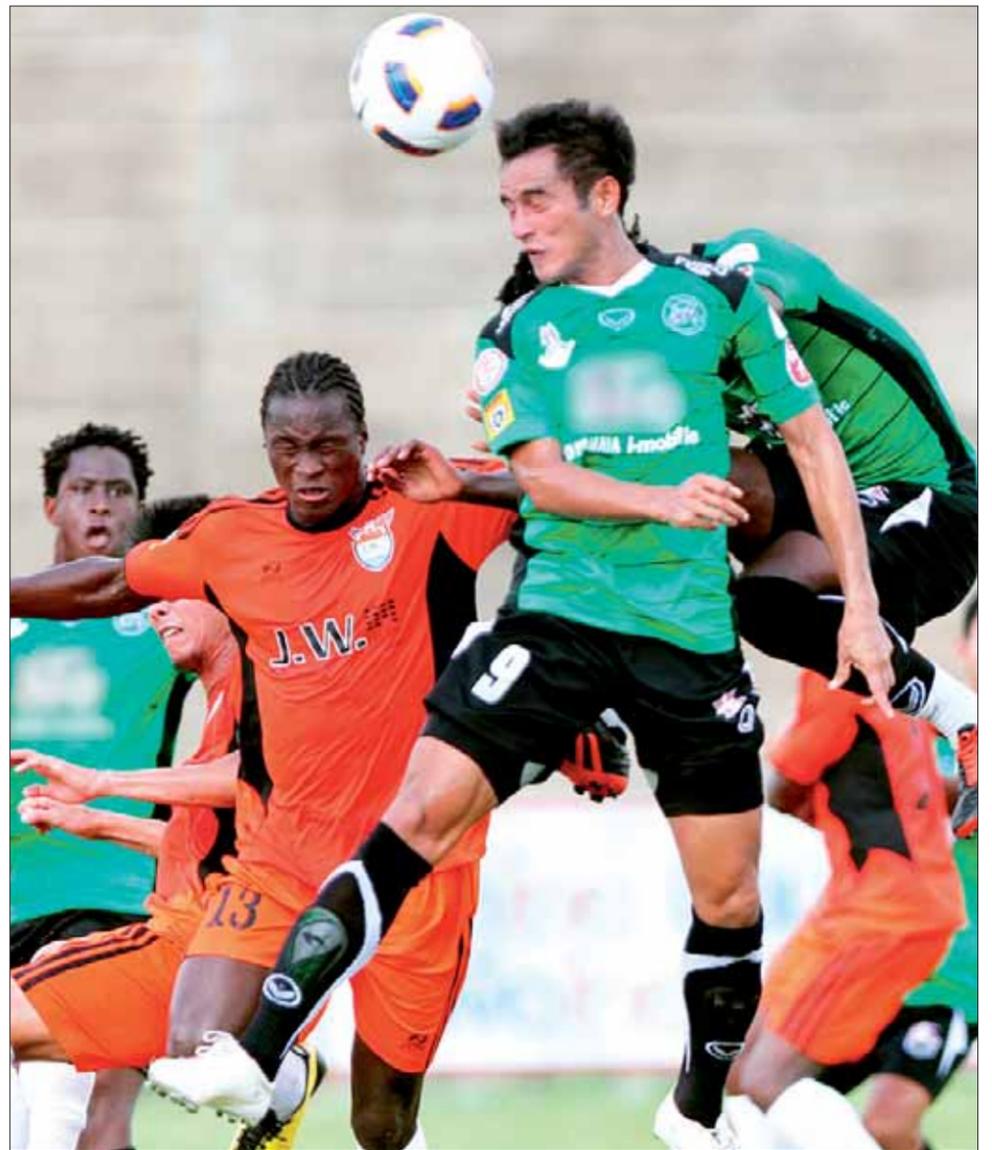
The even result marks Phuket's sixth draw combined with four losses in 10 away matches this season.

Phuket remain the only team in the 18-team Division One league who have not won on the road.

In contrast, they've only lost twice, won six and drawn two at their home pitch Surakul Stadium.

After 20 matches, Phuket now have 26 points from six wins, eight draws and six losses and remain snug in 9th place, safe from the threat of relegation.

Phuket's next opportunity to break their win-less streak will be this Sunday at 4pm



TRYING TO GET AHEAD: The Southern Sea Kirin were unable to get the edge over JW Rangsit.

Thai Premier League (TPL) Div One game results:

Suphan Buri 1-1 RBAC

Chainat FC 4-2 Bangkok Utd

Rajpracha Thailand FC 2-1 BBCU

Buriram FC 1-1 PTT Rayong

CT Chantaburi 3-1 Chiang Mai FC

Saraburi 3-0 Bangkok FC

Samut Prakarn Customs Utd 4-0 Thai Honda

as they are set to play Rattana Bundit University (RBAC) FC at Rattana Bandit University Stadium.

Upcoming TPL Div One games:

Saturday, August 20

Samut Prakarn Customs Utd vs Rajpracha Thailand FC

Bangkok FC vs CT Chantaburi

Chiang Mai FC vs Buriram FC

Sunday, August 21

RBAC vs FC Phuket

Thai Honda vs Saraburi FC

PTT Rayong vs Airforce Utd

Songkhla FC vs Chainat FC

Bangkok Utd vs Suphan Buri FC

JW Rangsit FC vs BBCU



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Pressure on for Toyota Cup

WHILE a league win at RBAC this weekend would be a bonus, FC Phuket are likely to play with a reserved tempo to avoid any possible injuries.

Come 6pm this Wednesday, Phuket will finally play on their home pitch, Surakul Stadium, after a two-month-long hiatus.

Stakes will be high in what will be the second-leg quarter-final against Pattalung FC, since the result will decide which southern team advances into the semifinals of the Toyota League Cup 2011.

Of the tournament's eight quarter-finalists, Phuket and Pattalung

are the only two squads not in the Thai Premiere League (TPL), having both mounted impressive campaigns to advance to this stage.

Other second-leg quarter final matches to be played on Wednesday include: Chiang Rai Utd hosting reigning champions Thai Port FC, Chonburi FC will face Muang Thong Utd at home, while reigning runners-up and current TPL league leaders, Buriram PEA host BEC Tero.

Phuket and Pattalung have met four times since 2009, resulting in two scoreless draws and one win each – both of which were achieved by the visiting team.

For regular updates and results on the Toyota League Cup 2011, visit PhuketGazette.net.

– Steven Layne

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STEAMIN' FEEM: Feem has been practicing on his 600cc Honda-powered Moto2 machine in preparation.



SPEED RACER: 23-year-old Thai racing star, Ratthapark "Feem" Wilairot.

Thai star going for Malay Grand Prix



Fan favorite Valentino Rossi will also be racing. Photo: Ducati Phuket

By Michael DesPortes

THE 2011 Shell Advanced Malaysian Motorcycle Grand Prix is arguably a home race for Thai racing star, Ratthapark "Feem" Wilairot.

The 23-year-old Chonburi native will enjoy strong support as he looks to regain momentum and leave behind the issues that have plagued his 2011 campaign thus far.

Feem first competed on the premiere stage in the intermediate 250cc class, showing great progression over the years, achieving a best result to date of 4th in the 2010 Dutch Grand Prix.

In 2010 the class made the transition to 600cc four-stroke engines, which meant Feem and his Thai Honda Singha SAG team had to adapt to completely new equipment.

A less favorable chassis did not allow them to continue their strong

performances and they hit a new speed bump when the rider was badly injured in a road accident during the off-season.

As Feem fully recuperates, the team are hoping to find their feet and post more positive results in the latter part of this season.

They will be giving their all to put on a good show at the Sepang International Circuit outside of Kuala Lumpur on October 23.

Motorcycle racing fans will have a lot more to look forward to outside of the Moto2 class.

The 125cc pocket rockets will warm things up with their usual fairing-to-fairing racing.

The main event will be the most heavily anticipated and the MotoGP class has produced plenty of excitement leading up to their final year under the 800cc rules.

It would take a brave man to bet against Australian Casey Stoner



TEAM FEEM: Feem with his team members for the current 2011 Moto2 season. Photos: Motor Sport A P Honda

taking the championship on board his factory-supported Honda.

But Casey's teammates, Dani Pedrosa, Andrea Dovizioso and defending champion, Jorge Lorenzo on his Yamaha will challenge him for as long as they can.

Valentino Rossi, a fan favorite no matter what country he is in, is showing signs of improvement aboard the flighty Ducati, and though he is not in contention for the overall title, he may have made enough inroads to feature at the front come Malaysia.

Tickets to the Malaysian Grand Prix are great value for money, and the weekend is not to be missed by those with a penchant for two-wheeled racing.

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Top Ironmen to qualify for Kona championships

This year's winners of Phuket's Ironman race will gain entry to the world championships.

PHUKET's second Ironman 70.3 Asia-Pacific Championship to be held on December 4 continues to establish itself as a world class competition by securing 30 qualifying slots for the 2012 Ford Ironman World Championship in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii.

The event, to be held at Laguna Phuket, will become one of the three worldwide Ironman 70.3 triathlons – and the only one in Asia – to offer the highly coveted 2012 Kona World Championship slots to winners of the age group categories.

“Securing 30 Kona slots is a real boost for us and underlines our integration into the worldwide community of prestigious top-tier triathlons,” said Debbie Dionysius, Assistant Vice President of Destination Marketing for Laguna Phuket.

“These 30 Kona slots will be a major draw card for triathletes worldwide. We hope to attract more than 1,000 entries and see the cream of triathlon talent, both in the professional and age group fields, here at Laguna for what promises to be a spec-



Ironman contenders run, swim and bike.

tacular race challenge and a unique triathlon festival,” she said.

Phuket will host a unique “Tri-Fest” beginning with the Laguna Phuket Triathlon on November 27, before rolling into the Ironkids triathlon on December 3 and the 70.3 on December 4, with a week of triathlon-related



RAISED STAKES: One of the Phuket Ironmen contenders could go on to be world champion.

training and social activities in-between.

Murphy Reinschreiber, Ironman and World Triathlon Corporation managing director Asia-Pacific, said: “The slots are being offered to ensure there are ample 2012 qualifying opportunities, given the current uncertainties of our 2012 full distance race

schedule. Their availability is a one-off opportunity.”

Last year's winners of the inaugural Phuket Ironman, American Tim O'Donnell and Caroline Steffen of Switzerland, are expected to return and take on the 50-strong professional field to defend their titles.

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