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Phuket Gazette

ANDAMAN Edition

Volume 19 Issue 10

March 10 - 16, 2012

Daily news at www.phuketgazette.net

25 Baht

International school tabled

By Warisa Temram

A MOVE to secure 30 million baht in funding to build an international school in Krabi has been presented as one of the projects to be submitted to the Cabinet for approval during the ministers' meeting in Phuket on March 19-20.

The Krabi Provincial Office of Tourism and Sports proposed the idea, currently labelled the "Andaman International School" project, to a review committee on March 2 headed by Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha.

The committee will vet and decide on which projects from Ranong, Phang Nga, Phuket, Krabi and Trang provinces will be presented to the Cabinet of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra for approval.

"I want the Andaman International School to raise the standard of education in Southern Thailand to be as good as schools in Bangkok," Krabi Town Mayor



Krabi Town Mayor Kiratisak Phukaoluan. Photo: Warisa Temram

Kiratisak Phukaoluan told the *Phuket Gazette*.

"I also want students in Krabi, as well as the rest of the Andaman region, to be ready for the [induction of the] Asean Economic Community [trade regulations] that will start in 2015," said Mayor Kiratisak.

"Children living in the Andaman region should have an educational institution that meets international standards. I also want children in the Andaman to understand the

importance of education," he added.

The school would initially provide primary level education.

"The school would be built in Tambon Krabi Yai, in Krabi Muang District, and administered in affiliation with the Krabi Yai Municipality," said Mayor Kiratisak.

"The school will open as a bilingual school - English and Thai. The plan is to provide primary level classes from Prathom 1-6 [grades 1-6].

"However, in the first year the school would only provide classes for Prathom 1 and 2 students," he added.

Initial funding of 30mn baht would be sufficient to pay for two four-story school buildings, a concrete road, drainage system, a multipurpose field, a flagpole, a 318-meter long fence, entrance and exit gates, a school sign measuring 103.75m long, power poles and 500KVA transformer, and a water tank, Mayor Kiratisak said.



Supporters mob Paiboon Upatising as he begins his campaign for re-election as Phuket's highest-ranking elected official. Photo: Warisa Temram

Elections underway

SCORES of supporters turned out at Phuket Community Hall on Monday as Paiboon Upatising became the first candidate to register in the April 7 Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) presidential election.

Mr Paiboon, running for his second term as Phuket's highest-ranking elected government official, arrived at the hall at 8:30am. As the first to register his candidacy, Mr Paiboon was given the favorable voting ballot number 1.

Mr Paiboon pledged to his supporters gathered that his

re-election would make Phuket a "more friendly place to live", and he vowed to work with "morals" and "transparency".

The former president also announced several projects as his platform for re-election. These included a new sports stadium in Thalang with a regulation football pitch, an indoor sports complex at Bang Wad Dam, and a new fitness center at Saphan Hin.

He also pledged to provide more emergency rescue services, doctors and nurses for those unable to visit hospitals.

Continued on page 2

Confessed killer Dokset blames jealousy

STEIN Dokset, the Norwegian man charged with the murder of his ex-girlfriend Rungnapa Suktong, has told police that he accidentally killed his girlfriend in an aggressive fit of jealousy.

Mr Dokset, a long-term Phuket expat, was arrested on February 28 after police found the acid-burnt remains of a human body in his basement bathroom. He later confessed that the remains were that of Mrs Rungnapa, his girlfriend of six years who dumped him for a Patong policeman.

At a press conference at Phuket Provincial Police headquarters in Phuket Town, Phuket Provincial Police Commander Chonasit Wattanavrangkul told the press,

"He confessed to [Chalong Police Acting Superintendent Sirisak Wasasiri] that he hurt Mrs Rungnapa, but he did not mean to kill her.

"He did it out of jealousy after he found out that Mrs Rungnapa was seeing another man. He said he had an argument with Mrs Rungnapa and slapped her. The next thing he realized Mrs Rungnapa was on the floor and wasn't breathing," he added.

Chalong Police Deputy Superintendent Chaowalit Petchsripa told the *Gazette* that Mr Dokset and Mrs Rungnapa were together from 2003 to 2009.

"They had many problems in that final year because Mr Dokset found out that Mrs

Rungnapa had been involved in a new relationship since 2008," Lt Col Chaowalit said.

"Mrs Rungnapa ran a bar in Patong. She was a partner of that bar," he added.

Lt Col Chaowalit told the *Gazette* on Wednesday that preliminary forensics tests have confirmed that the remains are those of a human female, but have not yet been confirmed as those of Rungnapa Suktong.

"Findings from an initial review of skull fragments found among the remains indicate the skull was with a hard object," he said.

- *Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai*

See 'Police probe the money' on page 3

Myanmar unveiled



As Myanmar heads towards its April 1 general election, the doors to the country's tourism and business opportunities are creaking open after decades of being run by the military junta.

See pages 14-15 for our special report by correspondent John Gold.

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Four tourists dead in highway van crash

Police confirm tour van driver did not flee scene

By Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai

FOUR tourists died and five others were injured when a pickup carrying fish and a tour van full of tourists collided on the Mae Yey Bridge on Petchkasem Road in Tai Muang District, Phang Nga, last Saturday.

Contrary to previous reports, neither driver involved fled the scene.

The driver of the truck was driving north toward Takuapa when he lost control on a curve and crossed into the oncoming lane, hitting the van heading south toward Phuket, police said.

"When I arrived both drivers involved were still at the scene. The van driver suffered minor injuries and was sent Tai Muang Hospital for treatment, after which he reported to Tai Muang Police Station," Lt Col Songwut Khunjan of the Tai Muang District Police said on Tuesday.

"After questioning both men, the driver of the pickup, Chamnan Dabgaew, was charged with negligent driving causing death. I have already passed the case on to Phang Nga Provincial Court," he added.



Rescue workers at the scene of the fatal crash. Photo Warisa Temram

A nurse at Tai Muang Hospital confirmed that five of the injured were treated there. Four suffered only minor injuries. The fifth, who suffered a fractured arm, was taken to Mission Hospital Phuket.

"There were two other tourists in the van, but they were not sent to Tai Muang Hospital so we can't check their status," the nurse said.

The hospital morgue was unable to accept the bodies of the dead due to technical problems.

Three were sent to Takuapa Hospital and another to Takua Thung Hospital, she added.

Tai Muang Hospital would not reveal the names of dead tourists, but did confirm that one body had been claimed.

"The body of a Turkish tourist has already been claimed by family members," confirmed Lt Col Songwut.

Mission Hospital Phuket said the patient with the broken arm was discharged shortly after receiving treatment.

Blood donations needed

THE Phuket Regional Blood Center is calling for blood donations to replenish stocks to counter the annual fall in donations during Phuket's tourism high season.

Each year from January through April, the volume of blood collected falls short of target levels, said Vichote Buraphachanok of the Blood Center.

"The main reason we fall short of our target levels during the high season is that hotel staff, who usually make lots of donations, are working hard and don't get enough sleep to make donations," Mr Vichote said.

"Many hotels cancelled their plans to ask staff to make blood donations in March, so we really need all the support we can get



Blood donations are need for high season. Photo: Phuket Blood Center

from other qualified donors," he said.

For more information, contact the Phuket Regional Blood Center at 076-251178 or visit www.blooddonationthai.com

Elections prompt alcohol bans

From page 1

In accordance with election law, the *OrBorJor* election on April 7 means an island-wide ban on the sale of alcohol will go into effect from 6pm on April 6 through to midnight of April 7.

Residents in Chalong and Rassada will be subject to a similar ban for elections to select councilors for their respective municipalities on March 25.

Mr Paiboon's re-election run follows his resignation as *OrBorJor* president on February 16.

However, opponents to Phuket holding an election solely to vote for an *OrBorJor* president filed a complaint with the Phuket Election Commission on February 27.



Phuket Election Commission Director Kitipong Thiengkunakrit.

Going to the polls early just for the presidential election would mean another island-wide election would need to be held soon after for residents to vote for a new *OrBorJor* council, said lawyer Somkit Suphab.

It also would mean yet another island-wide ban on the sale of alcohol for whenever the council election is held. A date for that election has yet to be announced.

"These two elections should be held at the same time to save money..."

"Holding these elections separately means almost 30 million baht of taxpayers' money will be wasted instead of being spent on other projects," Mr Somkit said.

However, Phuket Election Commission Director Kitipong Thiengkunakrit declined to combine the two elections as all the requirements prescribed in the Election Act had been followed.

- Warisa Temram

See 'Message in a bottle' on page 9

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CENTARA GRAND BEACH RESORT PHUKET



Sombat Wattanapanich rated security among his top concerns.

PSU selected for Cabinet meeting venue

THE Prince of Songkla University (PSU) Phuket campus has been selected as the venue for the Cabinet meeting on March 19-20.

The decision was made last Saturday during a tour of the potential venues on the island by a delegation led by Sombat Wattanapanich, Cabinet Secretary and Adviser to Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra.

Leading the tour was Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha, along with Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada.

Mr Sombat also inspected the accommodation of the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa, Laguna Phuket Resorts and Hotels and the Sea Pearl Villas Phuket, all of which will be used by the Cabinet delegation during their stay on the island.

- Warisa Temram

Police probe the money in Dokset murder case

By Atchaa Khamlo and Chutharat Plerin

NORWEGIAN expat Stein Havard Dokset, charged with the murder of his ex-girlfriend Rungnapa Suktong, is already on trial for defrauding a Swedish man of more than 800,000 baht, the *Phuket Gazette* has learned.

Lt Col Boonlert Onklang, Deputy Superintendent at Chalong Police, told the *Gazette* that a formal complaint was filed with Chalong Police on August 4, 2009.

A Swedish man who Lt Col Boonlert identified only as "Jan" filed a complaint accusing Mr Dokset of defrauding him out of 68,000 Norwegian krone.

The money at that time was valued at about 318,240 baht, Lt Col Boonlert said.

"Mr Jan said he asked Mr Dokset to look after the money because he knew Mr Dokset had a safe in his home. He also claimed he gave Mr Dokset 500,000 baht in cash to look after.

"But when the Swedish man asked for his money back, Mr Dokset said he did not have the money. Instead, he claimed that



Maj Gen Chonasit (right) confirmed that Mrs Rungnapa owned several properties in her own name, which Chalong Police Acting Superintendent Col Sirisak (2nd from right) said were paid for by Mr Dokset (inset).

the man did not give the money to him," Lt Col Boonlert said.

Mr Dokset was in court to face the allegations of misappropriating the money on February 28. That night police raided Mr Dokset's luxury Kata villa.

"Two witnesses testified that Mr Jan did give the money to Mr Dokset," he said.

Lt Col Boonlert suggested the *Gazette* call Mr Jan.

However, when called by the

Gazette, the man who answered the call said, "Sorry, I don't want to say anything."

In the raid on Mr Dokset's villa, police found a small safe in the same downstairs bathroom where they discovered the grisly remains of what is believed to be the acid-burnt body of Mrs Rungnapa.

Police have yet to disclose whether or not the safe contained any money or valuables.

Since the raid, however, Phuket

Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Chonasit Wattanavrangkul confirmed to the *Gazette* that Mrs Rungnapa owned several properties in her own name.

"Mrs Rungnapa owned the land of the house [where she was killed], some land in Prachuap Khirikhan and some cars. Mr Dokset put her name as the landowner since foreigners can't own land in Thailand," Maj Gen Chonasit said.

Although Chalong Police Acting Superintendent Sirisak Wasasiri has confirmed that police already have the Chanote land title deeds of the properties in question, they have yet to reveal the total value of the properties involved, or their locations.

"He said he sold his properties in Norway to invest with Mrs Rungnapa. The house she was killed in and the other properties are registered in her name," Col Sirisak explained.

Regarding the safe found along with Mrs Rungnapa's remains, Lt Col Chaowalit of the Chalong Police said, "We haven't checked what is in the safe yet. So we don't know if there is any money or anything inside it."

Laguna defends practices in baby elephant trade

LAGUNA Phuket on Tuesday issued a public statement in response to a two-year-old baby elephant being seized at the elephant camp at the resort complex late last month.

The statement, marked as attributable to Mark Breit, Regional Director, Laguna Tours & Quest, noted that Laguna Phuket houses and employs domesticated Asian elephants, which, due to habitat loss and poaching, had no available area to be returned to the wild.

"By housing them and involving them in our tourism activities we offer a good alternative to city-based scenarios, where elephants can be seen performing tricks for money.

"The five elephants in Laguna are well cared for and have become much-loved by both staff and guests of our hotels," said the statement.

The release also noted, "The elephants are leased from reputable owners and employed by various Laguna hotels to provide interaction with guests.

We provide full welfare for the elephants in our Elephant Camp, which has been inspected and approved by Dr Richard Lair, chief adviser to the Thai Elephant Conservation Center.

The Laguna elephants were



Elephant tours are popular with Laguna guests. Photo: Laguna Phuket

rented from their owners in accordance with official procedures and in each rental procedure we have undertaken thorough and exhaustive due diligence.

"However, one of these elephants, Joey, a two year-old juvenile, was recently taken into the care of authorities while his mother's legal status was investigated...

"Laguna Phuket, or any of its hotels, has not been accused of wrongdoing in this issue."

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Police to prosecute 'Pla-Wan Eight'

PHUKET City Police are not pursuing their investigation into whether any more suspects are to be arrested in connection with the attack on Vorasit "Pla-wan" Issara.

Mr Vorasit is the general manager of the Sri Panwa resort. He was brutally attacked by staff at the Rachada pub in Phuket Town in December.

Phuket City Police Superintendent Chote Chidchai this week told the *Gazette*, "We are waiting

for the official report to be returned on DNA tests to provide conclusive evidence in pressing charges against the suspects."

Police have arrested eight suspects in connection with the attack, the most recent being a school student who as a minor had his name withheld. He was released on bail.

On January 10, the seventh suspect was charged with assault. All initial six arrested in the case confessed to the attack, said police.



The search for more suspects in the attack of Vorasit 'Pla-Wan' Issara (pictured) has been called off.

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Senators 'concerned' about tourist abuse

A DELEGATION of senators from Bangkok were given a grave description of the problems plaguing Phuket's tourism industry on Monday, including jet-ski ripoffs.

The senators, all members of the Senate Standing Committee on Tourism, agreed that everything from the intimidation and beating of tourists to the lack of a strong public transportation system were having a serious effect on Phuket's critical tourism industry.

Phuket Senator Thanyarat Achariyachai, who chaired the meeting, said that all organizations in the province needed to cooperate to find solutions to these issues.

However, there was no mention of Patong becoming a special administrative zone or what effect that would have on Phuket's reputation as a world-class tourism destination.

The committee did note, however, that many organizations were already at work finding their own solutions to the issues being faced.

Because of this, the committee,



Former Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop (center) was among the senators at the meeting. Photo: Warisa Temram

which included current senator and former governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop, decided that it would follow up on the progress made at a later date.

The debate echoed a previous meeting in May 2011, when Terayout Prasertphol, director of the Phuket Land Transport Office, openly accused tuk-tuk drivers of

ripping tourists off. Bhuritt Maswongsa, a vice president of the Phuket Tourism Association, at that meeting, cited many reports of illegal workers in Phuket, such as Nepalese, Pakistani, Burmese and Sri Lankan people working in tailor shops, intimidating tourists.

- Warisa Temram

Witness attests man's death fall an accident

THE Swedish tourist who died in hospital after falling from a third-floor hotel balcony on the night of February 25 likely fell by accident, witnesses told the *Gazette*.

Hotel staff at the Welcome Inn said Matthias Andersson, who was in his 30s, had gone out to a nearby bar for 15 minutes before returning to his room.

Channisa Rattanaphan, who was having drinks with friends at a bar across the street from the hotel, witnessed the accident.

"We saw Mr Andersson sitting on the ledge of the window while smoking a cigarette and wearing headphones. It looked like he was listening to music," she said.

"Just a minute later I heard something hitting the ground. I thought it was a bag, but when I looked up, I realized that there was a man lying on the roof of the second floor," she said.

Mr Andersson's parents, who were at another bar, rushed to the hotel.

It took rescue officers from the Kata-Karon Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) about 30 minutes to open a window on the second floor and recover the body, Ms Channisa said.

Mr Andersson fell and hit the iron bar of the hotel sign on the second floor roof before hitting the cement slab of the roof.

Mr Andersson suffered traumatic head injuries as well as serious bruising to his leg and upper body.



Mr Andersson died in hospital after falling from an open window on the third floor. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

"The accident happened on his second night at the hotel, and he wasn't scheduled to leave Phuket until March 8. He was staying alone, while his friend was staying in another room. Mr Andersson's parents were staying at a nearby hotel," hotel staff said.

In the room police found an empty blue capsule, a bottle of Bacardi and a drinking glass with a spoon in it.

Mr Andersson was sent to Patong Hospital but later transferred to the better-equipped Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town.

Despite our best efforts, he died at our hospital, a Vachira Hospital staffer told the *Gazette*.

Mr Andersson's parents have returned home, she added.

"The Swedish Embassy will take care of the body as his parents were too distraught," the hospital officer said.

- Atchaa Khamlo

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Swedish tourist Peter Wentzel said the Russian ladies snatched his gold necklace while he was walking along the Karon beach road (pictured).

Russian snatch thieves target Swede in Karon

A SWEDISH tourist had his gold chain and other valuables snatched by a pair of women he claims were Russian, according to a local media report.

Peter Wentzel, 40, was walking on Karon Beach Road at 11:30pm on March 2 when two foreign women pulled up on a motorbike and asked for cigarettes, reported *Siangtai Daily*.

Suddenly, one of the women ripped a gold chain from around his neck and swiped his mobile phone as well as 8,000 baht in

cash before they sped off toward Karon Circle.

The Swede told Chalong Police duty officer Nitikorn Rawang that he thought both women were probably aged between 30 and 35. They spoke in Russian, he said.

Mr Wentzel arrived in Phuket on February 7 for a one-month stay and was a guest at a resort in Kata, not far from where the alleged theft took place.

Capt Nitikorn said police would investigate the incident.

- Phuket Gazette

Fog lifts in tin smelter probe

By Chutharat Plerin

PHUKET Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosutthirak on Tuesday led a team of local officials to investigate claims that the Thaisarco tin smelter at Cape Panwa was releasing contaminants into the air, causing lung cancer and other health issues among local residents.

Prapan Kanprasang, head of the Damrongtham Center, which acts as the provincial ombudsman's office, said his office received a letter of complaint in December.

"The complaint was signed as filed by the 'Ao Makham villagers' representative'. The letter claimed that Thaisarco was releasing tin and iron dust into the air, causing air pollution, lung cancer and respiratory problems among local villagers," he said.

The complaint also alleged inaction by Wichit Municipality, he added.

However, local villager leaders told the *Gazette* they knew nothing of the complaint.

"I have no idea who filed this complaint. Every time there is a complaint from a villager, we tell the plant. And so far, every time they have responded to us and fixed the problem," said Sonthaya Utsaha, village chief of Baan Laem Panwa.

"Actually, if there are any emissions from the plant, they head toward the village only when the wind blows from the east, and there is not always dust," he added.

Village elder Abdulloh Amit was even more glowing about the company's relations with the locals.

"I've been living here since 1974 and the company has always got along with the village very well. Our community has a committee [for relationships] between the vil-



Phuket Industry Office Industrial Inspector Charan Nongsook at Thaisarco smelter. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

lagers and the plant. If anybody has a problem or any complaint, they can come to us directly.

"Anytime I receive a complaint from villagers I contact the staff at the plant, and the problem is resolved quickly," he said.

Regardless, Vice Governor Somkiet was adamant an investigation should be carried out.

"Whether the complaint was filed because of local politics or because the villagers are really in trouble from the air pollution, we must investigate and resolve the problem," he said.

"But if this case is about local politics, we certainly do not want to be used [as a tool of manipulation] as well," he added.

Thaisarco Commercial Director Panya Torchareon spoke plainly in defending the plant's operations.

"The plant has been here for more than 40 years. Our pollution levels are checked every six months by a third party, who is

approved by the Ministry of Industry... In fact, in the past few years our pollution levels have been well below the government standard. Our plant produces only 90 micrograms of dust per cubic meter [$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$], and the legal limit is $120\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$," he said.

"We used to produce 30,000 to 40,000 tons of tin per year. But because Phuket now has a developed tourism industry, last year we produced less than 1,000 tons," he added.

He explained that five years ago the company spent more than 80 million baht on installing a dust filter to minimize the dust released.

"Refined tin carries a value of 700,000 baht per ton, and 50 per cent of the dust particles created during the smelting are tin particles. The more dust we release, the more money we lose," he added.

Phuket Provincial Industry Office Industrial Inspector Charan Nongsook supported Mr Panya's defense.

"Thaisarco is the only tin manufacturer in Thailand. According to our records, over the past few years the plant's emis-

its emissions well. There may be a problem, and we will investigate as ordered," Mr Charan said.

Kaewkuan Tiengsuthaisasil, an expert at the Phuket Provincial Health Office, said public health records showed that about 1,000 people in the area suffered respiratory problems.

"However, our records do not show whether the patients' respiratory problems were from chemicals, dust or disease. To isolate and identify the cause will take money, which we do not have the budget to support.

"We would need to coordinate with the Phuket Provincial Industry Office and related agencies to conduct such an investigation," she said.

Vice Governor Somkiet gave the investigation team 30 days to deliver its findings.

"The PPHO will work with the Phuket Industry Office to check the pollution levels and report them at the next meeting. At least we have the villagers' confidence that we are taking action on issues that may be a cause for concern," he added.

'Our pollution levels are checked every six months by a third party, who is approved by the Ministry of Industry.'

- Panya Torchareonm
Thaisarco Commercial Director



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Hookah bars hook youths



A collection of makeshift hookahs found at a Phuket establishment.

THE Phuket Provincial Office is planning to crack down on hookah bars and other businesses catering to a growing demand among island youths to smoke flavored tobacco known as shisha.

The proliferation of venues offering shisha to youths has risen dramatically over the past year and the situation must be addressed, a provincial panel heard recently.

New Phuket Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada, who chairs a provincial panel aimed at keeping youths away from drugs, said there were at least 20 venues on the island set up as places for minors to smoke shisha.

There are more than 10 such venues in Muang District alone, offering a wide variety of flavored tobacco blends, he said.

Restaurants and night venues in areas such as Patong that cater to adult patrons have long offered shisha, but the popularity of flavored tobacco has now trickled down to local youths.

V/G Chamroen said the problem can be addressed by using existing regulations.

The province will first launch a public-awareness campaign before launching the crackdown in order to give venues that have been engaged in the illegal business a chance to stop, he said.

Local kids strum a victory at national ukulele contest

By Chutharat Plerin

THREE Phuket primary students have been crowned champions at a national ukulele playing contest.

Watchawong Petchsuwan on ukulele, Anwa Rathaporn on base ukulele and Treerat Nachalaem on vocals – all students at Baan Nabon School in Wichit – were bestowed the top accolade at the Junior Thailand Ukulele Champion Contest 2012 on February 26.

Now in its third year, the Thailand Ukulele Festival by Ribbee Boutique Ukulele Paradise, which hosts the contest, has become an international affair, with musicians from Korea, Japan and the US state of Hawaii taking part.

“I am happy to have represented Phuket in the competition,” said Watchawong.

“Playing the ukulele isn’t difficult for me. If you love to play it and practice often anyone can do it,” he added.

However, a decade ago it was not so easy to learn the ukulele in



Watchawong Petchsuwan on stage at the National Junior Ukulele contest.

Thailand, according to the festival website. For 10 years, Asada Atornphata, founder of Ribbee Boutique Ukulele Paradise, tried to find a good-quality ukuleles in Thailand. “After many years of search-

ing, he only found low-quality ukuleles and sellers who didn’t know anything about the instrument. They called it a ‘tiny guitar’ at the time,” says the website. Young Watchawong explained

that things are different now.

“If you want to learn to play the ukulele, you can learn from YouTube. Just type in ‘Apple Show’ and there are video clips,” he said.

“The strong point for the band was their character on stage,” said Nitipat Na Nakorn, the student’s teacher and band director.

“At first I was worried about them being uncomfortable playing on stage, but it was a very good performance,” he said.

The first place prizes for the students were: an Anuenue Lani ii puke ukulele handmade in Thailand, a fluke, a tenor Ribbee ukulele, a concert Ribbee ukulele and a soprano Ribbee ukulele.

The total value of the prizes was about 40,000 baht, said Mr Nitipat.

“I’m proud of them and of our school being recognized nationally,” said Baan Nabon School deputy director Chonlachai Tewabutra.

“We are a small school, but our abilities are not small. We will continue to support student activities in many ways,” she added.

Mailed meth snatched up by police

CUSTOMS officers recently seized a parcel containing *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine) from a transportation company in Rassada, north of Phuket Town.

The drugs had an estimated street value of more than 150,000 baht.

Officers from the Royal Thai Customs Investigation and Suppression Bureau (ISB) were conducting a search of the transportation company’s premises last

week when the Thai Post parcel was discovered.

“The search was in accordance with Director-General Somchai Puunsawad’s order to tighten our grip on the smuggling of illegal items into the Kingdom,” said ISB team leader Charoen Chamniklang.

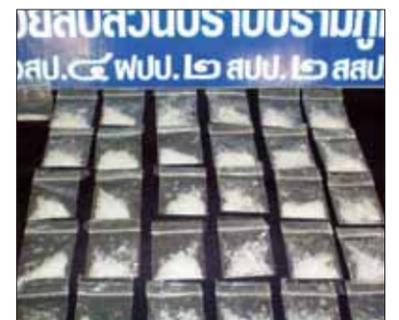
“We waited for the recipient of the parcel to come, but nobody arrived to claim it, so it was sent to Phuket City Police,” he said.

Officers opened the parcel and found 31 packages of a substance that they suspected was *ya ice*.

The Narcotics Control Board Region 8 was called in to investigate, and confirmed the substance was 43.4 grams of *ya ice*.

“There is recipient information on the parcel, but we are not able to confirm its validity. Police are now investigating if it is a real name,” he added.

– Warisa Temram



The parcel contained 31 packs of *ya ice*. Photo: Warisa Temram

Big-headed driver skimps on safety, given an official pass

A MAN in Ang Thong province recently got a pass from the police when he was stopped on his motorbike for not wearing a helmet – and no bribery was involved.

Sombat Chiangkham, 37, told amused officers his head was too big to fit into a helmet. After taking the top-heavy gentlemen to their station and making him try at least 10 different sizes on, they eventually believed him.

The circumference of Mr Sombat’s head, at 68 centimeters, is 6cm larger than a standard XL-size motorcycle helmet, the largest type generally available in Thailand.

Mr Sombat was stopped by police on February 23 while riding his motorbike with his wife.

As neither was wearing any protective headgear, police told Mr Sombat they were charging him with riding a bike without a helmet and took him to Ang Thong City Police Station to be fined.

The suspect said he was con-



stantly being stopped for not wearing a helmet. He begged police not to fine him, saying he had never intended to break the law.

Fortunately for the humungous-headed rider, police took pity on him.

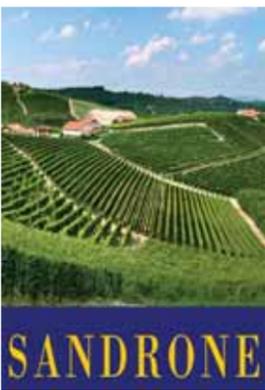
Acknowledging that Mr Sombat did not intend to break the law, they agreed to treat his case as special.

They also agreed to investigate whether larger helmets were available on the market, and if so, to order one for Mr Sombat, who said he made only 300 baht a day.

They have forwarded Mr Sombat’s name to all traffic police in the area, telling them to treat his case as an exception.

– Khao Sod

Happening
Boathouse Wine & Grill



Monday 12th March 2012
Sandrone Wine Dinner

Join us for a wonderful celebration of Barolo for a fantastic 4 course dinner. Cristian Magdalena visiting from the winery in Italy will talk us through the various wines during the evening.
Book now as this is an exclusive visit and there are only 19 seats available.
Cocktail 7 pm followed by dinner
Baht 2,500++ per person.

Friday 16th March 2012
Kathy’s exciting exhibition

The first of a series of Art Exhibitions. Mixed Media and Encaustic New Works of talented Phuket based Californian Artist Kathy Manthei Coulson will be on display in the lobby of Boathouse Resort on the beach from March 16th – April 16th, 2012. The Launch Reception of Kathy’s exciting exhibition will be held on March 16th from 7pm -9pm



Boathouse Resort on the beach 182, Koktanode Road, Kata Beach, Phuket 83100
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Hopewell project collapse triggers rail safety investigation

AN INVESTIGATION has begun into the safety of the Hopewell project – an abandoned elevated railway network in Bangkok – after a huge concrete slab collapsed last week, narrowly missing a train.

Transport Minister Charupong Ruangsuwan said he had ordered the State Railway of Thailand (SRT) to check the Hopewell structures and reinforce them where necessary.

The collapse of the 6x50-meter slab,

which would have formed part of a station, was blamed on shoddy construction and the theft of parts of the steel scaffold that helped support it.

Parts of the debris landed on the nearby railway, forcing a three-hour shutdown of the Bang Khen line. No people were injured.

The SRT announced it would inspect the rest of the network of pilings, which were built by Hopewell Holdings of Hong Kong.

The SRT was considering using parts of the pilings in its Red Line project, which

will run from Bang Sue to Rangsit. It said its engineers would now check the structures to see if they are safe.

The 600-kilometer elevated railway, initiated in 1990, was planned to run from central Bangkok to Don Mueang Airport.

The project was abandoned in 1997 during the financial crisis that year.

It remains one of the most visible legacies of the crisis, which resulted in the abandonment of an estimated 500 construction projects.



Collapsed Hopewell project. Photo: The Nation

PM aims to subside flood fears

PRIME Minister Yingluck Shinawatra jetted off to Japan last week on a four-day trip aimed at convincing the country's investors that Thailand will not see a repeat of last year's devastating floods.

But doubts remain over whether Thailand can successfully implement its 3-trillion-baht flood-management plan, and conflict over the politically sensitive issue is already brewing.

Japanese firms account for almost 60 per cent of Thailand's manufacturing industry.

Last year, flooding forced the shutdown of dozens of factories in Central Thailand, including those run by blue-chip firms such as Toyota, Canon and Nikon.

As a result, some Japanese companies are believed to be considering leaving Thailand.

PM Yingluck's visit last week was aimed at convincing such companies that Thailand remains a safe place to invest.

Her schedule included an audience with Japanese Crown Prince Naruhito and discussions with her counterpart Yoshihiko Noda on a wide range of issues.

She delivered a keynote speech at a seminar on investment oppor-

AROUND THE nation

tunities in Thailand, with many members of the Japanese business community in attendance.

The Thai government has drawn up a 3-trillion-baht plan to prevent floods, expected to take 2.5 years to complete.

The measures include a flood-warning system and the planting of millions of trees in the north to slow water run-off from hills.

Canals will be dredged and widened, and new dykes and reservoirs will be built.

At a point just north of Nakhon Sawan, water runoff will be diverted to the east and west so that it flows around Bangkok and the industrial estates around it.

Nevertheless, the plan will require coordination between several provinces and as many as 20 government departments

Provincial power brokers are reportedly likely to fight hard against plans to divert floodwater



STALLED: Flood damaged cars sit at the Honda factory in Ayutthaya province on December 27, 2011. Photo: AFP

through their territory. Former prime minister Banharn Silpaarcha, whose Chart Thai Pattana party is in coalition with the government, vowed to fight floods alongside local residents when his home flooded in his home prov-

ince of Suphan Buri.

Measures to protect industrial estates are already drawing opposition from local residents.

Residents of Ayutthaya along with the Stop Global Warming Association plan to request an

injunction be issued suspending construction of anti-flood dykes being built by seven industrial parks in the province. The opponents claim the barriers will cause damage to nearby homes in the event of future floods.

Smog blankets North



A plane lands at Lampang Airport in the heavy smog. Photo: The Nation

NORTHERN Thailand has been hit by some of the worst smog in recent years as subsistence farmers burn vegetation in preparation to plant fresh crops.

Levels of particles in the air in some areas are almost three times higher than those considered safe.

Experts warn that the smog, which has lasted at least two weeks, may get worse.

"Local farmers will light more fires to clear land in forest zones for their upcoming farming season," said Chiang Mai University lecturer Dr Suthinee Dontree.

"I believe the smog this year will be as severe as that seen in

2007 and 2010," she said.

Chiang Rai Governor Thanin Supasaeng said the problem had reached a "critical" level.

Monitoring devices showed on March 2 that the volume of dust particles in Chiang Rai's Mae Sai district soared to 323.4 micrograms per cubic meter (mcg) of air, up from 305.6mcg a day earlier.

In terms of public health, air should contain no more than 120mcg of dust particles.

Chiang Mai health official Monwipa Sirihorachai said the number of patients with smog-related symptoms had jumped significantly.

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Message in a bottle

IT WOULD be difficult to find a country anywhere in the world that has a wider gap than Thailand in terms of its alcohol control laws and their actual enforcement – and no other province suffers as much as Phuket because of it.

The *Phuket Gazette* knows that alcohol use is often associated with fatal and debilitating accidents, violence, preventable diseases and countless acts of unseemly behavior. Anyone who has ever wandered sober along Bangla Road at 3am and seen the cumulative effect would probably be surprised that the number of violent confrontations and other mishaps is not much higher than it actually is.

The past few weeks alone have seen reports of a murder triggered by angry reaction to noise produced by drunken neighbors in Chalong and, nationally, allegations that a very high ranking government official was drunk on the floor of Parliament. Given the spirit of the 2008 Alcohol Control Act, these allegations should have raised the question of whether ministerial regulations need to be amended to ensure that our representatives are sober while working for us. But, not surprisingly, given the “influence” of the individual involved, no potentially corrective action has been taken.

Despite the steady stream of high-profile cases that keep the dangers of alcohol abuse in the media spotlight, it is best to keep in mind that for the overwhelming majority of drinkers, the main penalty for overindulgence is a hangover – nature’s built-in pay-back that has done more to curb excessive consumption than the unenforceable and draconian terms of the Alcohol Control Act ever could.

In stark contrast to the terms and spirit of the Act is the situation on the ground in Phuket, where the vast majority of the millions of foreign visitors annually want, and expect, to imbibe alcoholic products during their stays.

Those arriving over the weekend of April 7 will be disappointed, as the sale of alcohol will be banned as they land for a holiday in paradise, ostensibly to ensure that residents vote in the upcoming Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) election.

Why wouldn’t officials consider amending the Election Law so that areas already recognized by the government and designated as special entertainment zones, such as Soi Bangla, are exempted from the ban?

The police can still conduct their sweeps in such areas to ensure that eligible voters are not breaking the law, while the tourists and other foreigners – who are all not eligible to vote anyway – are left to enjoy their holiday.

Given the fact that Patong residents somehow manage to conduct fairly normal day-to-day lives despite all the drunken excesses that surround them, we are confident that they would still find their way to the Sunday polls even if bars in the entertainment zone were allowed to remain open the night before the polls.



Rock star ukuleleists set example

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket kids top national ukulele contest, March 3*

Watchawong Petchsuwan’s face when he’s jamming on that ukulele is amazing – what a rock star.

Congratulations to the kids and the whole school for promoting such an interesting and accessible outlet for their students.

Everyone keeps talking about Phuket youth getting caught up in a drug lifestyle here, and they forget about all the good kids doing interesting things. Keep it up guys!

Tina Swift
Patong

What’s fashionable

Re: *Gazette online, Hookah bars targeting Phuket youth, March 3*

That grown-ups smoke the way they always have done in ethnic restaurants is okay, but trying to earn money on making smoking shisha fashionable among local youngsters is simply disgusting.

Sadly, making a quick buck on everything, regardless of the consequences, has become very fashionable.

Sherlock
Gazette forum

Elephant accusations

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket welcomes newborn elephant ‘Pang Saifon’, March 3*

This baby will very likely be put through *phaajan*, which seems to mean tortured into submission so that it too can go on to provide rides for tourists.

The mother is grossly too young to have been allowed to breed. She doesn’t even know what to do with the baby, which is common in captive elephant communities.

And for the record – I support

Letters to the Editor

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

many elephant sanctuaries. We need to let the tourists know not to participate in these camps so this ends!

Save The Elephants
Gazette forum

Motorbike mentality

Re: *Gazette online, Four dead, five injured as pickup truck slams into Phuket tourist van, March 4*

After six years in Phuket I have observed that all vehicles – dump trucks, buses, pick-up trucks, sedans, 16 wheelers and so on – are driven with a motorbike mentality. They drive too fast, change lanes without [looking or] signaling, always want to be first in line, don’t look before entering traffic lanes, pass on curves and hills, pass in “no passing” zones and show no road courtesy or consideration.

Ricardo
Gazette forum

Golden goose hanged from its skinny legs

Re: *Gazette online, Senators ‘worried’ about Phuket beating, cheating, intimidating tourists, March 3*

So, nothing changes. They really need to wield a big stick and implement change. Looks like the money trail from certain “influential people” in Phuket leads all the way to Bangkok.

Anyway, another great bit of news for Vietnam, Malaysia and Bali.

What will these people tell their grandchildren when Phuket be-

comes another Costa del Sol?

All involved are really killing the golden goose.

Phuket – Change or perish
Gazette forum

These things happen

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket driver plows into 7-Eleven store, March 3*

I have actually seen this same thing happen in the UK. I was waiting at the pump, when an old guy came in slowly, all of a sudden he shot off at speed, crossing a busy road and crashing into the building opposite. It can happen to anyone, but of course it is rare!

Kenny
Gazette forum

Baht for beach time

Re: *Phuket Gazette, Paying to get onto Phuket’s beaches, March 3*

Just two weekends ago my friends had the same problem, but not at Freedom Beach. It was at Ya Nui Beach on a Saturday when they got hit up for a beach fee.

They were just hanging out on the beach when a tough looking guy with a swastika on his shirt came up to them and demanded they all pay a fee of 100 baht. They later admitted to me that they were amply intimidated by the guy, so they just paid him.

Still being relatively new to Phuket I was confounded that such a thing could happen. I know the beaches are public land and nobody has a right to charge you to be on them, yet here was someone clearly scamming tourists.

Even if this sort of behavior is isolated, which I’m not convinced it is, it creates an unbelievably nasty stigma for Phuket’s beaches.

Tony Kleinschmidt
Chalong

Phuket Gazette

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Don't give up

FIRST PERSON

I FIRST noticed that Arisa was different when she was in Prathom 4 (grade 4). She couldn't walk straight and was always falling over. It was like she couldn't keep her balance. At first I thought she was just clumsy. When her father dropped her off at school, she would fall over as soon as she got out of the car.

But after 10 years of checking with different doctors, all of whom could not find anything wrong with her, we finally were told that she had Friedreich's ataxia, a degeneration of nerve tissue in the spinal cord that results in impaired muscle movement of the arms and legs, as well as other serious symptoms.

She now has difficulty breathing and her bones are very fragile. She has broken her left leg three times already. The first time she broke her leg in two places, the second time she broke her ankle, and she just recently broke her toe.

My heart aches every time I see her get hurt. As a mother, I want my daughter to have a good life and to see her be able to take care of herself. I always tell her not to give up. I tell her, 'If you give up, the condition you have will take over your happiness and beat you.'

I make her exercise every day. I take her to physical therapy twice a week. I gave up my career to take care of her all the time.

I recently found out that her condition is deteriorating. In the future, her body won't be able to function properly. Her lung



Phuket mum **Sutida Ratso**, 44, has a very special daughter: 19-year-old Arisa, who suffers from the rare genetic disease Friedreich's ataxia. Here Mrs Sutida explains the challenges she and her daughter have faced – and continue to face – every day. But she urges all parents to never give up on their children.

muscles are getting worse, her heart will weaken. Pretty soon she won't be able to speak or walk.

It is scary for a mother to have to see her daughter go through this, but I will be there for her no matter what happens.

One good thing is that Arisa is a fighter. She never gives up even though her body is so weak. She went to school even though she was sick. But we [the parents] decided that it was best for her to be home-schooled. She is now 19, she has graduated from high school, and she has already begun her bachelor's degree through open university that allows her to study from home.

I want to pass this message on to all parents and everyone involved with children: Please be more understanding with children. Don't blame them for not being able to do something that other kids can do.

Arisa was punished many times by her teachers for being late to class. She couldn't walk as fast as other kids; she had to walk slowly. Teachers thought she was lazy and trying to find an excuse not to come to class. I can't fully blame the teachers since no one



Arisa is working on her bachelor's degree. Photo Atchaa Khamlo

knew what was wrong with her at the time.

Parents should monitor their children closely. Always look to see if they are developing properly.

Parents should not be scared to question doctors. I wasted a lot of time at one hospital because I was too afraid to ask the hard questions. I would have learned of Arisa's condition earlier if I had questioned the doctor and made the decision to change the hospital she was being examined by.

In Arisa's case, it wouldn't have made a big difference, but at least I would have learned earlier how to take care of my daughter.



Pedestrians forced to walk in the middle of a side road in Karon.

Throwing in the towel, round 28

Island View

By Rolf Dräger

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

MY WIFE and I have visited Thailand 28 times. Twenty-seven of those visits were to Karon, including one just two months after the tsunami. Sadly, the situation on Phuket has dramatically changed for the worse. I have taken the time to make a DVD of the changes that I have seen over the past five years.

The beach water and streets are clean and the hotel that we have stayed at the last 16 times we visited Phuket is very satisfactory.

But if some things don't change we'll never come back to Thailand.

The first thing that must be addressed is how hazardous it is to have pedestrians forced onto the roads, due to the fact that sidewalks are crowded with delivery vehicles, vendors, fish-tank massages and massage parlors.

The so-called "tuk-tuk mafia" and black-plate taxis are also a concern. The prices are exorbitant. From Karon to the airport in a metered taxi costs about 600 baht, but travelling there by tuk-

tuk costs 1,000 to 3,000 baht. Anything below 200 baht and the driver won't even start his engine. It's only seven kilometers to Patong, but you get charged 450 baht.

There are always more drivers where tuk-tuk/limosines hang out and it isn't obvious who has a license. Licences used to be clearly visible in the vehicle along with a photo, but that is no longer the case.

Even the attitudes of the tuk-tuk drivers have changed. They are more irritable, especially if you avoid them because of the high prices, or rent a motorbike.

The last thing that is sad to see are the decaying plants in the conservation park, which was only completed in 2006.

I truly hope that some of these things can be properly addressed.

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

I want my VAT

What kind of paper work do I need when I get my value-added tax (VAT) refund?

Conny Nilsson
Kathu



The logo you look for at participating shops. Photo: Revenue Department

Orathai Mahathumthip of the Phuket Revenue office replies:

Before you start shopping look for a sign on display that says "VAT refund for tourists".

If you can't find the sign, you can ask the cashier if the shop participates in VAT refunds for tourists. That's the first step.

You can claim the tax only if you make a total purchase of over 2,000 baht per shop per day.

You will get a receipt from the cashier, so you will have to ask for an original tax invoice for your VAT refund. They will direct you to the person responsible for issuing the document and you will have to show them your receipt.

They will issue the tax invoice to replace the receipt. This invoice will have your full name and your

current address in the country you are living in. All of this information must be accurate to prevent inconveniences when receiving your VAT refund. (The Revenue Dept website notes that all non-Thais except airline crew leaving the country via an airport are eligible to apply for a VAT refund – Ed)

You must be issued the original tax invoice on the same day the purchase was made in order to claim the VAT refund on those items.

You will receive the refund for your VAT when you depart Phuket International Airport, but only after you have cleared Customs. The VAT Refund for Tourists office is in the same area as the

Immigration counters, so please come to our counter before passing through Immigration.

If your refund is less than 30,000 baht you can get your VAT refund in cash before you depart Phuket, but we deduct a 100-baht fee per person.

If your total VAT refund is more than 30,000 baht, we are not able to pay you in cash. Instead we will transfer money to your credit card, which usually takes more than 30 days, or we can issue a bank draft.

If you have any further questions please call 076-328 267 or visit download.rd.go.th/vrt/3easysteps.php

Chalong Pier parking amendment

I&A clarification for Parking fees at Chalong Pier, February 20.

I've lived in Chalong for three years and have never paid any parking fee at the Chalong Pier parking lot.

Sometime ago a lady who had been sitting in a lawn chair approached us after we parked and asked for 40 baht. Is there now a parking fee? Is there a sign posted that explains the fees?

A friend I met at the pier said she paid 20 baht to park, not 40 baht. What is going on here?

I know there is a sign for motorbikes posted, but not for cars. Is that a scam?

8YearsInTH,
Chalong

Varithi Viriyapanich, Management Director of Phuket Department of Land Transportation, replies:

We have had both Thais and foreigners (approximately five people) bring us a copy of this Issue and Answer, claiming that they do not want to pay the parking fee at Chalong Pier.

However, this fee was set in place by the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor) when the pier opened.

A receipt will be issued for

those who pay the parking fee.

The fee is 40 baht for long-term parking and 20 baht for temporary parking (there is no fee for motorbikes).

If there are further questions please call 076-210807 or 081-2732608.

Athiwat Sanmud, Administrative officer, Phuket Department of Land Transportation replies:

The working hours are from 7am to 6pm. After that there won't be any staff available to work.

Temporary parking is less than one hour, and long-term parking is more than one hour.

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

Sansiri Phuket sales on the up

By Steven Layne

AMID an oversupplied and flooded real estate market, many new developers in Phuket are struggling to close project sales.

In contrast, Bangkok based mega developer Sansiri Pcl has received promising feedback from buyers on the island.

In the five months since taking on Phuket, the Bangkok giant has invested nearly 2.7 billion baht in four projects comprising a total of 1,697 new homes.

Complementing the instant sellout in October 2011 of the firm's inaugural project in Kathu, the 556-unit dCondo condominium development, the 653 units in its second Kathu dCondo offering launched in January this year, also sold out with unprecedented rapidity.

The two Kathu-area low rise projects, featuring 29 to 30 square meter units (sqm) priced 1 to 1.4 million baht, have a combined value of 1.4 billion baht – 600 and 800mn baht, respectively.

The impressive sales performance of Sansiri's first two projects is a testament to the lingering demand in Phuket for premium branded, yet reasonably priced properties.

Moving up a segment, Sansiri's latest Phuket launch is Habitia, a two-story semidetached 244-unit development located just around the corner from the British International School in Koh Kaew.



Sansiri's Srettha Thavisin

Developed on 47 rai with three rai (4,800 sqm) of landscaped private park area, the 670 million baht project is looking to sell out in a timely fashion.

Half of the 244 semidetached units (35 square wah or 140 sqm at 2.9 to 4mn baht) were sold within the first week since opening sales in late February.

Adjacent to Habitia is Sansiri's final offering in Phuket for Q1: Habitown.

Targeting the lower-mid income bracket with offerings between 1.99 to 2.5mn baht, the 510mn baht project, features 228 town homes sized 84 sqm (21 square wah), and is

scheduled to launch at the end of this month.

The project spans 27-rai, including two rai of park, a club house and swimming pool.

The developer is anticipating the launch of 4 to 5 more projects before the year is through.

"We are looking into some land around Wichit Songkhram and Mai Khao areas," Sansiri President Srettha Thavisin told the *Phuket Gazette*.

In contrast to its initial projects in Phuket, which target mostly Thai income earners, a project in Mai Khao would be one of its first Phuket developments to target foreign clients, in addition to affluent Thais, he said.

Also, Mr Srettha talks exclusively with the *Gazette* about the firm's Corporate Social Responsibility program. See story on page 18.

Tax filing deadline approaches

FOR anybody who generated income in Thailand last year – regardless of where or how they were paid – the personal income tax filing deadline is March 31.

In this two-part series, the *Phuket Gazette* will outline the need-to-know basics for filing personal income tax in Thailand.

First, we will cover taxable income, deductions and tax certificates. In the next part, we will go over tax allowances, and how to apply progressive tax rates.

When it comes to taxes, many residents prefer to let a trusted partner or certified accountant on the payroll take care of everything.

In this case, it is important for whoever calculates your taxes to be aware of all your traceable income sources. This will ensure that they calculate and withhold the correct amount of tax, otherwise you may find yourself with an unexpected bill.

For those with multiple income sources, and those who are re-

quired to file a tax return with their respective home country, Americans for instance, it's a good idea to have a good grasp on your finances, so you can benefit from tax treaty benefits.

Thailand has tax treaties with at least 55 countries, with 10 more on the table for negotiations.

Contrary to common office talk, luck has nothing to do with determining whether one will receive a bill or a check from Thailand's revenue department. With a basic understanding of the system, filing procedures and regulations, tax payers can determine pretty easily before filing if they are owed or will owe.

The value of taxable income (Ti) will determine one's income bracket and thus the tax rate they should have paid.

Before you can determine your income bracket rate, you have to determine how much of your income is actually taxable. The



Income earners have until March 31 to file taxes. Photo: Suchart Changate

government overlooks a certain amount of your earnings to compensate for living expenses.

To calculate Ti, the formula is $A_i - (D + A)$, where A_i is Accessible income, D is Deductions and A is Allowances.

A_i is your gross income, not necessarily how much you actually got paid.

The value of D accounts for basic living costs and depends on the category of income(s).

The Revenue Department identifies six categories of income including regular employment, copyright, property rental (with five subcategories), liberal professions, contracted work and a broad "other" category.

Most regular employees fit into the first category and are thus allowed to deduct a maximum of 60,000 baht for living expenses which is applied to the entire tax year, regardless of how much they actually spent on rent, food and other necessities.

Those who had gross income of less than 150,000 baht (US\$ 5,000) can only deduct 40% of all wages, however.

For example, if last year you only made 100,000 baht (US\$ 3300), you would be entitled to deduct 40,000 baht for living expenses, not 60,000 baht.

Income from contracted jobs, rental income, and dividends may also allow for certain deductions.

Whether you can actually claim these extra deductions will depend on the category identified on the withholding tax certificate.

This certificate is an official

receipt of tax paid and is known as the PND Form.

PND is a transliterated acronym from "Por Ngor Dor" which stands for *Pasee Ngoen Deuan*, or literally, "tax income".

If an employer withheld tax, then they must issue a PND to show it was paid. For fixed salaries, the company will issue a single PND summary of the tax year, but for other, irregular income sources, a separate PND for each payment should be issued.

Whether you're filing the PNDs yourself or someone else does so on your behalf, all liability and responsibility for erroneous calculations and owed payments will ultimately fall on the employee.

Every source of income requires its own PND. There are at least 8 different PND forms (1a, 1a special, 2, 3, 2a, 3a, 53, and 54) which vary depending on the category of income and tax payer's resident status.

In conclusion, use the PND to determine D.

In the next issue, we will cover Allowances (A) and how to apply and calculate Thailand's progressive income rates.

Disclaimer: The information provided in this article is based on the personal experience of the author and direct inquiries with the Revenue Department. The Phuket Gazette will not be held liable for damages caused by misuse, misinformation or misunderstanding. All specific tax issues should be directly addressed with the Revenue Department. For more information, see W: rd.go.th, or T: 1161.

– Steven Layne

New tourism and hotel college enrolls for May

IN RESPONSE to swelling demand in the island's booming services industry, Thalang Technical College will be developing into the Phuket Hotel and Tourism College.

The move was announced earlier this week by the college's director, Suthep Yongyuth.

"We first opened in 1997 as the Phuket Technical College number two, and then changed our name to Thalang Technical College in the year 2000.

"At present, we have a total of 350 students studying for vocational diplomas ("PorWorChor") and advanced vocational diplomas ("PorWorSor") for industrial, commercial, tourism and services business.

"This new development is in line with government policy to increase readiness of hotel and services personnel, as well as to produce diploma and advanced diploma students that have skills consistent with the demand of industry operators.

"We aim to be a leader in the Asean region for applied academics, and to be a training hub for hotel and related fields for locals and non-locals alike," he said.

The college will comprise six departments at the *PorWorChor* level: Hotel, Tourism, Economics, Business Computer, Spa and General Management. 50 per cent of the courses will be in English.

At the advanced diploma level, there are plans for five departments including Hotel and Services, Kitchen and Culinary Arts Management, Spa Management and Meeting and Seminars.

All of the subjects will be instructed in English, with the exception of Thai and other foreign language courses.

Opening in May, the *PorWorChor* Hotel and Tourism departments will fill an enrollment of 90 students, while the *PorWorSor* Hotel and Services department will accept 30 students.

The remaining departments will open at a later date.

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Krabi shaping as oil hub

AGRICULTURAL development initiatives look to position Krabi province as a new regional and world hub for the production, supply and retail of palm oil.

When the Asean Free Trade Agreement (AFTA) comes into full effect by 2015, traders and merchants from Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar and Laos, will enjoy tariff-free trading of most Asean-produced goods and commodities, including rubber and palm oil.

By far, the world's leading palm oil producers last year were Indonesia (25.4 million tons) and Malaysia (18.7mn tons), followed by Thailand (1.4mn tons), Colombia (0.88mn tons) and Nigeria (0.85mn tons).

However, Thailand boasted the second highest annual growth rate of 12.58%, second only to Colombia (14.19%), while government backed initiatives look to perpetuate this trend.

"Krabi is already Thailand's leading palm oil producer with nearly a million rai of palm oil plantations," said Suban Raktong, a provincial agricultural promotion researcher in Krabi.

"However, the quality and quantity of our yields has suffered much, causing concern for competitiveness on the regional scale," he added.

Mr Suban told the *Phuket Gazette* that Krabi is currently administering two separate budgets in order to improve its yield qualities and quantities, and thus increase its competitive advantage.

The first ongoing project focuses on improving palm oil quality.

"We are training and educating local agriculturalists on how to maximize yield quality while minimizing base costs.

With the project into its third year, 20 Palm oil community centers, and another 180 sub-stations have been established across the province.

"We're teaching farmers how to properly record, monitor and analyze the various production factors, from the compost, soil and leaves to the most efficient extraction methods.

"Before this project began, our yield output efficiency rate was at about 14%, but now has gone up to 18% and we expect it to continue to increase," he said.

Mr Suban added that the project is utiliz-

ing a budget of 10mn baht for the 2012 fiscal year, and in its first two years utilized 13mn and 6.5mn baht, respectively.

The second palm oil development project is part of an AFTA development initiative backed by the central government to supplement new palm trees, soil, necessary chemicals and transport logistics.

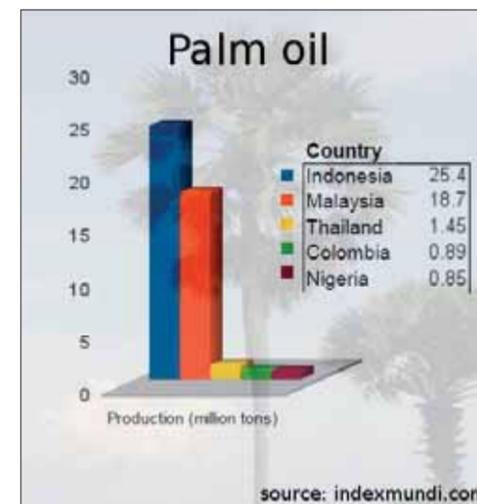
Starting this year, the government is supporting the development of 30,000 rai over a three year period in five southern provinces including Krabi, Trang, Satun, Surat Thani and Chumphon.

In the first year, Krabi will receive a budget of about 10.9mn baht to develop 5,500 rai, while the remaining 4,500 rai quota are for plantations in the other four provinces, Mr Suban said.

Mr Suban went on to explain that many plantations in Krabi and the region produce substandard yields due to the trees being beyond their 15 to 20 year life cycle.

"With older trees that produce very low yields, it's difficult and expensive for farmers to make a living, let alone profit," he said.

In addition to the two projects mentioned, Phuket media were recently told



PALM PUMPERS: The world's top five palm oil producers in 2011. Image: Gazette Graphic

that another palm oil development project is expected to be proposed to Thai cabinet members when they meet in Phuket from March 19 to 20.

That project proposal will be related to the promotion, development and full integration of the palm oil production and supply chain.
 - Steven Layne

Tourism campaign lures swingers

WITH the Thai summer just around the bend, club swingers are among the latest tourist group that the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) has set its sights on.

In a bid to increase golf tourists to the country by 10%, TAT this year has partnered with MasterCard to launch the "72 Hours Amazing Thailand Golf Paradise" campaign.

All in, 86 golf courses in 20 provinces of Thailand's five regions will participate in the scheme by offering special privileges to golfers who opt on paying with their MasterCard.

TAT Deputy Governor Sansern Ngorungsi along with MasterCard Worldwide's Vice President Gregg Hirano, and Head of Marketing S.E. Asia, Deborah Goldingham recently launched the campaign with a press conference at Phuket's Westin Siray Bay Resort and Spa.

"TAT has partnered with MasterCard in various campaigns over the previous five years and all have been successful," said Mr Sansern.

Previous campaigns that TAT and MasterCard have partnered in include the "72 Hours Amazing" destinations "& Beyond" series to



TAT has partnered with MasterCard.

promote tourism in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Phuket, Pattaya, Hua Hin, Koh Samui, Khao Yai and Krabi.

"...Thailand has up to 250 standard golf courses, and the sport is

growing in popularity among Thais and foreigners alike.

"Golfers who use their MasterCard will receive discounts of between 10 to 40% at the participating golf courses. We expect this to result in a 10% increase in golfers," he said.

Mr Sansern said that golfer tourist groups comprise of groups from Asean and the greater Asian region including those from Korea, Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong and China.

Participating gold courses in Phuket include the 72-par, 18-hole Blue Canyon Country Club, Laguna Phuket Golf Club, Loch

Palm Golf Club, Mission Hills Phuket Golf Resort and Spa, Phuket Country Club, Red Mountain Golf Club, in addition to the 9-hole, 36-par Phunaka Golf Course and Golf Academy.

Krabi's 9-hole, 28-par Sofitel Krabi Phokeethra Golf and Spa Resort and Koh Samui's 18-hole, 72-par Santiburi Samui Country Club are the only other golf courses in Southern Thailand on the list.

For the complete list of all 84 participating golf courses, see *W: thailand72hrsamazing.com*

- Phuket Gazette

Island's top business directory now on sale

THE Gazette Guide 2012, the island's most comprehensive business directory, is now available at vendors across Phuket and the Andaman region.

Eight times the size of other business directories on or off line, the 362-page directory includes contact details of thousands of businesses classified into 142 different categories.

A must-have for business operators and consumers alike, the island's only English-language Directory is priced at just 50 baht.

This year's edition also contains a decoder for Thai units of weight and area; calendars; consulate and embassy contact details; postal codes; area and country codes; emergency contact numbers; detailed tide tables for Phuket; and other indispensable information.

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Why True and CAT go out to lunch every three hours

THIS week I'm going back to answering questions. This first one surprised me, but I've had confirmation now from all over Thailand. It goes like this:

"Woody, I have a new TrueMove-H "3G" account. The wireless service is directly connected into my PC, with a USB stick. I watch financial markets, so I'm online for extended periods of time. I don't send much data up or down, so I never go over the 3GB monthly allowance. In spite of the small amount of data, I really need a reliable connection: no telling how much I could lose if my internet goes down, just for a minute.

I have no idea why, but my TrueMove-H connection is now dropping every 2 hours and 59 minutes. I have monitoring software on my PC, and it shows, repeatedly, day in and day out, that my connection dies after 2 hours and 59 minutes. It drops on my PC, it drops on my Mac, using different software, different drivers, and different connection managers. The technicians think it's my computer, but it isn't. Why does TrueMove drop every 2 hours and 59 minutes?"

Another reader wrote saying: "Woody, I live in Isaan, but I get down to Phuket from time to time. I have a CAT "My" 3G account. My problem is that the connection never works for more than three hours at a time. I can be talking over a Skype connection, or logged on to a banking site, and the connection always, always breaks after three hours."

It ends up that you're both seeing symptoms of the same problem.

First, a little history (thanks to Iomatopo on the ThaiVisa Phuket forum). TrueMove-H is a service offered by a True subsidiary that uses CAT's



Live Wire
By Woody Leonhard

hardware. Basically, this True subsidiary leases the 3G service from CAT, and sells the service to customers like you and me. Recently, CAT started selling the same service – same towers, same switches, same backhaul connections, same network management system – to retail

'The chances are that somebody, somewhere, read about the setting in a book and decided it would be good to make the CAT network cut off customers every three hours.'

customers, too. That's the CAT "My" 3G service.

So while one of you is paying CAT and the other is paying TrueMove-H, in fact you're both paying different companies for precisely the same service.

That explains why both of you are having the same problem. (It also explains why the download speeds we see at phuketinternetspeed.com from CAT and TrueMove H are almost identical.)

The three hour disconnect is a throwback to older times, when it made sense for a phone company to disconnect a line that's been idle, or nearly idle, for an extended period of time.

If you use your TrueMove-H or CAT service for voice calls or SMSs, it rarely makes a difference if you're disconnected every three hours. But if you're using your 3G line as a replace-

ment for an internet land line, it makes all sorts of sense to stay connected. Your IP address doesn't change. You don't have to log back on to sites that you're visiting. Even if there's only a trickle of data coming down the line, getting cut off after three hours makes no sense at all.

And it looks like CAT (which is ultimately responsible for the network admin, I believe) has made a very unfortunate mistake and decided to cut connections every three hours. I have no idea why.

The chances are good that somebody, somewhere, read about the setting in a book and decided it would be good to make the CAT network cut off customers every three hours. The chances are also good that nobody has ever reviewed that decision. The net result is that, once again, TrueMove-H and CAT simply aren't offering a service that's as good as AIS's 3G.

Can you get CAT to change? I wouldn't count on it, but word on the forum is that True sometimes responds to items posted on its Facebook page: W.facebook.com/TrueMoveH.

Next question is another one I hear a lot:

"I know you are busy writing your new book. But when you finish and find time on your hands how about writing an article about the phenomena of having your email account hacked and scams sent to all your contacts? It has happened to me personally a couple of times already and I get messages from contacts that I know are bogus. It doesn't seem to be a virus but just taking over one's address book to send phony messages to your contacts. How do they do it, why, and what one can do to prevent it?"

As a matter of fact, I'll be writing about this in my new book. It's unfortunately very common to have your Hotmail or Gmail or Yahoo Mail account hacked: someone gets your ID and password somehow – there are a hundred different ways – and all of a sudden bogus messages go out to everyone in your Contacts list.

There isn't a whole lot you can do about it. If the person hacking your account had an IQ above water level, they've already taken a copy of all of your Contacts names and email addresses. The cow's out of the barn.

If you think your email account has been hacked, here's what you should do – in order:

1. If you used your email password anywhere else on the web, go to each place where you used the password and change it. A lot of people re-use pass-



LUNCHTIME: The three hour disconnect is a throwback to older times, when it made sense for a phone company to disconnect a line that's been idle, or nearly idle, for an extended period of time. Photo: Miika Silfverberg

words. If you have an email account and, say, a PayPal account with the same password, you're in deep trouble. Get to all of the possibly affected sites immediately, check your balances, and change your password.

2. Log on to your email account and change its password. No sense letting the bad guys get back in. If you can't log on to your email account – the bad guys have changed your password for you – you're in for some interesting times. If you've already set up password reset information, recovery is usually just an SMS away. But if you haven't set it up, you'll have to go through the mail company's password recovery routine.

For details, Google "compromised account" and either Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo Mail.

3. Make sure you have decent anti-virus software running. Many email passwords get sucked up by virus keyloggers (see my February 21 article which steps you through setting up Microsoft Security Essentials, the free program I recommend for antivirus).

And, for heaven's sake, if you

ever get an email saying Hotmail's going to cancel your account unless you log on immediately (using the link provided in the email), don't do it! You should never, ever provide a user name or password to log on to a site using a link that you received in an email message. I've received dozens of fake PayPal messages in the past couple of months demanding I do exactly that.

Seth Bareiss holds computer sessions on every-other Wednesday afternoon, from 1 to 3pm. If you have a Windows problem that needs to be solved, drop by one of Seth's free afternoon sessions, or come to one of our free Sunday morning roundtables at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. Details in the Events Calendar. Sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.

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



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A speculative investment



Aung San Suu Kyi (above) speaking at a rally in 2011 has long been a thorn in the side of the ruling junta. Photo: Htoo Hay Zar



A rice paddy in Chin state, Myanmar.



WINDS OF CHANGE: In times gone by 75 per cent of Burma's economy was from rice farming. It now seems the government is ready to allow a limited form of capitalism. Photos: khaipi (top) and Ralf Andre Lettau

Retirement Years

By David Mayes

I REMEMBER as a young kid growing up in the US often seeing bumper stickers on cars with slogans about freeing Burma.

When I was I first planning to move to Thailand I still had no idea where Burma was, as the maps now showed some country I had never heard of called "Myanmar" bordering the Kingdom to the west. The rate of recent positive developments in Burma has been staggering: democratic elections were held, an historic visit by Hillary Clinton took place and Aung San Suu Kyi is free and being allowed to run for parliament. I have been asked a lot recently about investment opportunities arising out of this situation.

The short answer is most likely yes, for sure there will be some. Unfortunately I have not seen any Myanmar funds offered just yet by any of the major fund houses. It may not be long until we see the first Burma fund offered internationally though. I personally will be keeping a lookout for such a development, as getting in on a situation like this early is where the best returns are always made (imagine having invested in the Chinese markets a few years before the major bull market there initially took off). The other thing to take into serious consideration is the risk element, and any investment into Myanmar would need to be considered highly speculative.

You need to keep in mind that Burma has been quite defiantly isolated from the bulk of the world economically for an extremely long period of time. While the recent changes have come at a rapid pace,

should the relationship with the rest of the world hit a snag it would not be a surprise to see the generals take control back and go into isolation for another 20 years before deciding to restart their current experiment. Obviously in that scenario any investment into the country whether directly or via a fund would no doubt go very pear shaped. You should always plan for the worst case scenario when making speculative investments.

My personal opinion is that the generals have finally figured out that by "going democratic" they will not really lose any significant power, but will go down in history as the ones who finally freed the country. Given the vast undeveloped resources of the country this will most likely lead to a period of rapid growth and huge increases in prosperity, which will further allow them to gain a lasting legacy with the people of the country. This scenario would obviously lead to the types of investment opportunities which do not come around every day.

If you have a speculative part of your portfolio waiting to be allocated, Myanmar may indeed be a situation worth monitoring very closely in the coming years. It is likely too early now, but I think that if the current trend continues a Myanmar themed fund is likely to be on the markets at some point in the not too distant future and may be one of the safest ways to participate in a coming boom in the country. Just please make sure you understand the highly speculative nature of such an allocation beforehand.

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

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Myanmar rushes headlong

By John Gold

THE Japanese salaryman's blue suit brushed past the backpacker's Bob Marley t-shirt down the guest house hallway.

"No rooms. Fully booked," said the desk clerk.

The Japanese man was on his way to shore up a lease on a garment factory and the Irish backpacker was here in Myanmar to see the wonders of Inle Lake and the golden Shwedagon Paya pagoda.

Yangon is buzzing with opportunists, now able to stay longer, start up businesses and travel more freely within the country. Ask anyone there. Myanmar is poised on the launch pad.

There are few available hotel rooms and domestic flights are often full.

However, nearly everyone's trip to Myanmar starts in Bangkok at the embassy, where you spend most of the morning in a queue outside. Then you return to collect your visa in the afternoon.

Ironically and against this tide of transformation, there are no longer visas issued on arrival and direct flights from Phuket have been cancelled indefinitely, according to staff at Bagan Airways.

The only other flights to Myanmar from Thailand are from Chiang Mai, twice a week.

All sectors of the Myanmar economy are on a tear and despite varying and range-bound GDP statistics from the government, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, it is clear to see minivans, restaurants and travel agencies full of foreigners.

Arrivals through Yangon International Airport rose by 22 per cent in 2011 to nearly 360,000, according to tourism ministry statistics.

"Arrivals numbers are increasing by 20 to 30 per cent every year," Zai Wai Mang of Unique Asia Travel said. "It means we need to build more hotels, expand airlines and develop our infrastructure so we can offer a better level of service to visitors."

Preparations are also underway for hosting the 2013 Southeast Asian (SEA) Games, with launches



With tourists on the way the traditional is unlikely to disappear as Myanmar catches up with the world.

of as many as 50 new hotels across the country.

After 50 years of military rule, the country staged an election in 2010 that installed a new government in Myanmar's new capital city Nay Pyi Taw. Since then President U Thein Sein has provided the impetus required to carry the nation past the backstage of human rights abuses and subsequent trade sanctions.

Many hundreds of political prisoners remain behind bars, but recent visits to the country by foreign secretaries Hillary Clinton and William Hague have resulted in increased releases in October and again last month alongside sanction-suspension talks.

The government has also made efforts to reduce conflicts with armed ethnic groups including the Mon and Shan states. Although Rohingya keep plying their way past Phuket shores, the "boat people" from the southern Tanintharyi region have not been spotted on the beaches of southern Thailand or Malaysia for some

time now.

It is hoped the president will also announce soon that he will allow international observers to monitor the election when Myanmar voters go to the polls on April 1 this year.

Although it would be nigh impossible for the government to be overthrown as one quarter of the lower-house seats are reserved for the military, parliament is still seen as ready to make sweeping changes to the business and property laws.

Today, foreigners may neither own nor lease land. They must conduct business as a joint-venture partner in a locally-owned majority 51-49 per cent structure. Also, like Thailand, the 30-year



GOOD FOR BUSINESS: with more international visitors Yangon's smaller businesses and street vendors fortunes are looking up. Photo: ta@keshi kimi

lease is the new buzz word.

Land prices in Yangon, Mandalay and the most popular beach town, Ngapali, have spiked over the past 12 months, according to U Zaw Zaw of Unity Real Estate Agency.

"It got very crazy last year but we have seen prices come back down to more sensible levels to where property has generally increased by double over the past couple of years as opposed to tripling and even more," he said. "New investors are still committed and are now simply waiting for elections. Prices will stabilize and then are expected to rise again."

Building costs have gone hand-

in-hand. Everything is imported from either Korea or China and both quality retail and commercial space are as rare as hen's teeth.

However, many new hotels and residential developments are breaking through the five-story ceiling of the old Rangoon. In fact, the new Shangri-la is being borne out of an abandoned project stranded by the US and EU trade sanctions some years ago.

There are no international legal or accounting firms registered in Myanmar. This also set to change.

"These policies need change. Foreigners want stability signs from the government and parliament is keen on change," said Yangon lawyer U Min Sen. "We will need to work hard to provide foreign companies with assured representation."

A new law being introduced next month will apparently allow foreign firms to set up joint-ventures with the local partner owning less than 30 per cent and receive tax-free status for the initial five years, possibly extended for another three years (depending on the nature and location of the venture).

Also being discussed is the notion of a foreign company alone leasing land for an initial 30 years with two 15-year extensions.

These would effectively operate within prescribed "special economic zones", as China experimented with in the 1980s.

Local exporters are calling on the capital to clarify whether current six-month old tax cuts due to expire this month will be extended. The tax cuts ranging from 2% to 9% were introduced to boost exports of fishery goods, agricultural produce and garments. This also has helped serve to increase legal



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into era of transformation



URBAN SPRAWL: Yangon's increasing trade with the world has out-stripped its current ability to deal with the influx of business visitors and tourists.

remittances from abroad.

A visit to the Myanmar Securities Exchange was like entering a Monty Python skit. There are only two publicly listed companies: Myanmar Citizen's Bank and Forest Products JV Corp. Neither of the two companies' stock traded that day or the day before.

"We trade very low volumes of shares at present, but I met with investors Jim Rogers and George Soros recently and they were very interested in opportunities in Myanmar," said Inami Shigeto, managing director of the

Myanmar Stock Exchange.

The fledgling "exchange" is basically funded by a think-tank arm of Nomura Securities, but the promise is there. Many Chinese firms have expressed interest in participating in its expansion.

This is another important point in Myanmar wishing to attract western investment. Quietly, but surely, China has become Myanmar's largest investor by far, surpassing Thailand some time ago. The middle kingdom now has a naval base in Myanmar to access the Indian Ocean.

Key to obtaining increased varied commitments also lies in the hopes Myanmar will break military ties with North Korea as well as create laws to ensure its citizens have improved human rights.

Last month, BBC South East Asian correspondent Rachael Harvey was allowed to cover the

story on the visiting British foreign secretary. This was indeed a true "first" for a long time. Local journalists have always been under threat of the military junta. However, staff at the *Myanmar Times* are confident new protective laws will be soon be enacted. "Freedoms of the press have

improved recently and we hope for new laws to open up this realm," said Zaw Myint, Editor-In-Chief. "We want to increase our circulation and the number of publications."

However, he and other staff at the newspaper said if I had any more questions for them, it was best I used their personal email addresses "because the Ministry of Information often reads the newspaper's communications".

Perhaps officials hope visitors will turn the pages of *The New Light of Myanmar*, the English-language daily propaganda piece.

Travel within the country has also become much easier after the government lifted restrictions six months ago. Proposed new laws will have tourists travelling more freely to Dawei and Myeik in southern Myanmar. It was possible to visit many southern destinations only by air from Yangon and then you were not allowed to leave to city limits as per terms of your permit. That is no more. You can now travel overland and stay wherever you wish along the coastline northeast of Phuket.

It is rare you see a story about Myanmar in the west without mention of Aung San Suu Kyi, but she is, for good or bad, beginning to fade into the background in-country. It seems her work may be done.

Obviously, people appreciate her efforts over many years and get the chance to vote for her again this April, but many Burmese seem to want to "just get on with it," said Htar Htar Khin of the *Myanmar Times*.

"We are out from under now and must strive to achieve the goals we all share. The past is the past," Hitar concludes.



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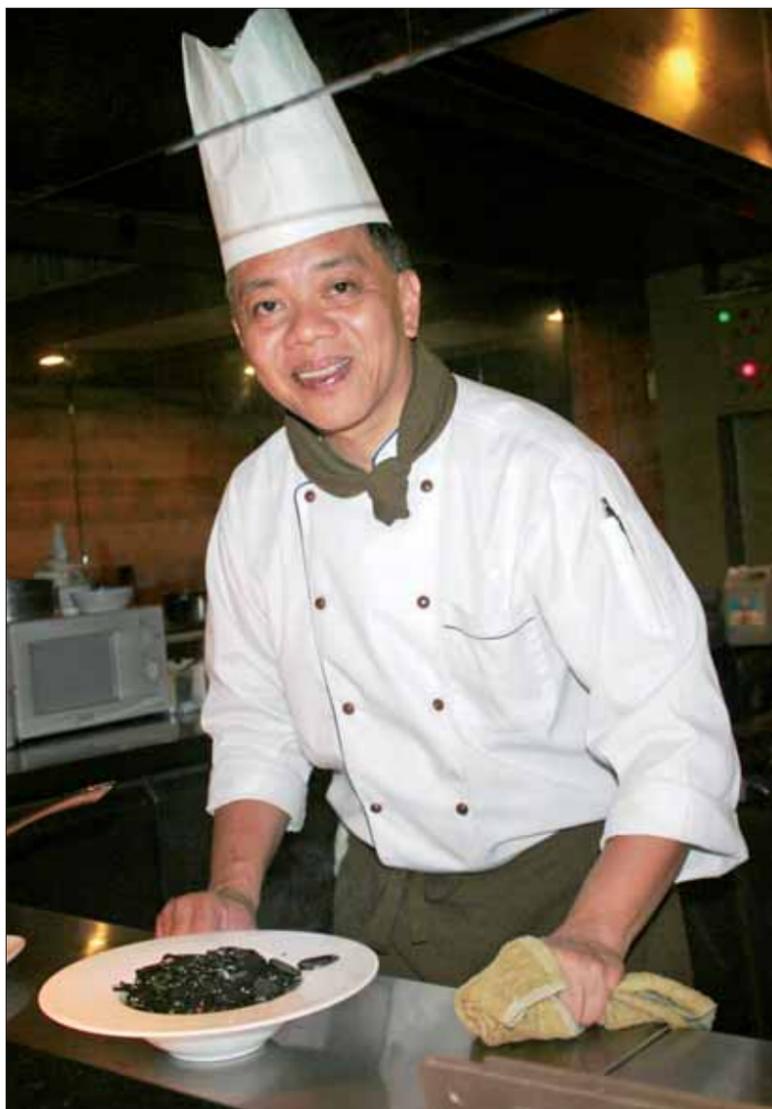
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MEAT OR FISH?: A juicy Angus steak (above) or a tender red snapper (below) – both are done to perfection.



Extraordinary Vset

On the Menu

By Sam Wilko

ASK any smattering of food lovers what the great world cuisines are and the same old raspberries will turn up time after time: French, Italian, Japanese, and even Thai, but generally speaking, the National Cuisine that more than often ends up in the culinary equivalent of the odd-sock drawer will be that of the Philippines.

Okay, the Philippines do have some tasty paella and the like, but in the main, even to be extremely generous; one couldn't say that it's a particularly distinguished gastronomic destination; and this, coming from an Englishman.

And yet, in an ironic twist, typical of this multinational island, one of the most celebrated, award-winning and inventive Master Chefs in Phuket is a Filipino. Meet Ronnie Macuja, the man who is helming the ever-popular Vset restaurant down at Chalong Pier.

Vset has recently doubled in size and now features a temperature-controlled wine room, large, chunky wooden tables, intimate lighting and a high thatched roof. The original section of the restaurant has an open kitchen where Ronnie cooks up his fusion wonders and there's an elegant *al fresco* section with faux water hyacinth sofas as well as a snazzy bar with views out over the bay. Obviously there's been a lot of thought and planning (not to mention investment) put into this and as a result

Vset is certainly one of the classiest dining-out places in the south of the island.

With acres of parking space there's no need to be preyed upon by the less-than-honest parking 'attendants' that demand (illegal) fees at the municipal pier parking lot and sooner than you can say "My other car is a yellow Lamborghini" you'll be seated and nibbling away on a complimentary *amuse-bouche* and surveying the extensive menu which features the innovative, fruity and well-balanced dishes that are Ron's trademark.

Highly recommended examples include blue swimmer crab raviolis (280 baht) – a veritable *mélange* of subtle flavor and texture with Asian wonton wrapping – and a Remy Martin-based tangy lobster bisque (280 baht) all complemented by a freshly baked bread selection with salted butter. It's all very Ronnie is why the restaurant is called Vset which means extraordinary in Thai.

I didn't recognize any of the artistes on the piped-in music, but the tunes are remarkable for their unobtrusiveness and effortlessly fit into the sophisticated atmosphere. At any rate, they pleasantly smother the elongated

business calls made by a neighboring Ukrainian.

The carnivorous cameraman is more than pleased with his mains of Black Angus beef, and slides a knife into his steak with a glint in his eye that would chill an apprentice vampire's soul. "See? No effort," he drools, and doesn't utter a word for the next 15 minutes.

Red snapper (480 baht) with fruity hints, dill purée and basil-burnt sauce is my choice for mains and is, well, wishing to avoid clichés, extremely well done and representative of Ronnie's dab hand in the kitchen.

The happy juice selection is extensive and we plump for a Sacha Lichine *Le Poussin* rosé. I met the great vintner a few years ago and he expressed a barely veiled incredulity that a *ros bif* (English) person could, in fact conjugate more than three French verbs, thus proving that the Brits' dubious linguistic-skills reputation far outstrips their bad cuisine on the international scene.

Chef Ronnie's reputation precedes him and rightly so. He's a star, but a hard-working star and he deserves all the accolades thrown his way. 'Vset' is Thai for 'extraordinary' and it's an apt moniker for this stellar restaurant.

Vset Restaurant is located at Chalong pier, next to Kan Eang @ pier.
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Sansiri: being the good guys



Social Change for the better. Sansiri gives UNICEF US\$1 million annually.

By Steven Layne

ALL profitable and respectable organizations will eventually need to consider giving back to the communities from which their financial prosperity derives.

Implementing meaningful Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is one effective way for firms to initiate positive social changes, and enrich the corporate-communal landscape for the greater good of business and society.

With so many pressing issues in society, deciding which are the most deserving of hard-earned corporate capital is difficult.

But for Sansiri Pcl, one of Thailand's leading premium property developers, CSR is a no-brainer.

Speaking exclusively with the *Phuket Gazette* last week at

Sansiri's headquarters in central Bangkok, President Srettha Thavisin said that children are the firm's top CSR agenda, or what Sansiri calls "Social Change".

Sansiri's Social Change is a new approach to CSR, which emphasizes the full commitment of a business organization in planning and implementing CSR programs in an inclusive, long-term and sustainable way.

The president, also the firm's Social Change spokesperson, said that Sansiri this year has earmarked 60 million baht to maintain and further develop its Social Change programs nationwide.

"We administer half of this in house, and the other half (US\$ one million) is donated to our Social Change partner, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) as part of a three-year Memorandum of



SMART MOVES: With five football academies already in Bangkok Sansiri is looking at Phuket next.

Understanding," he said.

Mr Srettha said that the company is looking to expand its Social Change portfolio with projects in Phuket, which could break ground by the end of this year, if not early next year.

"This depends mostly on our sales volume. We are still monitoring the Phuket market and planning to launch several more projects there later this year. We will wait until we have a sufficient client base.

"Our Social Change initiatives are conducted at both the national policy and local grassroots levels, he said.

As for prospective Social Change projects in Phuket, Sansiri is looking to establish one of its free football academies.

An avid soccer fan himself, Srettha said: "It's important that whoever initiates CSR also has a personal interest, otherwise it's meaningless.

"I am a personal friend of FC Consultant, Paitoon 'Ko Men' Chutimakornkul, and follow Phuket football developments," he said.

The company has established five football academies in Bangkok, the first which was established in 2006

"When we open a new one, we will publicize the opening so that our clients are aware. However, participation is not strictly limited to our clients and many of the kids are underprivileged from low income families. It's on a first come, first serve basis," he said.

"All academies are free and we provide all the equipment and gear for kids who attend regularly, but we realize that there are organizations that make good business by running sports academies. It is not our intention to clash with them since we are doing this as a part of our Social Change initiatives CSR," he added.

To avoid clashing with those businesses, the company sets a

different schedule.

"Sports academy businesses tend to run later in the day, so we open in the early morning instead. Most rich kids prefer not to wake up early," he said.

Another service of its academies is providing employment to former national squad players as staff and coaches.

"After serving the country for the national team, not all of these players end up becoming coaches, sports writers with prosperous careers.

"Often, they don't end up doing well and some even end up on the street.

Giving them an opportunity to make a little income is another small way of helping those who have contributed to the country," Mr Srettha explained.

The last-but-not-least pillar of Sansiri's Social Change CSR umbrellas is education.

Mr Srettha explained that there are about 750,000 school aged children in Thailand who are not in school.

One of the main obstructions is that a lot of these kids lack the proper birth registration documents, and thus cannot access free schooling.

"If the child was born in Thailand, then they have the right to be educated here. The government cannot and should not deny them this right.

"If these kids don't have documents from birth and don't get educated, they will end up becoming a social burden somewhere down the road.

"We want the Phuket Governor to be tough on child labor," he

said, adding that Sansiri is also working with the Ministry of Interior to advise on policy.

"If kids can get the proper birth registration documents issued they will be able to access free schooling. It should be automatic," he said.

This is not the first time Sansiri has taken the lead to influence government policy.

Its "Iodine Please" campaign actively raised awareness about

the correlation between low IQs and Iodine deficiency disorders in Thai children.

Implemented together with UNICEF and the Ministry of Health from 2009, the campaign resulted in the Abhisit-led government to pass a Universal Salt Iodization regulation in January 2011.

For its part, Sansiri was awarded 'Best CSR Practice' across Southeast Asia in 2011 by the Asia Responsible Entrepreneurship Awards.

Asked about the key element of Sansiri's successful Social Change program, Mr Srettha said: "It's important that you align yourself with the right organizations. We've partnered with UNICEF because it is one of the most transparent organizations.

"We have no control what they do with the money that we donate to them, but we trust their judgment, and they advise us on issues, likewise," he said.

To read more about the company's property sales performance in Phuket, see page 10.



Children's champion: Mr Srettha has strong views on child labor.

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Lions Club of Phuket Pearl to present 'A Ray of Hope'

By Bruce Stanley

THE Lions Club of Phuket Pearl probably support a wider number of local charities than anyone else. Founded in 1991, the original members were women who called themselves the Lionesses of Phuket until they received permission from the International Lions Club that they too could be Lions. Now they have invited men to join them.

"We formed the Lions Club as a group of women who wanted to contribute to the welfare of the less fortunate on Phuket. We did not want to be a social club, but one that would be of service to those who do not benefit from the healthy local economy," states founding member Adrienne Tusconi.

Our motto is 'We Serve'. And serve they do. Over the past 20 years, the Lions Club of Phuket Pearl have sponsored and supported many worthwhile projects including the Phuket Association of the Disabled. Dr Siripon Seewatanakul, another founding member, has practiced paediatric medicine on Phuket for 29 years. She was the founding chairperson for the Association for the Disabled.

"There are over a thousand disabled people registered on the island as having disabilities which prevent them from working. At one time we renovated a government building to provide training such as massage for the blind and computer training for the hearing impaired. The Lions Club of Phuket Pearl provides valuable assistance to keep these programs in operation."

Another program supported by the club is therapy for the more than 200 registered autistic people. The club has provided time in a hyperbaric chamber at Vachira Hospital that has allowed a young Thai student to function in school.

"The therapy in the hyperbaric chamber has been impressive but expensive. We have been able to help a four-year-old boy who required 40 hours of therapy at 1,300 Baht an hour. And we have over 200 autistic children in need," Dr Siriporn continued. The club has also been a big supporter of Phuket's Sunshine Village which helps underprivileged children and those who lost family during the 2004 tsunami.

Dr Supaluck Kanchanamethakul, an active supporter of programs to help children, is also a member and a founder of Childwatch which provides protection for all children at risk regardless of nationality.

The fund raising chairman and membership director of Lions Club Phuket Pearl, Esmeralda Paya, can most often be found at her Dream Gallery at the Boat Lagoon. But she spends much of her time planning fund raising events for the club.

"This year we will have a fun event on March 24 at the Royal Phuket Marina. Starting at 7pm, we are inviting the community to an evening of Thai culture with a fashion show of traditional Ya Ya dresses, zumba dancing, a performance by children from the Phuket Sunshine Village, a live jazz band and beautiful food and drink. It will all be happening on the boardwalk where guests can bid on hotel stays and wonderful gifts in a silent auction," Esmeralda explained.

The Phuket Gazette is a sponsor of the Lions Club Phuket Pearl event at the Royal Phuket Marina.



Lion's Club Phuket Pearl Organizing Committee (from left) Esmeralda Paya with Dr Siripon Seewatanakul, Adrienne Tusconi and Wanida Hongyok . Photo: Bruce Stanley



To support the charities of the Lions Club Phuket Pearl, you can contact Wanida Hongyok for tickets or donations at 086 954 4389 or Esmeralda Paya at 087 887 9672.



WE SERVE: The children at Phuket's Sunshine Village have benefited enormously due to the efforts of the Lions Club. Photo: Bruce Stanley



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Fact, fiction and historical novels

By Richard Blake

IF YOU describe anything as “the worst thing that can happen,” it probably isn’t. But one of the worst things that can happen to an historical novelist is to have someone creep up with a smirk on his face, and say that you got a fact wrong. For me, it’s worse than being told the novel is useless.

I’ve always been sheltered from general criticism behind an impenetrable wall of vanity. I’m a genius. Anyone who says otherwise can only be intellectually or morally defective. Tell me I’ve got my facts wrong, and I may run screaming from the room.

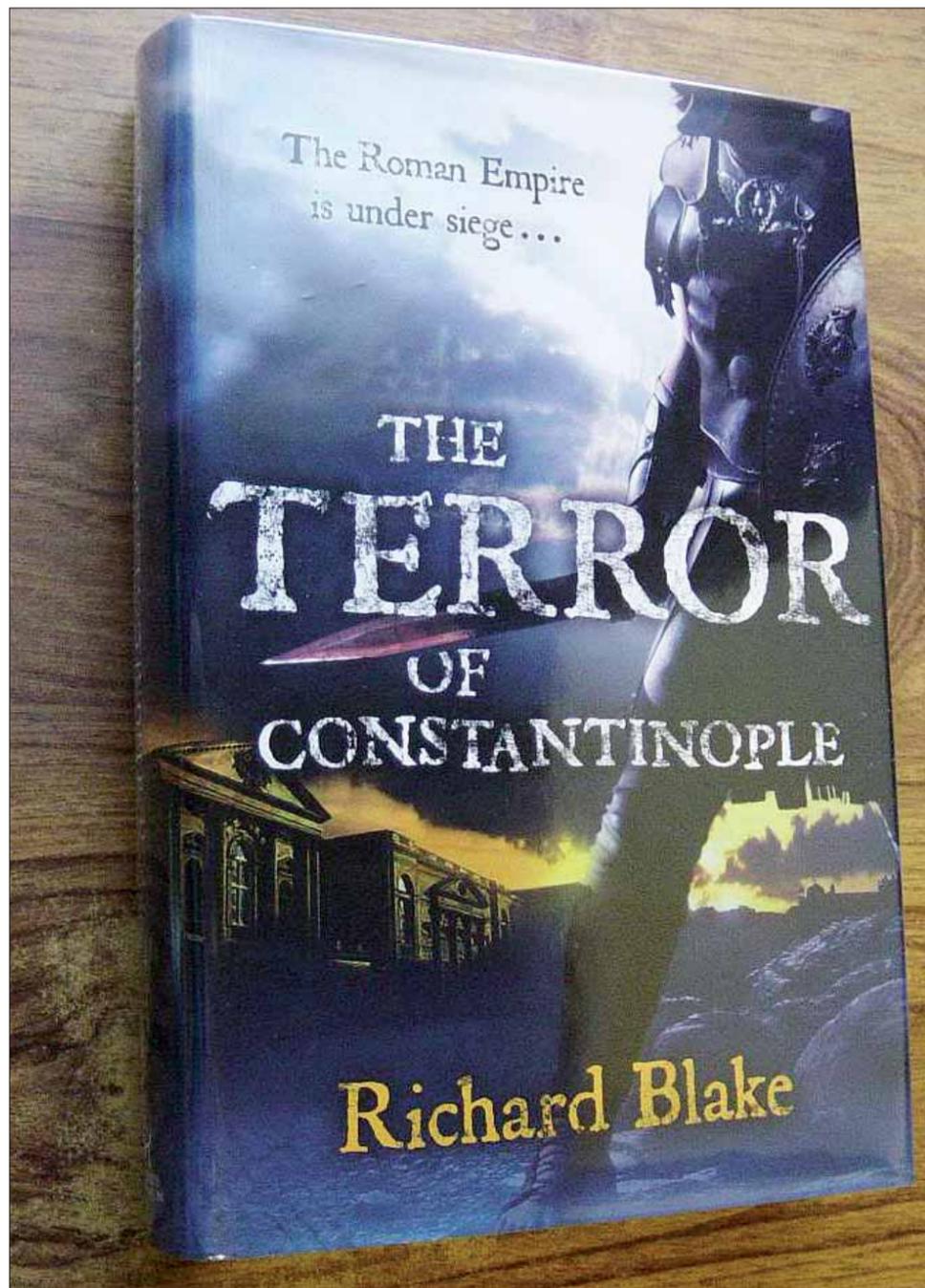
It would be my own fault. The rules are clear. You can write as secretary to the Emperor Tiberius, and explain that he always swam alone on Capri – that he was a fine man and ruler, libelled after his death for his Thatcher-esque way with taxpayers’ money. With a few obvious exceptions, you can blacken or whiten historical characters just as takes your fancy.

What you can’t do here is have someone uncork a bottle of wine and pour two glasses. You see, corked glass bottles only came into use in the 17th Century, and glass drinking vessels, though used for thousands of years, only beat metal to the tables of the rich in the same century. Overlook this, and you’ll be written off as incompetent.

And so, when writing historical fiction, you need to get your facts right. This means more than looking up on Wikipedia when forks, hair clips or suntan cream first came into use. You must think yourself into the past age you’ve chosen and not make it look as if your characters could have been pulled out of the Underground and sent off into something halfway between a historical theme park and the *Big Brother* house. You cannot assume that the physical things and habits of thought that you take for granted were the same in the past.

Let me give an example. I’ve been shuffling round National Trust properties since childhood, vaguely noting how short beds were in the past. If asked why, I might have said that people were shorter then. Last year, when looking through an old book of prints, I realized that persons of quality, before about the early 19th century, slept in a sitting position – they didn’t need such long beds. Now, I’d always taken my own habit of sleeping in a ball, with the blankets pulled over my head, as a slight deviation from the norm, but never thought of this norm as other than universal.

This worried me for professional reasons, but shouldn’t have surprised me. The followers of Karl Marx – and I think here less of Marx himself than of his more un-



TIME TRAVEL: When writing historical fiction, you need to get your facts right.

orthodox followers like Karl Polanyi and Moses Finley and Michel Foucault – go too far in claiming that there are no universal norms. They hated bourgeois civilization, and spent their lives trying to prove that all its norms were part of an order of things that had come recently into existence, and could be hurried back out of existence. In fact, the essentials of human nature don’t change. But, if this includes basic motivations, it doesn’t include how these are expressed. It can be difficult to work out the difference between motivations and their particular expressions. And there’s no doubt that, by our own lights, people in other ages

often thought and behaved very oddly by our own standards.

I won’t boast that I’ve always got it right in my novels. David Friedman (son of Milton) once got me close to a walking out moment, when he insisted that a glass table I’d put in one of my novels couldn’t have been cast before the late middle ages. But I do try to get it right.

I’m currently writing a novel set in 7th Century Byzantium. This involves a plague epidemic. And so I’ve become an expert on medical history. Though the germ theory of disease is very modern, there was, from the late middle ages, some popular insistence on



WHAT A CORKER: Even historical reenactments get it wrong sometimes. Photo: Portable Antiquities Scheme.

quarantine. But this wasn’t endorsed by the doctors. Until the arrival of syphilis forced them to think again, the doctors had no regular idea of contagion. They were mostly committed to the miasma theory of epidemic diseases – invisible clouds of poison that might be evidenced by foul smells. I still haven’t decided what significance plague has in my new novel. Even so, do be assured that it won’t just be the look and smell of the sores that I get right.

On the other hand, sweat all you like over those facts – it doesn’t mean you’ll write a bestseller. You see, the example I gave of uncorking wine bottles is a real one. I once got a long way into Taylor Caldwell’s *Dear and Glorious Physician*, which is about St Luke the Evangelist. I put up with everything I didn’t like about it until someone in Antioch uncorked a bottle. I threw the book aside with a snarl of contempt. Sadly, no one else has. Taylor Caldwell didn’t know how the ancients stored and sold their wine. But her novels remain in print nearly 30 years after her death, and sell in numbers I can only envy – and her name will probably be remembered when mine has been forgotten.

Of course, you still do need to get it right. But it goes to show there’s no justice!

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The 84th Academy Awards

Film

As we predicted last week The Artist (nominated for 10 awards) succeeded in getting five including best picture.

The ceremony took place on February 26, and was hosted by Billy Crystal, marking his ninth time as host, and produced by Brian Grazer. Eddie Murphy was originally scheduled to be the host, and Brett Ratner was to be producer. However, Murphy stepped down after Ratner resigned, fol-

lowing Ratner's use of a gay slur when discussing rehearsals.

Academy Awards of Merit were presented in 24 standard competitive categories.

In addition, three Honorary Academy Awards were presented



at the 3rd Annual Governors Awards ceremony held on November 12, 2011.

The Artist and *Hugo* each won five awards, with the former winning Best Picture and its star Jean Dujardin winning Best Actor.

The Iron Lady won two awards, including Best Actress for Meryl Streep.

The Artist became the first silent motion picture in 83 years (after *Wings*, which won Best Picture at the first Academy Awards) and the first French film to win Best Picture.

Sui Juthakorn and Tard Kianpotiramard

IF YOU are driving along Lagoon Road in Cherng Talay, you may be intrigued by two eye-catching boutiques Qube and Cozy, and their art-gallery like display of decorative items and artworks. They are the creations of the brother and sister duo, Sui Juthakorn and Tard Kianpotiramard.

The siblings, who grew up on Rassada Road in the town center when it was still a banana plantation, took different life paths before their reunion here to forge a successful creative partnership.

Their elder brother opened what must have been one of the first tour companies in town, and Tard, who worked as a tour guide, recalls many happy moments taking tourists around. "I think the business sense was cultivated in us then," he said.

Tard's dream was to become either an architect or an interior designer, but by coincidence landed a job in Bangkok first in the hotel business and later as manager of the high-end American furniture company Steelcase. He returned to Phuket 30 years later.

Sui, the younger sister, took a different route. Having studied the arts, she worked for eight years as an airline stewardess, got married and raised a family of two children. Sui reveals that product design has al-

THAI gallery

By Nanthapa Pengkasem

ways been her passion and that she was an avid collector of artefacts and designers' items from various parts of the world. There was also a brief period when she worked as a designer for the family-owned ceramic business.

Back in Phuket, having realized that they have something in common, the pair opened Qube and Cozy, with Tard looking after the 'modern and fun' Qube, and Sui in charge of the 'tropical modern' Cozy.

Nevertheless, the division of labor is not all that clear-cut as the siblings work together to decide on their stock. They explain that the majority of their products, which include furniture, paintings, sculptures, accessories, and lighting, are the original work of Thai artists and designers, whom they say, "are highly imaginative and capable of producing funky and original works." A sense of history and culture seem to play a big part and as a result most works are full of charm and have a soul of their own. We are passionate about highlighting

these talents and would like to support local craftspeople wherever we can. Ninety per cent of our objects are sourced in Thailand," says Tard.

Sui agrees that Thai talents abound and that, "There is at once a sense of the exotic and timelessness that appeals to foreign buyers in particular," she said.

Indeed, the pair's sense of design and creativity is reflected in the way they organize their stores, which have the look and feel of an art gallery rather than a shop. Having just opened Qube and Cozy four months ago, Tard reveals that business is brisk.

"Judging from the feedback received from our clients, we have hit the right mark in creating a great branding together with a superb package. Customers love our stores and they become our friends."

While Tard is busy entertaining his clients, Sui is happy to work behind the scenes sourcing items and occasionally re-arranging displays.

One thing is clear, both Sui and Tard are passionate about what they do and are enthusiastic, creative and astute entrepreneurs. They have differences and similarities that somehow compliment each other. A perfect working partnership.



About Thai Gallery

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



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**WHAT'S ON
in Phuket**

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Exciting new Weekend Market, every weekend from March 10-11 at 3 to 10:30pm. Come and buy or sell or even barter. Clothing, jewelry, crafts, household goods, boat parts, used goods, food and beverage and lots more. Live entertainment and bar area. Located within the Boat Lagoon with toilet facilities and lots of free parking. Whether you have home-made goods to sell, boat parts to barter, or are simply looking to pick up a bargain, this is the ideal location to spend a few weekend hours. Promotion: Individual covered booths (2m x 2m) with power facilities available for rent in dedicated zoned areas. Only 100 baht per day. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*. Contact Chompoo. T: 076-620516, E: chompoo@bmsevent.com

March 10 and 24. Saturday Brunch

Saturday brunch from noon to 3pm at Two Chefs Kata Center. Every Saturday we are setting up our brunch buffet, filled to the limits with home-made delights. In our smoke house, we smoke all of our own fish and meats by ourselves, and in the bakery we bake all our own bread. With very well trained chefs and a Swedish head chef, we can promise you that you won't leave hungry or thirsty. All this for only 395 baht, and if you add an extra 300 baht you can choose to drink what you want



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March 12 to 18. Coconut Carnival

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March 16, 23 and 30. Navrang Mahal Curry Fridays

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March 11. Phuket Invitational Car Rally

The Phuket Invitational Car Rally is a family car treasure hunt with a difference. We will find places in Phuket that you never knew existed, and navigate through some of the most beautiful parts

of this paradise island, all the time with safety and careful driving being foremost in mind. The Phuket Invitational Car Rally is supported by GOMS (the Grumpy Old Men's Society), the British Business Association Phuket, the International Business Association Phuket, the Australian Chamber of Commerce Thailand (Phuket), the Lions Club of Patong Beach and other voluntary organizations in Phuket, including the Tourist Police Volunteers. This is a fun event for all the family. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV. From 10am

to 5:30pm, starting point at Chalong Pier Beer Garden. Contact John Devenport at 087 2658845, E: johndevenport@hotmail.com or visit W: phuketinvitational.com.

March 14. Tex-Mex Night

Every Wednesday from 6pm to 1am we are serving our famous Tex-Mex Buffet, a large buffet filled to the limits with Tex-Mex food. As with all food at Two Chefs, everything in the buffet is home-made. For this year we are also introducing our free flow, so if you come here and want to eat our Tex-Mex Buffet for 495 baht, you need add only an extra 300 baht to drink as much of our free flow options as you like. Contact for details. T: 076-286479, E: karon@twochefs.com, W: TwoChefs.com

March 15. PIWC AGM & Lunch.

The AGM of the Phuket International Women's Club will be held on Thursday, March 15 at Le Meridien Hotel, Patong, at 10am, followed by lunch at 11:30am. The AGM is restricted to members. However, guests are welcome for lunch. Prior booking for lunch is essential. Price is 500 baht for members and 650 baht for guests. Contact Carole Dux. T: 085-782 1332, E: info@phuketiw.com. For more information on PIWC activities, visit W: PhuketIWC.com

March 17. St Patrick's Day Party - Good Craic!

From 10am to 11:30pm at Angus O'Tool's Irish Pub located at Karon Beach. Come and join us for Paddy's Day celebrations - a little bit of Ireland in Thailand. Fun for all the family with free prizes, T-shirts and lots of...Guinness with Irish and international fare. Cold beer, good food, warm folk. Contact John. T: 076-398262. E: info@otools-phuket.com W: OTools-Phuket.com

Phuket Afternoon Computer Clinic

Is Windows driving you NUTS? Looking for a good internet connection? Need to know how and where to get your PC repaired, or your confounding questions answered? Drop by the new Afternoon Computer Clinics, hosted by Woody Leonhard and Seth Bareiss. Bring your computer. Bring your questions. Bring your sense of humor and let's see if we can solve your PC problems. Second and fourth Wednesday of every month. Sponsored by Woody's Sandwich Shoppes and the *Phuket Gazette*.

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ONE FLOWER, ONE WORLD: His Excellency Chuan Leekpai (former Prime Minister of Thailand) and Professor Yu Xinhui (Chairman of the University Council of Shanghai University) presided over the ribbon cutting ceremony at the Chinese Arts Exhibition at Prince of Songkla University, Phuket Campus. From left are: Phuket Democrat MP, Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr; Professor Gong Siyi; Professor Yu Xinhui; HE Chuan Leekpai; Dr Methi Sunbhanich and Asst. Professor Chitralada Sangpunya.



THE A2 TEAM: The Access Resort & Villas Group recently held the Grand Opening of their A2 Resort. At the event were (From left) Ms Nijjaree "Sherry" Cammung, Resident Manager; Ms Saluay Chantrakul, Deputy Managing Director; Mr Niwat Chantrakul, Managing Director and Mr Phonasi Putta, General Manager.



THE KIDS ARE ALL RIGHT: Phuket-based band "The Legends of Siam" recently played live at The Hard Rock Cafe in Patong as part of their prize for recently winning the HRC 'Battle of the Young Bands' competition. The band members range in age from 11 to 16. Photo: Dan Miles



FUNNY BUSINESS: Organizers Pete and Boom Harris with the "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" comedy team after the recent Patong show. Photo: Dan Miles



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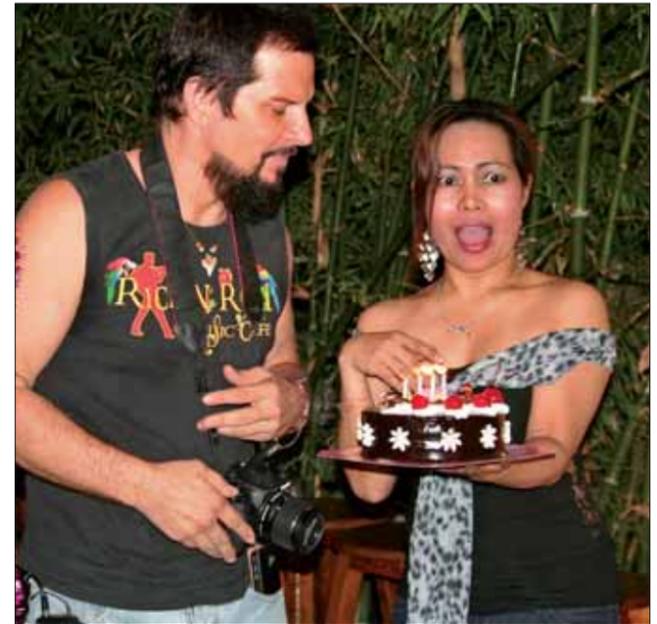





MAPPED OUT: The *Phuket Gazette* was one of the first recipients of this enormous map of Phuket produced by Image Asia. From left: Chris Husted, *Phuket Gazette* News Manager; Praewprawlin Inchomchuen, Image Asia Sales & Marketing Manager; *Phuket Gazette* reporter Orawin 'Pang' Narabal and Vorapan Yaemlamai, Image Asia Creative Department Supervisor.



GOOD TO THE LAST DROP: The Rotary Club of Patong Beach headed by Rotarian Brad Kenny recently donated drip filter water purification systems to Laem Naew village in Kuraburi.



HAVE YOUR CAKE AND EAT IT: Phuket entertainer Ricky Zen recently celebrated his birthday with friends at his Rick 'n' Roll Music Cafe. Here singer Geri Santianes offers him a cake.



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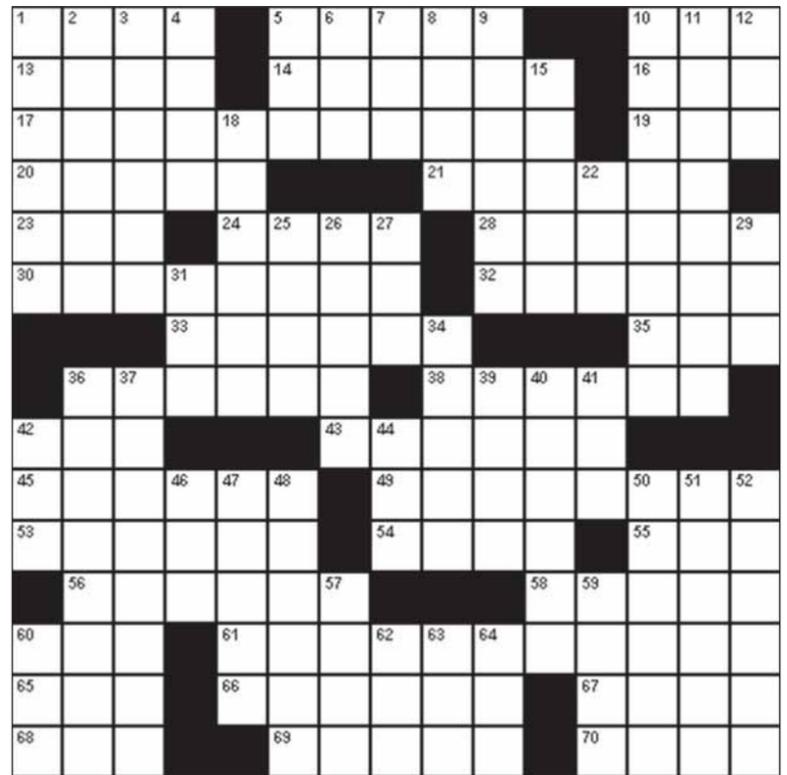


There is a single connection between all the quiz answers. Can you get it before the last question?

- Which Guns 'n' Roses song from the album *Appetite For Destruction* begins: "Your daddy works in porno now that mommy's not around. She used to love her heroin but now she's underground"?
- What was the name of the USA's First Lady during World War II?
- Who played Xena:Warrior Princess?
- Which 1986 Alan Clarke film is about two teenage babysitters from Bradford who have an affair with a married man?
- Which singer was backed by The Vandellas?
- Which ex-comic is married to Billy Connolly?
- In the TV show *Charmed*, what was the name of the eldest sister (played by Shannen Doherty) who was killed off at the end of Season three?
- Who was married to Spandau Ballet's Gary Kemp and later to Jude Law?
- What name is given to any work of religious art which depicts the baby Jesus with his mother?
- What connects the answers from the previous 9 questions?

Quiz answers on page 41

- Across**
- Actress Merrill
 - Start of a Dickens title
 - Implore
 - Auth. unknown
 - Aboriginal
 - DDE's command
 - Parrot fever
 - Cpl., for one
 - Stroll
 - Broadway opening
 - Chemical ending
 - Fresh-water fish
 - Cylindrical
 - Leftover
 - Worked for
 - Buzz in space
 - 401(k) alternative
 - Virgil epic
 - Black Sea port
 - Loos
 - Try hard
 - De facto
 - Unlearned
 - Rules for Burr and Hamilton?
 - Spy
 - Fail to tell the truth
 - Take off
 - "Barnaby Jones" star
 - Engine part
 - Trotting competition
 - Suffix with Capri
 - Playing marbles
 - Rapper born Tracy Marrow
 - Proof letters
 - Early anesthetic
 - Imbrogio
- Down**
- Spruce
 - Certifiable
 - Sounds
 - Chip in
 - Actress Alicia
 - Tic — Dough
 - From — Z
 - One of the Simpsons
 - Expels
 - Highest peak in Great Britain
 - And so forth
 - Sticky stuff
 - First name in cosmetics
 - Unsteady gait
 - Bruins great Bobby
 - Autobahn auto
 - Parlor game
 - Actor Wallach
 - Writer LeShan
 - Author Fleming
 - Norwegian name of Norway
 - Free from error
 - Prestigious



- Sup
- Calls forth
- Sun. talk
- Roll of bank notes
- Apex
- Einstein's birthplace
- HI hi
- Herb of the parsley family
- French wine region
- Sisters' daughters
- Principles
- Part of Q.E.D.
- Fedora feature
- au vin
- Advanced degree?
- Shoebox letters
- Georgia, once: Abbr.

*Provided by BestCrosswords.com
Puzzle solutions on page 41*

PISCES (February 20-March 20): The stars indicate that there is light at the end of the tunnel for Pisceans who have been seeking resolution in a financial matter. Where personal relationships are concerned, you have reason to see that there's a first time for everything. Those celebrating a birthday in the week ahead are forecast to feel more certain of where they are heading in the coming year. Number three can be lucky early next week.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): The stars advise that Arians should spread their energy wisely this week. There are signs that others will be inclined to waste your time; another fire sign is predicted to give you the runaround on Tuesday or Wednesday. In the realm of romance, making more allowances for a water sign partner's family commitments is recommended. Money matters are well starred on Thursday and Friday. Arians' lucky number is five.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Patience will be a strong point for those born under the sign of Taurus. There are signs that financial matters will be subject to delays – on a

brighter note, a payment that you have to make is forecast to be less than expected. Romance could become complicated when another earth sign decides that they regret the break-up of a relationship. Number seven can bring good fortune for Taureans early next week.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Your perception of a fire sign is predicted to change due to events early next week. Geminis are advised to dig more deeply before reacting. Money matters are affected by cloudy astral conditions until the middle of the month. In the realm of romance, an affair that has been up in the air for a while should become more grounded during the second half of March. Number one has luck written on it this week.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): The stars advise that Monday and Tuesday are auspicious days to push your luck a little harder. Cancerians who have been treading water since the start of March should find that they can take action more easily during the second half of the month. If this relates to romance, there are signs that Cupid's intervention could cause an air sign to take notice. Number eight can be fortunate.

YOUR horoscope
By Isla Star

LEO (July 24-August 22): Leos who have had an uphill struggle at work since the start of this month are forecast to find that progress will be smoother around the middle of March. Expect a breakthrough where communication with a water sign is concerned this week. Your luck in love improves – a water sign is ready to take a relationship to the next level. The stars show that number two can bring good luck for Leos early next week.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): A more creative approach in the world of work is recommended for Virgoans. The stars suggest that your tendency to stick to tried and trusted ways has not got you far this year. Another earth sign colleague's ideas are worth listening to, but a fire sign is full of hot air. Romance can be more fun if you are ready to relax more. Number four can be fortunate this week.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Money matters fall under more auspicious astral conditions during the second half of March for those born under the sign of Libra. An improvement in your fortunes by the end of the month is written in the stars – an indication of what is to come should be visible this week. Those who are single could decide to have another try at impressing another air sign. Number nine can bring good luck during the days ahead.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Life settles down somewhat for Scorpios this week, with emphasis on understandings being reached within the world of work and in your personal life. Another water sign appears ready to agree to finalize an employment agreement. Romance also improves and there are signs that a fire sign is more interested than first appeared. Fortunate days for finances are Tuesday and Wednesday. Scorpios' lucky number is one on weekend.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Chance encounters are forecast, and some Sagittarians should benefit from a meeting with an earth sign on Tuesday or Wednesday.

day. Money matters are better starred during the second half of March, with gain from business due to boost your bank balance. Where personal relationships are concerned, an air sign's request comes at the wrong time this weekend. Sagittarians could see that number seven brings luck.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Capricorns who think they have been kept in the dark learn that this was for good reason. A water sign is predicted to reveal a secret that could bring valuable chances within your reach. The stars show that a change of fortune is likely by the end of March. In the realm of romance, there are hints that crossed wires cause misunderstandings in a relationship with another earth sign. Your lucky number is six this week.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): A fresh breeze of opportunity is forecast for those born under the sign of Aquarius around the middle of March. Ideas that grew stale can now be revitalized and this is the time to take chances. Magical romantic moments lie in store for those who are single this weekend when another air sign is forecast to light up your life. Number four can open a lucky door early next week.

PROPERTY Gazette

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NHA to build affordable houses for Phuket locals

THE National Housing Authority (NHA), the state enterprise responsible for providing low-cost housing for Thai people, is planning to create six new housing projects in Phuket by 2015.

The issue was discussed on February 29 when Jamnian Duriyapranit, Deputy Governor of the NHA, met with Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha to talk about cooperation between the NHA and local government.

After meeting Gov Tri, Mrs Jamnian said that as well as providing housing, the NHA had a duty to help develop the country.

Phuket is one of three of 14 provinces in the South that the NHA will invest in over the coming years. The NHA had already built 5,000 units on the island and was in the process of adding 409 more, she said.

The new units are being constructed in Ban Liphon, an area hit by problems with contractors failing to complete projects.

The NHA plans to build another

308-unit project in the same area.

From 2012-2015, the NHA plans to build six projects on the island. It already possesses at least 200 rai in Phuket in the Ban Liphon and Ban Rieng areas in Thalang District and Rassada Subdistrict.

This year, the authority has another project planned for Ban Liphon, currently under consideration by the Cabinet. If it receives the go ahead, construction will begin in December.

The six projects planned are located as follows: a 306-unit project on the Ban Prusamaphan-Ban Rieng Road; a 680-unit project in Ban Pakhrongchip in Thepkrasattri Subdistrict; and 853-unit, 308-unit, 50-unit and 66-unit projects on Thepkrasattri Road in Thalang District.

Mrs Jamnian said the prices of units would rise from the originally planned 390,000 baht to about 500,000 baht because of the rising price of land in Phuket and raw materials. - *Phuket Gazette*

Kata Group expanding with Beyond Resorts



INFINITY AND BEYOND: The Beyond Resort Krabi with an infinity pool that overlooks the beach.

KATA Group's two latest resorts - in Krabi and Khao Lak in Phang Nga - have received a promising reaction from consumers, with occupancy already above 50 per cent since their openings in December last year.

The company has invested 2.4 billion baht in Beyond Resort Khao Lak and Beyond Resort Krabi, expecting to make its money back within 18 years.

Pamuk Atcharyachai, president of Kata Group, said the two 4-4.5-star properties under the "Beyond Resort" brand were more upmarket than the company's other properties.

Kata Group's other resorts, which include the Kata Beach Re-

sort and Spa, the Karon Beach Resort and Spa and the Phuket Orchid Resort and Spa are around 3.5-4-star quality, he said.

"The Beyond Resort brand has a different character to the Kata brand, since it emphasizes nature and privacy," he said. "It responds to the lifestyle of customers who want to get away from the bustle of Phuket."

Mr Pamuk said the new hotels would be able to take customers that the group's Phuket hotels couldn't accommodate. "We think this is a selling point, an important strong point for the company."

The two new resorts both target the same groups of customers: honeymooners, couples with adult

children, and Middle Eastern tourists who like to travel to Thailand during the rainy season.

Beyond Resort Khao Lak, which features 153 pool villas, took an investment of 1.1bn baht.

Beyond Resort Krabi, an old hotel that the group bought and renovated, took an investment of 1.3bn baht. It features 171 rooms.

The new resorts mean Kata Group now owns more than 1,000 rooms in six properties.

Plans are afoot for Phase 2 of the Beyond Resort program, which will see an expansion to Beyond Resort Khao Lak as well as a new property opening in Phuket on spare land owned by the company.

- *Manager*

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The second generation of property entrepreneurs



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

CALL it G2 or second generation but the island's real estate landscape is seeing the emergence of family operated businesses being handed over to the next in line.

Phuket has a strong base and history of property entrepreneurship that can be traced back through the past 30 years. Many of the key players have a legacy of land ownership from the days of tin mining and rubber plantations.

Eventually as the island turned to trading and tourism they moved into these sectors and expanded and grew outward. Later marinas, golf and eventually property were natural fits for the emerging leisure destination.

These days one prime example of succession planning is from the founder of Boat Lagoon, Kanit Yongsakul, who despite some gray hair continues to participate in triathlons.

I spent some time recently with his son Boon taking about an ambitious new mixed use project up near the entrance of Laguna Phuket. Located on the site of the former Giant Supermarket is the rising Boat Avenue.

The 10 rai site is planned for a phased development of commercial and office rental spaces, a modern retail container mall and multi-level home/business units for sale. Eventually over 100 car park-



BOAT AVENUE: An artists' impression of what the mixed used complex, situated on 10 rai, will look like when completed.

ing spaces will service the project.

Construction of the first commercial units is in the finishing stages and most have already been rented out. Set to launch now are the split level 3-4 story units which take a modern spin on the traditional shop house.

The lower level can be used for an office, retail shop or other use and the upper independently accessed for residential or rental space. For prospective investors it's a matter of breaking down the units into bite size offerings or splitting the market.

Unit pricing starts at 8.7 million baht. An initial launch of 10 units is

being offered now, with installment plans during the building stage.

Next is the Container Mall which will offer 18 retail spaces to let. It has a community feel and walking street feel. Khun Boon was inspired by recent re-development projects in Christchurch, New Zealand where using recycled projects in a cutting edge design is both green and gives the arcade a unique selling point.

Completion is expected by March 2013. A sky bridge and tech driven LED lightening scheme are being integrated into the concept.

The Cherng Talay or Laguna area is starting to see a strong pick up in the area of commercial and new residential projects. An example has been the large Explorer project, now being rolled out by French developer Alain Cohen, which is an upscale mixed use project.

Another sign of the times is the creed of mass domestic housing into the area with new projects coming up between Cherng Talay and Thalung which look to cash in on the low priced entry point segment.

For Boon Yongsakul it's encouraging to see young Thai entrepreneurship in action, with

enthusiasm and new ideas.

I know his sister Sriya who is a leading force at the new Krabi Boat Lagoon.

With its Cleat condominium project having gained traction, four of the initial offering of twelve units are already reserved. A lead indicator for the project remains Phuket's overflowing marinas and nearby Krabi offering both space and direct international air access.

Taking a view of Asia versus the world these days, one key differentiated point that remains a positive is the high level of local entrepreneurs. In the recession-ridden West, few opportunities exist

with little access to start up capital or debt. Entry points to new startups remain out of the reach of many willing and capable people.

Could this trigger a lost generation in the West as Asia continues to sharpen up their own skills, experience and innovation? My bet's on Asia for the next decade.

As for young business people like Khun Boon and Khun Sriya, they look to be taking their family legacies further down the road toward more success.

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

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In brief...

Accor sells on eBay

HOTEL owners often struggle, whenever there are major renovations or even with non-performing assets, about the best way to realize some financial benefits from disposing of these assets.

AFP has reported that global hotel chain Accor is setting up online shop on Internet giant eBay called "reborn".

Hotel furniture, soft goods and other fittings will be offered for sale. The chain has said that not only is it a financial exercise but one aimed at sustainable practices on recycling materials.

Unsinkable Don Muang flights resume

AFTER being closed for months by the Bangkok floods, the capital's second airport Don Muang saw commercial flights restart on March 6.

First up will be Nok Air. Orient Thai has not said if they would resume flights yet from the facility.

Hotel industry watching Aetas demolition order

THAILAND'S hospitality sector is eyeing the demolition order of the Bangkok Aetas Hotel with growing interest.

A Central Administration Court Order calls for possibly taking down the building within 60 days, pending an appeal process.

By the letter of the law, harsh penalties call for the jailing of the developers and possible financial costs being passed onto other parties including the architects, and project construction team should they fail to act.

Both the hotel owners and Bangkok Metropolitan Authority (BMA) who approved the permits despite a roadway access of less than 10 meters are in the hot seat.

Illegal hotels and unlicensed development continues to prevail in what has traditionally been a less than stellar regulatory environment.

According to a recent online poll over 75% of readers do not believe the hotel will actually end up being demolished. *- Bill Barnett*

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Key money: window dressing or is it commercially justified?



KEY ISSUE: The key money is usually payable on signing of a lease and will not be returned to the tenant upon expiry of the tenancy. Photo: Images Money

PEOPLE looking for a commercial property lease in connection with a business set up in Thailand, might be surprised to find out that a lump sum payment in addition to the rent shall be required to be made to the landlord. In Thailand such additional payment is known as 'key money'.

Essentially, key money could be described as an additional payment, a premium, on top of the rent. The key money is usually payable on signing of a lease and will not be returned to the tenant upon expiry of the tenancy.

Landlords typically argue that such additional payment is justified due to the exceptional location of a property 'guaranteeing' a

Property Legal By International Law Office

prospering business venture.

Critics say key money is nothing else than partial advance payment of rent; the rule of thumb, "the lower the rent, the higher the key money", applies. This means that a rental property may be advertised for a relatively low amount of rent in order to attract potential tenants with additional payments such as key money revealed later on. Therefore, a tenant, when calculating its actual rental costs incurred, should carefully check what payments are required to be made in connection

with the lease, and, if key money is payable, add such sum to the requested rental payment(s) providing the actual amount "rent" payable for the lease of a certain property.

On the other hand, landlords may deem such advance payments as a necessity in order to protect themselves against tenants not paying the rent after they have taken possession of the premises.

In case that a landlord is demanding payment of an unreasonably high amount of key money, a person interested in renting such property, may keep the following points in mind: First of all payment of key money is negotiable. Secondly, a tenant may require that either no key

money or a reasonably higher monthly rent shall be agreed instead of payment of key money. This may help to reduce costs at the very beginning of a business set up and minimize the risk of losing considerable amounts of monies in case that a landlord may not perform as promised.

If a tenant agrees to pay key money, it is always advisable to request issuance of a proper receipt; in case of a business resale such receipt can be shown to your buyer when trying to recoup costs.

Also, the word is that key money payments may have been used as a method to lower taxable rental income. In order to remove all doubt that one may

intend to participate in an attempt of questionable tax mitigation, a tenant should make sure that key money payments are duly accounted for in the tenant's books.

In Thailand, key money payments may be common practice, however, a tenant should not be afraid to refuse payment of key money particularly in case where it may impair a tenant's cash flow and put a tenant at financial risk.

This article has been written by International Law Office Patong Beach Co., Ltd., a Phuket based law firm, for informational purposes only. In case of inquiries, please contact Michael Greth by email michael@ilo-phuket.com or phone 076-22219-(1-5).

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What's in a potted palm?



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

A FEW weeks ago I had occasion to visit a friend staying at the Evason Resort in Rawai.

There is an impressive drive to be negotiated before you reach your destination, a route dominated by over-arching palms that have obviously been there for some time probably installed at the same time as the hotel itself.

What made this roadside palm arbor all the more memorable was the fact that each individual tree had ferns of various kinds sprouting from its trunk, growing from the pockets of leaf bases left after dead fronds had been removed from the stem. Clearly these ferns did not lack for shade or water, since nutrient-enhanced rain, trapped by the crown of fronds, filtered down and into these moistened pockets.

There were ferns of many kinds: maidenhair, Boston ferns (*neprolepsis*), even stag's horn ferns (*platycerium*), elkhorn ferns and bird's nest ferns (*asplenium*). And all these epiphytes owed their continuing existence to one of the most vilified of trees – the oil palm.

Oil palms have an unenviable reputation. True, they are an important cash crop in southern Thailand and Malaysia, the source not only of Thailand's most used cooking oil, but also of bio-fuel. However, and so conservationists maintain, these plantations exist at the expense of



AVENUES OF PALMS: Orderly rows of commercially grown oil palms may be affecting ecosystems. Photo: Craig

bio-diverse rainforest, of vanishing peat swamps and much else besides. Hardly surprising that *elaeis oleifera* should be both environmentally vilified and commercially valued.

But here, in Rawai at least, they were contributing to the environment in a very positive way. Planted in serried ranks, with dense clusters of feathery, dark green fronds atop each tree, these avenues of palms gave the approach road a distinctive appearance. And if you want to grow ferns in your garden, maybe you should look no

further than starting with a mature oil palm or two of your own. They are sizable trees, up to fifteen meters tall, but they are easily grown from seed. Moreover, they like sun and high humidity both available in spades in Phuket.

Another palm associated more with commercial activity than aesthetic value is the sugar palm (*borrassus flabillifer*), which is grown in huge plantations for a sweet sap called 'toddy', which can be converted into sugar or, more bizarrely, into an alcoholic drink called 'arrack'. With the escalating prices of alcohol in Phuket's bars, maybe it's worth producing your own.

But seriously, every part of this palm is variously used in South East Asia for timber, thatching and food. However, you will need a large garden to accommodate it. The immature trees look odd, with a thick, knobby trunk covered with leaf bases, and huge fan-shaped leaves, but it can look effective when planted in rows as was done on the central reservation of the airport road.

But for value as garden palms, neither of these would be in my top half-dozen. I would still go with the Bismarck palm, the traveler's palm, the yellow cane palm, the sealing-wax palm and the foxtail palm as the best choices for your garden. And for sheer durability, the fish-tail, or its larger cousin the wine palm, is difficult to beat. As for dense ground cover, you would be hard-pushed to find a better choice than the rhapsis or lady palm, which, like the wine palm, will tolerate deep shade. It grows in graceful clumps with slender and fan-shaped leaves and rarely exceeds two meters. And along with the fish-tail, it remains the best of all palms to grace your living room as a potted specimen.

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



CLUSTER FRUIT: *Elaeis guineensis* (oil palm) fruit produced by a young palm. Photo: Cayambe



MIANG KHAM: A Thai dish using bitter *chaphlu* leaves that cover a sticky sweet sauce made with palm sugar. Photo: Takeaway



A FROND IN NEED: The travelers palm is ideal for Phuket. Photo: Tiragreene

Tip of the week

Planting out container plants



EASY: Getting ready for the planting out procedure. Photo: Ildar Sagdejev

NOWADAYS garden center plants usually come in containers – small ones in black sheet plastic or larger ones in rigid plastic pots.

Always plant your new acquisition in a hole larger than the root ball, and, holding the plant in position, backfill the space around it with the unamended soil you dug from the hole.

If the existing soil is poor, use a potting mixture or good top-soil

that will encourage root growth outwards and downwards. Add the soil in stages, firming it around the roots with your hands as you work. The top of the root ball should be about an inch above the surrounding soil.

Finally, make a ridge (berm) of soil around the plant to form a watering basin. Irrigate gently but thoroughly, add a little fertilizer and finally a layer of mulch.

Laguna

PROPERTY RESALE

Properties for sale within Laguna Phuket

1 Allamanda Studio THB 4.75 M



- 1 bed 1 bath apartment
- freehold • pool view
- Laguna Resident's Privilege Card

2 Laguna Fairway THB 17.25 M



- 3 beds 3 baths
- private pool • golf course view
- Laguna Resident's Privilege Card

3 Laguna Vista THB 23.5 M



- 4 beds 3 baths
- maid's quarters • private pool
- Laguna Resident's Privilege Card

4 Laguna Village Townhomes III THB 26 M



- 4 beds 4 baths
- lagoon view • private pool
- Laguna Resident's Privilege Card

5 Dusit Thani Pool Villas \$1,600,000



- 2 beds 2 baths
- ocean frontage • rooftop pool

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Post-event	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓		
Advertising, full color	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓				
Events Flyer – every week!	✓											
'What's On' page x 1	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓				
Website Events Calendar, every week until event closed out!					✓	✓	✓					
PGTV – Daily spot – 30 sec					✓ (1)	✓ (1)					✓ (2) (3)	
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* THAI; Emirates; United; China Airlines; Air France; Delta; Lufthansa; Singapore Airlines; Cathay Pacific; Dragonair and Vietnam Airlines.

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Phuket Gazette

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

Properties For Sale

LAND FOR SALE



6.1 rai, Chanote, 10 minutes to airport, 5 minutes to Nai Harn Beach. 15.6 million baht. Tel: 085-793 2718.

100% OWNER FINANCE



Rawai pool villa. To Thai or foreigner. Sale: 4 million baht. 6 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, land 400sqm. 300m to Rawai Pier. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com

VILLA PATONG

Super seaview villa in Patong with 4 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms. Freehold. Comes with Chanote title. 23.5 million baht or rent US\$ 500 per night. Tel: 086-982 2888 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-374882. Email: prim_purdue@yahoo.com Website: www.youtube.com/watch?v=RS1z9EB7i0

RAWAI: 480SQM OF LAND

For sale. 5-minute walk to the beach. Water and electricity installed. The land can be subdivided. Full Chanote. 2.6 million baht. Tel: 085-790 7086.

LAND FOR SALE

Near the main road to Baan Don-Cherng Talay. 68sq wah. 1.1 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118. Email: honda.1437@yahoo.co.th

CONDO IN SUPALAI PARK



for sale. Near Seng Ho Bookstore in Phuket Town. Studio 30sqm, floor 15, seaview, aircon, furnished. Price: 1.9 million baht. Ready to move in July 2012. Tel: 089-472 9118.

KATHU GOLF COURSE CONDO

62sqm, 100% freehold. 18 baht/sqm maintenance fee, bed, bath, living room, kitchen, fully furnished, nice view. 1.85 million. Tel: 081-824 1385 (English). Email: jbiwo@cslox.info.com

LAND NEAR KATA CENTER

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

LAGUNA AREA TOWNHOME

3 bed, 4 bath, 200sqm, new condition, fully furnished. Prestigious, quiet gated community. Large tropical garden & pool. Below market at 13 million baht. Tel: 081-894 5848 (English & Thai). Email: dohurtay@yahoo.com

LARGE SEAVIEW PROPERTY



for sale. Location at Layan. Tel: 081-787 4383.

SUPERB CONTEMPORARY VILLA



5 bedrooms. Between Boat Lagoon & BIS. 120sqm swimming pool, fully furnished. 26 million baht. Tel: 082-276 4314, 082-276 4318. Email: caronitk@hotmail.fr See our website www.phuketfinder.com

100% OWNER FINANCE



Rawai condo. To foreigner, 6 rooms, 27 or 54sqm. 600,000 baht up. 200m to Rawai Pier. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com

2 PRIVATE HOUSES IN RAWAI

- 210sqm living area, 3 bedrooms, roof terrace with beautiful view, salon, European kitchen, car port. Price: 6.5 million baht with Chanote title, neg. Brand-new building in top quality.
- 205sqm living area in bungalow style, 2 bedrooms, salon, European kitchen and terrace kitchen, huge swimming pool in beautiful garden. Price: 11.4 million baht with Chanote title, neg. Tel: 087-889 4160. Visit my private website: www.naiharnvillas.com for first impressions.

CHALONG 2-BEDROOM HOUSE

New detached house for sale. 2 bedrooms, en suites. Large walled garden. Price: 2.2 million baht. Contact Jai. Tel: 089-817 4864.

FREEHOLD KAMALA HOUSE

Stunning house located In Kamala. Only 1.2km to beach. Fully furnished and ready to move in. Perfect location next to Soi The Bell. Tel: 089-394 2981 (English & Thai), 083-914 2939 (English). Email: sales@thailandpropertys.com For further details, please see our website at www.thailandpropertys.com

VILLAS IN RAWAI

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished. Sale/rent. Price: 4 million baht. Pool villas: 5 million baht. 80% finance, 2% interest, 10% deposit, 90% finance. Tel: 083-641 9327. Email: rawaipoolvillas@hotmail.com

PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

At Ao Makham. Land is located opposite Port of Phuket and next to Bel Air Cape Panwa Resort. Price 4.2 million. Tel: 081-891 5932, 089-035 6702.

HOUSE IN PATONG



Newly built 40sqwah, near Sea Pearl project, Patong. 2 stories, 3 beds, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, 2 aircons, kitchen with hood, refrigerator, dining room, living room, hot water, cable TV and internet. Tel: 089-469 1813.

HOUSE IN PHUKET VILLA 5 FOR SALE



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

LAND NEAR MISSION HILLS



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

LAND PLOT IN RAWAI FOR SALE

by owner, 1,200sqm, electricity, walkways and street connections. In very quiet, green area. Price: 6.8 million baht. Neg. Tel: 087-889 4160.

HOUSE & FURNITURE

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

NICE CONDO BYPASS

Opposite Big C, 55sqm, 1 bedroom, fully furnished. Price: 3.8 million baht. Tel: 081-614 5372. Email: surasaksakul@hotmail.com

THIDA HOUSE SALE 27 MILLION



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

NICE PLOT FOR SALE



Near Layan Hill Estate. (Manik-Bang Tao area). Ready to build housing/pool villas. Chanote title. Price: 7.2 million baht. Neg. Contact owner on 080-520 2989. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR SALE IN BAAN PROMPHAN

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

LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

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

LAND AT RAWAI FOR SALE

640sqm, 5 mins to Nai Harn Beach. Chanote title. Price: 3.3 million baht. Tel: 081-770 9309.

CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

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

LAND NEAR MONUMENT

6 rai flat, easy building land. Very quiet, chanote title. Below market sale price 1.9 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-894 5848 (English & Thai). Email: dohurtay@yahoo.com

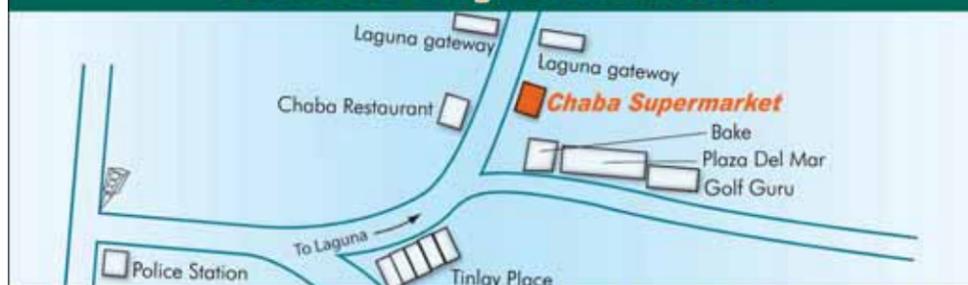
TOWNHOUSE IN PATONG



On Nanai Road. 2 storeys, 112.5sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, bathtub, built-in cabinets, kitchen, aircon and car park. 1km to Patong beach, near Bangla Road and Jungceylon. Price 5.5 million baht or nearest offer. No agents! Tel: 087-270 9093.

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Over 1,000sqm, road, utilities, river, waterfall. 4.9 million baht. Tel: +1-509-561-0055. Email: philipagordon@yahoo.com

LUXURY VILLA

for sale or rent at Rawai. Company included, 5 bedrooms, private pool. Call 084-778 5652 for more information.

MODERN POOL VILLA



Stunning 3-bedroom pool villa, 5 mins from Laguna. 600sqm plot in peaceful location. Finished to a very high specification. Must see. Selling price: 12.9 million baht. Tel: 084-994 9303. Email: phuketpool villa.info@gmail.com

3-BEDROOM HOUSE IN CHALONG



Great location on a corner plot. Asking for 5.8 million baht. Tel: 080-519 9777. For further details, please see our website at <http://zarpazorealestate.com/catalog/index.php>

KHOK KLOY



8.5 rai, beautiful land, 1km to beach, 2km from Sarasin Bridge. 750,000 baht per rai. From owner. Tel: 083-388 8036.

CONDO FOR SALE PATONG

Soi San Sabai, seeking quick sale, listed at 8.5 million baht but will consider all offers due to relocation. Tel: 088-706 3436, +44-796-738 3720. Email: markcunningham@tfl.gov.uk

KATA HOUSE FOR SALE

Must see. 5 minutes to beach, large modern house with spacious living room, 3-bedroom with aircon, large bathrooms and storage, garage with laundry, sitting garden and large covered patios. Furnished with beds, TVs, sofas. Company name available for easy transfer. 5.4 million baht. Tel: 081-131 5751. Email: sea dog5000@yahoo.com

VILLA WITH BIG POOL & GARDEN

Red Palm Garden. Villa consisting off 3 independent apartments. Big pool and nice garden with huge trees surrounding it. Green area. Large covered parking garage under it with separate maid's quarter. Brand-new, great rental potential. Tel: 086-786 6350 (English), 084-441 9786 (English & Thai). Email: buurmanb@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.redpalmgarden.com

72SQM CONDO FOR SALE

Rawai, brand-new, modern spec, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, living room, pool. Price: 2.8 million baht. Tel: 084-744 3677.

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Freehold, all new & furnished. 1.4 million baht. Tel: 089-971 5664. Email: ronny2507@hotmail.com

4 BEDROOM LAGUNA PHUKET

5 minutes from Laguna in quiet tropical location, a quality pool villa on 1,000sqm land. 220sqm indoor living space, 50sqm pool terrace, 30sqm salt water pool, 6 bathrooms, 65sqm open style kitchen-living-dining area. Western kitchen etc. 9.9 million baht. Tel: 089-875 9609 (English), 087-418 5924 (Thai). Email: claude baltes@gmail.com

1 RAI LAND

Quiet area. Int school, golf courses and marinas all close by. 3.5 million baht ono. Email: jase.shanahan@virgin.net

30 RAI IN TOWN

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

NAI HARN LUXURY CONDO



2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 111sqm. From 4.5 million baht. Must see. For further details, please see our website at www.amphaiseabreeze.com Tel: 084-993 7308.

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4 rai of quiet, secluded land in Rawai/Nai Harn. 9 million baht per rai. Chanote title. Tel: 081-978 2025 (English). Email: tony01@fastmail.net

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20 rai, 9 million baht per rai with 125m beach front. Tel: 081-737 1678 (English & Thai). Email: supotpac@phuket.ksc.co.th

RAWAI 3-STORY HOUSE

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Fully developed, 1,250sqm, 40m above sea level, Chanote, additional available, construction permits. Private more information. Tel: 087-298 0200. Email: rwber ger00@hotmail.com Website: www.phuket-seaview-land.com

SEAVIEW LAND NAI HARN

-1,200sqm. Price: 12 million baht.
-1,200sqm. Price: 6.8 million baht. Tel: 088-167 3860.

STUDIO WITH FANTASTICSEAVIEW



in Patong. 50sqm with balcony and pool access. Sold freehold for 2.5 million baht. Tel: 080-519 9777. For further details, please see our website at <http://zarpazoreal estate.com/catalog/index.php>

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Beautiful, 58sqm 1-bedroom apartment. Western kitchen, spacious living room. Sai Yuan, Nai Harn. 50sqm roof garden with panoramic sea view, communal pool. 2.8 million baht. Payment plan possible. Tel: 084-855 7803. Email: shellycider@yahoo.com

2.5 MB PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

Beautiful 1 bedroom, 60sqm, furnished, freehold rental. 10,000 baht per month. Minimum 1 year. Shorter periods can discuss. Tel: 085-795 4741. Email: oleandaman@gmail.com

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NAI YANG BEACH HOUSE

3 bedrooms with furnished kitchen, cable TV, internet, ADSL. 5 mins to Nai Yang Beach and Phuket Airport. Long term rental 20,000 baht/month or sale 5 million baht. Tel: 076-241594, 089-652 1751 (English & Thai). Email: pietankam@yahoo.co.th

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PATONG 1 & 2 BEDROOM APTS

Nice 50 & 100sqm units. Free WiFi, maid, pool, close to town. From 22,000 baht/month. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English). Email: phvcondo@aol.com

VILLA WITH BIG POOL & GARDEN

Red Palm Garden, Villa consisting off 3 independent apartments. Big pool and nice garden with huge trees surrounding it. Green area. Large covered parking garage under it with separate maid's quarter. Brand new, great rental potential. Tel: 086-786 6350 (English), 084-441 9786 (English & Thai). Email: buurmanb@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.redpalmgarden.com

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2 storey house 3 bed, 3 bath near Panwa Bay. Tel: 081-892 4311. For further details, please see our website at http://panwagreen.weebly.com

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New houses, apartment for rent. 2-4 bedrooms, furnished, cable, WiFi, cleaning lady. All included 15,000-30,000 baht per month. Very quiet and safe. Tel: 083-645 3546.

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2-BEDROOM MAI KHAO VILLA

10 mins from airport, European standard, safe and charming garden. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-719 7015. Email: fievat@gmail.com

HOUSE IN PATONG



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

B.L. APARTMENT

New in Kathu. Big rooms, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, garden, and car park. Rent: 7,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-692 3163.

THAI VILLA AND POOL

Nai Harn, long term, mid-March. 40,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-270 5126. Email: mervyn.crocker@yahoo.com

LAW & REAL ESTATE

Villa and land for lease or sale in Phuket and Krabi. Contact Mr Rodriguez on 081-893 3212. Email: rodriguez.l@scplawassistance.com Villa 77/15 Moo. 6, T. Chalong, A. Muang, Phuket 83130

VILLA LONG TERM RENT



4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, maid's room with bathroom, 2 kitchen, fully furnished, swimming pool, WiFi, garden. Tel: 089-729 6244. Email: ninaphuket@hotmail.com

SEA VIEW MODERN STYLE VILLA

6 bedrooms, panoramic terrace, 17m sea-view swimming pool, Finnish sauna, sophisticated security system and much more. Available for rent for long term only at 160,000 baht/month inclusive of in-house maid service. Located just above Phunaka Golf Course in Chalong Hill. Tel: 081-892 7847 (English). Email: patrick@oceanic-global.com For further details, please see our website at www.oceanic-global.com/villa-neptune.php

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Highest room with lovely mountain view. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with study room including cleaning services 8 times per month. 24hr security guard. Covered parking for one car. Rent 36,000 Ubaht/month. Tel: 086-478 0339 (K. Sirinart).

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VASSANA RESIDENCE

3 exclusive-luxury apartments in Rawai. Each apartment comprises 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large European kitchen and living room, LCD TV, WiFi. Large balconies back and front with sweeping views over Rawai and Andaman Sea. Ground floor: swimming pool and a rooftop whirlpool, where you can relax and take in the sea and mountain views. Each apartment also has its own private whirlpool. Tel: 087-882 9604 (English). Email: artipmj@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.premierpropertiesphuket.com

BALINESE POOL VILLAS

Luxury boutique villas available for short or long-term rent. Swimming pool, two or three bedrooms. Rates from US\$89 per night. Tel: 076-384691, 087-264 9695. Email: enrico@easyhomephuket.com For further details, please see our website at: http://villasuksan.com/gallery.htm

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Rawai, quiet, includes WiFi, TV, aircon, fully furnished. From 9,000 baht. Tel: 086-279 0837.

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Fully furnished, ground floor apartment, 65sqm, for rent, central Patong, 1 month minimum. Available from April 20. Tel: 087-887 9070. Email: ianscondo@yahoo.com

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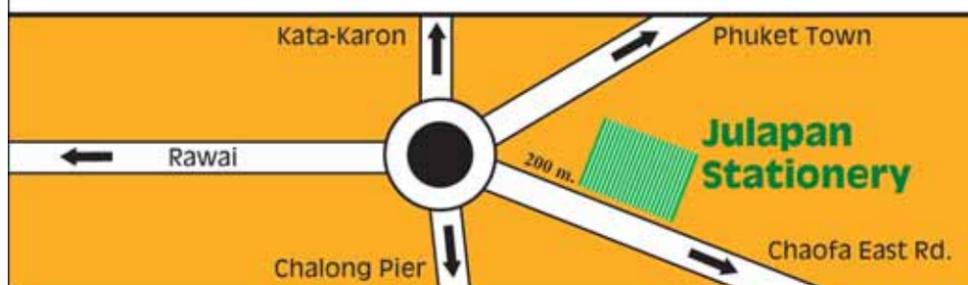
2-bed pool villa, available early April. 30,000 baht per month, 12-month contract. Fully furnished, Wifi, etc. Tel: 085-473 7718 (English & Thai). Email: andrew.gar@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.saisabaai villa.com

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If you are interested in this position, please submit your CV with covering letter in English to: chidchanok@limcharoen.com
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- Male/female, Thai national only
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- Good knowledge of computers (Windows or Macintosh)
- High responsibility and punctuality
- Able to work as a shift with team or independently

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- Salary, Social Security Insurance, Tax, Food, etc.
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Interested applicants apply at:
VS Asia Co., Ltd. (Human Resource Department)
42 Moo3, Palai2, Chalung, Muang, Phuket 83130
Tel. (00)66-76-380600 Fax. (00)66-76-380605
Email: info@vsdma.com

Phuket Gazette

As the result of a major expansion in its **Classified Advertising** business due to the launch of the newspaper's Nationwide Edition, the *Phuket Gazette* seeks to add a **Receptionist** to its existing team of five.

Qualified candidates will be:

- ▶ Thai nationals, aged at least 24
- ▶ Service-minded with an outgoing personality
- ▶ Able to work well with large numbers of advertisers, both foreign and Thai

and should have:

- ▶ A Bachelor's Degree from a recognizable university
- ▶ A good sense of organization and respect for details
- ▶ Knowledge of basic office software

Knowledge of InDesign, PageMaker or Quark Express would be a plus.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Khun Porntiwa, Assistant Manager-Classifieds, at Jeab@PhuketGazette.Net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd
79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew
A. Muang, Phuket 83000
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- Experience in property management an advantage.

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

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Good in English skills : SEO, SEM, SMO, Photoshop, Dreamweaver, HTML5, XHTML, CSS, Wordpress, Joomla, programming, PPC, social media and platforms. Tel: 076-620071. Email: boat@socialwithwoulfe.com For further details, please see our website at www.socialwithwoulfe.com

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English-speaking Thai nationals required for speedboat tours, weddings and events. Guide license an advantage. Tel: 076-383125, 081-956 9961 (English). Email: info@coralseekers.com

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to help with domestic chores & babysitting Mon-Sat. English speaking. References required. Salary 9,000 baht month. Near Wat Chalung. Tel: 088-826 1680. Email: jo.rowley@gmail.com

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An experienced Thai female bar person required for small bar in Soi Bel Air. Must have cashier and cocktail experience and speak English. 9,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-725 0771 (English). Email: meccalatte@hotmail.com

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Reception & housekeeping experience preferred. Spoken English and Thai. Tel: 085-159 7400 (English). Fax: +65-67-228667. Email: ds_humny@yahoo.com

TEACHER WANTED

For class of 3-year-olds, 12 students and assistant. Hours 8-4, native English speaker. Tel: 082-323 1188. Email: jsiporin@gmail.com

ACCOUNTANT

English speaker with good Quickbooks, Microsoft Office skills and references. Please email CV to info@techworx-projects.com

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English speaking, experienced, handyman, gardener and private driver with own small truck. Full time position to start immediately in the Boat Lagoon area. Excellent salary for someone who's enthusiastic and hardworking. Tel: 084-877 3566 (English). Email: sherin.peace@gmail.com

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Qualifications:

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

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

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

RUSSIAN STAFF NEEDED

Russian staff with good English needed for position of Guest Relations and wakeboarding instructor. Experience not required, free training provided. Tel: 082-329 3207 (Russian).

RUSSIAN MANAGER

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

STAFF WANTED

1 chef and 2 waiter staff wanted for restaurant bar in Karon. Good salary, bonus. All year round work. Must speak English, friendly personality required. Tel: 085-655 9008.

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Cybernok are looking for website programmers (preferably Joomla) with good English skills. Tel: 076-323218. Please send your CV to: info@cybernok.com

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Person or company that has experience in project management. Good salary for a person. A company can give a quotation. Tel: 081-968 5963. Email: cc@bayshoreprojects.com

MAID/BABYSITTER

Need Thai lady take care my son, 1 year 9 months old and clean house. Koh Kaew area. Live in. Tel: 080-690 6487.

MANAGER IN PATONG

Bali Hai Massage needs English-speaking Thai person to run day shift. Good command of English skills. Please contact for more information. Kathy: 086-745 7745 or Bahai: 084-441 7538.

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English speaker with good Microsoft Office skills and references. Please email CV to info@techworx-projects.com

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English speaker, must have experience and references. Please email CV to info@techworx-projects.com

MANAGEMENT STAFF WANTED

Young and adventurous management staff based at Surat Thani. All nationals and also couples welcome to apply. Send CV in English & photo to rainforestjob@gmail.com

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Phuket Gazette

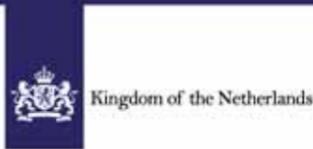
The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

Administration Assistant

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

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd
79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd, T. Koh Kaew
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Tel: 076-273555 Fax: 076-615240



The Consulate of the Kingdom of the Netherlands is looking for a personal assistant to the Honorary Consul.

- The qualifications are as follows:
- female
 - university degree (recent graduates considered)
 - Thai nationality
 - representative, independent, enthusiastic and discrete personality
 - good knowledge of English (speaking and writing)
 - computer experience (windows, Excel)
 - eager to learn
 - driving license preferred

Monthly salary around 15,000 - 20,000 baht, depending on work experience. No previous consular experience needed. The successful applicant will be trained on the job. A job description is available upon request.

If you are interested please send your resumé, including photo, to:
Consulate of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
14/18 Dara Hotel Chao-fa road, Vichit, Muang Phuket
Tel: 076-304 096-7
Email: dutchhpc@gmail.com



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You must be enthusiastic, have a positive attitude and possess above average communication skills. You will be expected to liaise with existing and new clients in person, on the telephone and through e-mail correspondence. You will enjoy a dynamic lifestyle with high earning and advancement capabilities. Basic Salary + commission + international travel expenses.
Thai nationality required.

► Administrator

Well organized candidate required. Basic office skills including computer database, good command of spoken and written English, good interpersonal skills, team player, service-minded and self motivated.
Thai nationality required.

► Accounting Officer

- Qualifications:-
- Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or related field
 - Min 2-3 years experience in Accounting
 - Have knowledge of Accounting, Taxation and Withholding tax, etc.
 - Computer knowledge in MS Office (Excel, Word), Email and Internet
 - Fair English skills, both spoken and written

Email your CV, with references to jenny@oceanwvp.com

Ocean Worldwide Company Limited
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Tel: +66 76 325 986 Fax: +66 76 325 988 www.oceanwvp.com

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- Qualifications:
- Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Economics, or any related field.
 - At least 5 years experience in project sales with strong connection with major specifiers, interior contractors, designers, builders, developers would be advantage.

If you are interested, please e-mail your resumé to
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- Bachelor degree
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- Good computer skills (word, excel, outlook)
- Good attitude, hard working, ability to work as part of a team.

Only those with a genuine interest in joining a professional travel company for long-term commitment need apply.

Interested parties are invited to send their CVs with a covering letter in English and a current photo to christophe@exotissimo.com

Applications will be treated in the strictest of confidence.

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Please send your curriculum vitae to:
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20,000+ per month. Must know Photoshop, Illustrator, CSS (3 years experience), Dreamweaver and have good command of English (Thai national only). Tel: 076-324184, 082-255 7507. Please send CV to om@imarketingonly.com

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Front Desk Supervisor at Khao Sok (16 bungalows). Seeking female Thai national, fluent English, computer skills, team attitude who enjoys a remote natural location. Starting salary from 13,000 baht, depending on experience. Tel: 081-417 0546. Email: ourjunglehouse1985@gmail.com

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Female, over 32 years, good English communication: speaking, reading, writing. Knowledge of employment law and company policy. Leadership, service minded, work under pressure and move on site. Tel: 076-527633, 087-881 0003. Email: hr@phuketvillasandhomes.com

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International Sport

Backed, sacked and cracked

By Dean Noble

ARSENE Wenger received the backing of Arsenal's chief executive Ivan Gazidis this week, coincidentally at the same time the manager collected Premiership Manager of the month award, much to his surprise.

The Gunners gained, or rather were given, all three points at Anfield last weekend as Liverpool could not find the back of the net, hitting the post twice and having a penalty brilliantly saved by Wojciech Szczesny.

The young Arsenal keeper, who was exceptional throughout the game, probably felt justice was done, after Luis Suarez went to ground when minimal contact was made.

In the dying moments of the game, with the scores level 1-1 through a Laurent Koscielny own goal and Robin van Persie heading home a superb curling cross from Bacary Sagna, it still looked as if only Liverpool would win.

It was van Persie who demonstrated yet again his world-class abilities to turn a match on his own, collecting Alex Song's through ball and beat Pepe Reina at his near post to the bewilderment of the Anfield faithful.

The victory puts Arsenal back into the all-important fourth spot, even more so now



GONE: Andre Villas-Boas (left) was sacked after losing 1-0 to West Brom Albion, but former assistant Roberto Di Matteo has been installed as caretaker manager. Photo: AFP/Ian Kingston

with their exit from the Champions League at the hands of AC Milan on Tuesday night.

Chelsea's abysmal form continued and they dropped to fifth with only three wins in their past 12 Premiership matches. The final straw for club owner Roman Abramovich

being the 1-0 away loss to West Bromwich.

Abramovich sacked manager Andre Villas-Boas immediately after the match. Roberto Di Matteo has been installed as caretaker manager until a replacement is found.

Media speculation is rife as to who will

take over the reins, from Jose Morinho, Rafael Benitz, Fabio Cappello to David Moyes and even Di Matteo himself being touted.

In the fourth round FA Cup replay, Chelsea beat Birmingham City 0-2. The Blues fans booed Benitz's name and Morinho's name was chanted. Their choice is clear.

Manchester City showed no signs of cracking under the pressure at the top of the table with a 2-0 victory over Bolton Wanderers. Roberto Mancini elected to rest David Silva and Sergio Aguero against the relegation-threatened Wanderers in preparation for the season's run-in. Wanderers are now adrift two points from safety and will look at QPR's visit as a "must win".

Tottenham's 1-3 scoreline might suggest they were poor, but they were far from it. However, defensive lapses allowed Manchester United to maintain the pressure on neighbours City.

Newcastle United dropped points in their search for fourth in an ill-tempered derby with Sunderland ending in a draw. Referee Mike Dean did well to issue only eight yellow cards and one red. However, he added to the total by dismissing Lee Cattermole after the final whistle for foul and abusive language.

Grand slam over for France

FRANCE prevented the Irish from securing a victory in Paris for the first time in 12 years with a 17-17 draw at the Stade de France in their rearranged fixture.

Tommy Bowe's two tries took Ireland into the break 6-17. The first, from an interception where the French paid the price for static passing, was easily converted by Jonathan Sexton in front of the posts. The second was a brilliant solo effort, where the Irish winger cleverly chipped France's defensive line and stormed downfield to touch down.

Again, Sexton converted.

The French set about reducing the Irish lead, with scrum half Morgan Parra kicking his third penalty.

Not to be outdone, French winger Wesley Fofana burst through the center and went over the line in the corner, while holding off Rob Kearney.

Parra failed to kick the difficult conversion from the touch line, but redeemed himself in the 58th minute with a penalty from



IT'S ALL OVER: French center Aurelien Rougerie vies with Rob Kearney during their rearranged match at the Stade de France. Photo: AFP/Franck Fife

near the halfway line to level the scores.

"Les Blues" continued to apply pressure, until Rob Kearney forced a turnover and drove forward to put Ireland in a try-scoring position. A schoolboy error by Rory Best at the resulting line-out, 10 meters from

the French try line, and the Irish lost a chance to go ahead against the run of play.

Replacement Lionel Beauxis made a mess of his drop goal attempt with less than nine minutes and Ireland held on.

- Phuket Gazette

PREMIER LEAGUE TABLE			
TEAM	P	GD	PTS
1 Man City	27	50	66
2 Man Utd	27	39	64
3 Tottenham	27	19	53
4 Arsenal	27	17	49
5 Chelsea	27	15	46
6 Newcastle	27	0	44
7 Liverpool	27	5	39
8 Fulham	27	1	36
9 Stoke	27	-11	36
10 West Brom	27	-1	35
11 Norwich	27	-6	35
12 Sunderland	27	4	34
13 Everton	27	-1	34
14 Swansea	27	-4	33
15 Aston Villa	27	-5	30
16 QPR	27	-18	22
17 Blackburn	27	-22	22
18 Wolves	27	-26	22
19 Bolton	27	-27	20
20 Wigan	27	-29	20

PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES	
SATURDAY, 10 MARCH 2012	
Chelsea	VS Stoke
22:00	
SATURDAY, 10 MARCH 2012 19:45	
Bolton	VS QPR
Aston Villa	VS Fulham
22:00	
Sunderland	VS Liverpool
Wolves	VS Blackburn
Everton	VS Tottenham
00:30	
SUNDAY, 11 MARCH 2012	
Man Utd	VS West Brom
21:00	
SUNDAY, 11 MARCH 2012 21:00	
Swansea	VS Man City
Norwich	VS Wigan
00:30	
MONDAY, 12 MARCH 2012	
Arsenal	VS Newcastle
02:00	
MONDAY, 12 MARCH 2012	
Liverpool	VS Everton
02:00	

SPORTS briefs...

NFL: It has been revealed that a "bounty scheme" paying up to US\$1,500 was run by former New Orleans Saints coach Gregg Williams, with opposition players targeted for "knock-outs" or "cart-offs".

Williams has apologized, saying the scheme was a mistake and knew it was "wrong while doing it".

The National Football League is to investigate teams where he was coach or defensive coordinator previously.

Players in the league have said the Saints were not the only ones with such a system.

FOOTBALL: The third round of Asia's World Cup qualifiers were completed with 10 teams progressing to the next stage in their quests to reach Brazil 2014.

Thailand had to beat Oman in their last game, after Australia had provided a lifeline by beating Saudi Arabia to qualify as group runners-up.

Unfortunately, ill-discipline crept into the game as Thailand looked to level a goal conceded early. Teeratep Winothai was sent off in the 66th minute for an ugly tackle. The Omanis scored a second goal in extra time to end Thailand's hopes.

AFL: The number of games missed by a player due to injuries has hit a record high, according to figures released this week.

An average of 157 games per club for 2011 were missed, predominately due to shoulder sprains and dislocations. A player's absences due to concussion, arm and hand fractures, calf strains and various forms of leg, ankle and foot injuries were also at historic highs.

Of major concern to the league is that the trend is increasing. The previous high of 153.8 games missed was during 2010.

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Nanai Boys moving up

By Neil Quail

EDEN FC broke their Phuket Super Six League duck with a win in the evening's first match against Aladdin at Headstart International School's Football Island on Wednesday.

In an even game, Aladdin took an early lead with goal, but Eden FC pressed back and were soon two goals ahead from strikes by Joseph Arimathea and Zac Remboldt.

Aladdin clawed back the advantage, and at 3-3 the game ignited. Against the run of play, however, Eden FC scored the final goal to claim their first victory of the season. Aladdin v Eden FC: 3 - 4.

Hampered by injuries, Rugantino were unable to withstand a deter-

mined Morning Star team in the second match on the schedule.

A balanced start soon gave way to a commanding Morning Star performance with scores from Pedro Carrera and Simon Smith. With no available substitutes, the Rugantino team capitulated as Morning Star pummeled their opposition's goal net a total of 14 times. James Saunders chipped in with five goals while Einar Bangstad proved his worth in the middle of the park for a slowly rising Morning Star. Morning Star v Ristorante Rugantino: 14 - 2.

Undoubtedly the most exciting affair of the evening was that of the youthfully exuberant encounter between Shakers FC and Pita Bar Phuketeters. Several yellow cards were shown in this tense

battle, but on the scoring front it was Shakers FC who took the lead with a Tom Davies goal. Phuketeters responded almost immediately from a goal by Yannik Christll to ensure level scores going into the break. In the second half, Shakers went ahead with a goal by Mikael Lundin and it looked as if this slender lead would be enough for a win. But the Phuketeters kept their heads and an equalizer by Carl Brain ensured a share of the points. Shakers FC v Pita Bar Phuketeters: 2 - 2.

Nanai Boys continued their climb up the table, with a well-deserved 5-2 win against The Lounge in the round's fourth match. A physical Lounge team initially deterred Nanai Boys, but skills overcame brawn to help put Nanai Boys up 3-0 with goals by Aniel Debie and Sam Aleksandrov. The Lounge replied with two goals of their own to offer a glimmer of hope which only gave Nanai Boys the impetus to grab two more for a memorable win. Nanai Boys v The Lounge: 5 - 2.

Babynoname were also aiming for their first win of the season in their match up with Phuket Serenity Villas (PSV) in the last game of the night. A thrilling first half saw PSV go ahead with two goals by Watcharapong Somsong, only to have their advantage canceled out by two quick Babynoname scores.



HIGH FLYERS: Nanai Boys put in another good performance in the PSSL.

From the start of the second-half, PSV pulled their game together and with three solid strikes confirmed their value at second place in the league. Babynoname v Phuket Serenity Villas: 3 - 5.

Next week sees the rivalry between The Lounge and league leaders Shakers FC play out. PSV will face the unbeaten Morning Star, while third spot Rugantino are up against Nanai Boys.

For more information visit PhuketFootball.com.



Edén FC and Aladdin in action.

Phuket Super Six League				
Pos	Team	P	GD	Pts
1	Shakers FC	4	18	10
2	Phuket Serenity Villas	4	9	9
3	Ristorante Rugantino	4	1	9
4	Morning Star	3	15	7
5	Nanai Boys	3	-1	6
6	Pita Bar Phuketeters	4	8	5
7	The Lounge	4	-5	3
8	Edén FC	4	-19	3
9	Aladdin	2	-5	0
10	Babynoname	4	-21	0

Phuket Soccer Six League standings after round four of matches.

Practice makes perfect... almost



SAILS SERVICE: Adam Tepper and crew on board *Linda* during race 2 of the Irish Times Series. Photo: James Allan

ONE of the shortest courses ever set was organized for the second race of the Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) Irish Times Race Series.

From the Ao Makham safe water mark and back, with two short loops around the Ban Nit safe water mark - the total course length was only nine nautical miles.

On Saturday, David Liddell from *Miss Saigon* spent several hours practicing his starts and it paid off. At the horn, *Miss Saigon* was the first across the start line, the only boat to complete the full course length and earn line honors as well. The rest of the fleet were shortened to a single loop with Mark Horwood's *Iruvai*'s course shortened even further. Peter Wood from *Windstar* was another to get a tremendous start, but it wasn't long until Adam Tepper on board *Linda* had picked up the pace and passed *Windstar*. Towards Ao Makham, *Linda*, trailing *Miss Saigon*, was pulling away from *Windstar*, but after rounding the mark, *Linda* didn't have

a spinnaker and was quickly passed by *Windstar* clearly identifiable by her colorful kite.

Disappointingly, *Windstar* finished the day in third place overall with *Miss Saigon* finishing second 12 minutes ahead on adjusted time. Bill Sax on *Astraeus* took the day's glory having the largest performance increase over last Sunday's race. Because of the new handicap system, an overall winner can be produced by combining both Multihull and Monohull results.

Despite the wind falling away towards the end, *Iruvai* managed to finish the race and even though Rob Azzopardi's crew failed to show up, he set out by himself. Although a little late to the start line, sailed the course single-handed.

Bill Sax has taken the initiative to organize another Koh Racha cruise/race in three weekends time on March 24-25.

For more information visit acyc-phuket.com.



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Sport

Laguna ends Village streak

My Neil Quail

FOLLOWING Laguna CC's recent loss, the Island Furniture League season was thrown wide open with the in-form Village Cricket Team holding all the cards going into the last round of matches.

The fourteenth match of this season saw an undefeated Village team up against Laguna at the ACG on Sunday with the latter still licking their wounds from their failure to secure a win against Island CC last month.

While the Village were looking to consolidate their position at the top of the table and guarantee a finals berth, Laguna knew that their season simply hinged on a victory.

In a powerful performance, Laguna posted a 200 plus run target and in response the Village could only post 62 with 9 wickets collapsing for just 21 runs.

Damp conditions from overnight rain encouraged the Village, after winning the toss, to put Laguna into bat which quickly paid dividends. Laguna's opening batsmen, Michael Ayling (1) and Bill Stahmer (3) were removed early on for a return of only 16 runs and the Village seemed to have the upper hand.

Andrew Cole (84 not out) and Sameer Khan (34) put on a match winning partnership of 84 runs (from 135 balls) until Khan was

bowled by Justin White in the 26th over with the score on 100.

With wickets in hand and a solid base, Laguna pushed the run rate along. Cole and Val Guiraud (15) put on a valuable 41 run partnership from 44 balls, before Guiraud fell in the 33rd over. His dismissal was followed by a 39 run partnership from 35 balls between Cole and Laguna captain Stuart Reading (18) until Reading fell in the 39th over with the score on 180. Cole finished with a flurry to take the score along to 202 runs with the loss of five wickets. Pick of the bowlers for the Village were Paul Stamp (2 for 23), Tom Gordon (2 for 31) and Justin White (1 for 32).

The Village opening bats took to the field with the intention of starting forcefully, but Laguna's pace attack of Sami Ullah and Guiraud kept the Village pinned down with quick accurate bowling. Martin Foster (2) was clean bowled by Guiraud in the 4th over with the score on seven. In the 6th over, Guiraud slipped during his delivery stride and twisted his ankle which appeared to give the Village respite from the onslaught.

Kevin Quilty (12) and Tim Ross (14) managed to steady the innings with a 34 run partnership before Ross was clean bowled by Khan and from this point the Village batting fell like weakened horses at the



FAST AND FURIOUS: Laguna's Val Guiraud launches another missile at the hapless Village batsmen.

Grand National's Beecher's Brook. Remarkably, nine wickets for went for only 21 runs with none of the batsmen reaching double figures and the Village's were awakened from the nightmare in the 22nd over all out for 62 runs.

Inspired bowling from Laguna's medium pacers Khan and Lijo Hose was supported by an impressive fielding performance with every

opportunity snatched up. Pick of bowlers for Laguna were Sameer Khan (4 for 13) and Lijo Hose (4 for 24).

Man of the match was Andrew Cole, with Sameer Khan taking second and Lijo Hose picking up third place.

Having picked up maximum points, Laguna advance to the top of the league table. All seven teams

have now played four matches and only four points separate the top four league positions. With two matches remaining, every win is crucial to keep their finals hopes alive.

On Sunday March 11, the Liquid Lounge Lizards take on the Phuket Leopards at the ACG.

The Phuket Gazette is the local media sponsor of the ACG

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Thanachart Bank driven all the way by Honda FC

By Neil Quail

ONLY one Premier Division match graced last week's Adult Futsal League's Thursday schedule at Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club (TSLC).

Honda came agonizingly close to producing a shock result against second placed Thanachart Bank, but clinical finishing in the latter part of the match ensured a spirited Honda performance was unrewarded. Honda v Thanachart Bank: 2-4.

The Division One matches were kicked off by Ultraman looking to keep the pressure on the league leaders TSLC with a positive result against SGS. A goal for

Ultraman in the first two minutes of the match got them off to a great start. But SGS gained a foothold and as a result more possession leading to increased confidence on the ball. With limited control on the game, Ultraman couldn't find a way through for another score and were eventually caught out by a well worked SGS goal with 10 minutes remaining in the game. Both teams then pushed for a winner, but came up short. Ultraman v SGS: 1-1

The Island Boys team were next on the pitch and faced leaders TSLC. Down on player numbers, Island Boys were unable to use substitutes and a goal scoring frenzy looked on the cards.

Despite their limited squad, the Island Boys showed great enthusiasm and determination on the field, working hard for each other affording TSLC only a narrow 2-1 lead at half-time.

It looked as if Island Boys had a chance at snatching point, but with five minutes remaining TSLC scored a third goal that seemed to dampen the Island Boys' spirits. Two more quick goals for TSLC and a late back heeled consolation score for the Island Boys brought an end to the proceedings. Island Boys v TSLC: 2-5.

For more information email Football@Thanyapura.co.th.



Thanachart Bank (above) faced a Honda side firing on all cylinders in the AFL.

Phuket's Fair Play League heads into finals weekend

THE 2012 Fair Play League (FPL) held its penultimate round of matches at British International School last week with both U14 and U11 Divisions in action.

All three games in the U14 section were played at the same time on three different pitches at the ground. Thailand put in a fine performance against league leaders France and romped to a 5-1 victory.

Germany Green reclaimed their place at the top of the table with a 7-2 win over a depleted Argentina team. Germany White pulled off a shock result by beating an in

form Brazil 7-5 to claim their first win of the season and in the process crush Brazil's chances of claiming the title.

Next Sunday's final matches see France and Germany Green face each other in a "winner takes all" match to determine the U14 Division champions.

The Under 11 division then took center stage with each team playing

two games during the afternoon. The first set of matches saw the top two teams, Brazil and Germany Green, battle it out for pole position in the championship. In a tight affair, both teams defended



Fair Play League U14 Division action.



YOUNG WAR ELEPHANTS: FPL's Thailand U11 team earned a deserved draw against France.

passionately. The teams eventually canceled each other out with the final score ending 0-0.

Argentina continued to show form with a fine 6-2 win over France and Thailand showed great spirit by coming back from 3-0 down to grab their first point of the season drawing 3-3 with Germany White. After a short interval, the second set of

matches got under way. Brazil grabbed what could be a league defining victory scoring in the final two minutes to get a 4-3 win over Germany White.

It proved to be a profitable day for Thailand as they secured another point in a 4-4 draw with France. Germany Green played a good game and clinical finishing

enabled them to claim a 4-0 victory over Argentina to stay on the tails of Brazil.

This ensures that the winners of the division will not be decided until the final day of the season.

For more information on the FPL contact bss@thanyapura.co.th.



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Golf Guru

RORY McIlroy has finally become the number one ranked golfer in the world, at the tender age of 22 years old.

Only Tiger Woods was younger to complete that task when he was six months younger than McIlroy.

Despite Hunter Mahan recently delaying the inevitable, last week's Honda classic gave McIlroy another chance to become the number one player in the world.

McIlroy's comes from Hollywood in County Down, Northern Ireland where he started to play golf at the age of two. At age 10 he won the Junior World Championship. McIlroy was ranked number one amateur in the world just before he turned pro at the age of 17. A steady

year in 2008 earned him a 36th place finish in the order of merit and then he won his first European tournament in 2009 and then won again in the US at Quail Hollow in 2010. In 2011, he won his first major, the US Open.

Back to the Honda Classic and McIlroy claimed the title with a four round total of 12 under par, two shots clear from Tiger Woods who finished with a blistering last round of 62. Lee Westwood finished with a 63 to place fourth. Hats off to Luke Donald for holding the world number one spot for 40 weeks, but European golf still has the world number one spot

Martin Platts Director The Golf Guru
martin@thegolfguru.com

Sport

PowerPlay golf hits Phuket

By Neil Quail

THE worldwide sport phenomenon of PowerPlay Golf has arrived in Thailand. A dynamic nine-hole format, with some twists, has been introduced to the golf-loving nation by exclusive rights and license holder Asian Golf Events Co Ltd.

PowerPlay Golf was first played in the UK in 2007 and by 2011 it had expanded to 30 countries and over 600 courses, taking the golf world by storm.

For golfers who love risk and reward, PowerPlay Golf is a short, exciting points-based format played over nine holes to two flags, with an easy white and a harder black 'PowerPlay' flag on each green. A PowerPlay to the black flag earns extra points if converted to a birdie or better, but PowerPlays are limited. On the final tee golfers have an optional extra PowerPlay, but risk penalty points if they bogey a last-hole PowerPlay.

Thai golf superstar Thongchai Jaidee is a PowerPlay Golfer, as well as international golf superstars Graeme McDowell (2010 US Open Champion); Paula Creamer (2010 US Women's Open Champion); plus Tour stars Ian Poulter and Paul Casey (both from England).

"PowerPlay Golf is a relatively new discipline and one that is rapidly growing in popularity around the world. We are very proud to bring it to Thailand and we are launching the PowerPlay Golf Thailand Tour 2012 which includes a series of four regional events and a national final," said David Pettigrew



FLYING THE FLAG: Thai professional Thongchai Jaidee is using his powers to promote PowerPlay Golf around his home country.

director of Asian Golf Events Co Ltd.

Entry is open to all amateurs who have an official handicap supported by a handicap certificate, and the top 10 from each regional event will go on to play in the Thailand Finals in Hua Hin on October 6 this year.

"The PowerPlay Golf Thailand Tour 2012 is a great opportunity for amateurs to compete in a nationwide tournament, using the thrilling format, where winners from each of the regional events will go to

compete in the national finals, which will take place in Hua Hin," added Pettigrew.

The winners of the Thailand Finals will then go on to represent Thailand in the PowerPlay Golf World Finals.

In addition to the PowerPlay Golf Thailand Tour, exclusive rights and license holder, Asian Golf Events Co Ltd, are working with golf courses around the country to develop the format, which will also soon be boosted by a series of high-profile TV events.

However, anyone wishing to enjoy this exciting format in action prior to the Regional June 17 start at Laguna Golf Club can register for this year's Phuket Oilfield Classic which will run a one-day PowerPlay Golf competition on April 5 the day before the main tournament begins.

For more information on Powerplay Golf Thailand Tour visit asiangolfevents.com or phuketoilfieldclassic.com

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TSLC nets ITF event

By Neil Quail

PHUKET'S international tennis scene received a massive boost following the announcement that Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club (TSLC) and the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) will host the Chang International Tennis Federation (ITF) Thailand Pro Circuit Women's event from March 17 to 31.

With a growing reputation as a top international sporting destination, this tournament is set to become one of the Region's key events using TSLC's world-class facilities.

Boasting six state-of-the-art covered and floodlit Plexicushion tennis courts the same surface used at the Australian Open – and stadium seating for more than 600 people, TSLC is ideally equipped to host a tournament of this caliber.

Thanyapura Group President Robert Hauck expressed delight at the news.

"We couldn't be happier following the decision to hold the event at TSLC. Thanyapura's vision has always been to create world-class facilities in paradise, believing that if we build it, they will come. Well, now the ITF has come, and I believe this is just the beginning of a relationship that will go from strength to strength," he said.

"In the future, given our facilities and the allure of Phuket, this could well become one of the biggest tournaments on the women's [ITF] calendar. It will have a great flow on the effects for Phuket as a whole in terms of visitors and sports tourism, and it will also give Thanyapura's Tennis Academy a great chance to groom its own

stars of the future and introduce them to the big stage. I also believe that Thanyapura has the potential to become a major training base for world-class players, given its climate, accessibility and lifestyle," he added.

The tournament will comprise a main draw of 32 ranked players, with another 32 selected through qualification rounds. Thailand's Noppawan Lertcheewakarn, who won the junior singles title at Wimbledon in 2009 and is currently ranked at 179 in the world will be competing. She is the only Thai to make the 32 main draw places. Varatchaya Wongteanchai ranked 215 will also be participating. She won second in the ITF Circuit doubles title in 2011.

Other players include world number 138 Erika Sema and world number 144 Kurumi Nara, both from Japan, as well as Peka Luca Jani from Hungary (155), Julia Cohen from the US (158), Claire Feuerstein of France (163), and Sarah Gronert of Germany (175).

This will be the second ITF tournament hosted at TSLC following the Chang ITF Thailand Pro Circuit 2011 men's tennis tournament held at the facility last October and November, to great acclaim.

A TAT spokesperson said the organization was proud to be supporting such a prestigious event as it was a key goal of the TAT to promote sports-related tourism, and this was a perfect vehicle to draw international attention to the destination and its impressive facilities.

For more information on this ITF event visit Thanyapura.com.



SMASHING: Thailand's Noppawan Lertcheewakarn will take to the courts of TSLC next week.

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