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Banking on crime

Bulgarian pair arrested for 'skimming' ATM in Karon

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GOVERNOR TELLS OFFICIALS BRIBES ARE NO EXCUSE FOR ENDANGERING LIVES

The walls come tumbling down

Governor vows to stamp out dangerous constructions and complicit, corrupt officials

By **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

PHUKET Governor Maitri Inthusut has vowed to set up a task force to inspect building sites on hill slopes across the island in order to prevent any further incidents like the wall collapse that endangered the lives of a mother and child this week.

Atchara Jutisen, 28, and her 3-month-old baby boy Attawat "Big" Chottantikul last Sunday escaped injury when a four-meter-high concrete retaining wall came crashing through the roof of their home, located at the bottom of a slope below The Senses Resort and Spa under construction on Soi Nanai 1 in Patong. Ms Atchara later described their escape as "miraculous".

After inspecting the site on Monday, Gov Maitri said, "I am ordering the officers involved to investigate this case in order to prevent similar incidents in the future. Not just here but across the entire province."

He also called on officials to instigate what he called "strict protective measures".

"Local authorities must be more careful before issuing building permits. In addition to scrutinizing building plans, the site must be surveyed to see if the ground is adequately compact and stable to support the weight of the structure," Gov Maitri said.



The house below the collapsed wall has already been demolished by workers who will build a new home paid for by the hotel owner. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

Continued on Page 3



Similans Park re-opens for high season

Full story on Page 4

Swedish 'killing' duo to be tried as separate cases

By **Atchaa Khamlo**

THE Phuket Provincial Court has ruled that it will hear the cases of Swedish nationals Johan Sebastian Ljung and Tommy Viktor Soderlund separately.

The pair both stand charged with the premeditated murder of Maksim Schantz, collaboration in robbery and carrying a knife and an unlicensed firearm with ammunition on August 2 last year.

The court made its ruling after Mr Ljung accepted the charges, but Mr Soderlund denied all the charges against him at their court hearing on November 2.

Two witnesses testified in the court hearing.

One witness testified that he was the man whose motorbike...

Continued on Page 3

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Yellow shirts move fast to block Red Shirt Village

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

A SMALL group of protesters turned out at Queen Sirikit Park in Phuket Town on Monday to burn images of key local red-shirt leaders in protest of an anticipated official opening of a Red Shirt Village in Phuket.

"Our protest was organized after we heard the news that the red shirts planned to announce the 'opening' of a Red Shirt Village in Phuket Town at 10am today [November 5]," said protest leader Krit Thepbumroong.

"The official opening was to be led by Prasong Boonpong, a former Minister of Labor and Social Welfare who is currently chief adviser of the Confederation of Red Shirt Villages for Democracy of Thailand," Mr Krit added.

The protest leader explained that the assembly at Queen Sirikit Park, a combination of members from Phuket Model Group and the *Kon Phuket* ("Phuket People") movement, began at 8am, with supporters ready to be deployed to other areas in Phuket if a Red Shirt Village was announced.



The small band of protesters burned images of local red shirt leaders to symbolize their desire to keep Red Shirt Villages off of Phuket.

However, Mr Krit admitted, "We have yet to hear the exact location it will happen."

The protest at Queen Sirikit Park, in the heart of Phuket Town, followed *Kon Phuket* members assembling at Saphan Hin on November 3 to burn caskets and mock posters announcing the establishment of Red Shirt Villages in Phuket.

Asked about the grave actions

of burning coffins and the treading on and setting alight posters of people's faces, Mr Krit said, "The burning of the images is to symbolize that we don't want any Red Shirt Villages anywhere in Phuket."

The Red Shirt Village program has had limited success in Southern Thailand, including Phuket, which is openly considered the heartland of Democrat supporters.

18 hurt as tour bus overturns

A TOUR bus carrying Australian and American tourists from Krabi to Phuket overturned and slammed into a wall of a house in Phang Nga on November 4.

Seven of the 18 tourists on the bus were taken to hospital. The rest were administered first aid by rescue workers and then taken to their hotel in Patong.

Officers at the Phang Nga Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation office on Monday confirmed that all seven tourists had suffered minor injuries only and had already been released from hospital.

The 35-year-old driver, Prayuth Phutubtim, told police that he hit a large pothole not far from Wat Loh Yoong in Takua Thung.

The pothole punctured one of



Seven tourists were transferred to hospital. Photo: B Kung Somsak

the back-left tyres, causing Mr Prayuth to lose control. The bus then flipped onto its side and crashed into the wall of a house.

"We will continue our investigation into the crash," said Khok Kloy Police Superintendent Somchai Tanprasert.

- Kritsada Mueanhawong

Bulgarian ATM hackers arrested

POLICE arrested two Bulgarian men who were caught removing a "skimming device" from an ATM in Karon on November 4.

Tourist Police moved in and arrested Tervel Kaloyanov Dimitrov, 31, and Ancho Stankov, 33, at about 8pm while they were removing the panel from a Kasikornbank (KBank) ATM machine on Patak Road.

The men used a "skimmer" to scan information from legitimate cards being inserted into the machine and a fake keypad to record the PIN numbers being entered by customers, Tourist Police Capt Somdej Saraban explained at a press conference this morning.

"They had planned to sell the information they had collected to 'agents' located in various tourism destinations both here in Thailand, such as in Pattaya, as well as overseas," he explained.

Tourist Police put the Karon



Ancho Stankov (seated, left) and Tervel Dimitrov were arrested while removing a 'skimmer' from the Karon Beach KBank ATM.

ATM under surveillance after a KBank employee, doing a routine cash delivery to top up ATMs with banknotes, reported the machine as "suspicious".

"The bank worker reported that the insert slot for the ATM card and the keypad both looked odd, as if covered by an ATM scanning device," said Capt Somdej.

While police were watching the

machine, three foreigners arrived and started to remove the front panel and skimming devices from the ATM.

Officers moved in to make the arrests, but one man who was with the two suspects evaded capture, Capt Somdej explained.

"Officers searched the holiday bungalow the men had rented and discovered more skimming equipment," he added.

Mr Dimitrov and Mr Stankov were taken to Chalong Police Station, where they are now being held, and charged with possession of electronic equipment with the intent to produce fake electronic cards, and with entering Thailand illegally. The third man is still at large.

KBank has issued a statement calling for all its customers who suspect that their card details have been hacked to contact the bank immediately at 02-888 8888.

- Kritsada Mueanhawong

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Imposter nets B1.5mn in 'donations'



REAL DEAL: Chaowaroj Jangjob, 44.

POLICE on Monday arrested Chaowaroj Jangjob, 44, after he was caught soliciting 8,500 baht from a "victim" who was asked to pay for a dinner supposedly hosted by Phuket Police chief Choti Chavaviwat.

Maj Gen Choti heard about the scam and quickly ordered a sting operation be set up near Phun Phol Plaza in Phuket Town, where the arrest was made.

Provincial Police chief investigator Wanchai Palawan said that Mr Chaowaroj had confessed to impersonating a police officer on at least 41 previous occasions, including a Region 8 Deputy Commissioner.

"He said that over the years he had received about 1.5 million baht in 'donations', but that he spent all the money on gambling," said Col Wanchai.

"He also promised to repay all his victims," he added.

- Kritsada Mueanhawong

Governor targets hillside buildings in crackdown

From page 1

"The wall [that collapsed] was built on sandy soil, meaning that the adhesive force between the structure and the ground was too weak to maintain integrity," he explained.

"The authority to construct a building or other structure should be issued according to the law. If an officer considers that the construction does not meet those standards, they should not sign the building permit," he added.

Gov Maitri was clear that corruption should not play any part in issuing such permits.

"Government officers in every department need to have 'clean hands'. Do not take bribes or engage in corruption because if problems occur later, it can plainly affect other residents," he warned.

After inspecting the damage to the homes in Soi Nanai 1, Governor Maitri said that those responsible for the hotel had already cleared the area and were preparing to build new houses for those residents the wall collapse had displaced.

Regarding government financial assistance, the Governor said, "As the incident was not a natural disaster and did not affect a wide area, it cannot be classified as a



The view from the resort in Patong showing the collapsed wall which fell onto houses below.

'disaster zone'. Therefore, compensation would be limited to those in dire need, and even then it would not reach to the full amount payable for a natural disaster."

Following the harrowing incident last Sunday, Ms Atchara and young Attawat were taken to Patong Hospital for treatment of minor injuries.

"My baby and I were in the house, when I heard a very loud noise - like thunder - crashing

onto our roof," Ms Atchara told police at the hospital.

"I was very frightened. I ran as fast as I could to get to my baby and protect him before the roof fell on us.

"I have a cut on my head, but it is such a miracle that my baby is safe. He only cried because the loud noise scared him," she said.

Col Pratuang said his officers were now looking into why the four-meter wall collapsed.

"Police will contact the hotel owner to ensure responsibility for the damage [to the houses] is recognized. At this stage, the damage is estimated to be about 300,000 baht," Col Pratuang said.

"We will also contact the relevant departments to ask that they investigate construction being done at the site," he added.

Additional reporting by Thawit Bilabdullar

Court to try Swedish 'killing' duo separately

From page 1

was hijacked by the two men while they were making their getaway.

The man told the judge that he was out on his motorbike searching for his rabbit, which had disappeared from his house, next to the Lantern Villa project in Koh Kaew, where Mr Schantz was killed. While bent over searching for the rabbit, Mr Soderlund kicked him and knocked the motorbike over, he told the court.

Mr Soderlund then grabbed the bike and took off with Mr Ljung riding pillion. Despite having seen Mr Soderlund carrying a gun and Mr Ljung carrying a knife, the witness said he attempted to chase down the duo.

The witness said that he was able to identify both men because of the light provided by the motorbike's headlight.

The second witness also lived near the Lantern Villa project. The witness explained to the court that he heard something break and went outside to investigate.

Outside, he was confronted by Mr Soderlund and Mr Ljung. He asked who they were, but jumped out of their way when one of them looked to be pulling "something" from a bag, he said.

He confirmed to the court that there had been a scuffle between the men and the first witness.

Court dates to continue the trials of Mr Soderlund and Mr Ljung have yet to be set.

- Atchaa Khamlo

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Patong Hill repairs on hold until March

PHUKET Highways Office Director Samak Luedwonghad has revealed that the much-anticipated 22-million-baht permanent repairs to Patong Hill road may not begin until March.

The section of road, just west of the Chinese shrine at the top of the hill, first collapsed during heavy rains last October, then again in early May with the advent of this year's monsoon season.

On September 27, the same site suffered another landslide, with the dislodged earth tumbling into a rubber plantation below.

No injuries were reported in any of the landslides.

The Phuket Highways Office spent 3mn baht making temporary repairs to the damaged section of road, shoring up the bank of earth that supports the road and resurfacing the tarmac.

However, with the tourism high-season fast approaching, the outside westbound lane remains closed, restricting traffic flow heading from Patong to Phuket Town to just one lane.

"Even though project has been approved by Cabinet, there are still procedural processes to complete. At this stage, I believe the budget will be given to us by March next year," Mr Samak said.

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Mystery unravels over lethal speedboat crash

By Irfan Jamdukor

POLICE in Phang Nga province are investigating a boat collision that resulted in the death of one woman and in at least five other Chinese tourists being admitted to hospital in Phuket.

Kang Xiaoxue, 24, was rushed to Phuket International Hospital along with "many others" who sustained injuries in a heavy collision between two speedboats off Koh Khai island in Phang Nga Bay on October 31.

Ms Kang was pronounced dead at Phuket International Hospital at about 9am on November 1 after succumbing to her injuries.

She was one of several tourists who suffered serious injuries in the accident, which occurred at about 2pm.

Col Attapol Khamanuwong of Koh Yao District Police in Phang Nga explained to the *Gazette* that the Chinese tour group left Phuket to visit Phi Phi Island on a local tour boat.



Kang Xiaoxue, 24, died from injuries sustained in the accident.

On the way to Phi Phi, they stopped at Koh Khai, where most of the tourists went to enjoy the beach, but five tourists boarded a smaller speedboat to enjoy some sightseeing around the island, he said.

"The speedboat was being driven by its captain, and Ms Kang was standing on the front of the speedboat enjoying herself," Col Attapol explained.

"The small speedboat was returning the five tourists to the tour boat when it struck another, larger speedboat that had the captain but no passengers on board.

"The captain of the big speedboat noticed that the small speedboat was approaching too quickly.

He even started wondering why the speedboat was not changing direction," he added.

"Zhou Rui, 31, had her middle finger on her left hand severed in the accident. Yang Xiaoning, Xue Xingyu and Ren Lin were in shock," Col Attapol said.

The day after the accident, staff at Phuket International Hospital also reported a Zhang Liang, 30, was admitted for injuries related to the same incident.

However, Col Attapol on Monday said that the four tourists that he had been notified of being admitted to hospital had been discharged and returned to China the preceding day.

Col Attapol categorically denied



The safety of speedboats on Phang Nga Bay has become a focal point of the police investigation into the deadly accident. Photo: Gazette file

reports that one of the five tourists on board was driving the small speedboat at the time of the accident.

"The rumor that one of tourists was driving the boat is not true. The truth is that the captain could not reduce the boat's speed [in order to avoid the collision], but we need to continue our investigation further to determine

why this was the case," he said.

At the time of going to press, investigators had yet to inspect the speedboat, Col Attapol said.

"The captain [of the small speedboat] has confessed to police that he was operating the boat at the time of the accident. He has been charged with negligence causing death," Col Attapol confirmed.

Similan Islands open for high season, park fees remain the same



Grab your snorkeling gear, the Similan National Park is open. Photo: Rhurtubia

THE Similan National Park officially re-opened on November 1 with its park fees remaining unchanged as Phuket's tourism high season approaches.

Admissions fees were expected to take a sharp jump after Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) chief Damrong Phidet, now retired, announced in September the need to increase the price of fees to raise money to carry out improvement to national park facilities.

However, newly appointed DNP chief Rerngchai Prayoonwet cancelled his predecessor's plan, leaving park fees unchanged.

Mr Damrong had laid out a plan to increase the fees at 29 national parks, raising the price for a Thai adult from 40 to 100 baht; a Thai child from 20 to 50 baht; a

foreign adult from 400 to 500 baht; and a foreign child from 200 to 300 baht.

The price hike caused some concern for tour operators, especially dive companies operating in the world-renowned Similan National Park.

One official at the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry said Mr Rerngchai's decision would hurt plans to upgrade facilities at national parks, reported *The Nation*.

"The increase in admission fees, after all, had been applied to big national parks only," the official said.

However, Mr Rerngchai said that keeping entry fees at their current rates would attract more visitors to the parks and reduce the risk of vendors in the surrounding areas from losing business.

- Isaac Stone Simonelli

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Robber advises banks on security

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

PHUKET'S "Minute Man" Anusit Kaewmookda re-enacted both of his armed bank robberies, which he confessed to, in front of police this week after they tracked him down and arrested him late afternoon on November 3.

A reported 2.7 million baht was stolen in Anusit Kaewmookda's latest Kasikornbank (KBank) branch heist, and about 650,000 was stolen in the January 29 robbery of a KBank branch at the Tesco Lotus Chao Fa shopping complex in Wichit.

At the press conference, held the morning following his arrest, Mr Anusit explained that he targeted the Kbank branches because there were no security guards on duty.

"I would like to advise every bank to have their own security guard stationed at every branch," Mr Anusit said.

"I would also like to advise bank owners and bank employees that anytime your bank is robbed or you are in a 'robbery situation', you should just run away. If you run away, the

robber will not get the money and I believe that a bank robber has no intention of killing anyone," he said.

Mr Anusit also dispelled the widespread speculation that an "inside man" had played a role in the heist. "I committed the robbery completely alone," he said.

He explained to the press that he had scouted out the KBank branch before committing the robbery, and had even made a withdrawal at the branch.

"I noticed that if a counter didn't have enough money to cover a withdrawal, then the teller would go to counter number one, which is how I knew which counter to rob," he explained.

The gun Mr Anusit used during the robbery was one he found about five years ago, when he was helping a friend move during the floods in Bangkok, he told police.

Most of the 649,000 baht Mr Anusit got away with in the January heist was used to cover outstanding gambling debts and the costs of a "big" motorcycle, Mr Anusit said.

"The rest I squandered," he



I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A WITHDRAWAL: Confessed two-time bank robber Anusit Kaewmookda re-enacts robbing one of the KBank branches at gunpoint. Inset: Anusit points the way. Photos: Kritsada Mueanhawong

told police.

"I robbed the second KBank branch because I needed 20,000 baht to cover my gambling debts," he said.

The gambling debts were ac-

rued through illegal lottery purchases and gambling on football, he added.

Royal Thai Police Advisor Gen Rachata Yensuang thanked all the officers in Phuket who assisted

in catching Mr Anusit.

"And thanks to everyone who gave us information that eventually led to the man's arrest," Gen Rachata added.


Phuket Police chief Maj Gen Choti Chavaviwat said that the reward money – 100,000 baht provided by the Phuket Police and 100,000 provided by KBank – would be divided among those who had made a significant contribution to the capture of Mr Anusit.

"We have the names and contact information of every member of the public who made a positive contribution," said Gen Choti.

"Anyone thinking about committing a crime in Phuket, be aware that it will not be easy to get away with it.

"We have capable police officers, Phuket residents and a strong network that is always prepared to take immediate action against perpetrators, he said.

"Anusit has been charged with armed robbery of the bank, illegally carrying a firearm, and using a vehicle to escape the scene of the crime," he added.




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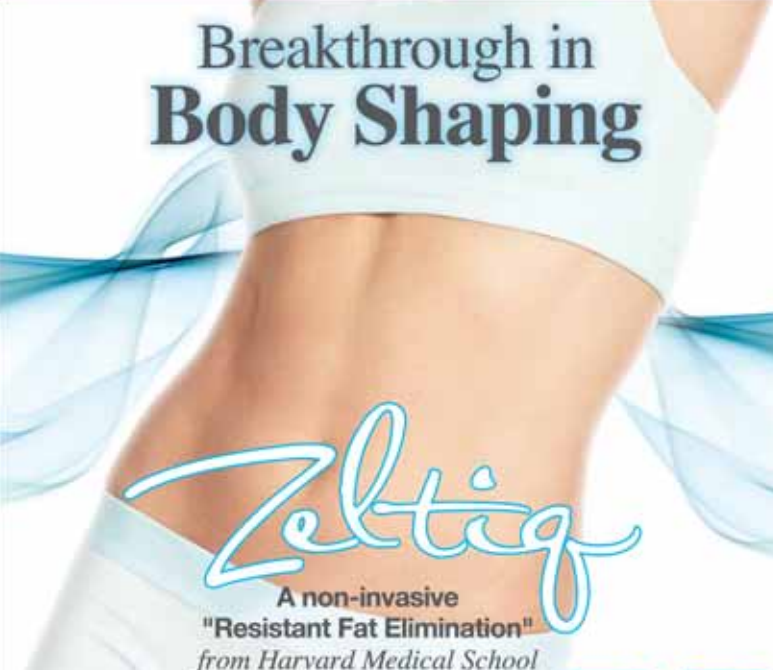
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Man, grandson drown at Mai Khao Beach



The grandfather had an injured knee, making it difficult to keep up with the young boy, said Capt Santi. Photo: Thawit Bilabdullar

A MAN and his 2-and-a-half-year-old grandson drowned at Mai Khao Beach in Thalang while taking a morning walk along the beach on November 1.

Sem Meesak, 57, dropped his wife off at work at a nearby resort at about 9am, then took his grandson, Anachin Meesak, to Pru Jeh San Lake for a walk, Tah Chat Chai Police duty officer Santi Prakobpran told the *Phuket Gazette*.

"The lake is very close to the surf, and the boy ran off to play in the sea. Mr Sem could not keep up because he had an injured knee and the boy was swept away by the surf," Capt Santi said.

"Mr Sem tried to grab the boy, but he too was overpowered by the strong waves," he explained.

The bodies were taken to Thalang Hospital, where doctors pronounced the cause of death as drowning, Capt Santi added.

— *Orawin Narabal*

Islanders appeal to Governor over 'Rape of Racha' inaction

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

THE head of a group of residents on Racha Yai Island, located about 25 kilometers south of Phuket, has filed a complaint over alleged inaction by government officials in following up on publicly announced promises to take necessary steps in preserving the island's natural environment.

The complaint, addressed to Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut, was filed by Racha Yai villager Sarit Chandi on October 30.

Received by Prapan Kanprasang, chief of the Damrongtham Center (Ombudsman's Office) at Phuket Provincial Hall, the complaint alleges that no action has been taken against resort owners for damaging the environment on Koh Racha, a popular day-trip destination for snorkelers and scuba divers.

The complaint filed by Mr Sarit follows government officers – at a meeting in May headed by Phuket Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa – promising to take action against businesses operators on Koh Racha found to be damaging the environment.

Included in the latest complaint filed, however, was the allegation that one resort owner on Koh Racha Yai was clearing land and dumping loosened earth into the sea.

"Last week, Koh Racha Yai residents saw the workers at one resort clear a site and dump it into the sea. This can greatly affect the coral reefs and marine life in the area. We would like the authorities to urgently deal with this problem," said Mr Sarit.

"Koh Racha Yai has abundant natural resources and fascinating scenery. It is a great destinations



Prapan Kanprasang (inset, center), chief of the Damrongtham Center (Ombudsman's Office), receives the complaint that no action has been taken against resort owners for damaging the environment at the popular day-trip destination island Koh Racha Yai (above). Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

for swimming, snorkeling, fishing and diving. Recently, however, one resort owner cut down many trees. We have to do our best to protect the island's beauty and we have filed complaints to local authorities several times, but we have been ignored," he said.

"We would like the governor to assign officers from Rawai Municipality and other relevant organizations to inspect the area and stop the ongoing dumping of earth into the sea and bring charges against those who are breaking the law," Mr Sarit said.

Mr Prapan accepted the letter of complaint.

"I will report the problem to the governor and discuss the matter with other relevant authorities, and I hope the problem is resolved as soon as possible," Mr Prapan said.

Market vendors protest relocation from proposed Chalong hospital site

ABOUT 50 market vendors gathered at the Phuket Provincial Office on November 2 to protest being relocated to a new market site near Phuket Country Home in Chalong.

The vendors are facing eviction from their current site of 10-rai where the Chalong Clinic (also called the "Chalong Health Promoting Station") now stands, but is hoped to soon become home to the new Chalong Hospital.

Chamcham Patarn, a vice president of the Kaset Market vendor group, said, "We don't want to move to the new site because the area near Phuket Country Home is deadly quiet and the streets have big, deep holes in them.

"Some people have told me they will not go there to shop. They will go to Tesco or other supermarkets nearby, instead," he added.

Mr Chamcham urged officials to allow the market vendors to



Protesters said that moving the market would have a dire impact on their livelihoods. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

continue selling their wares at the current 10-rai site.

"Chalong Hospital has been allocated 10 rai, but our market occupies only two rai. Why can't the hospital take eight rai and let the market stay where it is now?" he asked.

The formal petition, addressed to Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut, noted that the market currently comprises about 74

registered shop stalls providing livelihoods for more than 200 vendors. "About 600 people in Chalong, Karon, Rawai and places nearby visit the market each day," the letter said.

As Governor Maitri was unavailable to receive the petition in person, representatives accepted it on his behalf.

In July, Chalong Mayor Samran Jindapol handed a formal letter of complaint to Public Health Minister Withthaya Buranasiri for the ministry's failure to provide 186 million baht in funding for the establishment of the new hospital.

The financial package, provisionally agreed to by the Cabinet at the mobile meeting on Phuket in March, was to turn the Chalong Clinic into a fully-functioning, 30-bed hospital, complete with ER facilities and medical staff accommodation.

— *Atchaa Khamlo*

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QUEER news

Masturbating old monk ends career

A MONK was disrobed after 20 years as a clergyman after he was caught red-handed masturbating in the lobby of an apartment building in Phang Nga.

On October 30, police received a report that a monk was creating a scene, revealing his penis and shouting indecently in the lobby of Sunimit Mansion.

Police rushed to the scene, but when they arrived the monk was gone. They eventually found 70-year-old Phra Chalath Yanthibo at a nearby intersection and took him back to the apartment for questioning.

At Sunimit Mansion, receptionist Rachani Anusilanon, 55, insisted that Phra Chalath had behaved as she had said. When she showed officers footage from the CCTV camera, they realized she was telling the truth – and promptly arrested the monk.

Phra Chalath said he had travelled from Nakhon Sri Thammarat Province and was on his way to Phuket, but had got off the bus at the wrong stop.

He told police he had gone into the apartment complex to ask for 200 baht to complete his journey.

He went into the bathroom. When he came out, he pulled out his penis and started masturbating.

Mrs Rachani told him to stop, but the monk ignored her and started shouting obscenities.

Police established that Phra Chalath had been a monk for 20 years. It took several officers to force a distressed Phra Chalath to take his monk's robes off.

– *Manager Online*

Authorities seize two resorts in Krabi as land probe intensifies

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

TWO beachfront resorts on Koh Si Boya, an island just off Krabi Town were raided and seized last week for allegedly encroaching on a protected forest area.

The Krabi raids come after 366 officials were named to carry out a huge investigation into every plot of privately owned land along the border of Sirinath Marine National Park in Phuket last month.

The first resort to be seized, by about 30 officers in Krabi on November 1, was the Kohjum Resort, a 15-unit bungalow property covering 5 rai 3 ngarn 4 talang wah (9,216 sqm), including the pool and walkways.

"There was only a worker present at the resort, who named himself as the resort manager. He said the owner was in Bangkok," said Krabi Forest Resource Management Director Amnart Soikiaw, who led the raid.

"We posted a 'seized' sign to



The first resort to be seized in Krabi was the Kohjum Resort, a 15-unit bungalow property covering about 5 rai. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

ensure that the owner presents to us the land ownership document for the site," he added.

The second holiday venue seized was the Tingrai Bay Resort, which comprises 14 bungalow

units, built on 4 rai 3 ngarn and 80 talang wah (7,920 sqm).

Both resorts are suspected of encroaching on Pah Koh Phu National Forest, explained Mr Amnart.

Three other plots were also seized in the raids.

"We seized five plots covering more than 20 rai with a value of at least 100 million baht," Mr Amnart said, adding that his office believes more than 100 rai of the protected forest area is being encroached on.

"The team walked along the beach another kilometer. There were 10 more bungalows and two luxury homes built on the foothills in the area, covering about 10 rai," he explained.

"We will continue our investigations and seize any public land that is being encroached on. We will give the owners the opportunity to present their land ownership documents.

"If they do not have proper evidence proving true ownership of the land, they will be charged under Section 25 of the National Forest Act. Then all buildings on the land in question must be pulled down," Mr Amnart warned.

All trick and no treat for Halloween kratom party

POLICE arrested a Phuket hotel staff member with five kilograms of kratom leaves, allegedly being prepared for a "kratom party" on the island.

On the eve of Halloween, Thanit Praditnipol, 21, was picked up by a sortie of officers led by Muang Chief Administrative Officer Thammarong Chuayaksorn.

Mr Thanit had stepped off a bus arriving from Trang province at Phuket's new inter-provincial bus station, Terminal 2.

"My team and I were on patrol that night, and we spotted Mr Thanit acting suspicious as soon

as he got off the bus," said Mr Thammarong.

"He confessed to us that he was working at a hotel in Phuket, and that his friends wanted to hold a 'kratom party' at the hotel.

"Mr Thanit said he volunteered to go back to his home in Phang Nga to buy the leaves for the party," he explained.

Mr Thanit was handed over to the Phuket City Police for further questioning, Mr Thammarong added.

Despite kratom trees being native to Southeast Asia, their leaves have been designated a controlled



The 21-year-old (seated) was arrested with 5 kilograms of kratom leaves, allegedly procured for a 'kratom party'. Photos: Kritsada Mueanhawong

substance, in the same category as cannabis, since promulgation of the Kratom Act in 1943.

Recent raids by police officers have left many local kratom trees



stumped and ashed, leading to several arrests of individuals smuggling the substance onto the island.

– *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

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Depressed Brit dies after jump from radio mast

A FINANCIALLY destitute 64-year-old British national took a plunge from a radio mast at the Phuket Tourist Police Station in Phuket Town on November 2.

Tourist Police Sgt Maj Phayong Tipsombat, who was on duty at the station, told the *Gazette* that about 7:15am he heard shouting from the back of the police station and went to investigate. On discovering someone climbing the radio mast, he contacted the Kusoldham rescue foundation and relevant departments, requesting an air-cushion.

"We were trying to convince the man to climb back down, but 10 minutes later he jumped off the radio tower to his death," he explained.

Sgt Maj Phayong said that Kenneth Caldwell had been picked up from a Patong hotel on October 29 after failing to pay rent amounting to over 10,000 baht. He was being held at the police station while the British Honorary Consul Martin Carpenter liaised



Police and medical staff at Phuket Tourist Police Headquarters after Mr Caldwell plunged to his death from a mast. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

with the UK Embassy to arrange his flight home.

"At 5am this morning, Mr Caldwell asked for a glass of water then went back to his accommodation at the back of the station. We had no idea that anything was out of the ordinary," said Sgt Maj Phayong.

Tourist Police Division 5 Super-

intendent Yotsavee Pornperaparn told the *Gazette*, "Since we picked him up we've taken good care of him. We provided accommodation, food and contacted relevant departments to help him fly back home – he wanted to go home."

Mr Caldwell's body was transferred to Vachira Phuket Hospital.

– *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

FM Surapong urges ICC red-shirt probe

AROUND THE nation

FOREIGN Minister Surapong Tovichakchaikul has met with International Criminal Court (ICC) officials to discuss accepting an ICC investigation into the deaths of some 90 people during the "red-shirt" protests in 2010.

If Thailand were to accept ICC jurisdiction over the case, it could result in the prosecution of Abhisit Vejjajiva, who was premier when the killings took place, if the deaths of the civilians is deemed to have been a "crime against humanity".

Last month it emerged that Mr Surapong, a close ally and relative of former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, backed the ICC investigation.

"It is time for Thailand to accept the ad hoc jurisdiction of the ICC in order to allow the truth to come out," he said.

Thailand has signed the Rome Statute, which established the ICC, but not ratified it. However, Article 12(3) would allow the country to accept the court's jurisdiction on a particular case.

Last month, at a red-shirt rally to commemorate the anniversary of the coup that ousted Mr Thaksin in 2006, international lawyer Robert Amsterdam, who lodged the case at the court, claimed the application was



Foreign Minister Surapong wants to get the ball rolling in ICC case against Abhisit Vejjajiva Photo: The Nation

"being treated very seriously".

"[Mr Abhisit] says he is ready to face justice in Thailand, because he knows that he will never face justice in Thailand. I am telling Mr Abhisit... he will face justice," said Mr Amsterdam, who is retained by Mr Thaksin.

But the case will face fierce resistance by the political opposition, who argue that allowing the

ICC to investigate would breach Thai sovereignty.

Nevertheless, Mr Abhisit's Democrat Party has also attempted to use the ICC to attack the government.

In August, the party called on victims of Mr Thaksin's so-called "war on drugs" campaign to file a class-action lawsuit against the fugitive former premier at the ICC.

Former foreign minister Kasit Piromya travelled to the Netherlands to file the complaint.

After Mr Thaksin was ousted in September 2006, the junta that took power ordered an investigation into the war on drugs.

The probe concluded that as many as 1,400 of the 2,500 people killed in the "war on drugs" had no link to narcotics.



MIXED WIRES: Suspect told police that 'many things' led to his murder of his mum. Photo: The Nation

Boy kills mum in 'Net rage' attack

A 14-YEAR-OLD stabbed his mother to death and injured his older sister after they scolded him for staying up surfing the internet till late.

Police said "Boy" (not his real name), a Matthayom 3 student in Bangkok's Saphan Sung District, lost his temper after his mother, 50, told him to go to bed on the evening of October 31.

He apparently became so angry that he stabbed his mother in the back and later attacked his 29-year-old sister.

Police said the suspect looked at them blankly when asked about the incident, saying "many things" had driven him to commit the crime.

The youngster's father, who lived in a rented house nearby, said his daughter called him and he rushed over to find Boy standing outside with the knife in his hand.

The father said he had warned his wife and daughter to not berate Boy too much because he displayed signs of suppressed anger.

When Boy was younger, he showed signs of being a "special needs" child, but appeared to have changed after undergoing treatment, the father said.

Deep South violence rumbles on

KILLINGS continued in the Deep South this week after a car bomb killed three and injured 16 in Narathiwat.

The same day, suspected insurgents shot two brothers dead in the same province as well as a former Kamnan (subdistrict chief) in Pattani.

The bomb attack, which used a 50kg explosive device, took place around 6pm on Saturday evening in Rusoh district, *The Nation* reported.

Arwae Suleng, 50, father of Anna, 25, a victim of the car-bombing who was being treated in an intensive care unit, said he had already lost a three-year-old granddaughter in a separate bombing incident and that the father of the girl was seriously injured.

Earlier that day, in Pattani Province, Asi Hama, 63, was driving a bike with his wife riding pillion in Ban Duwa Ville when two gunmen on another bike shot at them.

Mr Asi was hit three times in



Car bombings continue to kill in the restive Deep South. Photo: The Nation

the head and pronounced dead at the hospital. His wife was slightly injured after falling off the motorcycle.

The day before, the govern-

ment announced the arrest of seven insurgents, four of which were wanted in connection with an attack in Sai Buri in Pattani in September that killed six people.



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In brief...

New pope says Egypt's constitution must be inclusive

THE new Coptic Orthodox pope said on Monday that a constitution being drafted by Egypt's politicians must be inclusive and the church would oppose any text that only addressed one part of the Muslim-majority nation.

Pope Tawadros II was picked on Sunday in a ceremony steeped in the traditions of a church that predates Islam's arrival in Egypt.

The 60-year-old pope, the 118th to lead a church that traces its origins back to the early era of Christianity, has taken the helm when many Christians who make up about a tenth of the nation's 83 million people are alarmed by the rise of Islamists.

"The beauty of Egyptian society is the presence of Muslims beside Christians. Diversity is strong and beautiful," the pope said.

Chinese Premier Wen faces wealth probe

CHINA'S ruling Communist Party has launched an internal inquiry into allegations made by *The New York Times* that the family of Premier Wen Jiabao accumulated at least US\$2.7 billion in "hidden riches", the *South China Morning Post* said on Monday.

Wen himself asked for the inquiry in a letter to the Politburo Standing Committee in an apparent move to clear his name.

The *South China Morning Post* cited some analysts as saying that Wen's request for a probe showed the premier was keen to use it as a chance to push forward a long-stalled "sunshine law", which would require a public declaration of family assets by senior leaders.

Sudan security forces seize daily newspaper

SUDANESE security forces confiscated the edition of one of the country's oldest daily newspapers on Monday without giving a reason, its editor said, as authorities extended a media crackdown.

Sudanese journalists complain of frequent restrictions on press freedom, even though censorship was officially abolished in the Arab-African country in 2009.

Big win: Obama over Mitt

PRESIDENT Barack Obama won a second term in the White House on Tuesday night (US time), overcoming deep doubts among voters about his handling of the US economy to score a clear victory over Republican challenger Mitt Romney.

Americans chose to stick with a divided government in Washington, however, by leaving the US Congress as it is, with Obama's fellow Democrats controlling the Senate and Republicans keeping the House of Representatives.

After a long, bitter and expensive campaign – costing both parties a combined US\$2 billion – the 51-year-old Obama began trying to bring Americans together in a victory speech before thousands of cheering supporters in Chicago. Accused by Romney throughout the campaign of taking a partisan tone, Obama vowed to reach out to Republicans in his new, four-year term.

"You voted for action, not politics as usual," Obama said, calling for compromise and pledging to work with leaders of both parties to reduce the deficit, to reform the tax code and immigration laws, and to cut dependence on foreign oil.

The nationwide popular vote remained extremely close with Obama taking about 50% to 49% for Romney after a campaign in



US President Barack Obama gestures with Vice President Joe Biden after his election night victory speech in Chicago. Photo: Reuters

which the candidates and their party allies spent a combined US\$2 billion. But Obama comfortably won the electoral votes needed in the state-by-state system used to choose US presidents.

Romney, the multimillionaire former private equity executive, came back from a series of campaign stumbles to make it close after besting the president in the

first of three presidential debates.

The 65-year-old former Massachusetts governor conceded in a gracious speech delivered to disappointed supporters at the Boston convention center.

"This is a time of great challenge for our nation," Romney told the crowd. "I pray that the president will be successful in guiding our nation."

Car bomb kills at least 50 Syrian security men

AN ISLAMIST suicide car bomber killed at least 50 Syrian security men in Hama province on Monday, an opposition group said, in what would be one of the bloodiest single attacks on President Bashar al-Assad's forces in the 20-month-old uprising.

Another day of relentless violence in Syria coincided with more unity talks in Qatar among opposition factions.

Syrian state media reported that a "terrorist" suicide bomber had targeted a rural development center in Sahl al-Ghab in Hama province, putting the death toll at two.

Rami Abdelrahman, head of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said the center was used by security forces and pro-Assad militia as a base in the area.

"A fighter from the Nusra Front



A crowd gathers in front of a building and car damaged after a bomb explosion in the Mezzeh 86 area in Damascus. Photo: Reuters

drove his car to the center and then blew himself up," he said. "A series of explosions followed. At least 50 were killed."

The Nusra Front, an al Qaeda-

inspired group of ultra-orthodox Salafi Muslims, has claimed responsibility for several suicide bombings in Damascus and elsewhere in the past.

– Reuters

New York price gouging probe after Sandy

NEW YORK State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman on Monday launched an investigation into post-storm price gouging after consumers flooded his office with complaints about jacked-up prices for everything from gasoline to hotel rooms.

Schneiderman's announcement came as AAA, the national auto club which tracks gas price trends, said prices in some storm-stricken zones have risen as much as 15 cents [almost 5 baht] a gallon in the week since Sandy struck, even as the national gas



People line up at a NY gas station on Manhattan Island. Photo: Reuters

price keeps falling.

The attorney general said his office has received hundreds of complaints from consumers in

Syrian officials often blame foreign-backed Islamic militants for the anti-Assad revolt, in which about 32,000 people have been killed since it began in March 2011.

In Damascus, a car bomb exploded in the mostly Alawi sect western district of Mezzeh 86. The blast killed 11 people and wounded dozens more, the *Syrian Observatory* reported.

An Islamic group calling itself Seif al-Sham claimed responsibility for the attack.

Warplanes, tanks and artillery battered rebel-held parts of southern Damascus in what one Western diplomat said was an escalation in the government campaign to crush the insurgency. Opposition activists said at least 10 people were killed there.

– Reuters

areas of the state hit hardest by Sandy; New York City, the Hudson Valley and Long Island.

Sandy, one of the largest storms ever to strike the mainland, made landfall with hurricane-force winds, wreaking havoc along a stretch of coastline from southern New Jersey to New York's Long Island and along the Connecticut shoreline of the Long Island Sound.

At least 113 people have died from storm-related causes in the United States and Canada.

– Reuters



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Phuket FC economics 101

2012 DIVISION I SEASON TURNOUT & TURNOVER					
Team	Turnout	Gate Receipts	Merchandising	Incentive	Turnover
Suphanburi FC	93,408	4,968,460	1,848,624	3,000,000	9,910,492
Nakhon Ratchasima FC	113,798	6,528,520	3,150,679		9,792,997
Ratchaburi	54,087	3,038,630	1,579,460	5,000,000	9,672,177
Krabi FC	54,606	3,382,179	888,310	100,000	4,425,095
Songkhla FC	30,368	1,725,680	1,153,034		2,909,082
Bangkok Utd	22,270	1,117,510	709,628	1,000,000	2,849,408
Pattalung	31,492	2,257,065	531,311		2,819,868
Sri Racha	20,053	1,587,611	442,000	500,000	2,549,664
PTT Rayong	38,699	1,050,344	1,097,825	300,000	2,486,868
Khon Kaen	31,345	1,920,740	351,086		2,303,171
Phuket	40,331	1,544,498	454,893		2,039,722
Saraburi	24,099	1,327,540	406,650		1,758,289
Airforce Utd	14,819	1,001,450	719,218		1,735,487
Royal Navy	19,447	1,011,128	380,825	50,000	1,461,400
Bangkok FC	23,988	795,250	314,262		1,133,500
Chanthaburi	13,620	419,260	108,138		541,018
Rajpracha	9,900	174,780	74,000		258,680

BREAKING IT DOWN: Despite drawing the fifth highest turnover in the league, Phuket FC's performance in ticket and merchandise revenue was closer to midtable.

THAI YAMAHA I RANKING					
Team	League	Turnout	Ticketing	Merchandising	Turnover
Ratchaburi Mittrphol FC	1	4	4	3	3
Suphanburi FC	2	2	2	2	1
Bangkok Utd	3	12	11	8	6
Sri Racha Suzuki FC	4	13	8	11	8
PTT Rayong	5	6	12	5	9
Krabi FC	6	3	3	6	4
Royal Navy	7	14	13	13	14
Nakhon Ratchasima FC	8	1	1	1	2
Airforce Utd	9	15	14	7	13
Bangkok FC	10	11	15	15	15
Khon Kaen FC	11	8	6	14	10
Gulf Saraburi FC	12	10	10	12	12
Phuket FC	13	5	9	10	11
Songkhla FC	14	9	7	4	5
Pattalung FC	15	7	5	9	7
Rajpracha FC	16	18	18	17	17
JW Rangsit FC	17	17	17	18	18
Chanthaburi FC	18	16	16	16	16

This graph compares how the 18 clubs in the TY1 league fared in five categories in 2012.

By Steven Layne

DESPITE having drawn the fifth highest spectator turnout in Thailand's 18-club first division — as reported in *Phuket Gazette's* business pages last week — Phuket FC finished closer to mid-table in terms of revenue turnover for the 2012 season.

The Thai Premier League Co Ltd recently disclosed the ticketing and merchandising accounts of the 36 teams that competed in the Kingdom's two national-level leagues this year. These included 18 teams in the elite Sponsor Thai Premier League and 18 teams in the Kingdom's first division, branded in 2012 as the Thai Yamaha 1 league (TY1).

Phuket FC, competing in its second season in the lower tiered national league, not only had a 51% year on year (y-o-y) drop in spectator turnout, but it also yielded y-o-y drops in revenue from ticketing and merchandising by 18.9% and 52.6%, respectively.

Overall turnover of the club, not taking into account revenue from sponsorship and advertisement deals, which has yet to be disclosed, dropped by 30.8% y-o-y. Namely, gate receipts from 17 home matches this season amounted to 1,544,498 baht in revenue, averaging out to 90,852.8 baht per match.

This is compared to last season when gate receipts churned out 1,905,230 baht, or about 112,072 baht per match.

The highest turnover from gate receipts was earned by Nakhon Ratchasima FC. Playing in its first season in TY1, the club generated a total of 6,528,520 baht from ticketing, an average of 384,030.5 baht per match (bt/m).

This was followed by Suphanburi (4,968,460bt or 292,262bt/m), Krabi FC (3,382,179bt or 198,951.7bt/m), Ratchaburi Mittrphol FC (3,038,630bt or 178,742.9bt/m), Pattalung FC (2,257,065bt or 132,768bt/m), Khon Kaen FC (1,920,740bt or 112,984.7bt/m), Songkhla FC (1,725,680bt or 101,510.5bt/m) Sri Racha Suzuki FC (1,587,611bt or 93,388.8bt/m).

For full list, see table to left

SHOW YOUR COLORS

Similar to its decline in fan turnout, Phuket FC's revenue from merchandising also slumped by more than 50% y-o-y.

All in, this year it generated 454,893 baht from the sale of team souvenirs, which include polo shirts, t-shirts, official team kits, hats, key chains, scarves, player stickers and bumper stickers.

This is compared to last year, when the club made 960,244 baht from such sales.

The drooping sales in this category this year put Phuket in 10th place, compared to 8th last year.

Topping the league in merchandising

this year was Nakhon Ratchasima FC, who generated 3,150,679 baht in this category.

This was followed by Suphanburi FC (1,848,624bt), Ratchaburi Mittrphol FC (1,579,460bt), Songkhla FC (1,153,034bt), PTT Rayong (1,097,825bt), Krabi FC (888,310bt), Airforce United (719,218bt), Bangkok United (709,628bt) and Pattalung FC (531,311bt).

Phuket did out-sell the following clubs: Sri Racha Suzuki FC (442,000bt), Gulf Saraburi (406,650bt), Royal Navy (380,825bt), Khon Kaen FC (351,086bt), Bangkok FC (314,262bt), Chanthaburi FC (108,138bt), Rajpracha FC (74,000bt) and JW Rangsit (66,155bt).

Phuket FC, which is managed by the Kata Group, is expected to invest between 30 to 50 million baht in its campaign next season, with an aim of finishing in the top 3 spots and thus get promoted to the elite Thai league.

TY1 RUNDOWN

As reported last week, the TY1 league's overall turnout dropped by 27.3% y-o-y.

Revenue generated from ticket sales in the TY1 2012 season was 34,016,100 baht, down 6.75% from last year when match-day gate receipts yielded 36,481,968 baht in revenue.

However, the league's average ticket price rose by 28.3% to 52.5 baht per ticket, up from 40.9 baht previously.

For comparison, a recent study by BBC Sport surveying 166 British football clubs found that the cheapest match-day ticket there was about 295 baht (Montrose: six pounds sterling), with the most expensive being 6,203 baht (Arsenal: £126).

In other words, the average TY1 league ticket still costs less than 1% (0.84%) of a ticket to an Arsenal game.

Nonetheless, a 28% y-o-y increase indicates the rising value, and thus lucrativeness of local football.

Though the proportion of spending on tickets has risen, that for merchandise has fallen. All in, merchandise sales for all 18 teams in the TY1 generated 14,276,098bt, down 42.2% from last season when merchandise spending in the league yielded 24,734,528bt in revenue.

This year's average merchandise spending per ticket ratio (total merchandise revenue divided by total tickets sold) was 22.06 baht per ticket.

This is down 25% from last year when an average of 27.78bt was spent on merchandise for each ticket sold.

Turnover for the TY1 league overall — from ticketing and merchandising — was 48,292,198bt, down 21% from last year which saw 61,216,496bt in revenue.

'Must have' sports broadcast law

THE broadcasting committee of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) gave initial approval last week to public hearing results backing the "Must Have" draft regulations, which would make it mandatory for holders of broadcasting rights to seven major sports programs to air these events on free terrestrial TV channels, in addition to their own platforms.

The seven programs, which are subject to indefinite restriction, if or when the regulation is enacted, are the Southeast Asian Games, Asean

Para Games, Asian Games, Asian Para Games, Olympic Games, Paralympic Games, and the FIFA World Cup Final.

RS Pcl, which secured rights to broadcast the 2014 FIFA World Cup Brazil on its SunBox set-top boxes, may seek to discuss the issue with the committee as the company obtained the rights before the draft regulations were approved.

"RS still has time to adjust its business model... as the World Cup will not begin until 2014," said Broadcasting committee chairman Natee Sukonrat

Last week, RS lodged a note of appeal to the NBTC to oppose the regulation. RS Chief Executive Officer Pornpan Techarungchaikul said in a company statement recently that the coming rules should not include a group like RS, that already held rights to broadcast the FIFA World Cup 2014.

The broadcasting committee will convene to make a final approval of the draft next Monday and submit it for the NBTC board to consider on November 14 before its regulations are published in the Royal Gazette. — *The Nation*

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THAI ropes in Swedes, Danes

PHUKET bound tourists in Northern Europe have one more option to get to the 'Pearl of the Andaman', with the recent launch of direct flight service from Stockholm to Phuket by Thai Airways (TG).



A SWEDE DEAL: Gov Maitree (in blue) and Prasert Tanhasa pose with tourists.

A host of officials and representatives from the national carrier and Phuket Airport welcomed the 343 passengers on the inaugural flight TG963, which touched down on the island at about 1:20pm on November 2.

Presiding over the welcome party were Phuket Governor Maitree Intusut, Monthira Cherdchoon, chief of the customs office at Phuket Inter-

national Airport and Prasert Tanhasa, manager of the Thai Airways district sales office in Phuket.

Mr Prasert outlined details about the new flight services:

"For the convenience of European tourists coming to Phuket during the tourism high season [from traditional markets], which started this month and will last through to March, the new flights will depart from Stockholm, twice a week on Thursdays and Saturdays at 8:45pm, arriving to Phuket at 1:20pm on Friday and Sunday, respectively.

"The flights are to be served by a Boeing 747, which features 14 Business Class seats and 50 Premium Economic class seats, with the remaining 325 seats for standard Economy class.

Mr Prasert clarified that the new service is available from now (as of November 2) through to the end of March, 2013. As for service after that, he remarked: "We'll have to see then how well the operation has been received by tourists.

"We had good reception for the inaugural flight since we reached our goal, which was to have at least 70% capacity."

With 389 seats available, the inaugural passenger load of 343 passengers represented 88% capacity.

Mr Prasert also took the opportunity to mention another recent direct Phuket flight from Northern Europe that TG recently relaunched.

"At the end of October, we [re]launched the direct flight from Copenhagen [TG953], which flies twice a week, arriving to Phuket on Saturdays and Mondays. Feedback for this route has been good so far. In any case, we'll have to continuously monitor the economic crises and other relevant factors," he said.

Back to the future

Phuket's premier distributor of organic produce says business volume has doubled thanks to reviving demand for 'good food'

INTERNATIONAL tourism and subsequent migration to the island is continually rising – not only in terms of quantity, but quality as well. More and more visitors and expats are seeking out healthy food, and as Thailand strives to stave off its tarnished reputation for the overuse of chemicals and pesticides in agriculture, the organic food business is particularly thriving.

Despite nasty weather this year having serious implications on Thailand's fresh-market supply chains, the island's premier supplier and distributor of organic produce is bullish going into high season.

Managing Director of Pura Organic Foods Ltd, Martin Smetsers told the *Gazette*: "My business volume roughly doubled compared to last year, and I am optimistic for this [growth] to continue."

Consumers are increasingly realizing the 'organic difference', not only in terms of health and environment, but in taste as well.

"What we call organic food today is what our grandparents simply called food," he noted, pointing to a sign on his shop's wall portraying this exact message, "Organic food tastes better, and your body will know this instantly."

Martin explained that when chemical companies started introducing pesticides and hormones to agriculture back in the 1950s and 1960s, farmers were obviously impressed about their increased yields. More crops and larger produce induced from all those chemicals meant more profits.

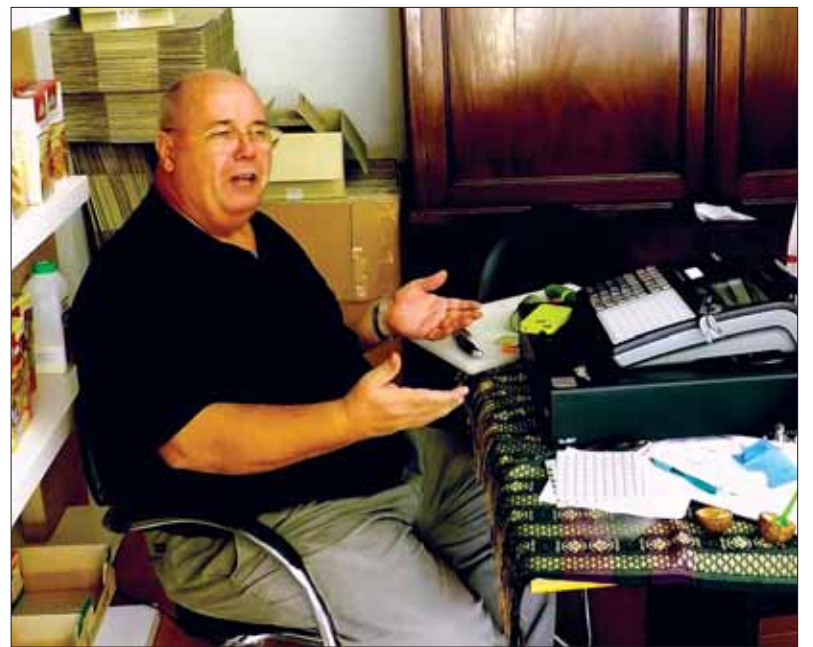
Unfortunately, throughout the decades this practice became the norm all around the world, and Thailand is no exception.

"Initially there was no research to measure and realize how bad the trade-off is, but today this is starting to change. Thanks to a worldwide, health-conscious movement, and commendable support from the Thai government, there are more domestic suppliers of organic and chemical-free produce available today."

Martin notices an ever increasing number of Thai people visiting his shop, which pleases him considerably.

Increased availability means increased competitiveness, he notes. "Unfortunately, economics is still a major consideration for many consumers who want to go organic but are deterred by higher prices. One of Pura's strategies is to make organics more accessible for a wider audience by offering produce at competitive prices."

One misconception he addressed is the notion that organic food is more expensive



FAVOR FOR FLAVOR: Martin Smetsers continues to expand his organic and health product business due to rising demand. Photo: Steven Layne.

to produce. This is not necessarily true when you consider other, indirect factors.

"Many non-organic crops are only able to continue to be competitive because of government subsidies. This means that consumers are indirectly paying extra for these crops through their taxes.

"Organics on the other hand, often don't get these subsidies, but you pay more for them up front, directly."

In terms of production costs, Martin noted that organic production on average returns 20% less yield.

"We also try to make potential buyers of our organic produce

prices competitive, but also to ensure the utmost freshness and quality.

"I know most of my suppliers by face and have personally visited their farms and received copies of their organic certifications."

Moving on to marketing trends and strategies, Martin said that there is a growing popularity of organics in the high-end hospitality sector.

Pura Organic currently supplies about 70% of the upper-end hotels in Phuket with their organic produce, up from about 40% last year, Martin notes.

Having diversified its product range, nowadays Pura also sells organic washing liquids, both for the body and for general cleaning purposes.

"Whatever you put on your skin ends up going through your liver in a couple of hours too... Being careful there seems to make sense."

Pura has recently started to sell several non-organic products like Glutenfree and Superfoods, including Chia Seeds, Macca Powders, Goji Berries and Raw Cacao, among others.

Moreover, Pura now offers a range of healthy snacks made in Phuket, including a wide assortment of organic juices and yogurts that do not contain any artificial colors, preservatives or bad sugars.

In order to provide more convenience to consumers and businesses in ordering items, which are all sold on a retail basis, Pura Organic has launched its on-line shop and delivery service.

Martin added that for the hospitality industry, he will offer a 20% discount on all fresh produce displayed.

Pura Organic Foods is located just north of Thalang center on highway 402 between the entrance to Thanyapura and the Shell gasoline station, the can be reached by telephone 076 313 363 or by email to martin@puraorganic.org



The sign reads: 'Try organic food... or as your grandparents called it, food.'

aware that going organic is not just about replacing chemical food with organic food on a kilo for kilo basis... the change is more.

"For instance, our Wild Arugula, also known as Ruccola or Rocket, is so much more tasty and peppery [than a non-organic variety], hence it is often not required to use as much to achieve the result sought by a chef. Thus, it is also not fair to compare prices on a kilo for kilo basis."

As for supply sourcing, Martin says that getting the 'right' products from all over Thailand is what keeps him the most busy:

"With my international contacts, I could import any kind of organic produce you could think of, year round. But, I prefer to source my fresh foods only from Thailand – not only to keep the

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PROPERTY Gazette

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Villas with a sea view in Naithon

VISTA del Mar Villas will be located on a 1,700 square meter plot on a hill overlooking Naithon beach. The 20 ocean-view villas come in five different designs and range from 420 square meters to 700 sqm.

The villas were inspired by the work of American architect, Frank Lloyd Wright, who's designs were in harmony with humanity and the environment, a philosophy he termed 'organic architecture'.

Vista del Mar's villas come with a completely open layout to encourage a natural breeze and reduce the need for air conditioners.

Tropical gardens will surround the two-floor villas. The roofs have been designed to make it easy to install solar panels if so desired. The multi-tone ceramic roof helps the exterior blend in with its natural surroundings.

Each villa will have a private

infinity pool, fully equipped hi-end kitchen, zoned air conditioning, home theater, broadband internet and satellite TV.

Direct access from the garage to all living areas, master suite and swimming pool allows for wheelchair accessibility.

The self-contained guest suites will be surrounded by lush tropical greenery, with their own *en suite* bathrooms and kitchenettes.

The developer intends to use an Innovative Computer Aided Space Allocation (iCASA) technique to ensure a lot of natural light and air are used to give the villas a feeling of expanse.

Luxury imported brands such as: Grohe, Villeroy & Boch, Siemens and Sony are used throughout the villas. The inside of the villas are built with hardwood floors, granite and marble



SEAVIEW: Exterior of a completed villa. All villas are expected to be completed by the end of 2014.



View from the master bedroom looking out past the infinity pool to the Andaman Sea.

worktops. Natural stone, concrete, wood and sand have been chosen outside for their durability and easy maintenance.

Vista del Mar's general contractor, Design & Build Phuket, have been active in Phuket construction for 20 years and offer over 50 years of combined experience in international project management.

All villas are expected to be completed by the end of 2014. At the moment, one villa has been completed and two more are

under construction.

The villas payment plan is linked to how much of the villa has been completed. The first 20% is a down payment so that work can commence and another 20% is paid once the structural work on the lower floor has been completed, 20% cent upon completion to structural work on the main floor, 20% on completion of the roof/exterior finish and block work for interior walls and a final 10 per cent on completion.

Vista del Mar Beach Club,

located on Naithon Beach, is already in use and stays open all year round. Facilities include: bar/restaurant, sun loungers and umbrellas, use of towels and massage services. The beach club has been designed "bamboo style" to help it blend into the surrounding area.

For information on Vista del Mar, visit: vistadelmarphuket.com

- Phuket Gazette

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Location, location, location

Property Watch
By Bill Barnett

READING the above headline you would have to believe that either I somehow suffered a momentary nervous breakdown, or else those three drinks before dinner were triple shots.

Does the truth lay at the bottom of a glass, obscured from sight by the swirling ghost of a melting ice cube? Probably not.

There isn't much poetic license in real estate. Yet sideways down on Main Street on juxtaposition Avenue, are our three buddies, all named location, side by side.

You have to love those little property buzz terms – my personal favorite is ABC – “Always Be Closing”. It gets straight to the point in broad daylight. Nowhere to hide, no side-stepping failure. Close the deal or else get out of town.

Here in Phuket, when you measure the success and failure

of those projects which stood out from the crowd – it's not easy to separate them. It's as complicated as those color-coded recycle bins.

Personally it's all Greek to me, blue, gray or other shades of confusion. As I approach the recycle bin with my used plastic coffee cup, I look for clues. Dazed, my mind turns to sticking my head inside the bins just to see which one is which. In the end, I just make a split second decision and hope for the best.

I almost sound like an overwhelmed property buyer here.

Backing up my metaphorical trash truck to the dumpster of business life, that beeping sound drives me insane as the monster machine rolls over a sleeping cat. Cats don't buy real estate so let's just keep on moving.

Our friend ‘the great scorer in the sky’ keeps tally (or coming into the festive season it could be Santa) on who's naughty or nice. But we tend to look at winners or losers, deals that make money or bleed money.



WHERE'S YOUR WHEELIE BIN? It can be difficult to know just where to throw your plastic cup. Photo: Wesley Fryer

So what made the difference between successful and unsuccessful transactions? Of course there's a laundry list: views, ocean frontage, design, proximity to popular places, be they shopping, schools, golf courses or marinas.

Wait, according to their brochures, every single one is minutes away from everything and whether you stare at the sea, glimpse it, or just spot an occasional seagull, the water remains a magical divining rod.

Or is it hotel management; guaranteed returns; lifestyle and the lure of bag-stuffing return yields? And of course ‘luxury’, be it understated, uber or ultra – those strange symbiotic twins, affordable luxury or just the cheap kind. Our celebrity mindset still loves

named brand architects or interior designers that more often than not lead me to the Google monster.

In this day and age of MBAs and Harvard Business School, not often does the verbiage turn to luck. Let's leave that to Las Vegas or Macau or even the lottery. Luck defies men in well-dressed suits and targeted up business plans. Nor does it appear in those numbered out secrets of real estate success.

It's a bit like the American Dream. Roll up your sleeves, work hard and you too can succeed like a scrappy junkyard dog. Keep handing out those business cards. Network till you drop. The world is your oyster.

Still, I was speaking to a sage developer the other day, and his simple advice went like this. “Buy

spectacular land, or spectacular homes... Don't muddle in the mundane.” Mind you more than a few ice cubes had melted down so the whiskey was straight.

But how does this translate to someone shelling out 2 million baht for a shoe-box condo? It doesn't.

Beep! the dumptruck is in reverse again and about to roll down the hill out of control. My three amigos, those Lucky Ls stand at the ready and a new mistress Lady Lucky is ready to hit the road.

Perhaps I'll just ask the bartender to freshen up my drink instead, throwing in a couple of ice cubes. Now where did we come in?

Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9Hotelworks and can be contacted through C9hotelworks.com.

Cape Panwa gets boost after adding new GM

PHILIPP Sebastian Flickhinger, has been appointed the new General Manager of Cape Panwa Hotel, Phuket. A German national, Mr Flickhinger holds a Bachelor's degree in Hotel Management from Australia and an MBA in International Management from Germany.

He has extensive international 5-star hotel experience. Before joining Cape Panwa Hotel, Phuket, his previous postings include Switzerland, China, Germany, and other hotels in Thailand.

Kasemkij Hotels Travel Group Director Poomiphat Navanukroh says: “I am happy to announce the appointment of Philipp Flickhinger as General Manager of Cape Panwa Hotel, Phuket.

“His hands-on experience in the hospitality business, combined with his business acumen and performance-focused management style are the qualities we need in our executive management team.”

Director Poomiphat added that Cape Panwa Hotel is on the brink



Philipp Sebastian Flickhinger is the new GM of Cape Panwa Hotel.

of launching its new ‘Absolute Suite’, what they say will be the most luxurious two-bedroom super suites in Phuket. He says the addition will allow Cape Panwa Hotel to remain a leader in the increasingly competitive location of Cape Panwa.

“I'm certain that a gifted and determined manager such as Philipp

will be able to lead this exciting move, and I'm excited to welcome him to his new role,” adds Mr Poomiphat, “Kasemkij Hotels believes that Philipp's significant experience will help take Cape Panwa Hotel's already high standards to a new high.”

– *Phuket Gazette*

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Holiday Inn opens in Ao Nang



FAMILY FRIENDLY: The brand new Holiday Inn Resort, Krabi, opened its doors to guests on November 1.

THE Holiday Inn brand has arrived on the coastline of Krabi with the company taking over the 55-guestroom Sala Talay Resort and Spa on Ao Nang beach as of November 1.

“We are pleased to announce the initial phase of the opening of our first Holiday Inn property in this beautiful region of Krabi,” says Steve Ng, the general manager of the property, “We hope that all our guests will be able to enjoy a true home away from home experience when they stay with us.”

The resort is situated alongside the

stunning Ao Nang beachfront and has a contemporary, yet environmentally sensitive style, that naturally blends itself into the area’s beautiful environment.

Guests are provided with a full range of services and facilities, including an outdoor free-form swimming pool, a resort fitness center, Kid’s Club and a well-stocked book and DVD library.

Holistic Thai massages and treatments are offered at the resort Spa.

Cuisine spanning the Asian continent

can also be savored at the InAsia dining venue, which enjoys panoramic views of the idyllic surrounds of Ao Nang Beach.

The resort’s rooms range from 45 square meters to 95sqm. There are 19 Deluxe rooms and 21 Pool Access rooms that offer 45 sqm of free living space and comfort. The 13 Grand Deluxe Suites are 65sqm and ensure total privacy and relaxation.

The two Penthouse Suites are 95sqm of space and afford views over the hotel grounds.

In-room features include: a large walk-in rain shower, bath tubs in all rooms, free WiFi and a spacious balcony/terrace area, with pool or scenic views over Ao Nang.

“We take pride in being able to offer the latest range of creature comforts to all of our guests,” says Mr Ng, “From the crisp, comfortable bed sheets and pillows on our beds, to our free in-room WiFi and iPod dock facilities, we will ensure every visitor has an unparalleled experience at our resort.”

The resort is a short 30-minute drive from Krabi International Airport and a brief 10-minute walk to the famous entertainment and shopping areas of Ao Nang, yet still offers an ideal sense of serenity and seclusion.

In the next 12 months, the resort is planning to undergo a significant expansion.

“Initially we will have 55-rooms and suites for our guests from November 1 this year, but we plan to announce the complete opening of our 188-room property to the public by October 2013.” Steve Ng concludes.

The new wing of the property will house the Holiday Inn KidSuites, which will offer private areas for both parents and children, each with separate sleeping berths.

The kids’ section of the suite comes with a bunk bed and a play corner that includes a flat screen TV, a DVD player and a game console.

For more information and reservations at Holiday Inn Resort Krabi Ao Nang Beach, visit: holidayinnresorts.com/krabi or call: +66 75 810 888. – *The Phuket Gazette*

Property Legal

By International Law Office

SEPARATING emotional excitement from the need to impartially assess the risks of an important investment when purchasing a dream home is not easy.

A real estate agent may have shown the purchaser glamorous photographs and conducted a personalized tour, so the desire to sign on the dotted line might impair the purchaser's judgment.

The real estate industry in Thailand is largely unregulated and it is therefore imperative that a purchaser considers the following steps and tips as a pre-requisite to achieving that dream.

The Developer: In an unregulated market, and, particularly when buying a property off-plan and therefore unseen, a prudent purchaser should do all they can to check a developer and his track-record.

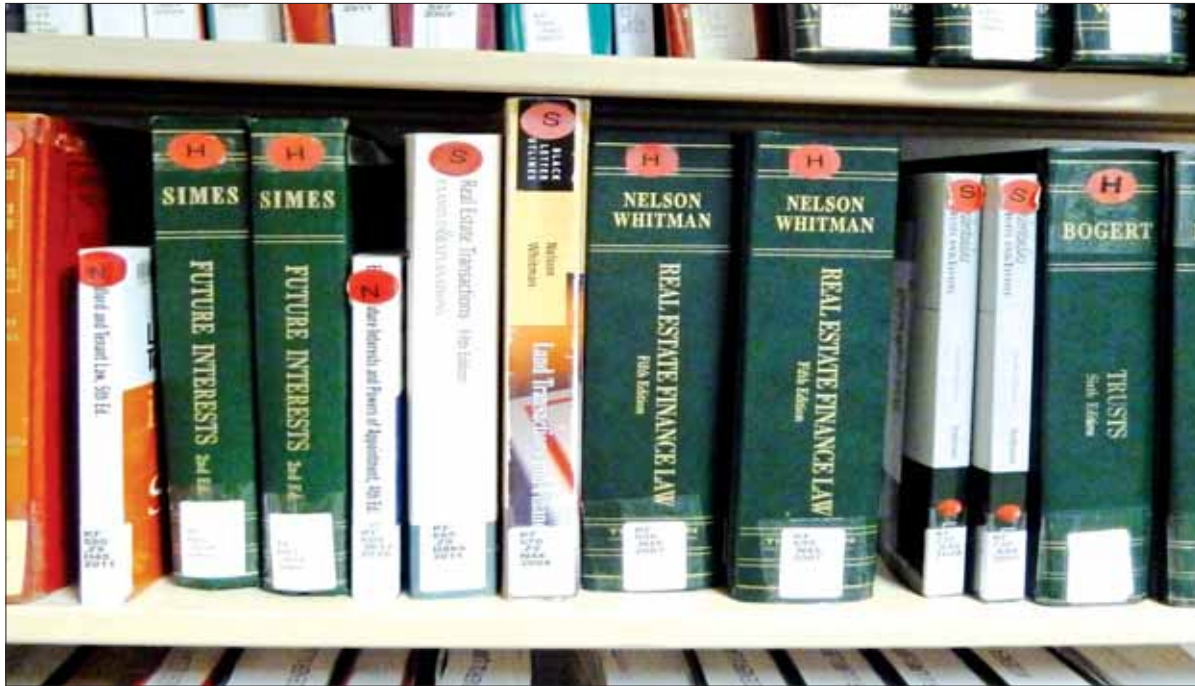
When buying off-plan there is nothing to see beyond the glossy marketing information, and until construction is completed the purchaser is always under some degree of risk.

A new developer will by definition have no track-record so the purchaser must do all he can to talk to other purchasers and real estate agents. While it is inevitable that some risk must be accepted, let's keep that risk to a manageable level.

As freehold title is not available to foreigners, aside from condominiums (the subject of last month's article), any acquisition made in a foreigner's personal capacity must be leasehold, so the developer/land owning company will be the purchaser's landlord.

A prudent investor must therefore establish that the landlord seems likely to be able to uphold his long term obligations under a lease. If the economics justify it, procuring a letter of good standing from the Bank of Thailand or a company credit report might be well justified. A long term lease from a public listed company would be ideal, however an unlikely prospect.

Payment: Property construction generally requires payment by a schedule of installments, the frequency of which is determined by milestones in construction being met. The schedule needs to be carefully considered both in respect of the purchaser's ongo-



BOOKWORM: Researching your property purchase can be made easier with this weeks tips. Photo: Janet Lindemuth

How to acquire Thai property

ing budget and in respect of the milestones themselves to ensure that the payments fairly reflect the value of the works completed at each stage and are not too front-loaded thus leaving insufficient funds to complete the structure.

The advice of an independent engineer or surveyor might prove invaluable.

Leap of Faith: The decision to purchase having been made, the next step is often (although not always) to make a reservation by executing a Reservation Form and paying a small percentage of the overall price as a proportion of the deposit. This is a show of commitment, which ties both parties to the process and triggers a defined time line within which it is expected that the contract terms will be settled.

Care must be taken, as the reservation fee ought to be refundable in certain circumstances, in case it is discovered that there is an irreconcilable defect in title.

A purchaser should be aware that for all payments into Thailand it is prudent to remit foreign currency. The on-shore rate is

better than that purchased elsewhere.

Contracts: Having made a reservation, the parties will need to agree to the form of contracts, which might comprise a sale and purchase contract, a long-term lease, a construction contract, maybe a management contract, and the form of transfer of a building permit for villa ownership.

The contracts will all need to be carefully considered and adjusted according to the best interests of both parties. Competent developers will have all necessary base documents in place to ensure a smooth transmission for the purchaser and his lawyer to review.

Legal Advice: In Thailand the law does not guarantee clear title. All title and land issues should be investigated in the district where the property is located.

When choosing a lawyer, a local presence is beneficial. Quality legal services need not be expensive and it should be possible to agree to a fixed fee rather than employ a lawyer on an hourly rate basis. A reputable firm will have no hesitation to advise initially on a no-charge basis and discuss what is necessary to set the purchaser at ease.

Ownership: The review and negotiation of contracts must be done expeditiously and effectively in order to protect the investment.

Until the point of registration, which may be at some distant date depending on the payment terms, an effective contract is the purchaser's only real security. A lease in Thailand can only be registered for a term of 30 years,

and although that lease term may be renewed on two occasions, the landowner's obligation to do so depends on the contract. The contract must therefore be written in a way that obliges the landowner to ensure any successor is similarly obliged to renew the lease and that the lease shall be binding upon and inure to the



benefit of any succeeding party.

Equally the contract must provide that the purchaser has the right to pass on the lease to another, who shall be similarly protected. Occasionally the landowner's obligation to renew can be underscored by the purchaser obtaining a minority, but controlling interest, in the landowning entity.

Ownership of a lease through an off-shore company is also an option, enabling a property owning company to be sold with no taxable event occurring on-shore within Thailand.

Construction: During the construction phase, the purchaser should be regularly informed and updated, with

construction milestones being achieved triggering payment installments. Factual accuracy might be checked by an engineer or surveyor as previously described. More on construction in next month's article in the *Gazette!*
Warranties: Any property will suffer small defects after construction is completed and a good developer will promptly and efficiently remedy the same.

While condominium purchases carry a statutory one year warranty by law, the purchaser of a villa will have to rely on his contract. Typically the structure itself will be guaranteed for two years, with non-structural items (for example water pumps and appliances) guaranteed for one year, and individual warranties provided for swimming pools and those items with longer guarantees from the suppliers or manufacturers.

The law in Thailand does not provide protection against latent defects (those defects which might appear at some later stage but which are previously undetectable to the naked eye) so these need to be provided for within the construction contract.

General: When a project is completed (sometimes not until the inclusion of neighboring villas) and any mortgages on the land are redeemed, the developer will be ready to proceed to registration.

Registration at the land office is the purchaser's principle security. Although the means of ownership differ within Asian countries, the process of purchase and registration is not so different.

In Thailand the use of nominee shareholders in land owning companies is illegal, so the purchase of leasehold interests is common and well tested. In Indonesia, by contrast, property may be owned directly by foreign companies, whereas in Thailand, land may only be owned by Thai nationals or properly constituted Thai companies, hence the practice of leasing. Other countries allow longer lease periods, and some countries allow foreign freehold purchases over a certain monetary value. The point is that, although Asian countries have different rules, any prudent purchaser must decide

what is comfortable to them relative to the desired country.

In Thailand the real estate industry is still largely unregulated, although consumer protection is on the increase, particularly regarding condominiums, but the protection is not yet as sophisticated as in Singapore. This will undoubtedly change and improve. Thailand's situation is however offset by reasonable prices, and capital appreciation in the resort areas is likely to be significant.

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

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INFORMATION technology (IT) has dramatically changed the way people communicate and do business. Changes in

information technology are rapidly taking place and investors who are able to spot the newest trends can profit from those trends greatly. One continually evolving trend is "cloud computing".

Investors focused on IT growth stocks and exchange-traded funds (ETFs) have several options when it comes to investing in this sector.

First, let us define "cloud computing". When you think of cloud computing, think of Google or Yahoo! mail, the Web-based email messaging services that allow you to use the software and hardware resources of those companies at no cost.

These Web-based applications use remote servers, which may be housed anywhere in the world. In addition to free public email accounts as examples of cloud computing, you may have also used other internet-based applications, such as Google Docs. These applications provide free software, server space, or platform infrastructure to create and share your work online.

On Google Docs you can create, manage, and access presentations, spreadsheets and other documents from anywhere in the world in real time.

This means that cloud computing services are available on demand, provide a wide network access and have an elastic scale. Public cloud computing has revolutionized the way people and businesses use the Internet to create, store, and manage their data.

However, it has also become an effective way to reduce investment and overhead costs for corporations and public institutions. As businesses and public institutions continue to seek ways to cut costs, cloud computing appears to be an excellent solution to achieve efficiency. However, this will require cloud computing providers to ensure a high degree of integrity and security for the information managed or

Island Investor

Don Freeman

stored on a shared network.

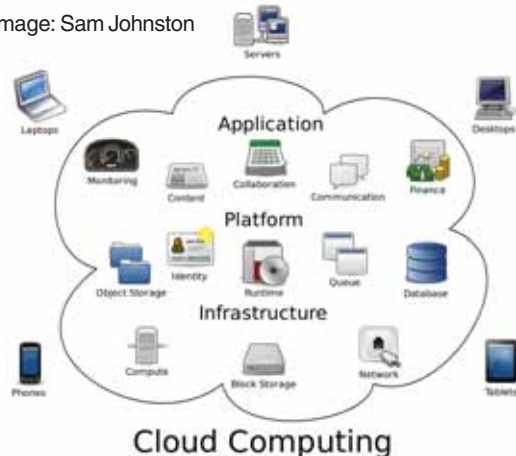
For example, Google views its 'high-security' reputation as a key

determinant of success. Some companies apply international security standards (ISO27001), which provides for a third-party audit. Others adhere to the principles governing security of information and network systems under the standards of the Organization for Economic Development and Cooperation (OECD).

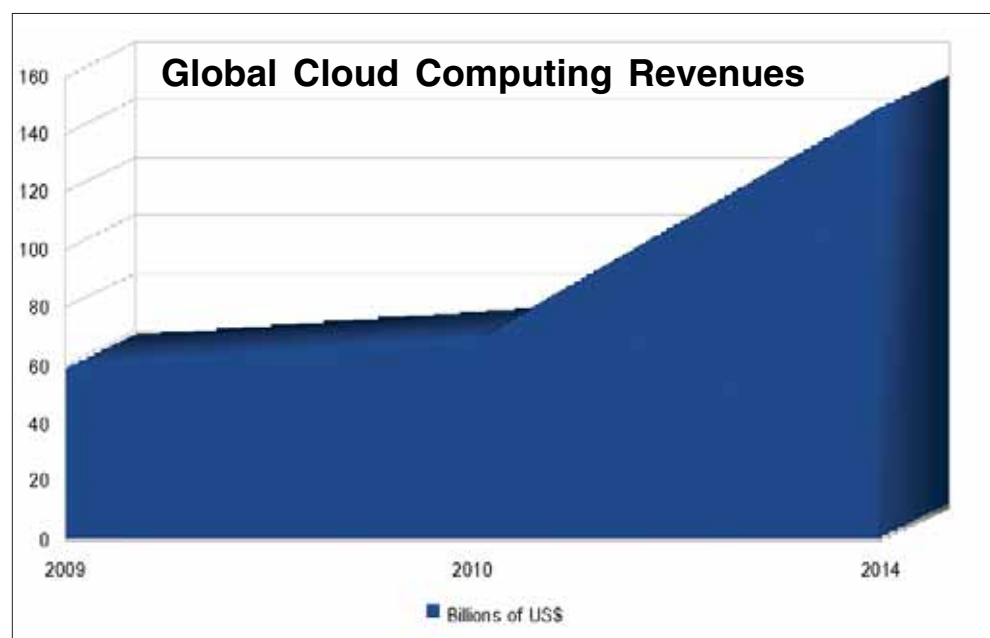
With all this in mind, higher demand for cloud computing will be a major boom for private-sector providers who can provide a high level of integrity and supplement it with appropriate resource support services. Cloud computing has already experienced exceptional growth. Gartner Inc sees the cloud service market growing in compounded rates by 16.85% annually through 2014. This will boost cloud computing revenues to US\$148.8 billion by 2014. That represents a cumulative increase of more than 217%. More than half of the cumulative revenues will accrue to the US Market.

So, how do you take advantage of this

Image: Sam Johnston



growth? Three stocks, namely Oracle (Nasdaq: ORCL), BMC Software (Nasdaq: BMC), and Informatica (Nasdaq: INFA), look best positioned to benefit from the high growth in the sector. The three companies



WAVE OF THE NEAR FUTURE: Global cloud computing revenues are expected to jump by 217% between 2010 and 2014 according to Gartner Inc. Source: Gartner Inc

provide a combination of public and private cloud computing services. They all have low debt-to-equity (D-E) ratios; in fact, Informatica is debt-free.

This assures that the three prospective winners in the sector are not burdened by excessive credit that could stifle their growth prospects.

While their P-E (Price to Earnings) ratios may look relatively high compared to those of some other IT companies, revenue and earnings growth expectations make them appealing.

What's more, they have teamed up with similar companies: Oracle with Amazon and BMC Software with salesforce.com, so as to achieve synergies that can assure robust growth.

For investors who prefer a broad exposure to the sector, there is the Vanguard Information Technology ETF (VGT), with a broad exposure to the IT sector, including Oracle as one of the fund's largest holdings.

Another ETF, which tracks the Dynamic Networking Intellidex Index and contains many cloud computing stocks, is PXQ-

PowerShares Dynamic Networking.

It is comprised of networking stocks and is designed to provide capital appreciation by thoroughly evaluating companies based on a variety of investment merit criteria, including fundamental growth, stock valuation, investment timeliness and risk factors.

As of November 5, the top holdings are: Citrix Systems, Amphenol Corp, F5 Networks, VMware, Juniper Networks, Symantec, Cisco Systems, Opnet Technologies, Motorola Solutions and Qualcomm.

Investing in cloud computing is investing in the future of the web-based information technology. That future is now and taking part in it may prove to be a good investment choice for many investors.

Don Freeman is President of Freeman Capital Management, a Registered Investment Advisor with the US Securities Exchange Commission (SEC). He provides personal financial planning and investment advice to expatriates and teaches financial courses across SE Asia and the United States. For more information visit: freemancapital.net or call +66 (089) 970-5795.

ASEAN set to ink deals with China

By Petchanet Pratuangkrai

ASEAN and Chinese leaders are set to ink two Free Trade Agreements (FTA) facilitating commerce at a bilateral summit later this month. Representatives will meet on November 18 in Cambodia, at a summit between ASEAN leaders and six partner countries.

One agreement would eliminate some trade barriers related to sanitary and phytosanitary (animal and plant health) standards; the other would give officials more flexibility in facilitating growth between ASEAN and China.

China has agreed to provide financial aid in order to promote

closer economic ties with ASEAN.

After a delay, Commerce Ministry Inspector-General Boonyarit Kalayanamit said the Chinese government has shown signs that it'll allocate funds to support ASEAN projects soon. At the summit, the two sides will find an agreement on trade liberalization. Certain goods on both sides remain sensitive. For these sensitive items, both sides have agreed to tariffs of less than 20%

by 2015, with most products down to zero by 2018. Sensitive goods would include coffee, seeds, rice, nuts, garlic and onions. China is currently the largest trading partner of both ASEAN and Thailand.



Map of ASEAN and China.

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It's showtime

HAVING an apprehended bank robber give advice on how to keep banks safe from similar armed felons (see page 5) was just one of the interesting developments regarding "financial security" in Phuket this week.

Confessed bank robber Anusit Kaewmookda suggested that each bank branch have a security guard on duty to deter robbers. Despite Mr Anusit's good intentions with such advice, the *Gazette* cannot fully support it unless it is made clear that bank security guards should not be given guns. Though perhaps armed guards have lowered the frequency of bank robberies around the world, they have also caused an escalation in the violence necessary to carry them out – standard Cold War conditioning. When armed guards are present, the robbers are forced to either flee or use lethal force to get the job done.

It is easy to argue that such crimes as bank robberies do not affect Phuket's essential tourism industry, but they do. Although Phuket's "wild west" style robberies tend to be in areas far from the tourism enclaves of the island, the criminals and our visitors share the same streets, both before and after the crime.

This crossover means that tourists are drinking in the same bars and riding in the same tuk-tuks as the ilk who carry illegal firearms and are pre-disposed to use them should they become annoyed. In this neck of the woods, annoyance can arise quickly when someone stares at a stranger, or speaks "impolitely" to an individual.

Gold shop thief "Koson", who in mid-September robbed a shop in Rassada, deserves at least some kudos for taking a pea-shooter to a potential gunfight. He stole the gold with nothing more than an air pistol and an intimidating tone of voice.

Luckily for Koson, that gold was insured, meaning the shop owner had little reason to keep a firearm on the premises – unlike when Lacheman Kumar entered a gold shop in August.

Armed with only a replica gun, Mr Lacheman was shot by the shop owner who, on seeing the thief put his hand into a backpack, felt compelled to protect his stock and blazed away. That gold shop owner had no qualms about opening fire in his shop in Karon, where tourists are found in every corner at any time of the year.

With so many criminals in action around Phuket, it must be difficult for the Royal Thai Police and the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) to abstain from declaring firearms, bank robbers and ATM rip-off artists as "non-traditional threats" to Thailand's lucrative tourism machine, but abstain they have.

The only solution outside of cleansing the island of these local and foreign "crime-tourists" might be for the TAT to join forces with the police and promote the highly-publicized crime re-enactments as tourist attractions, charging handsomely for attendance at the spectacles.

This would at least help to offset the unrecognized potential losses to the tourism business, and if marketed properly as a "performing art", might just make the bucket lists of millions of curiosity seekers, worldwide.



White death van stickers apply here

Great work with bringing the taxis into line. Now for the real maniacs – the white or silver tour mini-buses, or "white death" as I call them.

It doesn't matter how many careful and considerate mini-bus drivers are out on the road – and they do exist, there are enough total loonies behind the wheel to drag the overall standard right back down.

Take a lesson from the taxis and make it a law for transport firms, businesses, resorts and visa run companies (especially the latter) to display big stickers showing the company name, driver's name and a complaints telephone number on the sides and rear of these white death merchants.

It may need a well-staffed call center but it might just slow them down a bit.

Julian Mountjoy
Patong

Oh, Captain my captain

Re: *Gazette online, Chinese tourist dies in Phuket after speedboat accident, November 1*

I am surprised, not that it happens, but that it does not happen more frequently. The "captains" drive the boats as they drive their motorbikes; that is with no consideration for anybody or anything else.

Sailor
Gazette forum

Encroachment – Full steam ahead

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket land raids spread, two resorts seized in Krabi land probe, November 4*

They are pointing out a lot of sites of encroachment, but what about following up? I ride past many of the sites along the Layan to Nai Thon Beach road daily, and

Letters to the Editor

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

every site that has been named is still operating or continuing construction. One of the resorts in Nai Thon was said to be in a National Park and the land documents illegal. They did not stop working on the resort for one day. It will be open soon.

Tim
Gazette forum

Betting on the right horse

Re: *Gazette online, Islanders appeal to Phuket Governor over 'Rape of Racha' inaction, November 3*

Well done that man. I visit these two islands regularly for fishing and diving and this indictment is both welcome and necessary.

When will these business operators understand that they are not only looking the proverbial gift horse right in the mouth, but kicking its teeth in as well.

John
Gazette forum

Paris Hilton: Sorry for party rocking

There has been such an outpouring of hate for the Paris Hilton New Year's Eve party recently that I'm struggling to understand it, especially because it's not about seeing Paris Hilton. She announced the event, but the DJ lineup is going to be sick [sic].

A lot of the comments being posted in forums must be helping the *Gazette* get a better idea of the age demographic that their publication is resonating with. It's two days – 48 hours, and let's be hon-

est, for a portion of that time most of those complaining will be drinking, drunk or hungover – so what's the big deal?

I think the local government should force the company to sign a contract that involves restoring the beach and marine area affected back to at least the quality it was before the party. This is a stellar opportunity to get a lot of big money into doing a huge cleanup afterward... which the beach will probably need!

Keep it real, islanders.

Michael Coons
Mai Khao

Pay to play

Re: *Gazette online, Similan National Park opens, fees remain the same for Phuket tourists, November 1*

Personally, I would have appreciated a much more important increase, namely a 1,000 baht entrance fee for the Similan and Surin Islands. Mainly to reduce the number of visitors per day.

These days a lot of speedboats, each with 40 to 50 tourists, are cramming the coral reefs and the only two beaches on the Similans; snorkeling as well as walking on the coral reefs.

Whistle-Blower
Gazette forum

Killing Conrad's Heart of Darkness

What happened to all the good news, *Phuket Gazette*?

As the *Gazette* is a community paper, isn't it also your responsibility to highlight some of the fun "soft news" events and happenings on the island? What happened to the stories about butterfly and turtle releases? Keep up the good work, just lighten up a little and maybe, just maybe have a page one story that isn't so depressing.

Tina Swift
Patong

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Flyover not the real threat to mangroves

URBAN development causes environmental damage – this is the truth, and everyone knows it. At this point all we can do is try our best to save the mangroves that still exist after the flyover project is finished.

I have heard that the construction of the Koh Klong Pee project will start next year. I know that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand has issued the official permit for the project and our office has acknowledged that the permit has been issued. We have nothing against this project.

The construction of the flyover will certainly have some effect on the mangrove forests underneath, but it will not be a serious problem. The project has been approved by the Office of the National Environment Board (ONEB), which means that the members of that board believe the project will not cause significant destruction of the mangrove forest in that area.

I believe that after the project is finished, it will improve the quality of life for people living in Phuket, and provide a more convenient and faster way to work. It has more advantages than disadvantages.

Fortunately, after the 2004 tsunami, people in Phuket started to pay more attention to the natural resources on the island, including the mangrove forests. Local residents love and want to protect Phuket's mangrove forests, as many residents live their lives close to nature. Nature supports their livelihoods, and they protect nature.

There have been many campaigns on the island to help preserve the mangrove forest ecosystem. The cooperation we have had from the local people has helped to motivate our staff to continue with our work.



Pongsapak Aiabsakul, 43, is the director of the Mangrove Forest Resources Development Station 23 (Phuket office). Originally from Tai Muang in Phang Nga, Mr Pongsapak has a degree in Agricultural Technology and a master's degree in Business Administration. Here he talks about the impact that the Klong Koh Pee Road project, a 200-million-baht dual-lane flyover across a mangrove forest in Phuket Town will have.

According to a survey in 2009, Phuket has 24,835.65 rai of mangroves, which is not a lot. Before moving to Phuket, I was Deputy Director of a Mangrove Forest Resources Development Station in Khura Buri District, in Phang Nga. That district has 42,000 rai of mangroves.

Of the many difficulties I face while working in Phuket, one of the main problems is local people encroaching onto mangrove forests. In Soi Kingkaew, in Rassada, the neighborhood is crowded and the residents have tried encroaching onto mangrove forests in the area. They have dumped earth onto the mangrove forests and started building houses on the reclaimed land.

We have tried to stop them, but we have only five to six officers, which is not enough to deal with the problem. When we see encroachment, we have to report it to the Royal Forest Department as we do not have the authority to press charges. This makes the process of charging encroachers very slow.

The issue of officers abusing their position of authority is also very difficult to deal with. Many officers use their authority to obstruct our work, which is particular disheartening.

Also, Phuket attracts many developers who launch projects here, because it is such a beautiful place. Most businessmen and developers, however, are more focused on their businesses. They do not pay much attention to nature. They are willing to do whatever is necessary to achieve their business goals.

Many of the developers either encroach on protected mangrove areas themselves or buy land from villagers whose houses have been built on mangroves.

I need help from everyone in order to save our mangroves. Preserving mangroves helps to regulate rainfall patterns, reduces the risk of disasters from extreme weather and rising sea levels. So please help us protect and maintain this natural, beneficial resource for generations to come.



More and more taxis marked with the new distinctive set of identification stickers have been seen across the island. Photo: Gazette file

Motoring with your fellow homo sapien

Island View

By Damien Evans

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

SINCE the large yellow taxi stickers have been posted on the sides of taxis, the noticeable change in driver behavior has been fantastic. It seems as if the drivers with these stickers are much more polite.

Perhaps it is these stickers with the drivers' names emblazoned on the sides of the vehicles for the whole world to see – in English – that has made the difference.

Perhaps part of this newfound experience is me, now fully appreciating that when I see these taxi drivers, they are in the middle of their work.

Every time I see a sticker on the side of a vehicle, I instantly recognize that driver is in the mindset of getting his or her work done. For me, my work day has either yet to begin or has just ended, but that taxi driver needs to get going – and now.

That perspective makes me – and seemingly many other drivers – more willing to make space and let them through. Let's be honest: If I make the space and

let them into my lane, then they are not cutting in and they are not being rude.

And with this new attitude seemingly being forged on Phuket's roads, it seems that all the old feelings of anger and frustration have disappeared.

There are still some commercial drivers who have yet to learn this new way of motoring with your fellow man, and in my daily travels it is the commercial van drivers who still tend to drive like maniacs, but the number of those drivers I see now are much, much fewer than in the weeks before the stickers were issued.

Well done, Phuket. Can we stay on track with these kinds of developments so Phuket can become once again a place I want to call home? Please?

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

Service charge not shared with staff?

I recently became aware of a hotel charging guests a 10 per cent service charge while sharing only three per cent of it with its staff. I feel this is reprehensible and dishonest towards guests and staff. It hurts the economy, local people and tourism. Can anything be done about this?

Truman Trustbrakken
Phuket

Supattra Suwanputree, Thai Hotels Association (Southern Chapter) manager replies:

Actually, hotels do share the full 10 per cent service charge with all staff, but many opt to stagger

the percentage shared between the high and low seasons.

During the high season some hotels will give staff between three to five per cent, the remainder is held back and shared out during the low season when there are fewer guests.

However, it should be noted that the sharing of guest service charges among hotel staff is set by individual hotels.

In some cases, hotels give their staff more than the 10 per cent service charge. In addition, many hotels provide extra staff benefits, such as staff transport, meals and accommodation.

There are also laws to protect staff from employers taking advantage of them, and staff are generally aware of those laws.

Provincial switch up as car goes in for re-registration

In the next few months I hope to hand over my 10-year-old car to the folks of my girlfriend. As far as all the official documentation is concerned, what needs to be done when re-registering a car in a different province?

David Kirk
Phuket

Phuket Provincial Land Transport Officer replies:

In the case of transferring a car to another person and re-registering it in a different province the procedure is as follows:

As a foreigner, you must submit a copy of your passport to the Provisional Land Transport Office.

In the case that the transferee

is a Thai national, a copy of the identity card will suffice.

If both you and the transferee are foreigners, you both must submit copies of a valid work permit, along with proof of residence which can be obtained from the Immigration Office.

In the case that either you or the transferee are unavailable, then both parties must have a signed Power of Attorney document.

You must complete the Vehicle Transfer Form. This can be downloaded from the Department of Land transport website (Thai), www.dlt.go.th or collected from our office.

The vehicle will have to be inspected by our office staff,

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

after which all relevant documentation can be submitted to the registration department.

This process will be done in one day and costs about 105 baht.

The new owner can then re-register the vehicle with the PLTO in the province where the vehicle is to be kept.



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See page 31

JOB of the week



See page 26

BIKE of the week



Harley XR 1200

See page 30

HOME of the week



See page 22

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

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

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 5-storey (5x100sqm) units overlooking Kings park and Surin Beach for sale. Ground floor commercial restaurant, 2 apartments + 2 storey penthouse. All very modern & open plan. Email: stewartlees@gmail.com

URGENT SALE



Very nice house in the heart of Patong 3 floors with 3 bedrooms, living-room, kitchen, 2 bathrooms, big roof terrace with sala and jacuzzi, garage. Price on request. Tel: 084-188 4544. Email: michahildner@hotmail.com

NICE HOUSE 88SQ WAH



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

PHUKET VILLA 5 VILLAGE



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

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

6-BED POOL VILLA, RAWAI BEACH
 Sale: 8 million baht, brand new, 80% owner finance, furnished, 200m to pier. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: rawai4@yahoo.com

BAR RESTAURANT FOR SALE/RENT
 Famous Frog club poolbar and restaurant for sale. 550,000 baht. Can make good price, depends on what's included. Tel: 082-278 7377 (English & Thai), +46-73-989 6508 (English). Email: runolarsson@live.com

PATONG SEAVIEW TOWNHOUSE FOR SALE 6.3m BAHT



Four storey townhouse on a small hillside 5 minute walk to the beach at the northern edge of Patong. City on one side, Jungle on the other, Patong Beach down the street, & walking distance to all Patong's delights
206/4 PRABARAMEE ROAD
 +/- 270 sq meters 3,000 sq ft (approximately 23,000 Baht per sq meter) Top quality construction, materials, and design. 3-phase, 30 amp wiring throughout. Water storage tank, pump, & central hot water.
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 Email: Woody@KhunWoody.com
Best Sea View Deal in Patong

Classified Advertisements

Please use this form to write your classified advertisement. Then hand it to any of our agents.

 (heading)

Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 120 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad.
 All advertising must be paid for in advance.
Deadline for Property Gazette page: Friday 3 pm.
Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.

Looking for land to buy?
 See more classified ads
 at www.phuketgazette.net

Properties For Rent

2 Bed Luxury Apartment For Rent. 35,000 Baht Per month

2 bed, 1 bath, 200m walk to Bang Tao Beach.

Email :sandra.oneill@oceanwpp.com
Office: + 66 76 325986
Mobile : + 66 8 9867 7154

LUXURY CONDO IN PATONG

Overlooking pool. Studio + 2 bedrooms. Free WiFi, maid, gym. From 22,000 baht. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English & Thai). Email: phvcondo@aol.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

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

HOUSE AT PRIME PLACE VILLAGE



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

5 BEDROOMS - BANG TAO BEACH



Fully furnished, 5 minutes to beach, 40,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-795 6363. Email: vicky_grc@hotmail.com

POOL VILLA IN MAI KHAO



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

HERITAGE STYLE HOUSE RENT

Large house at 'Heritage Phuket' between Patong and Phuket, near international schools. 3 bedrooms, 2 living rooms, furnished, 50,000 baht per month, 1 year. Tel: 081-494 4987 (English & Thai). Email: wanliyap@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuket101.net/2012/10/house-for-rent-in-phuket-kathu.html

VILLA KATA BEACH

Quiet sea view family villa. 3 bed, 3 bath. Long term. Agents, call for appointment. Tel: 081-003 6902, 085-274 8626. Email: contact@purist.biz

STUDIO IN TOWN FOR RENT/SALE

Fully furnished, aircon, TV, kitchen. Near Dowroong Wittaya School, 10 minutes to Central and Big C. Tel: 081-719 7015. Email: jyfievvet@gmail.com

POOL VILLA FOR RENT

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

TOWNHOUSE FOR RENT/SALE

In town, fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 aircons, close to Central, Makro, Big C. Entrance is at front of Headstart International School. 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-719 7015. Email: jyfievvet@gmail.com

2-BEDROOM HOUSE, BANG TAO



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

PATONG HOUSE AND CONDO

House, 2 bedrooms, quiet. Close to Patong center, big space. Start from 23,000 baht per month. Modern condo with swimming pool, gym, sauna, cable, WiFi, security. Center of Patong Beach. Special price from 1,500 baht per night. Tel: 089-868 8668.

5 STUDIOS & POOL AT CHALONG



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

APARTMENT IN KATHU

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

APARTMENT KATA BEACH FOR RENT

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

ROYAL PLACE CONDO

1-bedroom apartment, fully furnished, washing machine included, available on 11 Nov, opposite Tesco Lotus. Tel: 085-069 0938 (English).

NICE HOUSE IN CHALONG



Single house (74sq wah) with lovely garden for long-term rent in Soi Parichart, Land & Houses Park. It has 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, 24 hr security + clubhouse facilities. Price: 25,000 baht per month or special price of 20,000 baht per month without furniture. Contact the owner. Tel: 081-867 6466 (English & Thai). Email: bow.jariya@gmail.com



CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



Phuket city, bypass road, opposite Tesco Lotus. 45sqm, 3 Fl at the corner with swimming pool view. 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished (2 aircons, hot water, washing machine, refrigerator, TV, microwave, 24 security and internet provided) P/s contact 086-4769612. Email: annan01@hotmail.com

PATONG 2-BEDROOM TOWNHOUSE

3 bathrooms. Western-style house and nice kitchen, WiFi, LCD. 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 082-498 0872. Email: elangold@gmail.com

ALLAMANDA (LAGUNA)

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

NEW HOUSE, RENT/SALE



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

RENT APARTMENT PATONG

New condo, 465sqm, furnished, with pool, security 24/7. Daily or monthly. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

ROOM ON BEACH

Rent, daily: 500 baht, monthly: 10,000 baht. Chalong Bay, Panwa, beautiful pool. Tel: 089-591 8510.

SAIYUAN THAI HOUSE

For long-term rental (1 year): 50,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-693 0935 (English & Thai). Email: bitong1@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.thaistylepoolhouse.com

NEW HOUSE FOR RENT, PATONG

1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, living room with full western kitchenette. All extras. Aircon, internet, LCD, IBC. Modern furnished, quiet setting near Nanai. Rent: 13,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-185 8536.

PHUKET VILLA 5 VILLAGE



For Sale. Price: 4.2 million baht. No agents!, not furnished, with 4 aircons, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen and car park. Behind Kajonkiet International School on Chao Fa West Road, 5 minutes to Central Festival. For short or long-term rent, 16,000 baht per month. Call to see 087-270 9093.

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Live in Rawai?
Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at
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Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with
Khun Anna: 076-388144, 086-4780201, 088-1685032

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The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Property Classifieds

Property Services

PROPERTY VALUATIONS
Qualified Valuer - An expert property inspection and written valuation provided. Tel: 076-288908. Email: richard@siamrealestate.com For further details, please see our website at www.siamrealestate.com/sellers/property-valuation

ESTATE CONDO VILLA MANAGEMENT
Experienced hotelier and team, extensive estate and villa/apartment management. Managing multiple projects. Also available as consultant. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

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No.1 Real Estate Agent in Russian market.
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www.rusthai-property.ru

Property Wanted

PROPERTY RENTALS WANTED
Siam Real Estate have tenants waiting for holiday and longterm rentals NOW! Call us for details and rent out your villa/apartment immediately. Tel: 076-288908. Email: info@siamrealestate.com For further details, please see our website at siamrealestate.com

Accommodation Available

4 BEDROOM FAMILY HOUSE
4beds, 5baths, a maid's room, a modern kitchen and lovely garden. For long term rent at 35,000 baht Per month. Or for sale at 8.5 million baht. Tel: 081-787 2201. Email: phuket8@hotmail.com

NEW HOUSE FOR SALE/RENT
Fully Furnished Sale price: 4.9 MB. Rental price for long term : 28,000 baht per month. Negotiable. Tel: 086-742 2244. Email: kasina_nava_machiti@yahoo.com

NEW APARTMENTS WITH SEA VIEW
New 1- and 2-bedroom apartments. Long and short term. Sea view, huge balcony, TV panels, WiFi, free parking. Sea view, pools, gym, expensive furniture inside. The best choice for living! Email: osa.com@me.com

PATONG LUXURY APT
Paradise Hotel complex. 150m to beach. Large, 1 bedroom, kitchen. Light, airy. Tel: 086-276 7608.

ROOMS FOR RENT IN KARON
Fully furnished, Cable TV, Air, WiFi, daily, weekly, monthly. Tel: 082-270 6385. Email: tkoschig 2000@hotmail.com

4 BEDROOMS IN SAIYUAN, NAI HARN
Rock Style house. 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, big garden, big kitchen. For rent at 40,000 baht per month. Sale at 9.8 million baht. Tel: 081-787 2201. Email: phuket8@hotmail.com

KATA LUXURY SEAFRONT VILLA



3bedroom villa on the rocks on Kata Beach Headland. Built up 320 sqm, 15m above sea with spectacular Andaman Sea views, 6m x 15m infinity pool. Villa surrounded by dense foliage, has spacious balconies, outdoor showers in natural settings, very private and secluded. Thai, Japanese, and Balinese design influences & artifacts. Excellent live in Thai cook. Contact James Hunt. Tel: +65-962-10254. Email: sea_vest@singnet.com.sg For further details, please see our website at www.housephuket.com

Accommodation Wanted

HOUSE WANTED
House with land or pool villa wanted in Chalong or Rawai up to 5 million baht. Please include photos. Email: apetagna@bigpond.net.au

KARON, APP. OR SMALL BUNGALOW
Searching in Karon for: an apartment or small bungalow for at least 1 year, beginning December or January. Furnished, clean, air-conditioning, internet, shower, toilet. Email: ffkaiser@gmx.net

Holiday Homes & Villa Rentals

SWIMMING POOL VILLA
Rawai, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Available on 17 December 2012. Short-term rent: 3,000 baht per day. Tel: 085-787 3046. Email: patrickmeo@gmail.com

LUXURY POOL VILLA FOR RENT
Located just outside Laguna, this new 3bedroom pool villa is available for long and short term rent. Tel: 081-891 1826, 081-891 1826 (English), 081-891 2926 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-238940. Email: kevinq@loxinfo.co.th

LAGUNA HOLIDAY CLUB RENTAL
Holiday rent at Laguna Holiday Club Resort for new year week from 29 Dec 2012 - 5 Jan 2013. 1 bedroom suite for 4 persons, only 70,000 baht. Tel: 089-795 6363. Email: vicky_grc@hotmail.com See at www.laguna-holidayclub.com

KAMALA BEACH
Private, quiet, guest house. 2 bedroom apt at 2,600 baht per night, or 1 bedroom house at 1,800 baht per night. Kitchen, European bathroom, aircon, cable TV/DVD, ADSL, swimming pool. Tel: 076-385 909, 087-277 5216 (English). Fax: 076-385 909.

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PHUKET HOME MAINTENANCE

Renovations, house repairs, painters, tilers, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, construction. Fluent English-speaking boss. Free quotes given. Contact Rin. Tel: 084-193 5124. Email: phuket-homemaintenance@yahoo.com

FARANG HANDYMAN
Clear communication, all types of work on time and done right! Tel: 081-787 9767. Website: www.farang-handy-man.com

Household Items

HITACHI, SMALL FRIDGE FOR SALE
Price is just only 6,000 baht. Tel: 076-273 237, 082-989 8809 (English). Email: karen_leongsk@yahoo.com.sg

FURNITURE SALE
Household furniture, a generator and a tuk-tuk for sale in very low price of 50% less. Tel: 089-504 7253, 089-008 6562. Email: jpgermi@yahoo.com

Live in Patong?
Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at **Taurus Travel**

Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with **Khun Kai: (076-344321-2)**

GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work because they're **PAID!** Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published simultaneously and **FREE** - in the **Gazette Online!**

The **Gazette Online** is always on top in **Google!**

Classified Advertisements
Please use this form to write your classified advertisement. Then hand it to any of our agents.

_____ (heading)

Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 120 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad.
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Deadline for Property Gazette page: Friday 3 pm.
Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.

Looking for land to buy?
See more classified ads at www.phuketgazette.net

CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICER

We are a golf travel agent. Need Thai Female with good English. Tel: 076-367 120, 089-469 2173 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-367 212. Email: hr@phuketgolfcourse.com

SENIOR ARCHITECT

Phuket-based architectural practice urgently requires a senior architect to oversee design of luxury villa and hospitality projects. Proficiency in written and spoken English required. Please send CV and expected salary to: info@imedgeconcepts.com

WINE & TAPAS BAR

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

ARCHITECTURE

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

BARTENDERS AND WAITRESS

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

IT OR AV ENGINEERS

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

Tropica Bungalow & Restaurant
patong beach - phuket
www.tropica-bungalow.com

2 Foreign Chefs (Urgently Required)
Good Salary • Service Charge • Success Bonus

Waitress
English Advantage • Salary + Service Charge

Tel: 076 340 204-5 | Fax: 076 340 206
Email: tropica@phket.loxinfo.co.th

GUESTHOUSE RECEPTIONIST

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

SALES / MARKETING

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

INTERCALLSERVICE CO.,LTD.

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

WEBSITE PROGRAMMER REQUIRED

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

SPA RECEPTIONIST

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

MARKETING REPS NEEDED

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

THAI FOREMAN WANTED

Please contact Carla. Tel: 081-968 5963.

OPERATION/ADMIN MANAGER

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

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

- M&E Engineer
- Autocad draftsman

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

RUSSIAN GUIDE

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

SPA RECEPTIONIST

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

CHEF REQUIRED

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

LUXURY VILLA MANAGEMENT COMPANY

Requires Western Villa Maintenance Manager. Must be fluent in both English and Thai, and have extensive maintenance/construction experience. Some hotel operations experience would also be beneficial. High level of responsibility. Flexible hours. Applicant must have current driving license and vehicle. Tel: 087-881 0003. Please send CV to hr@phuketvilla sandhomes.com

EXPATRIATE MARINE MECHANICS

Looking for experienced expatriate marine mechanics. Duties include general and preventive maintenance of corporate and Yachts positioned within the SEA region. Attractive remuneration package for those with the necessary qualifications and experience. Tel: 080-078 3731. Please contact Mark Jones and send resume to markjones288@gmail.com

WORK CS @ HOLYCLOTHING!

Customer service agents needed for expanding internet fashion retailer. Are you CS experienced, Thai, hard working, computer savvy and fluent in English? Salary of 17-27,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-289472. Email: grahamkay@mac.com. For full details see our website www.holyclothing.com/htmlx/work.html



Shop Assistant Required

Paul Ropp Thailand Company Limited is now looking for shop assistants to join our team at our new stores located in Surin Beach area and the entrance to the Laguna. The candidate must have the qualifications as under;

- Good English communication skills
- Good attitude and appearance
- Flexible and able to work under pressure
- Computer-literate
- Thai nationality

We offer good salary and commission. If you have above qualifications and would like to join our team, please send your CV to pandhaj@paulropp.com or call us at +66(76)360859

Secretary / PA

- Communicate both Thai and English in verbally and writing
- Have a knowledge in MS Office
- Required organizational skill, maintain file, database and working procedure
- Office working based at Boat Lagoon

Interesting candidate, please email to farrimond.sam@gmail.com

BARTENDER REQUIRED

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

NATIVE ENGLISH TEACHER

To start in November and work every weekend. Degree, TEFL/ TESOL certificate and CV required. Tel: 081-978 1558 (English). Email: info@brainy-house.com

SALES CONSULTANT REQUIRED

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

THAI BOOTH STAFF

Good salary, can speak English. Contact Carla. Tel: 081-968 5963.

THAI ELECTRICIAN

Tel: 081-968 5963. Contact Carla.

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

CHALONG	
▶ Julapan Stationery (Chaofa East Rd)	Tel: 076-282254
▶ KL Mart (Patak Rd, Chalong Circle)	Tel: 076-280400
▶ Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chaofa East Rd)	Tel: 076-282403
PATONG	
▶ Taurus Travel (Aroonsom Plaza)	Tel: 076-344521-2
▶ Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Aroonsom Plaza)	Tel: 076-290468
▶ Deli Supermarket (Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd)	Tel: 076-342275
PHUKET CITY	
▶ Earth Language Training Centre School (Phang Nga Rd)	Tel: 076-232398
▶ Sin & Lee (Thalang Rd)	Tel: 076-258369
▶ iTree complete printing service (Tesco Lotus Phuket Town) bank zone	Tel: 076-255425
CHERNG TALAY	
▶ Chaba Supermarket (at the Laguna gateway)	Tel: 076-325586
RAWAI	
▶ The Network property office (Saiyuan Rd)	Tel: 076-613173
KARON	
▶ EuroStyle Tailors (Luang Por Chuan Rd)	Tel: 076-396911

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

REPORTER

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

Good salary for the right candidate.

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd
79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd, Koh Kaew
A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-273555 Fax: 076-615240



Marriott Vacation Club, Asia Pacific, the leader in the global vacation ownership business, is looking for competent individuals and active professionals to join our team in the following positions;

Marriott Vacation Club, Phuket

- Human Resources Manager
- Operation Service Attendant
- Owner Referral Administrative Assistant
- Marketing Executive (Inhouse)
- Marketing Executive (OPC)
- Receptionist
- Sales Executive (Asian Languages)

We require proactive, self-motivated and confident people with excellent interpersonal skills. An intermediate degree of proficiency in English is necessary.

Candidates with the above qualifications should submit a resume with a recent photograph to nachon.obyam@vacationclub.com

Marriott Vacation Club (Thailand) Ltd.
234 Maikhao, Talang, Phuket 83110, Thailand
Tel: 076 338200

PROGRAMMER WANTED

Please send CV to cc@bayshoreprojects.com. Tel: 081-968 5963.

FOREIGNER ACCOUNTANT

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

EXPERIENCED ELDERCARE NURSE

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

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

2 SUB-EDITORS

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

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd
79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd, Koh Kaew
A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-273555 Fax: 076-615240

OFFICE ASSISTANT NEEDED

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

RECEPTIONIST KARON

Beautiful spa in Karon is looking for Thai lady as Receptionist-Cashier. Good salary, staff room. Tel: 087-894 5585.

TIGER/TIGER GRILL JOBS

positions for Thai nationality.
- Floor Manager
Patrolling the rings, may include taking attendance. Salary 15,000+ depending on English skills or other qualifications.
- Secretary to the Executive Chef
Good pay, benefits, fun job, training, etc. Tel: 076-367 071.
Email: jum@tigermuaythai.com
www.tigermuaythai.com

BARTENDERS AND WAITRESS

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

Sales Assistant Manager Based in Layan

- Thai National
- Female
- Outgoing and confident with foreign nationals
- Degree / Tertiary educated
- Fluent English
- Good written English
- Experience of property sale preferred
- IT literate with experience
- Microsoft word / Excel / Powerpoint
- Report to Sale and Marketing Director / Project Director

Please send current resume to angus@landstate.co.th
All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence.

Accountant



- Female age 25-30 years
- Bachelor degree in accounting
- 2-3 years experience of accounting
- Knowledges of property or villa management business will be useful
- Responsible for Account Receivable, Payable & Taxation
- Timely payments to suppliers
- Able to speak English is a plus
- Own transport, office at Cherngtalay
- Hard working, able to work in a team and so delegate

Good salary and benefits, please contact HR
Luxury Villas & Homes: 076-527633, 087-8810003

LOOKING FOR STAFF (2 POSITIONS)

Phuket Wake Park is looking for Secretary Engineer and HR Manager. Tel: 084-889 4942 (English) Send CV to office@phuketwakepark.com

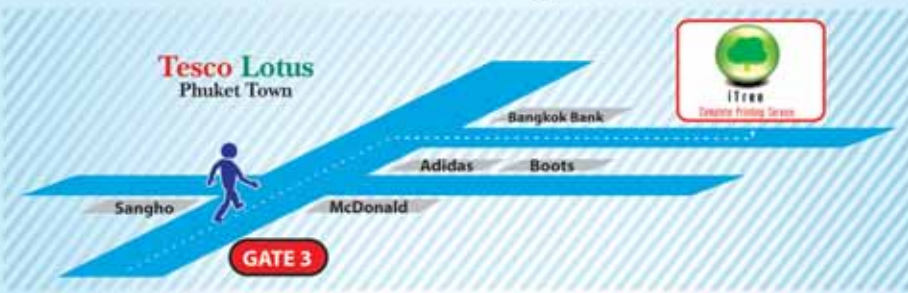
THAI PLUMBER

Contact Carla. Tel: 081-968 5963.

NEW HOTEL OPENING

Opening 01 October in Patong. Staff required in all areas: Housekeeping, Front Desk, Security, and Bar Hosts. Men preferred. Tel: 60-16-974 6968 (English). Email: LouisLovestrand@yahoo.com

Live in Town?
Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at **iTree Complete Printing Service**



Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with **Khun Nan: (076-255425)**

GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work because they're **PAID!** Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published simultaneously and **FREE** - in the **Gazette Online!**

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Live in Patong?
Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at **Taurus Travel**



Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with **Khun Kai: (076-344321-2)**

GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work because they're **PAID!** Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published simultaneously and **FREE** - in the **Gazette Online!**

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Looking for a job?
Looking for a better candidate?
Find more Recruitment Classifieds at [WWW.PhuketGazette.Net!](http://WWW.PhuketGazette.Net)

Articles For Sale

MASSAGE BEDS AND CHAIRS

For sale. 25 Thai-massage beds, 8 foot-massage chairs. Normal price: 300,000 baht, now: 80,000 baht only. For more details please call: 081-537 6866.

WASHING MACHINE & MOUNTAIN BIKE

- Samsung washing machine. Unused, still in box. Sale: 15,000 baht.
- 2 mountain bikes. Sale: 10,000 baht and 4,000 baht. Respectively. Tel: +852 02 865 1013. Email: cmcgee@netvigator.com

INVEST IN COMPARISON WEB PRICE

We offer the highest number of searchable products in Thailand and are expanding into the Southeast Asian market. Seeking USD 0.4M in investment. Tel: 022-072588, 089-687 5889 (English & Thai). Fax: 022-072626. Email: panupong@diversition.co.th If interested, please visit www.attackprice.com

Bar & Restaurant Equipment

OFFER ON LAST ITEMS

Quality gear, cheap, get email list, make an offer. For more information please call: 084-627 1301. Email: flatstanleysfastfood@gmail.com

KEBAB

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

BAR FOR SALE PATONG

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

Bulletins

Alcoholics Anonymous

If you want to drink that is your business
If you want to stop that is ours
Daily Meetings

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

081-895 4763
081-956 4031
email: phuketaa@yahoo.com



SPONSOR A CHILD

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

50/50 PARTNERSHIP

Kamala. Ongoing restaurant/bar/apartment. Working with Thai lady preferred. Invest 150,000 baht. Tel: 084-850 0568.

Shop Equipment

CAKE DISPLAY REFRIGERATOR

Brand Snow Ball, model CKS-SD-90, 790x900 x1,350 cm. Rarely used, excellent condition, same as new. Now sale: 38,000 baht. Tel: 080-526 1118 (English & Thai). Email: aldothai@gmail.com

GOOD COMMERCIAL



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



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



duane@kolanta.net
086 948 6836

SHOP FOR LONG-TERM LEASE

On Sawatdirak Road, opposite White Sand Resortel, a minute's walk to the beach. Tel: 076-342108, 081-892 7480 (English & Thai), 081-607 5716 (English & Thai). Email: Nanzz86@gmail.com

BAR/HOUSE RAWAI

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

RETAIL SPACE OPPORTUNITY



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

PATONG BAR FOR SALE

Popular bar, open air. Beer bar in busy tourist area, fully furnished. Urgent sale: 1.6 million baht. Tel: 081-550 7379, 087-893 1753.

GUESTHOUSE FOR SALE PATONG

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

RESTAURANT AND BAR

Situated in Nanai 8. Recently passed kitchen hygiene rules and fire safety. Pool table, new karaoke sound system, beer cooler, etc. All licenses valid until 2013. No key money. Sale: 750,000 baht or nearest offer. Tel: 083-592 6247 (English), 083-690 7014 (English). Email: micknppr@hotmail.com

HOTEL + RESTAURANT FOR SALE

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

PIT STOP PATONG BEACH



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

FAST FOOD, PATONG

Behind Bangla Tiger, quality fitout, long lease, no key money. Ready to open. Tel: 084-627 1301. Email for details to flatstanleysfastfood@gmail.com

REAL ESTATE FRANCHISE

If you are interested in "Siam Estate No Office". Please contact us now at admin@siamestate.eu

Would you like to keep up on what's happening in Phuket - the good, the bad and the bizarre?
Let us share it with you - every week!

TO: The Phuket Co Ltd, 79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd
T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang, Phuket 83000

YES, I want to receive the PHUKET GAZETTE for a full year - 52 issues!

I hereby authorize payment against my Visa / Mastercard

Thai Baht 1,560 for Phuket Special Delivery (Phuket Island only!)

Thai Baht 2,800 for a domestic subscription (outside Phuket)

Thai Baht 9,000 for an overseas subscription (any country outside Thailand)

Surname (as appears on card) _____ Given name(s) (as on card) _____

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Issuing Bank: _____ Country: _____ Last 3 digits on back of card

Signature: _____ Date: _____

E-mail address: _____

Please Deliver To:

Street address _____

City _____ State or Province _____ Zip Code _____

Country: _____



Fishing Company For Sale: \$169,000 USD



Buy yourself a new life! One of the oldest and most successful fishing companies in Phuket for sale. Regular and new clients from all over the world, mostly via the internet. We have the best advertising name on the net for fishing trips in Phuket. Boat 2 x 340hp, 20m x 5m with all the fishing equipment Trip license also for Similans and once a year to Andaman Islands (India).

E-mail: phuketdorado@hotmail.com Tel: 087-889 4588
www.phuket-fishing.com

SUITE DREAMS



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

General Classifieds

Business Products & Services

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We Care for our Clients

02- 611- 2881 (-82) (Bangkok) 076-326-235 (Phuket)

- Company Set-Up
- Thai Visas & Work Permits
- Foreign Visas (US, UK, AUS, EU)
- Marriage Registration Services
- Divorce
- Visa Run Services
- Property Legal Services
- Thai Wills
- Tax & Accounting Services
- Dispute Resolution
- Notary Service
- Maritime

CONTACT US NOW FOR A FREE CONSULTATION!

Bangkok Main Office (BTS Asok or MRT Sukhumvit stations, 22nd Floor, Interchange 21 Building, Sukhumvit Rd. Corner Asoka Rd.)
Phuket Branch Office 365 Sraocharn Road, Cherm Talay, Thailand, Phuket
G.A.M. Enterprise Company Pty. Ltd. Room 3014, Level 39 Citigroup, 2 Park Street, Sydney NSW 2000, Australia. Tel No: +61 2 9211 6449 Fax No: +61 2 9211 6734

www.gam-legalalliance.com info@gam-legalalliance.com

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CALL ME NOW!
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yuwandabier@yahoo.com

SUGAR WAXING
New sugar waxing, located at Chalong. No pain! Tel: 082-456 6791.

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BABY CENTER, NURSERY, PRIMARY
A SMILEY KID IS A HAPPY KID!
Accept children from 1 year old up to 12 years old

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www.oakmeadowphuket.com 076 521 550

From 5,500 Baht/Month

PHUKET LEARN TO SWIM PROGRAMS
Beginners to adults and water safe classes for nannies. Tel: 088-443 2030.

OC&A FISHING CHARTER
Sport fishing service. Tel: 084-320 2252. Email: thanikulnut@hotmail.com

BUDS NURSERY
Phuket's oldest bi-lingual international child care facility. High-quality, time-proven schedule and curriculum. Now in brand-new purpose-built school. Experienced native English teachers to teach ages 1 - 8. Mon-Fri 8am-5pm. Bus service available from Patong, Karon, Kata, Phuket, Rawai and Chalong. Tel: 076-384638, 080-624 7060. Please see our website at www.buds-phuket.com

LEGAL TAXATION SERVICE
We can arrange and submit all forms of tax return to the Revenue Office. Contact Pondsee. Tel: 086-595 2594. Email: mem_pondsee@yahoo.com

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Family Beach Wedding Pre-weddings portraits and Events
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www.phuketmemorial.com

Club Memberships Available

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

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

Computers

ENGLISH COMPUTERMAN SHOP
Sales, services, repairs, upgrades & accessories. Tuition in English/Thai. Tel: 076-384259, 084-625 7744. Fax: 076-384259. Email: computermanphuket@gmail.com

Golf Stuff

R 11 TAYLOR MADE DRIVER
Brand-new unwanted gift. Best offer. Tel: 081-271 7701. Email: hemalegdr@hotmail.com

Miscellaneous For Sale

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

DINO DAYCARE CENTER

Accepting children 3 months old - 4 years old. 7am-7pm.

- Experienced nannies.
- Nutritious meals.
- Reasonable rates.
- Outdoor activities.
- Skill development activities

CALL NOW:
082-539 8252 (Thai).
081-868 7676 (English).

ENGLISH-RUSSIAN TRANSLATION
High-quality translation. All kinds of text. Reasonable price. Contact Julia. Tel: 084-840 7624. Email: yuliya.maori@gmail.com

GOLF LESSONS PROMOTION

- 1 player: 10 hours, 17,500 baht.
- 2 players: 10 hours, 20,000 baht.

Martin Platts-PGA Senior Golf Instructor. Tel: 089-731 9390 To book at plattsmartin@hotmail.com, for more details please see our website at www.thegolfguru.com

Mobile Phones

SATELLITE PHONE
Inmarsat mobile phone IsatPhone Pro, 2 years old. 12,000 baht. Tel: 084-457 3574 (English). Email: wojciecholczyk@yahoo.com

Pets

ARE YOU LOOKING TO ADOPT A DOG?



Many homeless pups & adult dogs, all breeds & sizes looking for a loving home & someone to take care of them. Please contact: Gone2thedoggies@gmail.com

Personals

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

Pool Tables

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

Live in Patong?
Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at **The Deli Supermarket**



Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with **Khun Damrong: (076-342275)**

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The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Live in Chalong?
Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at **Julapan Stationery**



Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with **Khun Aoi: (076-282254)**

GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work because they're **PAID!** Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published simultaneously and **FREE** - in the **Gazette Online!**

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Saloon Cars

TOYOTA COROLLA GXI
1996. Auto. 2 owners, low mileage, first-class insurance December 2012. Great aircon, P.S., etc. Sale: 175,000 baht o.n.o. Tel: 087-279 8286.

TOYOTA HIACE & HONDA CIVIC
Toyota Hiace 1997. 2.5 diesel. Minibus. High. 350,000 baht. Honda Civic 1995. Silver. Manual. 3 doors. 175,000 baht. Tel: 076-281196, 085-692 6507. Email: robin.xtrem egap@gmail.com



TOYOTA SOLUNA GLI
1999, 102,136km, Max 15" Skirt & Spoiler, Rear JBL Speaker
245,000 BAHT
081 691 5617
thiansin@hotmail.com

CHEVROLET CAPTIVA
Half a year old. White. Contact Alex. Tel: 089-651 3250.



WINGROAD NISSAN NV
5-speed, manual, aircon, P/S, like new, runs great, only 131,000km. Price: 199,000 baht. Tel: 087-385 4018 (English), 085-794 2297 (Thai).

CONVERTIBLE MIRA FOR SALE



Year 2007, automatic. 42,480km only, great runner, based in Rawai. 160,000 baht. Very good condition for year. Just serviced. Email: thaiorientalinn@hotmail.com

HONDA ACCORD
Black, 2004 model, excellent condition, insurance paid until August 2013, new tyres, leather interior, and CD player. Complete service record by Honda. 160,000km. Price: 620,000 baht o.n.o. Tel: 081-846 9981 (English), 081-537 8774 (English & Thai).

SALE FORD ESCAPE 3.0 XLT



Year 2004. 140,000km. Price: 560,000 baht. Contact Noppadol. Tel: 089-589 5453. Email: sopsalon@hotmail.com

DAEWOO AUTO 99,000 BAHT

Daewoo Espero. Automatic transmission, power steering, in very good running condition, cool aircon, CD/MP3 player. Tel: 083-252 5509.

Motorbikes

HONDA PCX 125
Gold color. 5,700km. As new. 55,000 baht o.n.o. Please call in the afternoon. Tel: 087-887 9070.

HARLEY XR-1200



Harley XR-1200 for sale. 2009 model. Only 8,000 km. Perfect condition. Fast and fun. Priced to sell quickly at 550,000 baht. Tel: 081-734 8309 (English). Email: ducphuket@gmail.com

DUCATI 999 SUPERBIKE

Top condition, 92kw/125HP, new tires (only 100km driven). Green book 100% ok. First registered in Thailand in 2007. 54,000km. Price: 350,000 baht. Tel: 087-823 7371 (English). Email holgersaupe750@hotmail.com

Pick-ups

PICK-UP WANTED

4 doors, automatic, low mileage. Around 450,000 baht. Contact John. Tel: 087-078 6743 (English).

2011 TRITON 735,000 BAHT

As new, 4 doors, under 8,000km. One year first class insurance, excellent condition, tint, roll bar. Oz owner. Tel: 084-627 1301 (English). Email: flatstanleysfastfood@gmail.com

VESPA FOR SALE
Pink Vespa LX150, as new, 1,800km. Price: 90,000 baht. Tel: 084-308 8998. Email: lilouhellner@gmail.com

YAMAHA MAJESTY 400



2008 model, only 26,000 km, green book, excellent condition. Price: 155,000 baht. Tel: 087-893 1753.

HONDA FOR SALE

Honda CB400. Good condition, run well, green book. Price: 130,000 baht fixed. Tel: 087-277 4913 (English).

DUCATI MULTISTRADA



1 owner, 1 year old. 6,000km. Termignoni pipes side pans. As new. 1.4 million baht. Now sale: 1.1 million baht. Tel: 084-054 8122.

FOR SALE - YAMAHAS
125cc and 115cc. Yamaha Mio and Yamaha Fiore. Direct to us from finance company. All bikes are 2011 and 2012. Registered and in first-class condition, very low mileage. Green book. Call for more details. Tel: 058-801697, 087-881 1775.

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Short or long-term rent, delivery service, with best price. Tel: 081-607 8567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

CHEAP CAR FOR RENT



Available now in Chalong. Tel: 087-689 9679. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com

BRAND NEW CAR FOR RENT

Toyota Vios, Honda Jazz for short & long term. Full insurance. Delivery. Tel: 088-768 9411 (English & Thai). Email: k_roa2527@hotmail.com

MOTORBIKES FOR RENT

Honda PCX, Airblade, Click, good price, free delivery. No passport deposit. Tel: 087-075 2166. Email: omaral quraini@hotmail.com

A1 CAR RENTAL



Fully insured, 12,000 to 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-831 4703. Email: a1carrent@gmail.com

4 x 4s

4X4 MITSUBISHI PICK-UP, AUTO

4-door, automatic, 2004 with 135,000km. Runs well. Red/silver. Price: 275,000 baht. Tel: 087-885 8708. Email: tomasholmberg77@hotmail.com

CAR RENT
Car rent full insurance, start from 12,000 baht per month. Contact Nina. Tel: 087-461 5471.

CAR RENTAL ALL MODELS
AUT or MT, delivery service, short or long term, first-class insurance. Tel: 087-281 1211 (English).



Please use this form to write your classified advertisement.

_____ (heading)

Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 120 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad.

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

Live in Karon?
Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at Euro style tailors



Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with **Khun Anand: 076-396911**
081-536 5550

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The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

General Classifieds

Aircraft For Sale

YOUR HELICOPTER

Flying and owning your own helicopter has just become possible. Free complete flight instruction course with your purchase. Email: pat@aeropromgr.com

HAVE A PASSION FOR AVIATION?

If you have an aircraft for sale or an interest in aviation and wish to learn how to fly or buy an aircraft or arrange a private flight, etc. Website: www.aeropromgr.com/newsletter

AIRPLAY ALTIS MICROLIGHT

Superb trike with Konig radial engine. Great economical fun. Little used. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-111 6457 (English & Thai), 081-397 7598 (English & Thai). Email: kajoda1954@yahoo.co.uk

1999 ROBIN 2160i

I would like to sell my Robin aircraft or trade it for a 4-seat Cessna or Piper (based in Hua Hin). The Robin: TTAF 300hrs. SMOH 60hrs. This is a well-equipped, two-seat aerobatic aircraft. Has the Christen inverted oil system. Excellent inside and outside. King KMA24 audio panel, KX155 nav/com, KI203 vor, KY197A comm, KN64A dme, KR87 adf, KT76A transponder, CSPA400 i-com, FP5 fuel computer, CHT, OAT, Pitot heat. Price: 4 million baht. Please contact Thom. Email: thos_w@hotmail.com



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

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

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

Rockwell Commander 114 HS-AWS



Built: 1976

Registration: HS-AWS
(in Thailand for the last 6 years)
Previous Registrations:
N4798W – USA
N479GE – USA
I-ECCE – Italy
G-BVNL – UK



Lycoming IO-540-T4B5D (1,300 hours, 700 hours to TBO). Prop: B3D32C419/82NHA-5. Overhauled Feb 2011 (7 years to TBO). C of A Due 11th November 2011. New 5-year Permit. 100 hour check completed 19 Feb 2011.

Specs:

Horsepower: 260	Gross Weight: 3140 lbs
Top Speed: 166 kts	Empty Weight: 2094 lbs
Cruise Speed: 157 kts	Fuel Capacity: 68.00 gal Usable
Stall Speed (dirty): 55 kts	Range: 700 nm
Rate Of Climb: 1088 fpm	Fuel Av Gas 100LL
Ceiling: 17,400 ft	1 crew plus 3 passengers

Radio and Navigation Configuration: Fully IFR equipped. 2 Garmin GNS430 VHF/COMM/NAV/GPS/TERRAIN. Garmin GI-106A VOR/LOC/GS/GPS CDI. King KN64 DME. Garmin GTX 320/327 Transponder with Mode C via Ameri-King AK350-30 Height Encoder. Garmin GMA 340 Audio Panel, Bendix King KR-87 ADF, Sandel SN 3308 EHSI. Century IIB Autopilot Dual Axis and S-Tec Altitude Hold. WX-500 Stormscope.

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

Contact Tony Scragg at 081-906 3250, or email tony_scragg@hotmail.com

TECNAM P-92

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

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



Unique development investment 124 rai Secure/ROI

Mobile: 66 85 258 0006
pat@aeropromgr.com



Only private airfield within 500 miles

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- Aircraft for Sale
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- Flying Lessons

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_____ (heading)

Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 120 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad.

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

Live in Chalong? Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at KL Mart



Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with **Khun Laddawan:** (076 - 280403)

GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work because they're PAID! Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published simultaneously and FREE - in the **Gazette Online!**

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!



A MAN WITH A GOAL: General Manager of Serenity Resort & Residences Phuket Urs Aebi (in yellow) at East 88 Beach Lounge's third high season party, in goal (left), and with one of the winning teams (above). His welcoming team are pictured below.



PRETTIER AND PRETTY TIA: Renowned hospitality company and main sponsor of Miss Teen Thailand 2012, Kata Group Resorts Thailand, led by Pamuke Acharyachai, recently presented a hotel voucher valued at 75,000 baht to Phuket native Tia Li Taveepanichpan, winner of Miss Teen Thailand 2012, and congratulated the 1st and 2nd runner-up winners.



IT'S A FIRST: At B-Lay Tong's first anniversary and 'Gallery of Achievements' were (from left) GM Wesley Hayden, Kraithip Krairiksh, Kamongkol Kamolrattanapiboon, Viroj Kwantham and Chatadul Seenapongpipit. Phuket artist Romadon (below) made a guest appearance.



ISLANDERS: The Naka Island, A Luxury Collection Resort and Spa, Phuket celebrated its first anniversary. Pictured are General Manager Mr Erich Friedl with Mr Jay Spencer and Mrs Jareyadee Spencer, Founders of "JareePacha Heritage Ware".



WELCOME ABOARD: Ao Chalong Yacht Club has formed a youth sailing team. Commadore Mick Kealy is seen here with two members Liam and Paul.



Mom Tri's Kitchen

kata beach

Elegant Dining By the Sea

Thai & Mediterranean Cuisine

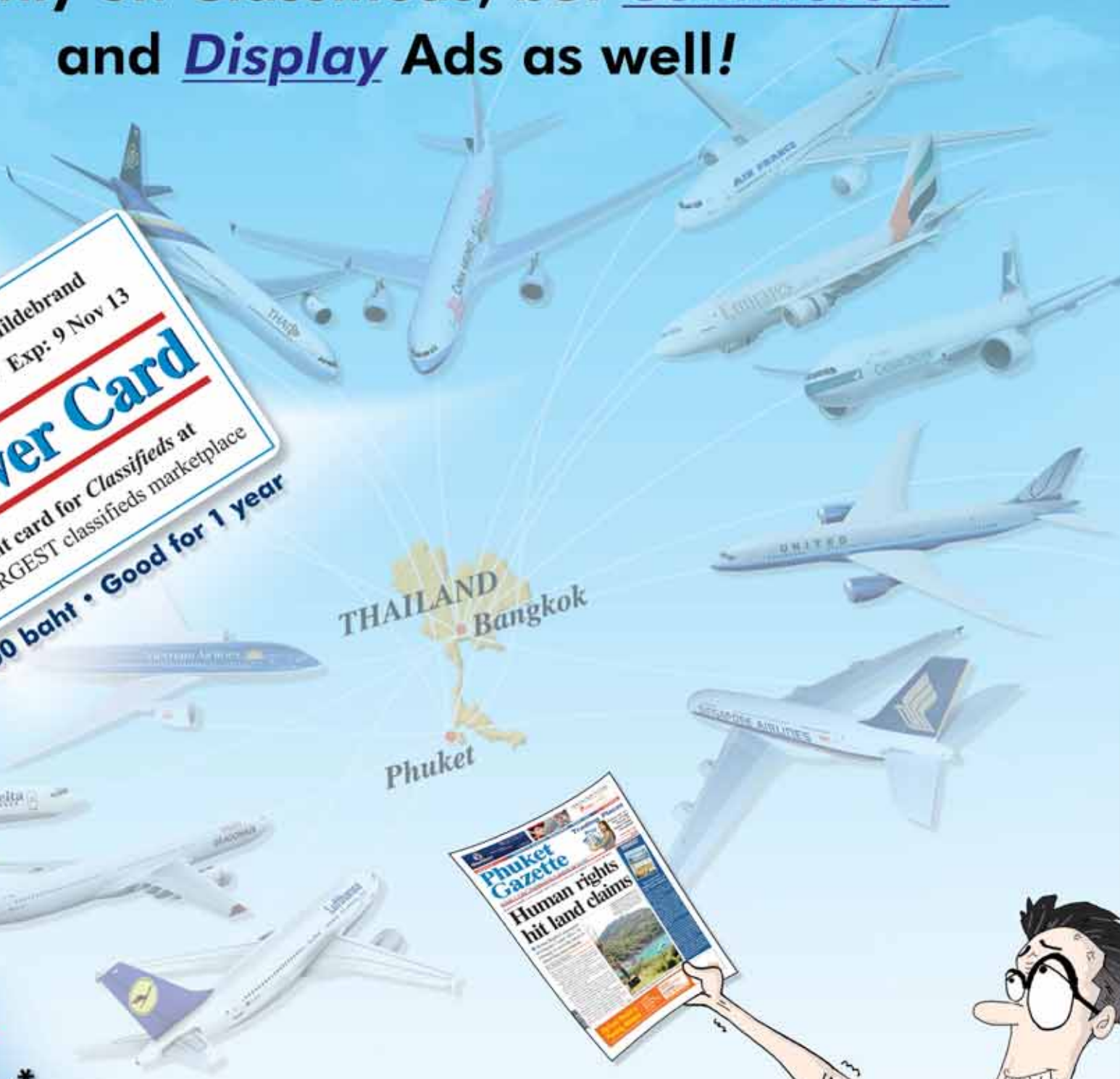
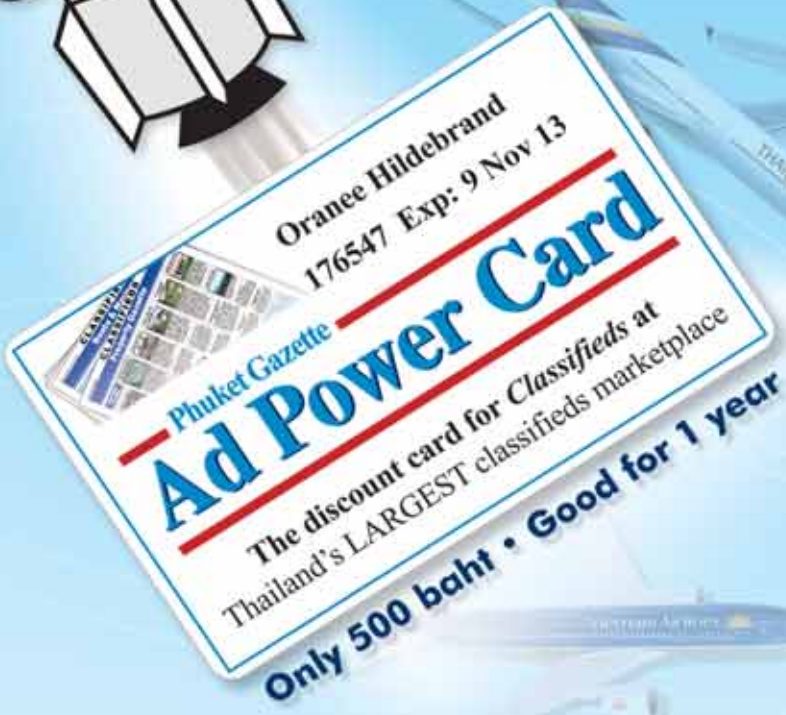
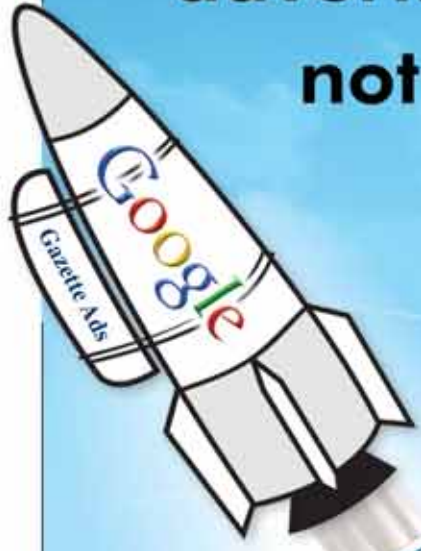
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**WHAT'S ON
in Phuket**

November 9, 8am to 6pm: BIS Phuket International 7-a-side Football Tournament
November 9 and 10 will see the British International School (BIS) Phuket open its gates to the local and international community, hosting, for the eleventh year, the BIS Phuket International 7-a-side Football Tournament. The tournament will be the biggest ever, with more than 900 young football players from 88 teams. The football action kicks off at 8am Friday, 9 November. This event is proudly sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV. Segments of the tournament will be televised nationally on the 'Phuket Today' show. For show times, see the November UBC/True Visions program guide, channel 99.

November 10, 12 to 3pm: Saturday Brunch @ Two Chefs
Every Saturday we set up our brunch buffet, filled to the limits with home made delights. In our smoke house, we smoke all of our fish and meats by ourselves, and in the bakery we bake all our bread. With very well trained chefs and a Swedish head chef, we can promise you that you won't leave hungry or thirsty. All this for only 395 baht, and if you add an extra 300 baht you can choose what you want from our free flow alternatives, visit: twochefs.com.

November 15, 22; 6 to 11:30pm: Martini Manicure Ladies Night at RE KA TA
Free express manicure for ladies. Free Martini for ladies on arrival, and 50 per cent off drinks list for everyone all night long. From 6pm to midnight – DJ tunes till late. Contact: +66-76-330421

November 15, 7 to 11pm: Michel Rolland Wine Dinner @ Mom Tri's Kitchen
Flying Winemaker Michel Rolland and the new Bordeaux style signature. Champagne reception. 4-course Wine Dinner. 2,100++ baht per guest. Champagne reception: Jacquart Mosaique Brut. Main: Herb crusted loin of lamb, potato rosti, ratatouille, confit garlic with Chateau Fontenil



November 22-24

Registration is November 21 from 5pm onwards. Fishing days are November 22-24. Prize giving party on the 24th. For more info visit: phuket-international-sportfishing-tournament.com. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV.

-- Aoc Fronsac 2004. For more info visit: momtriphuket.com

November 17-18, 10am to 4pm: Topper Sail Phuket Sailing Courses at Ao Yon, near Cape Panwa
Set sail on an adventure with Topper Sail Phuket and enjoy the thrills and spills of single-handed sailing. This 2-day course is an excellent and fun introduction to sailing where safety, fun and expert tuition are the key elements. Courses also offered during the school holidays. Topper Sail Phuket is the No 1 Dinghy Sailing School on Phuket. In our fleet we have Optimists, Toppers, Lasers, Topaz with spinnaker, and Cats with twin trapeze. Already know how to sail? Come along and rent one of our boats. Canoeing and SUP courses also available. For more info visit: toppersailphuket.com

November 21-24, 5 to 6pm: Phuket International Sport Fishing Tournament 2012
Registration will be on November 21 from 5pm onwards. Fishing days are November 22-24. Prize giving party on the 24th. For more info, visit: phuket-international-sportfishing-tournament.com. This event is

sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV. We hope you'll join for another great tournament!

Nov 24-Dec 3; 10am to 11:30pm: Laguna Phuket Tri-Fest
Laguna Phuket will again be the focus of worldwide triathlon attention when the legendary Laguna Phuket Triathlon and iconic Ironman 70.3 Laguna Phuket launch the high season in carnival style. The Laguna Phuket Triathlon on Sunday, November 25, and Ironman 70.3 on Sunday, December 2, are linked by a "Tri-Fest" of related training and social events for the many age-group and professional athletes who flock from all over the world each year to soak up the unique triathlon ambiance. The Tri-Fest week sees triathlon devotees rubbing shoulders with professional athletes at training and social events. For more info visit: lagunaphuket.com/events/tri-fest This event is sponsored by *The Nation*, the *Phuket Gazette*, PGTV and the *Gazette's Phuket Today* show airing daily on UBC/True Visions (Channel 99).

November 24, 6pm to 12am: ThaiVisa 10 years party at Phuket Sports & Tennis Club
ThaiVisa members only. Please sign up at: thaivisa.com/forum/topic/

583277-phuket-party-10-years-of-thaivisacom-rawai-sports-club/

November 24, 12 to 3pm: Saturday Brunch @ Two Chefs
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December 1, 6 to 11am: TSLC IronKids Phuket Official Race

Swim, Bike and Run to become an IronKid. A triathlon for 6 to 17-year-olds with age appropriate distances on a safe and secure course. Both individual and team relay entries available. Register on line or at Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club. Visit: ironkidsphuket.com for more information and race details. This event is sponsored by *The Nation*, the *Phuket Gazette*, PGTV and the *Phuket Today* show, found on UBC/True Visions (channel 99).

December 1-8, 6 to 10:30pm: Phuket King's Cup Regatta 2012

Recognized throughout the eastern hemisphere as the premier sailing event of its kind, the Phuket King's Cup Regatta will once more put on a spectacular display of the finest sailing talent from around the world, competing in changeable seas to win the 'must-have' racing trophy in all of Asia. The Regatta takes place December 1-8 and promises five days of highly charged racing complemented by six fantastic beachside parties hosted by some of Phuket's most respected names in hospitality, including the host venue, Kata Beach Resort & Spa. Close to 2,000 guests attend these parties nightly. This event is sponsored by *The Nation*, the *Phuket Gazette*, PGTV and the nationally televised 'Phuket Today' show on UBC/True Visions (Channel 99).

December 5: HM The King's Birthday – Public Holiday
HM The King's Birthday. Also marked as Father's Day in Thailand.

December 6, 6 to 11:30pm: Martini Manicure Ladies Night at RE KA TA
Free express manicure for ladies. Free Martini for ladies on arrival, and 50 per cent off drinks.

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Emptying the Tank

In England there is a children's TV series called *Thomas the Tank Engine* about a plucky railway engine called Thomas. In the USA there is another story called *The Little Engine That Could*. In Phuket we have our own cuddly DJ 'Tom the Tank' who is also bravely puffing "I think I can, I think I can," as he sheds many of the nearly 200 kilos he's been carrying around. We will follow Tom Somsanuk's transformation over the next few months and in this first installment Marc Mulloy interviewed Tom and his trainer James Mason at the Tiger Muay Thai camp to understand the why and how he came to this courageous decision.

By Marc Mulloy

TOM greets me with our traditional bear hug as we meet in front of the Tiger Muay Thai Gym. He is a very huggable guy but lately there is too much bear in that bear hug and Tom wants to lose weight. His coach, James Mason, who himself once weighed in at 230 kilograms, is living proof that it can be done.

James had let his formerly healthy life-style lapse until he became so obese that a doctor gave him five years to live. This was a defining moment and he came to Thailand in 2010 and joined Tiger Muay Thai. Now two years on, he is an inspiration to others.

Tom is one of those inspired. Like James, he had his defining moment when his own mother needed to be taken to the hospital after a seizure, and he was unable to lift her due to his own weight issues.

"When I knelt down to pick my mother up, I couldn't breathe even though she weighs so little. This is the most important person in my life, and I couldn't lift her up – that's horrible. Luckily my neigh-

bors were able to help, but it made me realize that I need to lose weight," says Tom.

"I'm proud of being a DJ but I've worked some pretty odd hours for over the last fifteen years, often eating at four in the morning. It's hard to get healthy food at that time in the morning."

At 37-years-old, Tom's weight was 195 kgs and despite an active life-style, he had begun to feel the symptoms of being over-

weight: breathlessness, poor circulation in his legs and a slowness to heal.

Meeting James Mason who has now successfully lost over 130 kgs at the Tiger Muay Thai gym was the

"When Tom had his first workout he struggled to walk 200 meters, now we're walking 2.6 kilometers together"

turning point for Tom. "James weighed 175 kgs when we met at a barbecue beatdown and was still shedding the weight. Seeing James, who is eight years younger than me, burning his huge, old clothes was an inspiration to me." says Tom.

"When Tom had his first workout he struggled to walk 200 meters, now we're walking 2.6 kilometers together, and at his workout this morning he's done 200 high-knees on a crash mat, 75 ball slams with a 7kg medicine ball



WIN AND LOSE: Tom 'the tank' (right) poses with his trainer James Mason, who himself once weighed 230kg.

and 30 bicep curls with light dumbbells. In two months Tom has been able to lose 9.5 kgs. Working with Tom also inspires me to keep going as I want to lose another 20 kgs" says James.

Apart from the exercise, James explains that diet is crucial to weight loss, representing 70 per cent of the effort. Starch and carbohydrates are now off the menu for Tom, who looks to James for guidance.

"For me, it's vital he's here" says Tom. "It's not that I need someone to tell me what to do, but I do need someone to guide me, who has been there. I get emotional so I need to be with someone who knows what I'm going through. I feel really lucky to have this opportunity and will do my best to do something good for myself. The food is a problem. It will always be there but it's like going out with an 'ex' that you know you shouldn't be going with. It's a familiar place, used to be a friendly place, but you know it will turn out bad. Thanks to the many people I have met recently, I am on the right path now."

I've never been this conscious of what I eat before. I now eat lean chicken and Issan food like *Som Tum*, grilled fish and as many vegetables as I can handle. But I have to keep off the carbohydrates. In the past two months I've cut back about 90 per cent on sugar and carbs but I have been eating some, again because of my life-style I break down now and again."

James is understanding but adds: "That's fine for some people who are ten kgs overweight but for us obese guys, we really have to cut out the carbs. Before your body uses up the fat stored as energy it will burn up carbohydrates, but if you keep

topping the carbs up, then the fat will stay in reserve. Every six weeks he can have a 'treat meal' but only one meal

and only in six weeks.

He also needs to break his snacking habits and if he needs a snack he can eat fruit or nuts. Water helps a lot and often the

feeling of hunger can also just mean that you're dehydrated. I now drink 5 to 6 liters of water a day."

Tom admits that despite the hardship, he is feeling the results. "It is not all about weight it is about health. I do feel better; when I get up from the floor it doesn't take so long; when I go up stairs, I don't feel so bad – it's all the little things that together make me feel better about myself. I don't want to be a super fit guy, I just want to be normal. My goal is to be about 120 kgs."

We will check back in on Tom in a few weeks and keep our readers informed. In the meantime, it looks like we're going to be seeing less of Tom around. And that's a good thing.

"Thanks to the many people I have met recently, I am on the right path now."



DEDICATION: Tom is 195kg and aims to be 120kg by the time he's finished.

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Charn Ditkajan

THE young tattooing master, Charn Ditkajan, exudes an air of grace and calm authority. He has just performed a four-hour-long tattoo inscription for an Italian gentleman, but shows no sign of fatigue.

"I silently chant mantras during the session to keep me focused and restore my energy," he explains with a distinguished Supanburi accent known among Thais for its association with rural folk.

But Charn doesn't seem to mind, and it's not surprising to see why he is proud of his roots: Supanburi (along with its neighboring Ayudhaya) is long regarded as the hub of traditional art forms, be it music, martial or performing arts.

Known affectionately as "Kru Pong" by all and sundry, Charn, 34, is a practitioner of two ancient disciplines: sacred tattooing and the ancient martial art *muey Chaiya*. However, he remains humble about his status.

"I am not a master, just a practitioner of these noble crafts," he says. But many, who regard him with respect, will refute that statement.

As a young novice monk in Supanburi temple, Charn remembered being fascinated by the Buddhist amulets the temple produced for its parishioners.

THAI gallery

By Nanthapa Pengkasem

"Sacred tattoos are regarded as protective charms that you literally wear on your skin. Originally they were inscribed on the bodies of ancient warriors who only had swords and bare hands as weapons."

Today, in a relatively peaceful time, *sak yant* is still popular among Thais, who believe in its potency to protect and attract wealth, love and career advancement. Apart from Khmer inscriptions, which form the backbone of *sak yant*, designs also include religious iconography, mythical animals and Hindu deities.

But, as Charn points out, *sak yant* is only one part of the picture. The "wearer" must observe certain moral rules of conduct for the tattoos to work.

"In a way, *sak yant* teaches people how to be responsible individuals, indirectly that is."

Studying under a renowned tattoo master, Charn learned that *sak yant* was not just a matter of putting ink on the skin, but a craft in which the spiritual aspect played an important role.

Thus following the rules

religiously, Charn became well versed in mantras and meditation, both of which have become an indispensable part of his daily life.

Charn's foray into the ancient art of *muey Chaiya* happened during his university days in Bangkok. According to him, it was part and parcel of becoming a true master of the sacred tattoo.

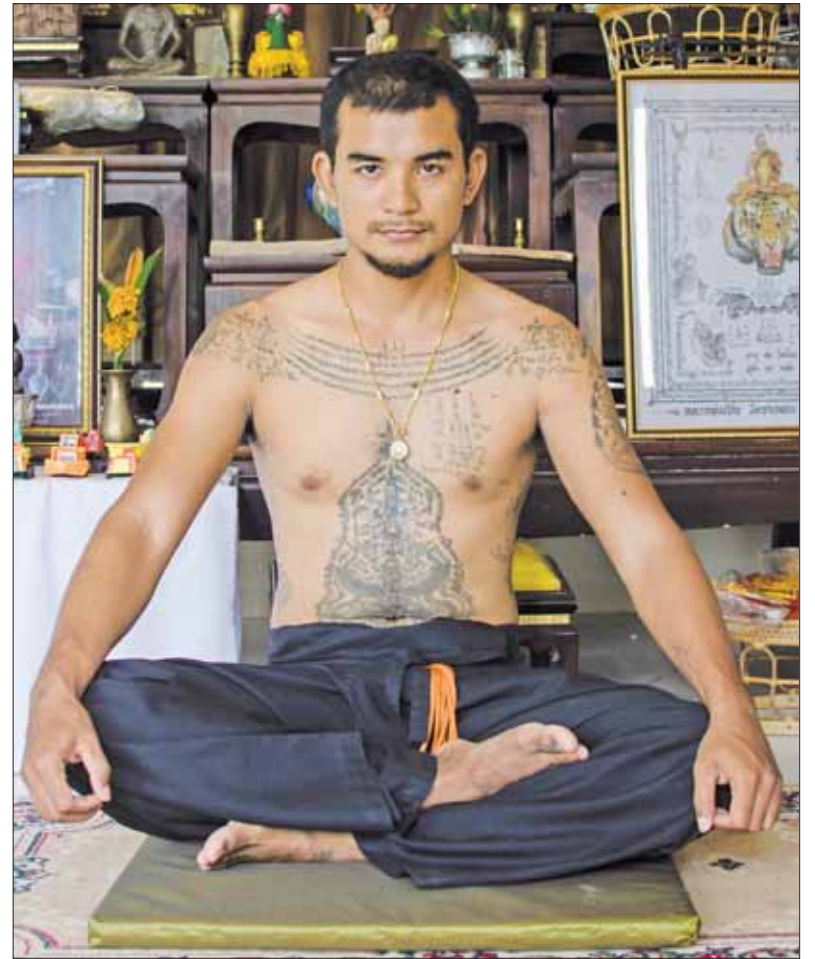
"I chose to practice *muey Chaiya* over other forms of Thai boxing because I don't like ring fighting. *Muey Chaiya* is more of a self-defense and a vigorous and graceful form of exercise."

Charn has been practicing *muey Chaiya* for over ten years now, applying the same rigor he used with learning *sak yant* - with unwavering commitment and consistency.

At present, he holds a six-day weekly class of *muey Chaiya* at Sukho Spa on Chao Fah West Road. As a resident tattooing master his book is filled with appointments with expats and Thais eager to adorn their bodies with this intricate art.

"Both *Muey Chaiya* and *sak yant* are traditions I'd like to pass on to my children and thus create some sort of lineage before the practice is lost out of disinterest."

As a father of a young toddler, he may not have to wait long before his son follows in his father's footsteps.



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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Watching the birds disappear

A guided tour of Chalong with a resident environmentalist

By **Nanthapa Pengkasem**

AS WE left Chao Fah Road and turned onto a dirt path, a truck carrying sand drove past, bobbing under its own heavy weight as it negotiated muddy potholes, made as a result of the recent heavy rainfall.

"This sand is 'pillaged' from the lagoons around here," says my nature photographer friend Rat, emphasizing the word 'pillage'.

We are here to see what used to be a temporary habitat of blue-tailed bee-eaters (*merops philippinus*), a species known among bird watchers as 'breeding visitors'.

Around October, the bee-eaters migrate from southern China to the more clement climes of Southeast Asia. In Phuket they've found their perfect roosting spot in a small hill that once stood here. The hill, composed of sandy soil from a mine dug-out, has one straight side, almost like a cliff face.

By burrowing small tunnels into the cliff side, thousands of bee-eaters made their nests and nursed their young. The whole flock then flew home in spring.

"At one time, the hillside would be punctuated with numerous small holes and the whole hill was not unlike the artificial bird condominiums people create for commercial purposes today," says Rat.

Alas, the hill is no more – the land has been leveled to make way for a new housing development. Still, it must have been a sight, whether you are a bird enthusiast or not – a colony of these gregarious birds busying about, their vivid green and blue plumage decorating the skyline of Chalong.

"They are graceful birds, quick and agile enough to catch insects mid-flight. They offer a check and balance mechanism for the insect population and thus are useful to farmers," adds Rat, who has been witnessing the dwindling number

of bee-eaters over the years. He believes that their presence, or lack thereof, is an accurate indicator as to the degree of biodiversity in any area.

We drove further down the dirt path and passed a few water buffalo bathing in the mud. This was clearly an old mining site indicated by a few deep blue lagoons. Rat pointed out a lone kingfisher on a bare branch, contemplating the water – the bird flew away as we drew near:

"Lagoons and ponds are a great habitat for all kinds of wild ducks and wading birds. Around any water I seek out purple swampheens (*porphyrio porphyrio*), which are medium-sized ducks with an amazing deep

Then Rat spotted a mangrove pitta (*pitta megarhyncha*), another 'threatened' species, in the lakeside tree.

"This is extraordinary," says Rat excitedly, "Pittas are rare. Many birdwatchers will go out of their way to see them. They can be found at Khao Phra Taao National Park but traversing the park is not easy."

Rat is a native of Phuket. An enthusiastic bird-watcher, last year, Rat bagged two awards from Thai PBS Television for video clips he made of rare and decorative birds.

Growing up in Chalong, Rat has witnessed many developments in the area with dismay.

"It's incredible the way in which we abuse our natural resources," he says, "The way forward is for the authorities to seriously manage, and at the same time increase, the so-called 'green areas'," he suggests.

Towards the end of the road, a large area is being dug out to make way for the planned Klong Kata dam, a 20,000-cubic-meter reservoir expected to be finished in 2013. The apparent purpose was to conserve usable water during the drought, but Rat is not convinced:

"I just hope that the dam will do the work it is intended to do plus provide a habitat of sorts for the animals. But I fear that cutting down trees and construction will deter the birds from coming back. And their lack of presence is a telling sign that our biodiversity is in danger."

We circumnavigated the yet-to-be-finished dam and came out on another dirt road, passing a swanky new temple and a small golf course, emerging into the real world of West Chao Fah Road.

For bird-watching and photographic expeditions in and around Phuket contact Rat at Tel. 081 537 4086



ENDANGERED: Purple swamphean mid-flight. Photo: Kenneth Cole Schneider



MIGRATORY: Blue-tailed bee-eater. Photo: Shanaka Aravinda

blue color. But they too are almost extinct now, as they are being hunted for food. I dare say that there are only twenty or so left in Phuket," dsays Rat.

Further on down the road, a few people were fishing by the lakeside. There, we witnessed a swirling Eagle make a bravado dash into the lake, disappearing quickly out of sight, fish in mouth.



Bee-eaters burrow their nests on a sandy bank. Photo: louise_using_spoons



Blue-winged pitta. Photo: Andi Li

Singapore's 'Gardens by the Bay'

PLANTS are celebrated at Singapore's new nature attraction but visitors would do better not to think of the air-conditioning bill.

Singapore has brought a bit of the Mediterranean to Southeast Asia with a new attraction called *Gardens by the Bay*, which includes greenhouses that have to be cooled, not warmed, to a comfortable 23 degrees Celsius.

It's all on display under a 54-meter-high glass dome on a surface area about as big as a football field. In tropical

Singapore the giant terrarium requires a massive energy output to hold the temperature at 23-25 degrees Celsius.

A walk around the cloud forest begins after an elevator ride to the top and leads downward on a slowly spiralling walkway covered by non-slip mats. Blossoms are everywhere – 130,000 plants and 400 species, including coffee, tea, ferns and moss.

They are changing over to autumn and Asters are in bloom and wheelbarrows are decorated

with ears of corn. Outside of the dome, visitors stroll through Chinese, Malaysian and Indian gardens with typical herbs and fruit.

Officials say the new garden has exceeded expectations. After eight months, it recorded its one millionth visitor. Locals in particular have turned out in large numbers to tour the site. Its outside areas are free of charge, but to enter the dome or halls, visitors must pay 492 baht.

– *The Nation*

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Measuring oxygen levels for athletes

Dr Pasakorn Watantada

VO2 MAX is a common medical term used in sports medicine to describe a body's performance under pressure.

It refers to the maximum amount of oxygen that an individual can utilize during intense or maximal exercise.

It measures the athlete's maximum ability to pull oxygen from the air, transport it into the blood, and deliver it to the muscles of the body.

In theory, those with a high value of VO2 Max are able to perform aerobic exercises better. The value of VO2 Max is used to indicate a person's level of fitness and endurance.

The amount of O2 used during exercise is measured and compared to the number of times the body uses O2 while at rest. One MET (Metabolic Equivalent) level is your baseline level of O2 consumption at rest, which is set at 3.5 milliliters of oxygen per kilogram of body weight per minute (mL/kg/min). The MET offers a convenient measurement of O2 levels, as it relates to this



Dr Pasakorn of Sukhumvit Hospital.

baseline measurement.

During exercise, muscles need oxygen as a source of energy. When you are exercising to maximum capacity and oxygen, the main source of energy, is not sufficient, your body will begin to use energy from other sources through anaerobic metabolism. This causes cells to produce waste molecules in the form of

lactic acid that impairs your muscles, causing muscle pain and fatigue.

How exactly is an athlete's performance measured?

Testing can be conducted either on a treadmill or on a stationary bike. The patient will be fitted with a respiratory mask covering their mouth and nose and then connected to a 12 Lead EKG (Electrocardiogram). Vital statistics will be measured as a baseline, including heart rate, resting respiration and blood pressure. Then the workout begins, lasting 30-45 minutes.

During the test, the athlete will be asked to exercise until completely exhausted. This is the point that will be used to measure oxygen consumption when anaerobic metabolism kicks in. Lactic and anaerobic thresholds will then be measured through a blood test to determine the value of the lactic acid.

This kind of test can help athletes determine their level of fitness and endurance, so they can adjust their training to improve performance and efficiency.



TRICK OR TREAT? Pumpkins have essential vitamins. Photo: Richard Bowen

Pumpkin power: more than just a decoration

PUMPKINS are more than just for Halloween decorations. They are also edible, delicious and nutritious. When fresh pumpkin is not available, canned pumpkin can be a convenient alternative, saving lots of preparation time.

Pumpkin can also add a velvety creaminess to your chili dip. Plus, this bright orange gourd happens to be packed with several disease-fighting nutrients: Calcium, which promotes bone health; Potassium, a mineral balancer and fluid regulator that also helps maintain normal blood pressure and might reduce your

risk for bone loss; Vitamin C, a powerful antioxidant that helps block some of the damage caused by free radicals;

You get Vitamin A from the carotenoids alpha and beta-carotene, which could reduce your risk for certain cancers and heart disease. Vitamin A also fights off infections, protects against some of the degenerative aspects of aging and benefits your lungs, skin and eye health.

Pumpkins also contain a lot of fiber, which aids in digestion and helps keep you feeling fuller longer. *- Phuket Gazette*

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Bonding with 007

By Barry Daniel

THE latest James Bond blockbuster *Skyfall* had its grand opening in London last week and is currently being shown in Phuket. The Bond film franchise is the world's most financially successful, having spawned 23 films and sold mountains of attendant hoopla and franchising paraphernalia worth some twelve billion dollars.

There have been seven James Bonds thus far, and surprisingly, the original was not the Edinburgh tough guy Sean Connery, but a chap called Barry Nelson who appeared in a long-forgotten 1954 TV episode, based on the Ian Fleming novel *Casino Royale*.

The real Bond money machine started rolling exactly 50 years ago in 1962, with the launch of *Doctor No*, which cost the princely sum of US\$1 million to complete and launched Connery and producers Harry Saltzman and Cubby

Broccoli on a global roller-coaster of fame and fortune.

Connery went on to star in the first seven Bond films, despite the character's creator, author Ian Fleming's doubts about his suitability for the role:

"He's not at all what I envisioned for the look of James Bond, I was seeking a distinguished Commander Bond and not an overgrown stunt-man," said the Old Etonian of the muscular, 6' 2" Scot.

Indeed Fleming wanted upper-crust David Niven to play the role and was eventually only persuaded by his girlfriend's incessant enthusiasm for Connery's "irresistible sexual charisma".

Skyfall is the 23rd mainstream Bondian epic, and many agree that the present 007 incumbent, Daniel Craig, has returned the franchise to Ian Fleming's core values of slapping about the baddies, bedding the babes and gallivanting around the planet in fast cars while

playing with lots of high tech gadgets.

Skyfall is an often dazzling, always audacious, addition to the genre directed by Sam Mendes who gives us Daniel Craig as a Bond incarnate.

Six years on from his debut in *Casino Royale*, Craig has now become more than a brawny cipher. There's warmth to his banter with pretty field agent Eve (Naomie Harris) as the suave one-liners make a tentative return and we even learn about the loss of Bond's parents.

Like many of us living in Phuket, I can still clearly recall the day I went to see my first James Bond film, *Doctor No* filmed in Ian Fleming's spiritual home of Jamaica and starring Connery and Ursula Andress as the delectable Honey Ryder.

As per normal in the English town in which I grew up, it was a miserable chilly day with the icy rain flying in horizontally from the

Irish Sea. As an audience made up almost entirely of pimply school-boys, like myself, trudged into the darkened interior of the cinema, the air of excited anticipation was palpable. News of Bond's exploits with sumptuous young women had travelled around our school like wildfire and now we were going to witness it for ourselves.

When the pneumatic shape of Ursula Andress waded out of the Caribbean waves in her white bikini, with a dagger in her belt, a collective sigh of semi-orgasmic longing travelled around the entire theatre.

Upon leaving the cinema after the film I was in a trance-like state... I had just seen the life I wanted to lead and now I had to work out how on Earth I was going to get out of England and land myself a job as a super-spy working mainly on sun-drenched beaches with bikini-clad young beauties, while sipping Martinis and driving my Aston Martin. Not an easy task for a twelve year old.

Needless to say my life didn't pan out quite that way. In actual fact, the number of Aston Martins, bikini-clad nymphomaniacs and exotic spying assignments that came my way as I forged my career was disappointing to say the least.

Suffice to say that my work life was much like the usual English weather forecast. "Light drizzle turning into a steady down-pour, with the chance of an occasional thunder storm later in the day."

In fact, come to think of it, that's also a fair summation of how married life went as well.

So, having survived the various disappointments of adulthood and saved a small amount of money, I arrived at the age of retirement and started to think about where I would like to spend my "Golden Years."

Naturally my mind drifted back to my early dreams of Bondian romance and I hit upon Phuket as a place that seemed to offer a number of the essential ingredients

at bargain basement rates.

Phuket even had a connection to the great super-spy in that Phang Nga Bay featured in the 1974 Bond film *The Man with the Golden Gun*. This Bond epic starred Roger Moore's dancing eyebrows, Christopher Lee as the dastardly villain Scaramonger, a very silly dwarf named NikNak and of course Britt Eckland's won-

'The strange thing is that now that the Bondian lifestyle is actually available to me in reality, it seems to have less appeal.'

drous bottom wiggling about in various bikinis.

When I first arrived in Phuket, I even took the tourist trap day trip out to what is mendaciously billed as "James Bond Island". It's a good job that Ian Fleming never had the displeasure of seeing the mess that the once-pristine island has turned into... he would be spinning in his grave.

Time wiper to 2012 here in the deep south of Phuket in a ramshackle beach bar on the Rawai beachfront. As I settle into my usual corner seat and sip my first drink of the day (more likely a cold beer than a Martini) I reflect on the fact that my current life is not that far removed from my illusory boy-hood Bondian fantasy.

I do live on a sun-drenched tropical island where palm trees and girly hips sway in the ocean breeze. I spend my time inventing spying assignments for myself as I ponder the lives of other layabouts, who populate this corner of Phuket. And there's definitely no shortage of bikini-clad young stroodle gracing the bars and beaches in these benign parts.

The strange thing is that now that the Bondian lifestyle is actually available to me in reality, it seems to have less appeal. Maybe these sorts of things are meant to live only in our imaginations... and maybe understanding that, is what is loosely described as 'wisdom'.

And dear old Ursula is now 76-years-old, bless her white cotton bikini.

So, bartender I'll have another cold beer please – shaken and not stirred – as I offer up a toast to Bond.... James Bond.



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Of snobs and stray heads

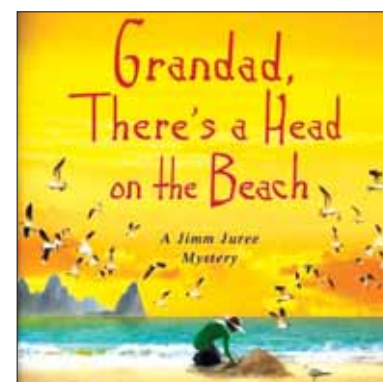
By James Eckardt

COLIN Cotterill has written a new series set in modern day Thailand featuring Jimm Juree, a 34-year-old divorcee and former crime reporter for the Chiang Mai Mail.

In the first novel of the series – *Killed at the Whim of a Hat* – she cuts all ties in Chiang Mai to follow her mother who has just bought five beach bungalows in Chumphon.

Along with her come her bashful body builder brother Army and her granddad Jah, an taciturn, ill-tempered former traffic policeman. Staying behind in Chiang Mai is her 'sister' Sissi, a former transsexual beauty queen and now a reclusive internet outlaw.

These characters form the



backbone to the second novel of the series, "*Granddad, There's a Head on the Beach*", which is what Jimm says when she comes back from a walk on the beach with the two family dogs. A sinister policeman and two thugs from the local body snatching society determine

that the head belonged to a Burmese and thus is of no further concern, though a fake investigation is written up.

At the same time a car with no license plates and a middleclass mother and college-age daughter with no identification turn up at the bungalow, obviously on the run from someone. The mystery of the two fugitives is soon solved by Sissi, the computer whizz.

At Georgetown University, the daughter had caused an aristocratic classmate to lose face. For this they're being hounded by a hyper-efficient uber-Gestapo dedicated solely to Thai aristocrats.

The book is full of off-the-wall funny stuff, making it a thoroughly enjoyable read.

Calm down at Sala Bua



Executive chef Hans Engerer has created a new menu for the resort.



PINK AND YUMMY: The Balinese-style, tangy tuna will appeal to Thai tastes.

On the Menu

By Marc Mulloy

ONE of great things about living in Phuket is that it never ceases to surprise me. Having lived here for a number of years now I have found many fantastic places to eat and often find myself drifting back to areas that have left a good impression.

Patong is not one of them. The hustle and hassle that I usually experience there has made me mentally delete it from my list of places to dine or to take visitors to for meals.

It turns out that I may have been wrong and that there are places that are worth visiting. One of them is the Impiana Resort, Patong.

I may be guilty of using the word oasis too often but this place certainly fits the bill. One minute you are zig-zagging your way through tuk-tuks, touts and tourists and the next you are walking through a beautifully appointed courtyard with an expansive view of the Andaman sea sparkling as a backdrop.

Location, location, location... This boutique resort has probably got the best emplacement in Patong, where guests can literally leave their rooms and step right onto the beach.

Today we are one of the three restaurants at the resort which goes by the name *Sala Bua* (Lotus pavilion). This is a large, airy, thatched-roofed restaurant which opens onto the dazzling panorama of Patong Beach.

Between us and the sand is an open terrace with mature 'deer ear' trees and palms. Although we

have arrived at midday there is a cool breeze that wafts in from the bay. As the restaurant faces west I can only imagine what it must be like in the evening as we would be facing the sunset.

The overall impression is one of a spacious, calm and open environment with lily ponds and statues reminiscent of a spa.

As a matter of fact the Swasana Spa is just adjacent to the *Sala Bua*, which may explain the calming ambiance.

It really is difficult to believe that we are still in Patong.

Impiana Phuket has recently acquired the services of a new executive chef, Hans Engerer who stops by our table briefly to greet us on his way to the kitchen. He is smartly dressed in a black tunic and although a recent arrival at Impiana he is no stranger to Phuket and obviously has a passion for Asian food.

Today he has prepared two of his signature dishes for us; one is a fish dish and the other duck.

The first is a Balinese-style seared tuna, which gives a nod to the Thai *yum* flavor. The tender tuna is topped with tangy lime juice, lemon grass, coriander, galanga, garlic and lots of red onion, which matches the beautiful pink hues of the fish. Hom Mali rice is served apart wrapped in a banana leaf.

Light and tasty, this dish will certainly appeal to both tuna lovers and those who prefer an Asian flavor with their fish.

From the Far East, Chef Engerer next takes our tastebuds to the Middle East with his Oriental style duck breast.

The glazed duck is imbued with a myriad of exotic spices from fennel seeds to cardamom



EASTERN PROMISE: Oriental duck breast served with fresh mango and kale. Photos: Marc Mulloy

and is a world away from the usual *Magret de canard* found on the island.

The sweetly marinated duck is served with cubes of fresh mango and a fruity *couscous* presented in a banana leaf cone.

I try to remember when I last had *couscous*, yet alone *couscous* this good. Cherry tomatoes and Chinese kale complete this second dish (both of which come in at under 700 baht).

Service was efficient and unobtrusive and even the sea itself did a great job of calming the senses.

Although sorely tempted, we decide to forego the chocolate lava cake and yoghurt sorbet and instead opt for a strong coffee to try to bring us out of the comfortable torpor we are now in.

It is hard to believe that just a few minutes away is the bustle of Patong (which I now have to face) but at least I now know where to escape to the next time that I'm in the area.

Sala Bua is open from 6.30am to Midnight and has limited parking. Call: 07634 2100 #8301 for reservations.

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Is Windows 8 right for your Phuket PC?



Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

I'M VERY happy to announce that my latest book, Windows 8 All-In-One For Dummies, arrived on store shelves around the world just before Windows 8 launched on October 26.

At 1,080 pages, it's not only the longest book I've ever written, it's also the most complex. While Windows 8 itself isn't considerably more convoluted than Windows 7, it has a second persona that makes it look and act like two completely different programs. On the one hand, you have the Mr Hyde "Metro" interface, which consists of flashy tiles, much like a mobile phone. On the other hand, the old-fashioned Dr Jekyll desktop looks just like the Windows 7 desktop, and acts almost the same.

A lot of people think that I hate Windows 8, but I don't really. My review for InfoWorld wasn't particularly positive – "The InfoWorld Windows 8 Review – Yes, it's that bad" drew howls of protest from Microsoft – but I think

it made a number of fair points.

Yes, I'm painfully aware of the fact that telling people all about Windows 8's foibles is a sure-fire way to lessen demand for my book – but so be it. Win8 isn't for everybody.

If you're working with Windows 7 on a desktop or laptop, and you're accustomed to working with a keyboard and mouse and don't particularly want to try anything new, there's no really compelling reason to pick up Windows 8. In my opinion. On the other hand, if you're working with tablets or smartphones, and the process of interacting with a computer directly with your fingers doesn't put you off, Windows 8 is worth a look.

For people like me, who work all day every day with a keyboard and mouse, Windows 8 has some quirks that seem inimical to getting my work done. On the other hand, there's no doubt that direct interaction with a computer is the way of the future, both with touch interfaces and with voice, so Windows 8 holds some attraction.

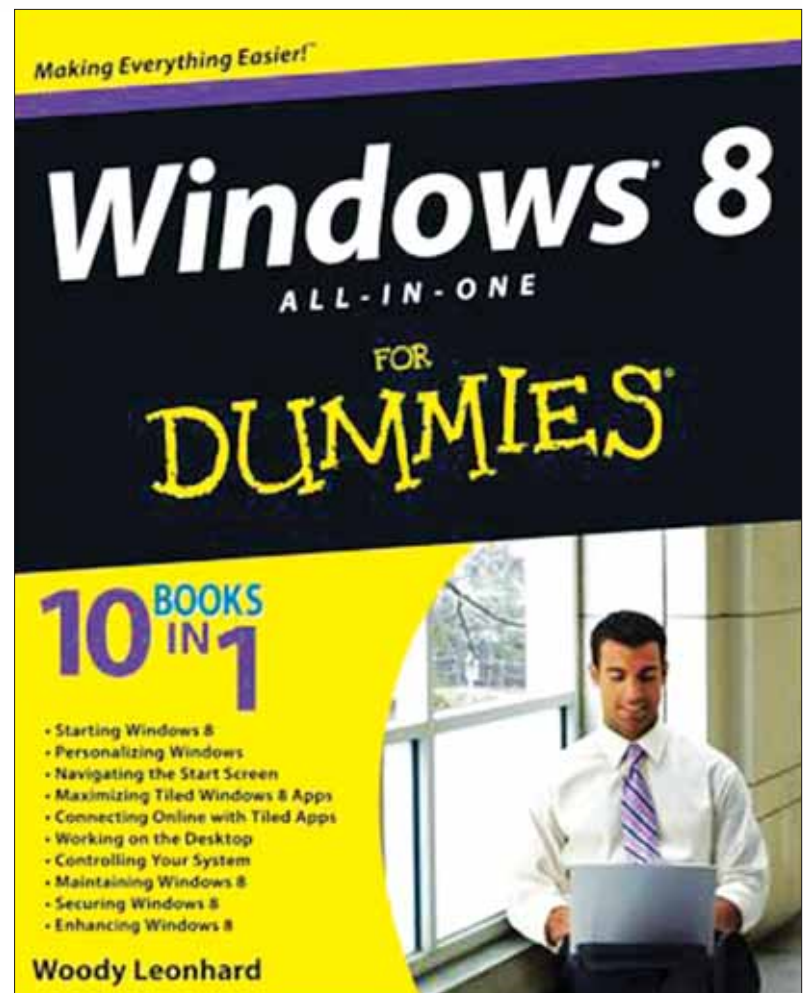
Which is all by way of saying... don't shoot me, but I actually switched over to Windows 8 on

my main machine last week. After years of testing Win8, pounding and prodding, I've finally made the jump to using it in the real world. And I'll have to admit it's not as off-putting as I thought it would be. There are a number of tricks, specifically ways to rig out the old-fashioned desktop so you aren't thrown into the Metro tiled world willy-nilly, and I'm finding that those tricks work pretty well. I rarely find myself in the Metro side of things unless I intentionally go there, and there are just enough new tweaks for the old desktop that the upgrade's worthwhile, even for a diehard Windows 7 user like me.

If you're thinking about dipping your toes in the Windows 8 pool, a few admonitions are in order.

As of today, I've found precisely zero new Windows 8 machines in Phuket. The retailers aren't stocking Win8 PCs, although they'll be glad to sell you two-year-old-technology notebooks with horrendously inflated price tags. *Caveat emptor* has never been more appropriate.

That will change over time – retailers will have to get with the



NOT JUST FOR DUMMIES: Breaking down Windows 8 for Phuket-users.

new operating system sooner or later – and when it does, you're going to find that your friendly local sales clerk doesn't know squat about Windows 8. I spent the better part of a month driving around the western US, dropping by dozens of computer stores, and discovered that with rare exception the clerks in all of the stores, including big-name computer places, didn't have a clue about Win8 – and they were steering their customers in the wrong direction.

Here's the most important fact you need to know about the new Windows: It isn't just one operating system, it's two. On the one hand, you have Windows 8, which includes both the old-fashioned Windows 7 desktop and the new, tiled Metro Start screen. On the other hand, you have Windows RT, which looks a lot like Windows 8, but doesn't run Windows programs.

Yes, you read that correctly. With a few highly qualified exceptions, Windows RT doesn't run any traditional Windows programs. No Photoshop. No Firefox. No CSS. No Chrome. No Adobe PDF Reader. No VLC Media Player. No SpyBot. No Quicken or QuickBooks. No Windows Media Player.

The only traditional Windows programs that will run on a Windows RT machine are a touch-enhanced version of Office Home & Student 2013 (Word, Excel, PowerPoint and OneNote), Windows Explorer (renamed File Explorer), Paint and Notepad. Windows RT can't run Outlook, no way, no how.

Microsoft has done a terrible job of explaining to its potential customers that there's a huge rift separating Windows 8 and Windows RT.

There's nothing inherently wrong with Windows RT. It's built to take on the iPad, pure and simple, and it only runs programs from the Windows Store (Microsoft's analog to the Apple AppStore). It runs on much

simpler, lighter and power-miserly hardware. But if you go to a store and buy a Windows RT machine, you need to know in no uncertain terms that it won't run any Windows programs – at all.

The key to Apple's success, both with the iPad and the iPhone (and now the iPad Mini) has been the array of apps available online for just a few dollars. That's where Windows RT fares poorly. There isn't a single Windows RT app I've found that comes close to its Apple counterpart. Windows RT apps for Mail, Photos, Movies and Music, for example, don't compare to iPad apps in the same areas.

Over the coming months, I'll introduce you to pieces of Windows 8 that are of particular interest here in Phuket. For now, if you want to take the plunge and you spend most of your time with a keyboard and mouse, I suggest that you follow the steps in my InfoWorld article on minimizing Metro's intrusiveness. See goo.gl/B92tG. You may find that, with the right incantations, Windows 8 ain't half bad.

And I'll let you know when the book is available in Phuket.

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

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

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ONLY IN THAILAND: Photos: Adair McNear (left) and Isaac Stone Simonelli (above)

Imponderables

How old are you before it can be said you died of old age?

If nobody buys a ticket to a movie do they still show it?

Why doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?

Why is the show called unsolved mysteries? if they were solved they wouldn't be mysteries.

Do penguins have knees?

Why is it said that an alarm clock is going off when really its coming on?

In libraries, do they put the bible in the fiction or non-fiction section?

If shampoo comes in so many colors, why is the lather on your head always white?

Does a two-humped camel store more water than a one-humped camel?

Why is it that if someone yells "duck" they are helping you, but if they yell "chicken" they are insulting you?

Why do you put two cents in when its only a penny for your thoughts?

Can you cry underwater?

Why do we say we're head over heels when we're happy? Isn't that the way we normally are?

Why do sleeping pills have warning labels that state: Caution: May Cause Drowsiness?

Do nudists have pin-ups of people with clothes on?

Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars, but check when you say the paint is wet?

Why do they call someone 'late' if they died early?

Why are the adjectives 'fast as' and 'slow as' often used in conjunction with hell, is hell slow or fast?

How is chess considered a sport?

If marbles are not made of marble, why are they called marbles?

Could you be a closet claustrophobic?

Could someone be addicted to counseling? If so, how would you treat them?

Why doesn't the hair on your arms grow as fast as the hair on your head?

Why do people constantly return to the refrigerator with hopes that something new to eat will have materialized?

Is there ever a day that mattresses are not on sale?

What shape is the sky?

Why is it written "May contain traces of peanuts or other kind of nuts" on peanut butter jars?

How young can you be, but still die of old age?

The Hotel Musician's Handbook

HAVE you ever wondered just what it's like to bash out cheesy music night after night, week after week in Phukets' hotels? Well I did it for 14 long years, and if I may, I'd like to share some words of wisdom with would-be hotel musicians.

1) If a diner requests you to play *Hotel California* it is entirely acceptable (at least within the musical fraternity) to feign a seizure. But take it easy as you fall to the ground; always land instrument-up; you paid good money for that ax. Experienced hotel staff members will understand.

2) Describing to hotel guests how stingy the last evening's tips were is not recommendable.

3) Neither is a graphic and detailed story of the biggest tip you have ever received and how you spent it on an interesting three-way liaison with Za-Za and Nong Bubbles down at a certain nearby beach bar.

4) Rock stars and hotel musicians are both artists: that is

where the similarities abruptly end. Rock stars are rich and therefore infinitely more attractive to the opposite sex. Hotel musicians are not.

5) In the same line, any lady hotel guest overtly interested in an aging guitarist playing reworked Dylan and Beatles' songs in a tropical hotel lobby is mad, sad and boring to know: stay away.

6) Most hotels and music agencies will insist that you wear black attire while playing at five-star hotels. Never mind that a group of two or more hotel musicians hunkered down over their evening meal in the hotel buffet resembles a murder of crows at an undertakers' convention, this rule is to be adhered to.

7) Adversely, turquoise-and-yellow Batik shirts are the attire of choice for two-to-three-star hotel bands. Expect to play Boney M if you're handed this kit the first night you plug in.

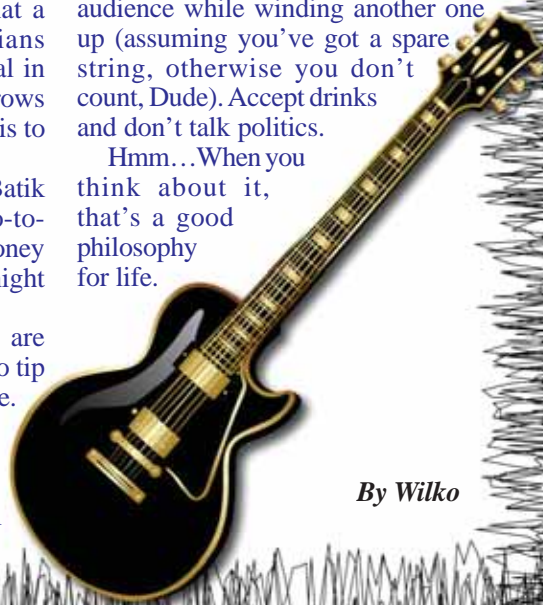
8) Guests who ply you with drinks are not necessarily great people. Guests who tip generously to waiters sometimes can be.

9) Hotel guests who insist on getting up on stage to sing with the band generally add more to the weight of the proceedings rather than to pull

their own. Especially when they stretch the entire length of the microphone cord to breaking-point to strut toward another guest's wife in the second row crooning a drunken rendition of *Lady in Red*.

10) Guitarists take note: Breaking a string is cool. After all, Richie Havens made it an art form at Woodstock, didn't he? It's the perfect opportunity to rap with the audience while winding another one up (assuming you've got a spare string, otherwise you don't count, Dude). Accept drinks and don't talk politics.

Hmm...When you think about it, that's a good philosophy for life.



By Wilko



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Teddy Roosevelt: the biography of an amiable lion

Books

By James Eckardt

EDMUND MORRIS won both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Prize in 1979 when he published *The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt*.

One person who was most impressed by this scholarly yet vividly written first volume of a trilogy was Ronald Reagan, who appointed Morris his official biographer.

Morris followed with *Theodore Rex* about President Roosevelt's two terms. As the last of three acts, he has now published *Colonel Roosevelt* (Random House, New York, 2012, 766pp) about the great man's final twelve years: his year-long African safari, his failed run to regain the presidency, his grueling jungle trek up an unexplored river in the Amazon, an ordeal which broke his health and led to his early death five years later.

The end result of reading the Theodore Roosevelt trilogy is to appreciate the many reasons Roosevelt deserves to have his mug up on Mount Rushmore along with presidents Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln.

Roosevelt was a voracious reader, prolific author, compulsive letter writer, rancher, police commissioner, soldier, big game hunter and as president, fearless trust buster, pioneer conservationist, early supporter of rights for blacks and women, builder of the Panama Canal and peace-maker between Russia and Japan, for which he won the Nobel Peace Prize.

He was an exuberant, fun-loving man whose unflagging energy his country is unlikely to see again.

Morris's accomplishment is to put you at Roosevelt's side throughout his action-packed life. Like the late Barbara Tuchman, he is of the school of historians who believe that vigorous, graceful, imaginative, color-packed prose only serves to enhance scholarly research (his notes and bibliography take up 150 pages).

In this he is backed by Roosevelt the historian who

'I wonder how a man so thick-set, of rather abdominal contour, with eyes heavily spectacled, could have an air of magic and wild romance about him, could give one so stirring an impression of adventure and chivalry.'

— Sonya Levien, *Metropolitan Magazine*

believed that "color – authentic color – was not an embellishment of the truth: it was truth."

Enhanced by his experience of the frontier, Roosevelt despised dry academic prose. His own American history *The Winning of the West* was praised by none other than Francis Parkman himself.

Roosevelt had his faults.

He was ferocious in debate. Among the many names he was called by his Republican rival Howard Taft were "flubdub", "puzzlewit" and "fathead". "Coward" was the kindest word Roosevelt had for Woodrow Wilson for avoiding war with a truculent Germany. Privately he called Wilson "a skunk" and "a prize jackass".

In his defense, Roosevelt said: "When you are dealing with politics you feel that you have your enemy in front of you and you must shake your fist at him and roar the Gospel of Righteousness

in his deaf ear."

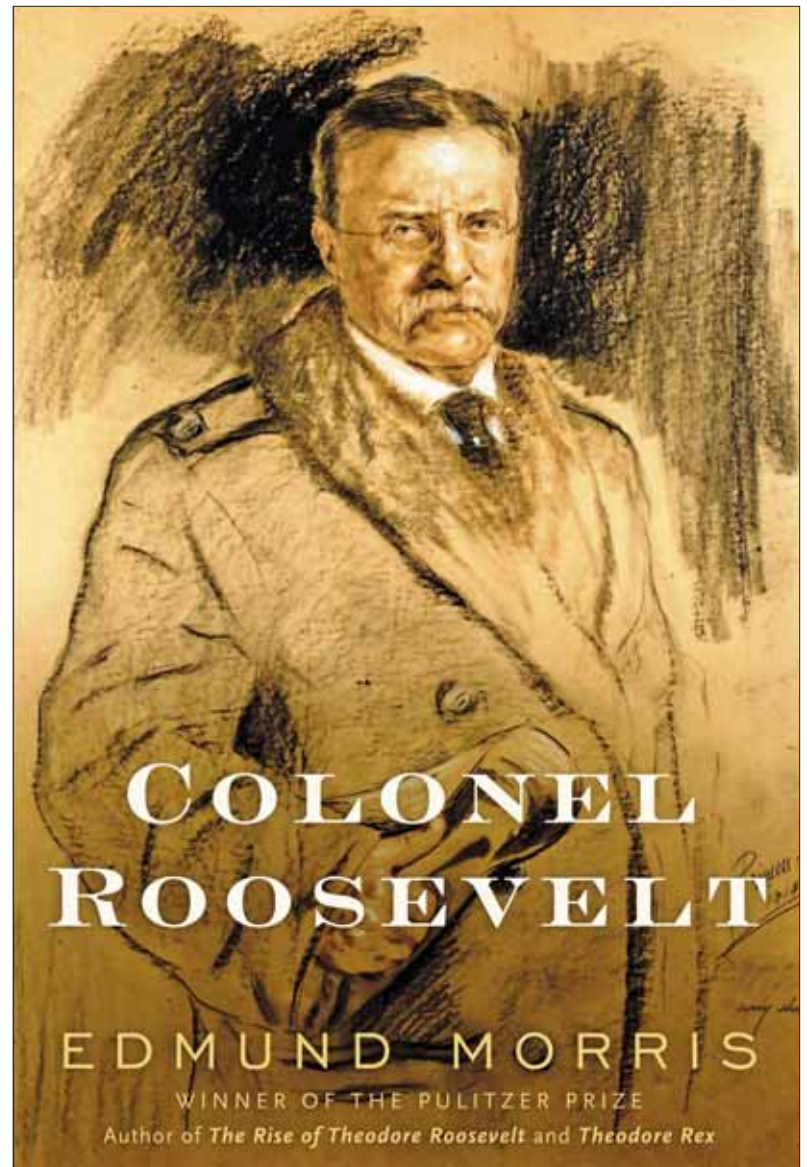
Later critics pinned the label of jingoistic war-lover on him. If so, he paid for it dearly. At the advent of World War I, he urged all four of his sons to the front lines. Two of his boys were severely wounded and the youngest, Quentin, a fighter pilot, was killed over France in a dogfight. Roosevelt was left heartbroken, yet even in his decline, he radiated charisma.

Sonya Levien, a young journalist colleague at *Metropolitan Magazine*, described him as radiant, original and irresistible:

"I wonder how a man so thick-set, of rather abdominal contour, with eyes heavily spectacled, could have an air of magic and wild romance about him, could give one so stirring an impression of adventure and chivalry."

Another journalist, Julian Street, of *Colliers Magazine*, offers this impression:

"As the Colonel advanced to me he showed his hard, white teeth, wrinkled his red, weather-beaten face and squinted his eyes half shut behind the heavy lenses of his spectacles, in suggestion, as it seemed to me, of a large, amiable lion, which comes up



MAN OF MANY NAMES: Find out why Roosevelt's mug is on Mount Rushmore.

purring gently as though to say, 'You needn't be afraid. I've just had lunch.'

Certainly there has never been a more popular ex-president. When Roosevelt returned from his African safari, collecting specimens for the American Museum of Natural History, and from a European tour where he met on a level of equality with

all the crowned heads of Europe, he was welcomed by a flotilla of boats in New York harbor and a hysterical crowd for miles up Broadway screaming in adulation for "Teddy".

It's difficult to imagine a similar level of mass frenzy nowadays. Giants like Theodore Roosevelt, though needed now more than ever, are rare.

Your Halloween comedown

THE Wilderness, released through Lefse Records last month, is the debut feature-length album of Kyle J Reigle's one-man project *Cemeteries*. It is what you might expect from a one-man project from Buffalo, New York.

Reigle's music is sparse, desolate and would pair nicely with long walks through barren, winding, snow-covered landscapes.

The Wilderness was recorded in Reigle's one-bedroom apartment over the course of six months. The album's title track is both romantic and hollow, keeping you chilled out without making you depressed. With a *Dark Side of the Moon* kind of feel this whole record is good from start to finish.

The song 'Young Blood' opens



SPACECAKES: *Cemeteries* would've been at home alongside *Pink Floyd*.

the album, combining swelling melodies and delicate echoey guitars. You'll wish you were lying on the grass at a festival listening to this, or driving one handed down a long, dark motorway. The ethereal theme continues throughout, as beautiful melodic tunes like 'What Did You See' and the album's title track 'The Wilderness' are balanced with more upbeat, but no less frag-

Cemeteries should be a black-metal band covered in corpse paint and hurling disembowelled farm animals into their crowds. But what Reigle actually offers up is a beguiling and ethereal experience of gentle, witchy folk-pop, which feels like it should send bucketloads of dry ice tumbling out of the speakers as it plays.

— *Phuket Gazette*

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Questions and some answers



WATCHING THE GRASS GROW: (Above) *rhizoctonia* causes patches of dead Bermuda grass. (Right) healthy Bermuda grass. Photos: NPCA Photos; North Carolina State University, Department of plant pathology

IT OCCURS to me that the gardening page should more interactive – at least some of the time. Readers not only have problems, they may also have solutions to questions posed by other gardeners.

For example, I am often asked what plant nurseries are worth a visit. On this issue, as on many others, we could perhaps pool our collective experience.

Recently, I have recommended Super Cheap (on Thepkrasattri Rd) for fruit trees and indoor plants, and the shop south on the same road for all your fertilizer and packet seed requirements.

This week's query concerns grass – and I may just need your help. Maggie writes: "Our lawn seems to have been invaded by some sort of bug that has caused circular patches of dead grass. We are using some sort of insecticide, but cannot seem to find any grass



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

seed. None of the nurseries around southern Phuket seem to stock it.

We also have a very sick fan palm that appears to be getting better. However, we have had to cut the outside fronds away from the trunk which means the middle fronds are reproducing again, but we are unsure if the outside fronds will re-grow, and if so what would you advise us to do?"

Well, Maggie, I'm not sure I can give you definitive answers about your lawn. But if it is, as you suggest, caused by a 'bug', then the culprits will be either cockchafer or crane fly (daddy-long-legs) larvae.

Cockchafers are large, grayish beetles, much prized by Thais as food, which lay their eggs in soil

near suitable roots that their caterpillar-like grubs can devour. The larvae are large and cream-colored with reddish-brown mouth parts.

Like the crane fly's leather-jacket grubs, which are grey and have surprisingly tough skin, they are voracious feeders.

They usually cause yellow or often brown patches. You are already using pesticide which I presume you are watering into the affected and adjacent areas.

If your diagnosis is correct, that should do the trick. But I suggest you lift a sod or two and examine both the grass roots and the soil up to six inches below. You will soon spot grubs, but white threads or specks may mean a fungus is at work.

If you have ruled out the obvious – dog or cat urine or lack of top soil – these circular patches of dead grass indicate a fungal cause. Some grasses are more prone to succumb than others.

My broad-leaved Malaysia grass has other disadvantages, but, it does seem to resist the fungus.

Yellow patch fungus (*rhizoctonia*) is a likely cause. The grass goes yellow and then brown.

It is more likely to happen if conditions are too moist. *Fusarium* (the green-keeper's enemy) usually leaves a crescent-shaped patch; fairy rings form a circle with grass still growing inside. If your present treatment is not working, try watering in a fungicide.

You don't say what kind of grass you have. Varieties of Bermuda or zoysia grass are common here. But as a last resort, I would suggest you do not try re-seeding, but remove the entire affected area and ensure that there is fertile, disease-free loam below.

Then re-turf with squares of suitable grass, water and tamp down gently with a light roller or by hand. Water regularly (morning or evening) and add fertilizer to ensure that the roots get fully established.

On the subject of lawn seed, like you, I don't know where it can be found. Imported grasses are likely to be fescue or rye-based and not suitable for tropical climates anyway.

If you have a question or a garden that you would like featured, email drpaccampbell@gmail.com



Crane Fly. Photo: Matt Mets



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			2			7		

SUDOKU: Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. © Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)

COFFEE break

Across:

- 9. For each male, ten arranged forever (9)
- 10. With good morals for the newly in charge supporter (9)
- 12. In small measure, an ancestral tribe (4)
- 13. In spite hiding river fairy (6)
- 14. Not a snag for unattractive marriage prospect (2,5)
- 15. Oh, Sirs, a P.M. can make a pithy saying! (9)
- 17. Len, followed by Dan, are out to listen (9)
- 18. So old stringed instruments are the things dissolved (7)
- 19. Scours protective medical garment (6)
- 20. Many tease in transvestite

- clothing (4)
- 23. Expanded, possibly did send out of time with a later note (9)
- 25. In thirst, one new to gout giving up alcohol (6,3)
- 26. Pays regard to each run, son (4)
- 27. Racing around, being concerned (6)
- 29. Pass support on Eastern Institute of learning (7)
- 32. Mates move around river, let in small brook (9)
- 34. Way of working on new danger note in recent times (6,3)
- 35. Note new words repeated oftentimes regularly give entrance (6)
- 36. Put data into computer in a diner (4,2)
- 37. Repudiate animal's home unknown (4)
- 38. Rude intruders on the pitch, could be starkers, moving around East (9)
- 39. Re. what ban about making healthy breakfast food ingredient (5,4)

1		2			3		4		5		6		7		8
9									10						11
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35								36						37	
38										39					

Down:

- 1. Price promotions on vessel containing filleted plaice (8)
- 2. A detector of drunkenness to say halt beer outright (12)
- 3. Scorns speeds, is insecure (8)
- 4. Bad marks for unruly saints (6)
- 5. Ever about fifty, the French, right party-goer (8)
- 6. Nab pay, hang about Andaman sea inlet (7,3)
- 7. Type of current account, one like flowering trees! (7)
- 8. Near the correct parade ground

- order beginning (2,3,5)
- 11. Let at mixed milky drink (5)
- 16. Bad tenor composition out of time (6)
- 19. Father's turned up down in the dumps (3)
- 21. I rode out, January that is, or up, to a South American city (3,2,7)
- 22. Foolishly rant about the French horn (6)
- 23. Get up, be aware of having ability to choose the right clothes (5,5)
- 24. Let Ted read out undelivered correspondence (4,6)

- 25. Follow, pet (3)
- 28. Concern gets payment for use of money (8)
- 29. Not I, in changing decision for pain killing pills (8)
- 30. Note, very lowest number for all and sundry (8)
- 31. New, a thousand a song in a Phuket beach (7)
- 33. Re car modified to track machine (5)
- 34. Ow! I'm as upset by cat-calls (6)

Cryptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Answers on page 31

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):

The stars suggest that making a simple kind gesture will show those born under the sign of Scorpio that giving can be rewarding. Your focus during the second half of November is likely to be on other people, with family coming first and friends a close second. Those with a birthday during the coming days should find that romance goes more smoothly in the year ahead. Your lucky number this week is four.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):

Certain Sagittarians could be wishing they had never made a promise earlier this month. There are signs that too many commitments around the middle of November could prevent you from keeping up with the flow. Tuesday is an auspicious day to explain why you may not be able to keep an agreement. Lucky days for love are Wednesday and Thursday. The number three can bring good fortune this week.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):

Your charisma is strong and it will be hard for others to turn you down. The stars recommend putting this advantage to good use in the world

of work – expect a water sign to agree to a proposal previously rejected. In the realm of romance, another earth sign appreciates your honesty this weekend. Finances are well-starred on Monday and Tuesday. Number seven stands out for Capricorns this week.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):

Curiosity can be triggered by something you hear this weekend. Aquarians who have been unsure of what to do next should have a motivating project to work on for the rest of November. Variety is the spice of your life, and the stars suggest you won't be disappointed by what the social scene has to offer this weekend. Romance sparkles on Sunday. Number five can come alive this week.

PISCES (Feb 20-March 20):

Your financial situation falls under the spotlight during the days ahead. There are signs that carelessness could cause delays, or even a loss, so stay on the ball when dealing with transactions or agreements. The stars advise Pisceans to be more creative in the realm of romance – a fire sign partner is waiting for you to show how much you really care. Number nine can shine this week.

YOUR horoscope

By Isla Star

ARIES (March 21-April 20):

A calmer week lies ahead, with the spotlight shining on an important decision being made as it becomes clear what you need to do. The remainder of November is a fortuitous time for seeking improvement in your working life, with chances of a promotion looking more promising. Romance is fairly non-eventful – single Arians are indicated to see the positive side of freedom. Number two looks important this week.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):

Taureans who have trusted another earth sign may be disappointed. There are signs that this person does not have your best interests at heart, but an opportunity to back out of an agreement could come at the last minute. The stars advise taking distance from those who think they know best. In the realm of romance, an air sign is attracted to your mental energy this weekend. Number six seems lucky this week.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

There should be plenty of fun on your agenda during the second half of November. A serious start to the month has probably left some of those born under the sign of Gemini feeling jaded, but the stars indicate that change is in the air. A water sign friend has tempting ideas about how to let off some steam this weekend. Gemini's lucky number this week is one.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

An earth sign who has been throwing their weight around at work is forecast to become quieter, leaving Cancerians free to make more progress. The second half of November will be a more harmonious time, with focus on a romantically related dream coming true. Singles hoping to impress another water sign should find out more about this person so they can make the right move. Number seven can be fortunate this week.

LEO (July 24-Aug 22):

The cosmic climate is somewhat stormy and your behavior could raise some hackles this week. If this is happening within your world of

work, it could be easy to give the wrong impression. Think before you act to avoid unnecessary trouble. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, an air sign is likely to be upset by your actions this weekend. Leo's lucky number this week is eight.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):

The stars advise being honest and open about your feelings. There are hints that undercurrents can be misinterpreted – if this is relevant to work, another earth sign is forecast to jump on the opportunity of spreading negative rumors. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, those who are not ready for a new commitment could have to disappoint a water sign. Number five appears lucky for Virgoans this week.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):

The stars suggest that those born under the sign of Libra should not assume support too easily. What may seem a straightforward matter to you can be complicated in others' eyes. Talking with a fire sign friend this weekend helps you to appreciate what this person has been going through. Sizzling days for romance are Monday and Tuesday. Number one can bring good luck for Librans this week.

WORLD CUP FEVER

HAVING KICKED OFF ON NOVEMBER 1, THE FIFA FUTSAL WORLD CUP 2012 IS BEING PLAYED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THAILAND, AND WILL CONCLUDE ON NOVEMBER 18. PHUKET GAZETTE'S STEVEN LAYNE REPORTS:

IT WAS the FIFA World Cup 2002, hosted in South Korea and Japan, that finally turned me onto the beautiful world of soccer, or as it is referred to internationally, football.

But it was the FIFA Futsal World Cup 2008, staged in Brazil, that truly won my sporting heart. That tournament is what opened my eyes to the exciting and highly competitive world of what in my opinion is the most exciting, competitive team sport. Five-a-side (futsal), like basketball – my favorite sport as a kid in the US – is a fast paced game, and represents everything that I love about soccer, minus most of the elements that I don't like.

For instance, there will never be players faking injuries on a futsal pitch to burn down the clock; a red card doesn't necessarily mean the end of the world (though it can influence the game, albeit temporarily), and a minute on the clock is more than enough time for a good team to stage a comeback of three goals or more.

Imagine my excitement when my media accreditation application was approved by FIFA to cover the Futsal World Cup 2012 in Thailand. Due to my responsibilities in Phuket, however, I was only able to go up to Bangkok for the first four days of the 18-day event, but nonetheless, it was the most memorable four days I've had recently.

Luckily, the tournament, which concludes on November 18, is being broadcast live on terrestrial TV. So if you haven't tuned in already, you're missing out – but be warned, you may never be the same again. **Photos by Steven Layne; Graphic design by Chaichan Keawsaahd**

English Premier League review and look ahead

ROBIN Van Persie scored his 10th league goal of the season against his former team, Arsenal, to help send Manchester United on their way to a comfortable 2-1 win.

On this showing, Arsenal have a long way to go if they want to be taken seriously as title contenders.

The sending off of Jack Wilshere for two yellow cards didn't help Arsenal's cause, but even before Wilshere was dismissed, Manchester United were 2-0 up and Wayne Rooney had missed a penalty. Santi Carzola scored Arsenal's goal with the last kick of the game.

Manchester City maintained their unbeaten start to the season but dropped two points behind league leaders Manchester United, with a goalless draw against West Ham.

City failed to score for the first time since April and Roberto Mancini is starting to act like a manager who is feeling the pressure, as speculation continues to

mount linking Pep Guardiola with Mancini's job. West Ham continue to punch above their weight and ride high in 8th place.

Liverpool's possession football is still not setting the Premier League on fire, but the club have now gone five games undefeated. Luis Suarez has scored seven of Liverpool's 13 goals this season and the Uruguayan was in the thick of it again last weekend.

He scored Liverpool's equalizer to cancel out Yohan Cabaye's earlier effort for Newcastle, and Colocconi was sent off for a dangerous foul on Suarez.

Swansea scored a late equalizer to earn a well deserved point and keep Chelsea off the top of the table.

Manchester United travel to Villa Park for the late kickoff on Saturday.

Aston Villa are currently joint 4th bottom but victory over Sunderland last weekend and reaching the quarter finals of the League Cup will give the team a much needed lift.



Robin Van Persie. Photo: Reuters

Manchester United have beaten Chelsea and Arsenal in their last two league games, so fans will be expecting a victory from this weekend's match.

Manchester City play 6th place Tottenham in the first game on Sunday. Andre Villa-Boas' team lost at home to Wigan last weekend and the young Portuguese manager still comes in for criticism from certain fans. Villa Boas has promised the fans that his team will not produce a repeat of the performance against Wigan when they face Manchester City.

Liverpool travel to Chelsea in the late game. – Andrew Scott

PREMIER LEAGUE TABLE

TEAM	PTS
1 Man Utd	24
2 Chelsea	23
3 Man City	22
4 Everton	17
5 WBA	17
6 Tottenham	17
7 Arsenal	15
8 Fulham	15
9 West Ham	15
10 Newcastle	14
11 Swansea	12
12 Liverpool	11
13 Wigan	11
14 Norwich	10
15 Stoke	9
16 Sunderland	9
17 Aston Villa	9
18 Reading	5
19 QPR	5
20 Southampton	4

PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES

SAT, 10 NOV 2012	SUN, 11 NOV 2012
Arsenal vs Fulham	Man City vs Tottenham
Everton vs Sunderland	20:30
Reading vs Norwich	
Southampton vs Swansea	
Stoke vs QPR	
Wigan vs WBA	
	SAT, 10 NOV 2012
	Newcastle vs West Ham
	SUN, 11 NOV 2012
Aston Villa vs Man Utd	Chelsea vs Liverpool
00:30	23:00

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Federer awaits Nadal's return

BILLED as a showdown between the world's top-eight players, the ATP World Tour Finals got off to a spectacular start on Monday with strobe lights, music and victory for home favorite Andy Murray igniting the touchpaper for eight days of action.

However, the fourth staging of the season-finale beside the River Thames at London's O2 Arena is missing one of its main attractions with Rafa Nadal's injury-enforced absence taking a little gloss off the tournament.

The Mallorcan has appeared in London for the previous three years, reaching the final in 2010 when he lost to old rival Roger Federer, but his recurring knee problems have robbed men's tennis of his ferocious talent for the past six months.

While all the talk might be of Murray's rapidly intensifying rivalry with world number one Novak Djokovic, Nadal is being missed, not least by 17-time grand slam champion Federer.

Some of the most memorable moments of the Swiss maestro's remarkable career have been with Nadal across the net and he was quick to jog people's memories as he prepared for his opening match against Janko Tipsarevic on Tuesday.

"Once a tournament starts, you do unfortunately forget what's happening around you," world number two Federer, bidding for a record seventh end-of-year title and a hat-trick in London, told reporters.

"You do forget those things a little bit. Knowing that maybe the draw is potentially

a little easier, there is no denying that because Rafa is a great champion and I'm sure that he is missed by a lot of the fans, which would have made this tournament maybe even more exciting, but then it gives opportunities to one or two more guys.

"It's obviously never the same when Rafa doesn't enter a tournament, but from time to time injuries just do happen, and we all wish him the best so he can return next year."

Federer, 31, is the elder statesman in the draw, but despite the passing years, his game is still ideally suited to the indoor surface at the O2 Arena and he will be hard to stop if gets off to a flying start against Serb Tipsarevic.

Whether or not he retains the trophy, however, Federer acknowledges that Djokovic deserves the end-of-year number one ranking having snatched it back from Federer last week.

"The real number one, we know who that is going to be, it's going to be Novak, so I think there should not be any debate around that," said Federer who this year moved past Pete Sampras's record 286 weeks spent on top of the ATP rankings.

"Number one, you don't get there by chance. The rankings are something that show you how you've played over a 365-day period.

"It might change all over again at the Australian Open, there's no doubt about that, but right now, it's clear.

"This event is a bonus, obviously, for



TOP PLAYER: Roger Federer in his match at the Swiss Indoors ATP tournament. Photo: Reuters

the top eight players to face off against each other, and try their very best and hopefully finish the season in good style.

Federer also agreed that the duels between Murray and Djokovic this year, most memorably in the US Open final, have become the must-see matches for fans after being deprived of the Nadal-Federer blockbusters.

"I always knew Andy and Novak were going to stay around for a long time

at the very top, so this is just right now it seems they are in their prime and this is when they are supposed to play their best tennis in my opinion," Federer said.

"Obviously we miss Rafa because he belongs in there, he won a grand slam this year. I would have loved to have seen him again and played him because I don't think I've played him in the last couple of years."

- Reuters

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King's Cup helps sports tourism



The King's Cup Regatta aids Thailand's sailing industry. Photo: Guy Nowell

RECOGNIZED throughout the eastern hemisphere as the premier sailing event of its kind, the Phuket King's Cup Regatta will once more put on a spectacular display of the finest sailing talent from around the world from December 1 to 8, 2012.

In addition, the Regatta's *gravitas* in attracting sailors from over 35 countries, and some of the fastest racing vessels in the region, the Phuket King's Cup Regatta is also an important event for the island in terms of development and commerce.

One of the longest running international sporting events in Phuket, the Regatta generates a great deal of revenue for the local economy, bringing with it sports tourists with disposable incomes and around 40 million baht in tourism receipts, according to a survey by the organizers.

It serves to the great benefit of

Phuket's hotels and restaurants, which enjoy a surge of customers before, during and after the regatta.

The economic contribution of the event is likely to be in the region of 300 million, when travel, excursions and repeat visits during the year are factored in.

The event is strongly supported by local authorities and Phuket Province, who work together with event organizers to make the Regatta an annual success for everyone on the Island.

The full complement of classes for the 2012 race year include: IRC Zero (international 'Grand Prix' boats), the highly competitive IRC1, IRC2, IRC3, Premier, Sport Boats, Modern Classic, Bareboat Charter, Multihull, Firefly 850 Sports, Classic and Cruising Class.

This year's regatta will also see windsurfing reintroduced as a

competitive class, and will feature some of Thailand's most famous windsurfing stars, including Ek Boonsawad, and Siriporn "Dao" Kaewduanggam. Ek recently represented Thailand at the 2012 London Olympics, while Dao won the 2010 Youth Olympics in Singapore. Up to 40 windsurfers will compete, including the Ladies 2012 Olympic Gold Medallist Marina Alabau Neira from Spain.

The Phuket King's Cup Regatta 2012 will also feature dinghy racing as part of its roster of international events.

It's inclusion has played a part in the development of youth sailing in Thailand, encouraging more young sailors to take up the sport, and empowering the development of talented and aspiring skippers.

The reputation of Thailand as a sailing nation continues to grow strongly with the Phuket Dinghy Series functioning as an essential proving ground for competitors wishing to progress to full-scale cruisers and racing boats. Windsurfers and dinghies compete for four days (December 2nd - 5th) while keelboats and multihulls compete over five days (3rd - 8th December, with December 6th a rest day).

Kevin Whitcraft, President of the Phuket King's Cup Regatta Organizing Committee, spoke of the role this classic race plays in the development of Thailand as a sailing nation and sailing destination:

"We are very proud that the Phuket King's Cup Regatta is able to take a regional role in contributing to the growth of the Thai sailing community and the yachting industry in Thailand, reinforcing its position as one of the world's premier sailing destinations. It serves as an inspiration for new and improving Thai sail-

ors, giving them a superb opportunity to experience international competition. From a wider perspective, it is hugely beneficial for Phuket, a part of Thailand famed for its beautiful surroundings, legendary hospitality and suitability for hosting Asia's ultimate regatta."

The Phuket King's Cup is also famed for its series of legendary beachside parties, attracting over 1,500 partygoers who enjoy the live music, great atmosphere and food and drink provided by the regatta's sponsors.

Kata Group Resorts Thailand has been principal sponsor of the event for 15 years. Pamuke Achariyachai, President, Kata Group Resorts Thailand, said: "The Phuket King's Cup Regatta is one of the leading, internationally significant regattas in the world of yachting. The regatta is based at Kata Beach Resort & Spa, a popular and idyllic beach resort in Phuket.

Already famous for its stunning views of Kata Beach and its immediate beach access, the resort becomes more special during regatta week as the view from the water's edge is even more spectacular with the boats moored offshore. We are proud to enjoy our close association with such a magnificent race."

As a principal fixture on the Asian Yachting Circuit, the Phuket King's Cup Regatta, under Royal Patronage, annually features upwards of 100 boats, ranging from high-tech to live-aboard ocean cruisers, multihulls and classics.

International-standard race management is combined with lively beach parties to create this world-renowned yacht racing exhibition.

- *Phuket Gazette*

Phuket youth sailing club



IT WAS a slow start to the day as sailors were greeted with blue skies and no wind. The morning was spent under the guidance of Akapoj Kankeaw (Tik) & Teerapong Tokratoak (New), both previous winners of the Phuket King's Cup Optimist Regatta 2011, on racing tactics and boat tuning.

After lunch, a steady breeze picked up, which provided great sailing and racing conditions, allowing the sailors to put the morning's training into practice. The fleet competed all three planned races for the day.

Results Optimist Fleet

1st: Charlie skippered by Cartoon Juladej (Toon)

2nd: The Sponsorship Experts - PP(SEA)CL skippered by Nattapong Yoangngam (Max)

3rd: DaVinci skippered by Salawatt Kullaatt (Ta)

The club is still looking for companies to sponsor 6 more Optimist boats and is also looking to secure sponsorship for this seasons regatta program starting with the PKCR International Dinghy Regatta 2012

New for 2012/13 - Interested in sailing? Come and join PYSC Watersports Club, Ao Yon - also offering paddle sports (Canoeing) and SUP's. Open every weekend.

If you'd like to offer support or help in any way, contact Katy: phuketyouthsailing@gmail.com or Tel: 085 2159185.



Tennis star Maria Sharapova.

Breaking free from the fear of choking

she was delighted to have Maria hold up her name.

For today's article, I would like to address a common problem, which affects many people (including Sumitra) and causes distress in several areas of their lives.

The effect is commonly known as "choking" and it is a tightening feeling, which results in poor performance and can make people panic when under stressful situations such as: public speaking, interviews, exams and pretty much anything that involves you wanting to perform or make a good impression.

At the start of tournaments, you see many young players practicing well, hitting it hard and looking very strong.

Parents and coaches look pleased and everything seems in place.

Once the event begins, however, it can be like watching different

players. They often get caught up in the emotional pressures that come with the knowledge of sacrifices and commitments that have been made for them to be able to play. It can just become too much to cope with.

At the professional level, possibly the most famous "tennis choke" ever was the Novotna v Graf Wimbledon final of 1993. Novotna was 4-1 and 40-30 up in the final set, but her serve simply deserted her; she lost and wept on the Duchess of Kent's shoulder at the awards presentation.

It was really pleasing to see her win years later in 1998.

And even the great Federer suffered in the Davis Cup semifinal in 2003, losing to Hewitt 6-1 in the 5th after holding a two set lead and a break in the third.

Many top players discuss "choking" in their autobiographies

as just something you have to go through as a young player. It's just that some struggle and take longer to conquer it than others.

Many people think it only affects shy and unconfident people, but this isn't true. It can affect anyone at anytime, and even confident people, who have taken a knock back, can then be concerned about future scenarios, and that worry could then potentially lead to a 'choke' performance.

How to solve the problem?

The four key areas are breathing; visualization; creating a good environment; and to focus on the task in hand.

Regulating your breathing pattern is crucial to controlling emotion and that in turn will help you to keep a clear head when needing to make decisions at critical times.

Visualization, is the process of mentally rehearsing the situation

and replacing negative reactions and thoughts with the positive responses you wish to occur.

To create a good environment is key to being able to relax early and having a good experience. Even top athletes and performers sometimes build situations up too high and then can't control the situation/environment that they themselves have mentally created.

Last but not least, is to focus on the task in hand. The best way of not being affected by past experiences and previous mental baggage, is to just focus on the moment and deal with things instinctively and naturally.

You don't have to live in the grip of choking, it can be dealt with. You can break free!

Darran can be contacted with questions or comments by email on darranferre@hotmail.com

- *Darran Ferre*

IronTwins talk about competing

By Andrew Scott

The *Gazette* continues its build up to this year's IronKids on December 1. This week, Dutch twins Chloe and Maxime Schrijnemaekers, 10, are the featured IronKids.

Chloe's views on IronKids

Phuket Gazette: Why do you compete in IronKids?

I really like the sport and love doing three sports combined into one event. Also, it gives me butterflies in my tummy before I start and I love that.

What's your training schedule like?

On Tuesdays: I swim with coach Frederic; Thursdays: I train on the bike and run with coach Jurgen and coach Claire, and Wednesdays I run with coach Jurgen and the adult Triathletes and professionals.

Which is your favorite part of the IronKids race – swim, bike or run? Why?

Running. It's the toughest part because of the heat and it's the longest but it's my favorite.

You can hear everybody cheer you on and during the swim and bike you can't really hear that.

Which is your hardest part of the IronKids race – swim, bike or run? Why?

The swim. When we swim together, we all try to push through and you can feel the hands and feet of other athletes hitting you.

What do you hope to achieve at this



HELPING HAND: Maxime (left) and Chloe.

year's IronKids?

I will try swimming harder and try to be faster on my bike. To finish first and beat all the other kids in my age group would be great.

Max and I did well in the races last year but I was sick for the last trial. This year, I will have to make sure I'm healthy.

What other sports do you play?

Tennis.

When did you start competing in sporting events?

I started swimming three and a half years ago with my sister and our friends. I have competed in events in Thailand and a big event in Perth.

Why do you like them (sporting events)?

They are very exciting and I enjoy the competition. When I train and compete with my friends it's not really like

crossing a real finish line.

Who are your favorite athletes?

Usain Bolt, Roger Federer and coach Jurgen Zack.

What does being an IronKid mean to you?

A lot, it's special to be an IronKid. It feels good to fight for it. I'm working really hard, so when I finish an Ironkids race, I feel good and really proud.

It's also really nice because you have your friends with you and even during the race you're still friends, but you also have to try to beat them.

Max and I love each other, but sometimes we have to try to beat each other, which is fun and exciting but also tough, because we are sisters.

Maxime's views on IronKids

Phuket Gazette: Why do you compete in IronKids?

I like the sports and the fact that there are three totally different sports in one event.

What's your training schedule like?

On Tuesdays: I do the Ironkids swimming with coach Frederic; Thursdays: I train on the bike and run with coach Jurgen and coach Claire and Wednesdays I run with coach Jurgen and all the adult Triathletes and some of the dads.

Which is your favorite part of the IronKids race – swim, bike or run? Why?

Running. I have always loved to run and I'm really good at it. I am better at long distances than short distances.

Which is your hardest part of the IronKids race – swim, bike or run? Why?

The bike ride. I'm not the best at it, and like it the least of the three. I train at it but need to train harder. During the race it's much tougher and harder than during training.

What do you hope to achieve at this year's IronKids?

I want to win and improve my bike and swim races. My sister and I are always strong but it's getting tougher as we get older, because other kids are getting stronger.

I love it, but I have to fight my own sister to win.

What other sports do you play?

Tennis (and Tag hahaha...).

When did you start competing in sporting events?

Three and a half years ago, I competed in my first swim events in Thailand and Perth. Then I discovered Ironkids and started to do Ironkids events and tennis tournaments.

Why do you like them (sporting events)?

I train for them and when I do the event I get excited and feel that I'm getting better at it and more experienced.

Who are your favorite athletes?

Usain Bolt, Rafael Nadal and Jurgen Zack.

What does being an IronKid mean to you?

It means a lot to me and I'm so happy I'm doing this sport.

When I watch the professionals, it looks very cool when they do the swimming, cycling and especially the running, they look exhausted at the end.

When I'm doing it, I relate to that and it feels cooler, especially when I cross the finish line and I can't feel my legs.

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