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Phuket Gazette

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Bars fight for late trading

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

TWO mass protests at Provincial Hall have failed to win bar owners in Muang District a temporary reprieve from the ongoing crackdown on late trading.

About 500 bar owners and staff from Phuket Town and other popular tourist areas in the district, including Rawai, Chalong, Kata and Karon, staged a protest at Provincial Hall on Monday.

The effort, hot on the heels of a 200-strong protest last Friday, was staged to support protest leader Suratin Lian-udom in his formal request for night venues to close later than the current 1am curfew.

Mr Suratin is president of the Muang Phuket Entertainment Business Operators

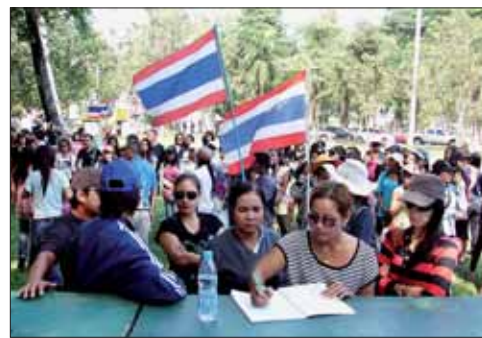
Club and Mayor of Rassada, which is in Muang District.

The request seeks to extend the closing time and the legal sale of alcohol to 2am for nightclubs and bars, and to 4am for restaurants offering food and alcohol.

"Tourists always stay out late in entertainment venues. They usually turn up about 11pm, after they have had dinner and a walk on the beach. If we have to close at 1am, it means we have only two hours to do business," Mr Suratin told the *Gazette*.

"The crackdown is affecting not only venue owners, but also bar staff and other people working in related industries, such as motorcycle taxi drivers and street vendors," he added.

In return for approval of their request,



Protestors sign a petition for late closing.

Mr Suratin said bar owners would strictly follow four measures agreed to in a Memorandum of Understanding signed between bar operators and Muang District officers on December 27: to prohibit weapons, lewd

performances and entry to anyone under 20 years of age, and the use and sale of drugs on their premises.

Vice Governor Weerawat Janpen, who received the request on behalf of the governor, told the protest leaders, "The officers must enforce the law because drugs are a big problem in Thailand.

"Phuket is a 'red zone' for drugs. Many bars, nightclubs and restaurants are used for conducting drug deals, so restricting bar trading hours helps reduce crime."

Asked whether the raids would continue, V/Gov Weerawat said he did not have the authority to answer that question.

"We want to be friends with the entertainment industry, but at the same time we must do our jobs," he said.

Airport boss under investigation

PHUKET International Airport Director Prathuang Sornkham was transferred "immediately" last Wednesday pending a disciplinary investigation into two Paraguayans departing via the airport without passports.

Mr Prathuang will become a "Senior Specialist 10" Airports of Thailand (AoT) executive at AoT headquarters in Bangkok.

The move stems from an incident in October when a group of nine passengers left Phuket aboard an Emirates Airline flight. Two passengers were allegedly without passports, AoT President Serirat Prasutanond said.

An initial investigation found that five or six of its Phuket officers were involved, he said.

Narongchai Tanadchangsang, deputy director of Suvarnabhumi Airport, has been appointed head of the disciplinary investigation, which is expected to conclude its work within 15 days.

— Janpen Upatising and Nicholas Altstadt

Blaze engulfs Patong slum

WORK is underway to provide relief to the 120 residents whose homes were destroyed by a fire that swept through a Patong slum last Sunday night.

A makeshift relief center has been set up at Soi Baan Buntham, where the fire broke out, to receive and to distribute donations.

Governor Tri Augkaradacha was at the scene the next day to hand out relief items, such as canned fish and rice, provided by the Governor's Office.

In addition, the Kusoldham Rescue Foundation gave 1,000 baht to each of the victims, mostly Burmese workers.

Tents have been pitched along the street so those who lost their homes have a place to sleep, and the Rotary Club of Patong Beach is calling for donations of clothing, bedding, food and cash.

The urgently required items can be left at Woody's Sandwich Shoppes across the island.

The extent of the damage caused remains unknown.

Patong officials confirmed there were no deaths and no people hospitalized in the blaze.



The fire devastated the homes of at least 120 residents, mostly Burmese. Photo: Sampawat Wannasangkam

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This Week

Business

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Everything you need at prices you can afford, from jobs to homes.

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Suthep rides on

DEPUTY Prime Minister Suthep Thaugsuban arrived in Phuket last Sunday to lead a public event promoting the island's helmet-law campaign.

A huge crowd with about 3,000 motorbikes gathered at Sanaam Chai field in Phuket Town to hear Mr Suthep speak.

Impressed by Phuket's helmet-law initiative, Mr Suthep praised the campaign as "historic" and vowed to launch similar campaigns elsewhere in Thailand.

"Thailand has 12,000 road-accident deaths a year - that's number two in the world," he said.

The dire statistic costs the Thai economy 230 billion baht a year, he added.



PEACE: Governor Tri Augkaradacha (left) takes Deputy Prime Minister Suthep Thaugsuban for a ride on a Harley-Davidson. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

Tuptim survives 22-hour operation

By Andrew Jennings

PHUKET's Tuptim Jadngooluem, just eight months old, is recovering well at Ramathibodi Hospital in Bangkok after surviving a 22-hour operation last week.

Tuptim was diagnosed at three months with a terminal liver condition known as biliary obstruction and has spent over a month in hospital awaiting a parental donor liver transplant to save her life.

To keep her baby alive, Tuptim's mother, Nit, donated part of her liver during the operation, performed last Wednesday by Bangkok-based specialist Dr Sumate Teeraratkul.

Tuptim remains in the intensive care unit at Ramathibodi Hospital, where she is expected to stay for several weeks. Mrs Nit was discharged from hospital on Sunday and is recovering well.

Mrs Nit told the *Gazette* that herself and Tuptim's father Rattanachai "Kru Nai" are delighted with the operation's success and that their daughter is on the road to recovery.

"I've got pains in my stomach and leg, but I'm feeling okay.



Mum Nit after the operation.

We're so happy that Tuptim is recovering and the doctors say her liver is working well," she said.

"For the first time in a long time the whites of Tuptim's eyes are white rather than yellow and jaundiced. She is expected to be able to breathe by herself this week."

Grainne Farrell, who headed the fund-raising campaign to save Tuptim, told the *Gazette*, "The doctor said the operation couldn't have gone any better.

"It is brilliant news and let's hope there will be no complications in the coming weeks."

Teens arrested for shooting security guard

POLICE have arrested two teenage gang members for the murder of a Phuket security guard at a municipal parking lot last month.

Phitakpong Chaetaphai and Namchok Saetan, both 19, were taken by police last Thursday to re-enact the events that led to security guard Winai Buathongkham being killed by a single bullet to the head.

According to police, on the night of the murder the two youths drove a motorbike past a government workers' housing complex near Saphan Hin when they spotted three "enemies".

Namchok, riding pillion, allegedly pulled out a home-made (thai pradit) gun and fired shots at the three with intent to kill.

Instead of reaching their intended targets, one of the bullets hit Mr Winai in the head, police said.

However, according to police, the teenagers say the bullet "accidentally went straight to the booth where Mr Winai was sleeping.

Police said that both have a history of arrests on drug and robbery charges.

- Pimwara Choksakulpan



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In brief...

Two tourists die on 'black Sunday'

A HUNGARIAN man was found dead in a hotel swimming pool at 7am last Sunday, and a Swedish man was killed on a motorbike about an hour and a half later.

The names of both of the deceased were withheld pending notification of next-of-kin.

The Hungarian, 41, was discovered in the pool at the Sunprime Resort in Kamala. Police say the drowning may have occurred the night before.

The 32-year-old Swede died in

front of the Duangjitt Resort in Patong when, according to a witness, he struck an electric pole and was thrown under a passing six-wheeled truck. Rescue workers at the scene told the *Gazette* that he was crushed and died instantly.

The truck driver, 48-year-old Prajak Meemuan, told the *Gazette* that he was "not driving fast - about 30 km/hour" and that his vehicle, an ice truck, was "running straight" when the victim was hurled under it.

Hotels help flooded Aussies

HOTELS in Phuket are being urged to donate holiday packages to a benefit auction for the flood-stricken communities throughout Queensland, Australia.

Regions of Australia's northeast have been devastated by recent floods, with floodwaters inundating thousands of homes and businesses in one of the country's worst natural disasters.

Phuket Tourism Association

(PTA) President Bhurit Maswongsa has asked hotels to donate holiday packages of at least five-nights stay, which will go under the hammer at an auction to be held in Sydney next month.

Each holiday package is expected to fetch around 10,000 baht.

Donations will be accepted until January 31, with the packages sent to Sydney the following day.

Phuket braces for Gay Pride

GAY tourists are expected to arrive in Patong in great numbers next month for the 10th Phuket Gay Pride Celebration.

Activities kick off on February 23 with a pre-opening White Party on Soi Paradise, center of the town's gay nightlife scene.

Police to erect shelter for tourists

THE Tourist Police in Phuket are teaming up with Coca-Cola bottler Haad Thip to build a refuge shelter for foreign tourists who fall on hard times during their stay on the island.

With millions of tourists visiting Phuket each year, inevitably some run into problems.

These include financial difficulties, having no place to stay, and physical or mental health issues, said Phuket Tourist Police Superintendent Ekachai Pramanakul.

Many of the problems are al-

cohol-related, said Phuket's Tourist Police chief.

In some cases, tourists fall prey to gangs involved in gambling, property investment scams or drugs.

With support from Haad Thip, the regional Tourist Police will build temporary accommodations near their headquarters on Yaowarat Road in Phuket Town.

The one-bedroom building will provide both tourists and expats with a place to stay in case of an emergency.



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Dive site closure will not affect tourism: official

By Atchaa Khamlo

THE immediate closure of many dive sites in seven marine national parks will not have a big impact on Phuket's critical tourism industry, says at least one official.

"It will not affect tourism much as we're not closing whole parks, just some parts that probably don't account for [even] 10% of each park," said Malinee Janno of the Center for Tourism Development, Department of National Parks.

"Tourists can go to other dive sites instead," he added.

Mr Malinee suggested more sites should be off-limits.

He explained the closures follow a failed public-education campaign aimed at protecting corals at national park dive sites.

"We are trying to inform tour guides and tourists not to stand on the corals, but we're not getting a good response. So officers should be strict and punish anyone breaking the rules," he added.

Sunan Arunnopparat, director-general of the National Parks, announced the closures on January 20 - effective immediately, with no re-opening date set.

Mr Sunan said coral at the sites needed protection after huge areas were found bleached by warmer water temperatures - a



Some of the bleached coral at Koh Payu at the Mu Ko Similan National Park. Photo: Marine National Park Operations Center

factor widely accepted as an effect of global warming.

Nipon Pongsuwan, a specialist at the Phuket Marine Biological Center, said it will take "many years" for the coral to recover; closing them for a few months will have little effect.

Surapoom Kwankajohnkit, of Dive Master Co Phuket, said, "The closing will not help the coral to recover. It will be worse because if there are no dive boats around dive sites, fishing boats will an-

chor and fish close to the islands."

Sea Bees Khao Lak, which runs dive tours to the Similans, saw the writing on the wall. "This has not affected us at all as we have not dived there since the beginning of the season," said manager Markus.

"It makes me very sad that divers are being blamed for damaging coral, which is absolutely ridiculous. Of course protection is needed, but logical protection. Coral bleaching is not from divers."

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Tourists scramble to get one of the souvenirs. Photo: Pimwara Choksakulpan

DEA 'Most Wanted' items spark craze

TOURISTS and workers along Soi Bangla pushed and shoved to get their hands on the latest craze: DEA 'Most Wanted' souvenirs. The free handout was held from 10 to 11pm on January 19, with hundreds of people scrambling to get beer coolers, t-shirts, pens and other items emblazoned with images of the US DEA's most wanted criminals.

DEA Thailand Director Joseph Reagen said, "It is a part of a multi-city effort. We have done this in Chiang Rai, Pattaya, Soi Nana in Bangkok and now in Phuket. "We have received clues through this form of co-operation before, and we believe we will get more from here. People in the community need to report this."

The sacred unborn baby of Village 11

FOR 10 months now, residents of a village in Suphan Buri province have been wondering when Niphawan Bunjaroen, 35, is going to give birth.

Niphawan, who lives in Village 11 in Nong Makha Mong subdistrict, claims to have been pregnant with her fourth child for a rather long time: 19 months, to be precise. Doctors say the maybe-mother-to-be, whose weight has shot up from 60 to 89 kilos since she got "pregnant", has a build-up of fluid in her abdomen.

But neither Niphawan nor husband Thanongsak Saetang, 45, believe that. They insist Niphawan is with child, and not just any child. The baby, they claim, is sacred.

This strange tale came to the attention of a *Daily News* reporter who visited the couple at their home on January 20, finding Niphawan looking every bit like a woman in the final stages of pregnancy.

Niphawan, who makes a living selling chicken at the local fresh



market, said she had three children with a previous husband before the marriage ended. Since then, she has lived with widower Thanongsak, whose previous wife died about three years ago.

In 2009, the couple decided they wanted a baby together, but try as they might, Niphawan could not get pregnant. So Niphawan's sister recommended she go ask a famous mystic, Father Pu Saming Dam, to help her have a baby.

Niphawan did as her sister suggested, travelling to Kanchanaburi province to visit Father Pu Saming Dam. The medium told her she would have a baby: a holy baby that would make the family rich.

Sure enough, in June 2009,

Niphawan started to get morning sickness and put on weight and became convinced she was pregnant.

In August 2009, she went to a clinic, but the doctor there told her she was not pregnant. In fact, the doctor said, she was suffering from an enlarged heart.

Niphawan returned home and since then has got bigger and bigger. Nineteen months later, she still gets morning sickness and cannot eat any meat.

Thanongsak said that before they visited Father Pu Saming Dam, the family was very poor. But since then they have sold so much chicken that they have become rich and now have a car and a house.

They believe, just as the mystic said, that the unborn child has brought them good fortune.

Thanongsak, therefore, said he wasn't worried that his wife was still pregnant after 19 months. His child, he said, was holy and would be born when the time came.

- *Daily News*

Police slam reports on Swede's death

PATONG Police have lashed out at media reports and online postings asserting there had been any kind of party in the Patong Tower room of Jan Larsson, 53, at the time of, or during the hours leading up to, his death last week.

"The media have been very wrong in their reporting of this. There were no fights in the room, nor do we believe there were even any people [other than the deceased] in the room, at the time of Mr Larsson's death," said Sub Lt Pattapee Srichay.

"We are checking CCTV footage to be absolutely certain no one went to the room with him."

Staff at the condo building agree with Lt Pattapee, saying that Mr Larsson was a loner who often drank quite heavily.

"I have read the story in other media and it makes me angry as it is incorrect. He didn't take any-



Police inspect Mr Larsson's room.

one with him to his room before his body was found, and I am the one who found it there," one employee said.

Sub Lt Pattapee reconfirmed that police had yet to reach any conclusions as to the cause of the Swede's death but stressed they never suggested it was suicide.

"The suicide theory does not come from the police; maybe it's just forum gossip, but we reject it and take no responsibility for it," he said.

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Trainees. Photo: The Nation

Airline hires transsexual hostesses

NEW airline P.C. Air has delighted Thailand's transsexuals after hiring three "third sex" air hostesses in a recruitment drive on January 24.

Among the lucky applicants was winner of the Miss Tiffany Universe 2007 transsexual beauty contest Thanyarat "Film" Jiraphatpakorn.

Of the 30 candidates who were selected from 200 applicants at Bangkok's Esplanade shopping mall, 17 were women, 10 were men and three were "third sex" candidates.

P.C. Air chief executive Peter Chan said his airline was the first in the world to hire transsexual air hostesses. Chan said he wanted the move to serve as an example to Thai society of respect for equal rights.

"In the past, many organisations accepted applications from transsexuals but didn't do so openly," he told *Khao Sod*.

Chan said transsexuals had to have undergone full sex-realignment in order to apply as air hostesses at P.C. Air and had to be exactly like women in every way – even their voices.

Chan said he wasn't afraid of Thai society's reaction to the move, adding that the airline may also hire disabled people in the future.

Ms Thanyarat said she was tremendously honored to have been hired.

PAD turns against PM

AROUND THE nation

IN A remarkable turnaround, yellow shirt protesters on January 25 began a campaign against the Abhisit Vejjajiva coalition government they were instrumental in bringing to power.

The People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) want Mr Abhisit to take a harder line in a border dispute with Cambodia, vowing to continue the protest "indefinitely" until their demands are met.

The evening before the protest began, police seized bombs and ammunition and arrested several men allegedly planning to sabotage the rally.

The Manager website, owned by PAD leader Sondhi Limthongkul, claimed the men were red shirts. Others claimed the incident was a ploy by the yellow shirts to "save face" because of the low attendance of their protest.



Protesters ready for prolonged demonstrations in Bangkok. Photo: AFP

The PAD wants the government to revoke a memorandum of understanding with Cambodia on border demarcation, withdraw from the United Nations World Heritage Committee and evict Cambodians from disputed border areas.

The demands relate to the ongoing dispute over control of Preah Vihear temple, which is claimed by both countries.

The recent arrest and trial of seven Thais for trespassing into Cambodia has also inflamed tensions. Five of the group – including Democrat MP Panich Vikritsreth – received suspended jail sentences and fines and returned to Thailand January 22.

Nationalist activist Veera Somkwamkid and his secretary Ratee Pipatanapaiboon have been

charged with espionage and remain in Phnom Penh awaiting trial. If convicted, they face 10 years in jail.

Mr Veera is one of the leaders of the so-called Thai Patriots Network, a hard-line nationalist group that also began a protest close to the PAD rally on the same day.

The group supports the PAD's demands but wants Abhisit to step down over his weak stance on the border issue and the trial of the seven Thais in Phnom Penh. Also rallying is the Santi Asoke Buddhist sect, which supports the PAD.

The same day, red-shirt-aligned groups began a counter-rally, claiming the yellow shirts were trying to provoke a military coup.

In 2008, PAD protests against allies of former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra culminated in the occupation of Bangkok's airports for eight days.

The crisis ended when a court dissolved the ruling People Power Party, aligned to Mr Thaksin. Mr Abhisit was then able to assume the premiership after assembling a Democrat Party-led coalition government.

– *Phuket Gazette*

Ukrainian man claims 14-year slave ordeal

A UKRAINIAN engineer claims a Thai-owned oxygen factory held him captive and forced him into slavery for 14 years.

Anatoliy Vdovychenko, 57, lodged a complaint against the Pathum Thani company with the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) on January 24.

Mr Vdovychenko is demanding the owner, whom he described as an elderly Thai-Chinese woman, pay him 14 years of unpaid wages.

He eventually escaped from the ordeal January 11 after a Burmese colleague who left the company wrote to his family in Ukraine. They alerted Interpol and the

Ukrainian Embassy. Consular staff then visited the factory and threatened to call the police.

Mr Vdovychenko said he arrived in Thailand in 1996 as a specialist in oxygen equipment installation and the factory promised him a full-time position with 30,000 baht a month and other benefits.

He said that when he demanded 600,000 baht in back pay in 1998, the employer confiscated his passport and refused to let him leave.

The DSI said it was investigating Mr Vdovychenko's accusations. The factory owner has admitted to employing the engineer, *The Nation* reported.

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Developing ethics

Re: Issue & Answer: Rocky road to development (Gazette, January 15 issue)

As a fellow developer, I feel sad about the reply from the developer involved in this issue. It is not right for any developer to say that buyers should build their own road.

As this developer points out so strongly, he "even installed streetlights". This shows me how little he might have done for those people who bought from him and this makes the complaints even more valid.

All buyers ask about road access, so I'm sure those people living in the project will be upset by empty promises.

As per Thai Law, any development exceeding a certain number of houses must be registered and should then provide roads.

Maybe something has not been handled correctly.

*Anchalee
Phuket*

Ruining all the fun

Why oh why are they bothering to finally enforce the licensing and bar opening hour laws?

All this has achieved is that drunken revelers are being thrown out onto the streets in the middle of the night, not quite ready to go home, but drunk enough to spend time doing something ridiculous and stupid, instead of being able to choose when to leave the bar.

Maybe the police should focus on enforcing some more pressing laws – such as helmet wearing and prostitution.

*Not Happy,
Rawai*

Playing host to unlucky tourists

Phuket Gazette

PLANS by the Tourist Police to build a shelter for foreign tourists who fall on hard times in Phuket is laudable and long-overdue, as evidenced by the number of hard luck cases whose travails have been chronicled in these pages over the years.

Exact details of the plan have yet to be revealed, but Ekachai Pramanakul, chief of the Tourist Police office in Phuket Town, said the shelter will provide temporary refuge for foreign tourists who would otherwise have to go without (see News pages).

It's hard not to find this approach commendable and much thanks is due to Haad Thip for providing the funding.

The sight of unwashed vagrants panhandling, lying drunk or being stepped over as they lay unconscious on sidewalks across the island is depressing sight to all but the most callous of souls.

Despite the best efforts of the staff at the Mitr Maitree homeless shelter in Rassada, the harsh reality is that the homeless problem in Phuket continues to worsen. Unfortunately, under its charter Mitr Maitree can only accept adult Thais, not foreigners.

Allowing well-intended guests to our country to fall into a state of vagrancy through no fault of their own is simply unacceptable, especially given Thailand's world-renowned reputation for hospitality.

Homelessness of course comes in many forms and develops for a wide variety of rea-

sons. There are even people who willingly adopt this lifestyle, opting to become "urban hunter-gatherers" rather than trying to keep up with the rat race that many more conventional employment opportunities offer.

Obviously, the types of tenants the Tourist Police expect to take up lodging in the new facility will not fall into this category.

Lt Col Ekachai has been quoted saying that the facility will be earmarked for "good" foreign tourists whose misfortunes are not self-inflicted, such as victims of crimes, scams or greedy temptresses. There will be no room at the inn for "bad tourists": foreigners who engage in criminal activity will be prosecuted, same as before.

Tourist arrival figures to the island continue to grow, with 3.5 million arrivals at the airport higher than ever before in 2010.

The island's complement of 16 honorary consuls do their best at the thankless task of helping compatriots who get into trouble here, but many are already at the breaking point – and the number of cases continues to rise.

Properly run, the completed shelter should go a long way to solidify the Tourist Police motto: **Your First Friend.**

After all, as the famously ambiguous saying goes: "a friend in need is a friend indeed."

nothing else... and will always remember the feeling of driving along the palm-fringed roads on my scooter with the sun shining down on my smiling face and the feeling of freedom filling my heart.

I will miss you Phuket.

*Nicky,
Kathu*

What's in a name

What's the name of the new road behind Jungceylon?

If a name has yet to be dedicated, might I suggest a topic for one of your *Gazette* Polls – to see who thinks it should be Jungceylon Boulevard (or Blvd), since that is what almost everybody refers to it as already.

I think that Jungceylon's contribution to Patong merits the honor of the street being named after it, and it would just make everything a lot simpler.

*Large William
Patong*

Pa Khlok a sight for sore eyes

I've written previously about trash being dumped on the road between Mission Hills Golf Course and Baan Lam Sai in Pa Khlok, yet every morning as I ride through there, there is even more trash.

Don't people get it? Tourists travel on that road every day and are probably wondering how people can say that Phuket is kept clean.

Sorry, but it just doesn't make sense. The grass is cut along the road but there's nobody picking up the plastic before it's cut.

*Eyesores
Pa Khlok*

Farewell, my lovely Phuket

It's time for me to wave goodbye to Phuket and move on to pastures new. After being here for a year

and a half, I can say that the island has left its mark on my heart forever.

Hopefully, I've adopted some of the kindness and grace that Thai people demonstrate so much of, and also their unwavering love for celebrating

life and not taking it too seriously.

It has been a rich and rewarding experience here and I will gladly come back to visit anytime I can.

I've made friends for life who I would consider family if

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Issues & Answers...

Thai staff entitled to holiday pay?

Can someone please tell me about Thai employees' rights. My friend recently left her place of employment (a pub/restaurant) after working there full-time for 16 months.

In that time, she never had a paid holiday. She had eight days off to go back and see her family in April, but her salary was cut.

Is she entitled to be paid for holidays or not? They say she is not.

*Warren Quinn
Phuket*

An officer at the Phuket Office of Labor Protection and Welfare replies:

It depends on whether she handed her employer a letter requesting the leave.

This is a common condition of employment. Any leave must be approved by the employer before it is taken.

If the company did not approve

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

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her eight days off, that means she was absent from work.

Special leave is different from other forms of leave; such as sick leave and annual leave. According to employment regulations, employers can cut an employee's salary for taking sick leave.

However, she should have been paid her normal day's salary or given a day off in lieu of any public holidays she worked. If she has not, she can sue the company.

Please note that if a complaint is filed against the employer, the investigation will look into both sides.

If she has any questions about this, she can call us at 076-211995 or come to talk at our office.

Foreigners owning homes in own names

I am retired in Chalong and just finishing building a house here.

The land on which the house is built is in my Thai wife's name, but I would like to have the house registered in my name.

I believe that this can be done through a "yellow" *tabien baan* (house registration document), but I would like to know how and where to do this.

*SG
Chalong*

An officer at Muang District Office, replies:

A yellow *tabien baan*, also called a Tor Ror 13 or a house registration document, does not provide any proof of ownership of a property or dwelling.

All a yellow *tabien baan* does is provide proof of where a foreigner lives.

You will need to contact the Phuket Provincial Land Office (PPLO) in Phuket Town to secure

Price rises run foul by the chicken or the egg?

FIRST PERSON



Lilit Sawong, 43, has been selling eggs for 14 years from his Go Leng Khai Gai shop at the fresh market on Ranong Road.

Here he talks about a Thai government plan to sell eggs by the kilogram. A three-month trial of the plan is set to begin in February.



WE ARE currently facing an egg shortage in Thailand, which has led to high prices.

I have heard that in response to the rising prices, the government will begin testing the idea of selling eggs by the kilogram in some markets in the Bangkok area.

If this policy is introduced in Phuket, I don't think it will work.

Every customer I have spoken to disagrees with this idea. They said it's complicated and it would affect everyone.

I don't see any good points in this policy at all. The method is complicated and difficult. Customers will spend more time in selecting the eggs they want to weigh.

Restaurant owners will also have problems calculating their costs as they will now know how many eggs they will receive from each order and some dishes require consistency in egg size to maintain quality.

I put a tray of 30 "size zero [largest size]" eggs on a scale and the weight was 2.2 kilograms. Under the current "pay-by-the-egg" system, the total price is 105 baht for the 30 eggs.

However, if we followed the government's plans charge 52 baht per kilogram, the 30 eggs would cost 114.4 baht – that's a 9.4 baht increase in price. So, I'm wonder-

dering who stands to gain and who stands to lose here.

The government said that it may just be that the public needs time to get used to the new method, but it's not like that. Why do they need to bring us problems? I don't think this is going to work.

If the government wants to solve the problem of high egg prices and help reduce farmers'

costs, they need to lower the price of chicken feed.

I used to raise chickens and I know that feed is the main cost in running a farm. The current price of chicken feed is very expensive.

Has the government ever tried checking what the real cost of chicken feed is?

Once feed prices are reduced, farmers and consumers will benefit – eggs will be cheap as well.

'Steering you in the wrong direction'

Island View

By Wok, Patong resident

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

WITH the huge number of motorcycles operating in Phuket, more riders should be aware that one of the most important maneuvers to master when operating a motorcycle is correct turning technique.

Turning requires you to lean the motorcycle in the direction you wish to turn. To do this safely, there are certain actions required to make it turn when and where you want.

A motorcycle will steer in the direction it is leaned, but what many new motorcycle riders do not understand is the effect of "counter-steering".

Counter-steering means turning the handlebars in the direction opposite to the one you want to turn the motorcycle. If you are riding at moderate or high speeds and you turn the front wheel to the left, the normal reaction of the bike is to lean to the right, causing the bike to turn right. This happens because the force caused by the wheel shifting left, forces the bike to lean and turn right.

If you try to turn left and lean left all at once, it will usually force you straight ahead – or possibly even over the handlebars if the front brakes lock.

The simple counter-steering technique requires no strength or no shifting of body weight on the seat – you can do it with the tips of your fingers.

Learning how to counter-steer properly should be one of the basics of how to operate a motorcycle safely. It applies to



Mastering the art of steering

sports bikes, sit-ups, cruisers, choppers – basically all bikes over 250cc, where simply shifting your body weight will not be enough to control the turn.

For lighter weight mopeds, counter-steering is less important, but should still be taught to help get riders around obstacles on the road and prevent accidents.

Every big bike owner I've met in Phuket has laughed at me when I've tried to educate them about counter-steering. However, a simple demonstration of the technique at low speed in the carpark proved my point.

Counter-steering allows you to turn the motorcycle sharply and safely. It is very simple to do and makes riding a motorcycle far less scary, and much more fun.

...asking the questions that affect you...



Owning a home in your own name makes it all the more special. Photo: Nicky Vermeulen

proof of ownership of your home.

PPLO Chief Paitoon Lertkrai, replies:

Any foreigner who signs as the applicant for the building permit that is filed with local OrBorTor (Tambon Administration Organi-

zation) or municipality is automatically registered as the owner of the home being built.

The Land Office is not the correct authority for issuing that document. All we can do is officially recognize a rental agreement involving a foreigner.

A lawyer at Arunrat Legal Consultant, replies:

A foreigner can own a house legally in his own name by buying the house and leasing the land from his Thai wife – through legally binding contracts.

This way, a foreigner can have legal rights over the house.

For example, if a foreigner passes away, the house can be included as part of the estate to be inherited by his family.

Under this arrangement, the foreigner can rent the house out to other people.

The land lease agreement can be for either the 30-year legal maximum, or limited for the term of the natural life of yourself (as the lessee) or your wife (as the lessor).

To do this, you and your wife must apply at the PPLO in person. You must take with you the original plus photocopies of the land title deed, the building permit issued by local the OrBorTor or municipality, your passport and your wife's national identification card.

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Currencies worth saving in

Retirement Years

By David Mayes

HERE'S a common question in the retirement world: "Which currency is best to save and invest in?"

If committing to future cash outflows, such as a mortgage or setting up a savings plan, you want to match the currency you earn with that you commit to, if possible. That's the easy part.

The trickier part is which currency to make investments in, especially if you are uncertain about your future.

I am a believer in keeping options open. A metaphor Dale Carnegie uses in his book *How to Stop Worrying and Start Living* is helpful in this situation.

Mr Carnegie says keeping one's supply lines open in a war is best. If you do, you can keep fighting until the very last moment and then make your escape.

In other words, if you keep relocation options open, you will not be trapped somewhere with no escape plan.



PIGGY BANK: What currency are you banking on? Photo: Ken Wilcox

Trying to predict which currencies are going to outperform others in the future is not advisable. Short-term currency plays may be beneficial, but long-term speculation is best left to industry professionals.

The best way to achieve savings that will hold their global value and purchasing power is to diversify across all major currencies.

This can be done by investing in funds that are denominated in different currencies and trying to keep the mix evenly spread while maintaining desired asset allocation.

For example, if there were six funds desired for investment, they should be allocated proportionately.

It will be easy to find funds denominated in US Dollars, Pounds Sterling, and Euros, so the first

thing to look for is if any of the desired funds have a series denominated in another strong currency, such as Swiss Francs, Australian Dollars, Singapore Dollars or Japanese Yen, and invest in a few of these.

When you are down to the final three funds you can put one each into dollars, pounds and euros. If you have a larger number of funds to invest in, and can't find other currency options, you could also place small currency hedges against proportional chunks of your portfolio.

This is more complicated, but most banks should be able to get you hedged via forward contracts.

Another way to diversify would be to invest in funds that have already diversified their underlying holdings. The funds themselves will still be denominated in a single currency, and therefore subject to some foreign exchange risk, but the underlying product will be diversified.

At the end of the day, it is impossible to eliminate risk. Many investors end up accepting some risk factors, rather than being

bothered too much by it.

Those who have moved substantial savings into Thailand over the past five years have been lucky. Other investment issues aside, they have gained as the baht has strengthened.

Conversely, those who have ignored exchange rate risks and left their money in the UK, have felt their purchasing power diminish.

Unfortunately, even my recommended approach would only have lessened this. This is one of the "taxes" of living in Phuket.

Keeping cash savings of 50 per cent in Thailand and 50 per cent in a diversified basket of currencies can help you stay protected whether you relocate or stay forever. But the downside of hedging is that whichever way the baht goes, you will experience a loss on one half of your savings.

This is the cost of hedging. It is essentially an insurance premium to avoid a much bigger loss should the worst transpire.

David Mayes MBA is a wealth manager for Faramond. E:david.m@faramond.com

Getting tough on tax

THE Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) is threatening to take legal action against about 30 per cent of hotel operators in Phuket who fail to pay the controversial hotel-room tax.

The organization hopes an awareness campaign – backed by the threat of legal measures – can help it raise hotel-room tax revenues from last year's 60 million baht to 70 million baht this year.

OrBorJor President Paiboon Upatising said he was confident the organization would hit this target because the number of hotels paying the tax is on the rise.

The hotel-room tax, which is levied at one per cent of room revenues, was introduced amid widespread opposition in 2000.

The *OrBorJor* would launch a campaign to emphasize the importance of paying the hotel-room tax and the benefits it brought to the tourism industry, Mr Paiboon said.

The *OrBorJor* invests the tax money into developing the island and its tourism industry, he said.

If hotels fail to pay the tax after this campaign, the *OrBorJor* will take legal action, he warned.

Nevertheless, Mr Paiboon said he was confident that those operating outside the system would be tempted by the privileges that came with compliance. For example, hotels who pay get first choice on booths in *OrBorJor*-organized tourism roadshows.

The *OrBorJor* chief said that this year the organization had allocated 60 million baht to boosting tourism. Of this, 20 million baht will be spent on road shows, both within Thailand and abroad, that will emphasize Phuket's readiness to welcome more tourists.

Aside from this, the *OrBorJor* will expand installation of CCTV cameras and continue to fund the provision of lifeguards, he said.

– Phuket Gazette



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Network switch service coming

By Anand Singh

FIVE Thai mobile phone operators will provide a mobile number portability service in Phuket and four other provinces from next month.

The service was launched late last year and at present is only available in Greater Bangkok.

Mobile number portability allows subscribers to keep their existing phone numbers even if they switch to a different network.

The five mobile operators – Advanced Info Service (AIS), DTAC, True Move, CAT Telecom and TOT – are expanding the service to Phuket, followed soon after by Phitsanuloke, Rayong, Ayutthaya and Udon Thani. In the

next few months, it is hoped the service will go nationwide.

Operator AIS has been given a quota of 300 switches per day from February onwards.

Each AIS branch in Phuket has been allocated a quota of 20 switches per day, in order to ensure smooth service.

Customers who wish to use the service will be dealt with on a first-come, first-serve basis.

In order to request the mobile number portability service, users need to have their old SIM card and official proof of identity.

Most mobile phone users will be eligible for the service if they have been with their existing provider for at least three months.

Provided users have cleared all

existing charges and obligations owed to their current provider, they can switch networks and keep existing numbers.

After users request to change providers, the process takes three working days.

In the meantime, AIS will allow customers to use their old SIM cards until they have received an SMS confirmation that the switch has been successfully made.

Mobile operators plan to charge customers a one-time fee of 99 baht per switch.

Since its launch on December 5 last year, about 20,000 mobile phone subscribers have already requested the service, *The Nation* reports.



The ability to change network, but keep the same number, is already available in Bangkok. Photo: Nopphan Bunnag

Commercial banks follow BOT and raise interest



Kasikorn Bank is one of three commercial banks to raise rates.

COMMERCIAL banks have moved to raise interest rates after the Monetary Policy Committee decided to raise its policy rate by 25 basis points, to 2.25 per cent, earlier this month.

The raise comes after The Bank of Thailand (BOT) increased the policy interest rate due to rising concerns over inflation, *The Nation* reports.

While the BOT raised its policy rate by 25 basis points, Bangkok Bank, Siam Commercial Bank and Kasikorn Bank rates vary between 12.5 and 37.5 basis points.

Thanapong Tumpen, Head of Sales and Business Cash Management at Siam Commercial Bank, Chao-Fa Road branch, said the increase will have a minimal affect on investment in Phuket.

"Banks have chosen to increase their rates differently, according to their operational costs. However the rate increase should not affect investment borrowing in Phuket significantly, because investors tend to plan ahead before embarking on large projects.

"If investors have already planned out their projects, they are unlikely to change them now following rises in interest rates," he said.

"Many mega investment projects in Phuket, including real estate, yield high returns to investors. This is also one of the reasons why investors will not likely be deterred by the latest round of rate increases," he added.

However, small and medium-size businesses on the island may be affected by the policy rate increase.

Mr Thanapong says small borrowers are not in a strong bargaining

position with banks, compared to larger investors.

Therefore they may have to bear the brunt of increases in lending rates.

People who borrowed to finance purchases of cars and houses may also be affected.

In the coming months, it is expected that BOT will increase the policy rate again.

Mr Thanapong said this is not a major concern because hotels and real estate businesses in Phuket are more sensitive to tourism trends than policy rates.

It may even prove positive if the current monetary measures are

able to keep inflation in check, especially in the face of rising food and energy prices, which may in the long run hinder Phuket's competitive advantage.

Most analysts now agree that the BOT will raise its rates steadily over this year, with some pauses *The Nation* reports.

Eventually the BOT rates will have to be raised until they match the inflation rate.

At the moment, banks' interest returns are lower than inflation, which means that savers are actually losing money by depositing with banks.

– Anand Singh

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Killer coconut beetles attack

Thailand's coconut industry is under threat as the coconut hispine beetle infests southern plantations

By Nicholas Altstadt
and Samaporn Janyanon

THAILAND'S coconut industry is under attack from an enemy of the most meager proportions: *Bron-tispa longissima*, commonly known as the coconut hispine beetle.

The tiny stature of the insect however, speaks nothing of its ability, in numbers, to devastate an entire industry.

Making its appearance in the middle of a two-year drought, the beetle has managed to severely damage or destroy more than 150,000 rai (about 35 per cent) of coconut plantation in Thailand's southern Prachuap Khiri Khan province, according to Samri Chankird, a researcher with the provincial Agriculture Extension Office.

The effects of this full-scale attack are being felt not only here in Phuket, but across Thailand as the wholesale price of coconuts has risen from seven baht in July 2010 to 20.5 baht this month. Market vendors and retailers across the country are struggling to keep coconut-based products on their shelves and are being forced to import from neighbors

such as Indonesia to stave off the nationwide shortage.

Prachuap Khiri Khan is known as the "coconut basket" of Thailand as it is by far the largest producer of coconuts in the country. The Ministry of Agriculture estimates last year's coconut production for the province at over 425,000 tonnes, nearly double that of Chumphon province, Thailand's number two producer. This year's figures are expected to be much lower.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), *Bron-tispa longissima* is native to Indonesia and was spread throughout the Southeast Asia-Pacific region in ornamental palm shipments. The pest attacks more than 20 species of palm, with coconut being "the most favored host", the FAO says. The beetle feeds on seedlings and the young leaves of mature coconut palms and can quickly destroy an adult tree.

At the forefront of the fight against the infestation is a research team from Kasetsart University in Bangkok. Team leader, Assistant Professor Kosol Charernsom, has been testing a number of biological methods to combat the infestation

over the past two months.

One such method is the use of *Beauveria bassiana*, a fungus that has proven effective as an insecticide. When the beetle comes into contact with its spores, they germinate and grow inside the insect, killing it within days. The fungus then emerges and spreads from the carcass.

Another weapon in the assault is *Eocanthecona furcellata*, a predatory "stink bug" being introduced by Prof Kosol's team in "nurseries" throughout Prachuap's coconut plantations to kill off the beetle.

A third method being used by the team is the parasitic *Asecodes hispinarum* insect, which is a natural enemy of the beetle, attacking it in the larval stage.

The team is having success in the testing phase and they are confident that the methods being used will eliminate the pest, enabling trees to recover and farmers to plant the new Coconut Sawi Number 1 hybrid, which is more resistant to drought and infestations, Prof Kosol said.

The hybrid, however, does nothing for the short term. "We could plant this new hybrid, but each tree takes five to eight years to mature. It's more drought and insect resistant, and has better yields, but that will not help us now. We need to get rid of the beetle first and have adequate rainfall, or the new trees will experience the same fate as the ones now," he said.

Indeed, the short-term does



COCO CRISIS: Coconut trees in the south are being ravaged by beetles.

not look good for farmers, sellers and consumers alike. Supermarket giants Tesco Lotus and Big C both told the *Phuket Gazette* that their orders for coconut milk – a main ingredient in many Thai foods, especially desserts – are not being filled.

Ittipol Klasuk, dried food manager at Big C Phuket said, "We order coconut milk from Amphol Food Processing [distributors of Chao Koh and Roi Thai products] every three days, but they often cut our order. For example, we order 100 and get 25. And when we do get product on the shelves, people come and buy it up quickly, in bulk."

The price of coconut milk in supermarkets has yet to reflect the increase in wholesale prices, both Tesco Lotus and Big C report. This has not been true for small vendors in public markets that rely on fresh coconuts to make products.

Narunat Mongkol, head of public relations and marketing at Amphol FP, told the *Gazette* that

they are currently unable to source enough coconuts domestically to fill orders and have begun importing from Indonesia.

"We have had to increase the price four baht per 50ml box of coconut milk since November 2010 and I can say that the price will go up again, as there is a shortage in Thailand and we are having to import from Indonesia – I just don't know how much the price will go up and when," he said.

Meanwhile, Prof Kosol and his team, with assistance from Amphol FP and the Ministry of Agriculture, continue their efforts to save Prachuap Khiri Khan's coconuts. The fight is a personal one, Prof Kosol says.

"Thailand is a factory for food production. If we have to order raw material from producers in other countries, that is a shame. I'm a coconut farmer. I have farmer's blood, so I must find the best way to treat these trees so they can survive."



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Down by the sea at East 88

Find great food and service at this trendy spot by the sea in Rawai

EAST 88 is a happening place on the east coast of Phuket that has undergone some significant and clever changes that have put the resort in the same league as certain trendy Surin Beach must-go places.

East 88's radio ads hint that instant utopia will be reached merely by attending one or more of their nightly themed parties. Having never been to utopia, I wasn't in the position to judge how close we were, but it is fair to say that East 88 offers nightly delights combining buffet dinners, DJs, great a-la-carte dishes and a well-chosen wine selection.

We were happy enough in the company of a dry vodka martini at the Babu Bar while the "Coconut Head" band set up and sound checked for a night spent resurrecting Marley's ghost.

The resort's F&B Manager, Stephan Bowman soon arrived to scold the bartender for serving a dry cocktail with the sugar count of a triple margarita.

The bar and restaurant are separated by a swimming pool and the whole affair is beachfront, looking over to Koh Lone. Being early, we were able to secure very comfortable beachside seating, which was a definite plus.

A rocket (arugula) salad (320 baht) kicks things off in fine style with fresh leek soup (230 baht) nicely following up.

For mains, a wagyu rib-eye steak (980 baht) is as tender as can be and a tuna fillet (680 baht) is well executed, yet we couldn't help wonder whether

On the Menu

By Sam Wilko



The lamb rack



Lobster burger



Scallops with mango

things would have been a bit more close-up and personal if Stephan had actually prepared the dishes himself. I say this because, having sampled his fare in two previous locations, I



POOLING PLEASURE: The pool-lounge area at East 88 is not a bad place to sit, relax and watch the sun go down.

appreciate that the man is a wonder in the kitchen (a fact recognized by his peers), and, still at a tender age, an absolute gargantuan talent. Still, with its 19-member kitchen staff, it's obvious that East 88 takes things seriously.

East 88 is a real turnaround from the previous, rather sterile setup. With a young and fresh outlook that makes fine dining fun instead of snobbish, a great setting and a master chef at the helm, the place is a winner.

It's a tad expensive, but a worthwhile dining experience – especially if you book a beachside table.

Serenity Terraces on Wichit Road Rawai 1.5km south of Chalong Traffic Circle T:076-371900

Delivering the tale of Black Salmon

THERE'S a smoking new place in Cherng Talay where locals and businesses can go to catch a little – or large – fish dish.

Opening two months ago, Black Salmon specializes in cold-smoking fish: salmon, tuna, cobia and more. Some are imported, some caught locally, many come peppered, all are fresh and moreish.

"Business is going great," says French co-owner Alain Roger.

"Resorts buy our fish in bulk...they love it here...we are the first fish-smoking company in Phuket."

Completing the trio of Black Salmon owners are Frenchman Germain Lormeau and Belgian Alain Andries. So far, things are going swimmingly for this swanky restaurant-wholesale operation.

The restaurant has fine wine, caviar and helpful staff, and the fish-delivery service is making a splash with resorts.

– Fraser Morton

Find the cold-smokers at 164 Baan Don-Cherngtalay Road, Cherng Talay. W:blacksalmonphuket.com or T:086-2830306





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Maestro strikes a chord in Phuket

By Alexandra Andersson

DURING a time of political instability, Mom Luang (ML) Usni Pramoj is using classical music to unite Thailand. Having composed a strikingly original string quartet inspired by last year's riots in Bangkok, he has taken his composition on the road. His most recent stop was Phuket.

Earlier this week, ML Usni graced a crowd at Mom Tri's Villa Royale in Kata with his talent, having already performed at The Four Seasons Hotel in Bangkok and Chiang Mai.

ML Usni is a Thai National Artist, recipient of the ASEAN Award for the Performing Arts and the co-founder of the chamber orchestra which we now know as the Bangkok Symphony Orchestra.

ML Usni has also played jazz alongside His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej and serves as a Privy Councillor.

Despite his remarkable talents and achievements, he remains down to Earth.

"I gave up playing music for 10 years. I went scuba diving instead," he says casually.

A qualified barrister and the son of a Prime Minister, ML Usni explains that music and art are his true passion, and their universality the

key to ending violence.

"Art tames the beast inside, it helps make people delicate and less crude in their thinking. Art is a good thing to have.

"If we were all musicians, the most confrontational thing anybody would say is 'you're out of tune or time'," he said.

With these sensibilities, it is no wonder the riots in Bangkok last year affected him so, and crept into his composing.

"I was very troubled at that time by what was happening... Suddenly there was this huge divisiveness in Thai society.

"I don't live in a vacuum, nobody does. I was writing this music while it was happening, so it would have been unnatural if it did not come out in the music," he said.

Last Monday a sold-out audience had the privilege to experience ML Usni's piece – entitled String Quartet No 1 – in a beautifully intimate concert.

Playing the viola, ML Usni was accompanied by three talented musicians: Tasana Nagawajara

and Siripong Tiptan on violins and Kittkhun Sodprasert on cello.

ML Usni's piece was preceded by Joseph Haydn's String Quartet in F Major, Op.77, No.2, a technically difficult and "classically classical" piece of music, executed to perfection by the group.

The tone was in stark contrast to ML Usni's original piece that followed.

His quartet was more contemporary in style, with each movement presenting and embodying a different aspect of the Bangkok riots.

The initial movement, with oriental tones and melodies, used traditional techniques such as plucking to portray the simplicity of rural life and the dissidence rising among rural people.

The second and third movements juxtaposed more frantic and energetic play, representing the rage of the protesters, with the calm and melodic tones of the government's attempts at peaceful negotiation. The sounds of marching, chanting and bullets could be felt through the music.

The final movement was more melancholy and poignant, expressing grief and hope at the same time.

The Phuket concert was a success, with both the crowd and musicians enjoying themselves.

'Art tames the beast inside, it helps make people delicate and less crude in their thinking. Art is a good thing to have.'
– ML Usni Pramoj



MUSIC TO OUR EARS: ML Usni Pramoj in Phuket this week. Photo: Dan Miles

"I remember the first time I came to Phuket. It was so exciting because there was an audience here who wanted this sort of concert, and it was good to come and play for people who appreciate good music. And that has not changed," ML Usni said.

Sylvie Yaffe, Public Relations Manager at Villa Royale agreed.

"The community here are hungry for something cultural, people crave something like this and were really appreciative," she said.

The concert was part of the Baan Kata Arts Festival, which

has made a comeback this year after a hiatus.

The positive feedback on the night now bodes well for a cultural renaissance in Phuket.

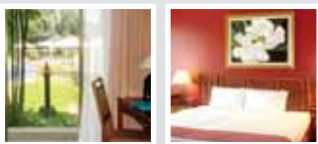
"If you enjoyed it tonight, we may have another next year. ML Usni has told me that he feels more creative than ever, so if he composes another that would be a good reason to have a festival," said ML Tri Devakul.

Let's hope ML Usni continues to spread his message through music, so Phuket can enjoy more of his innovative compositions.

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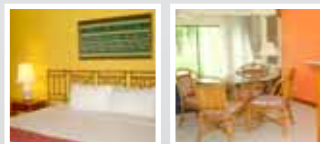
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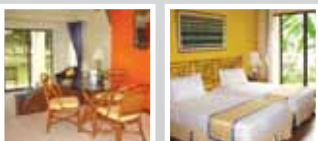
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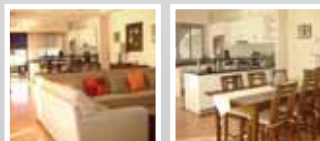
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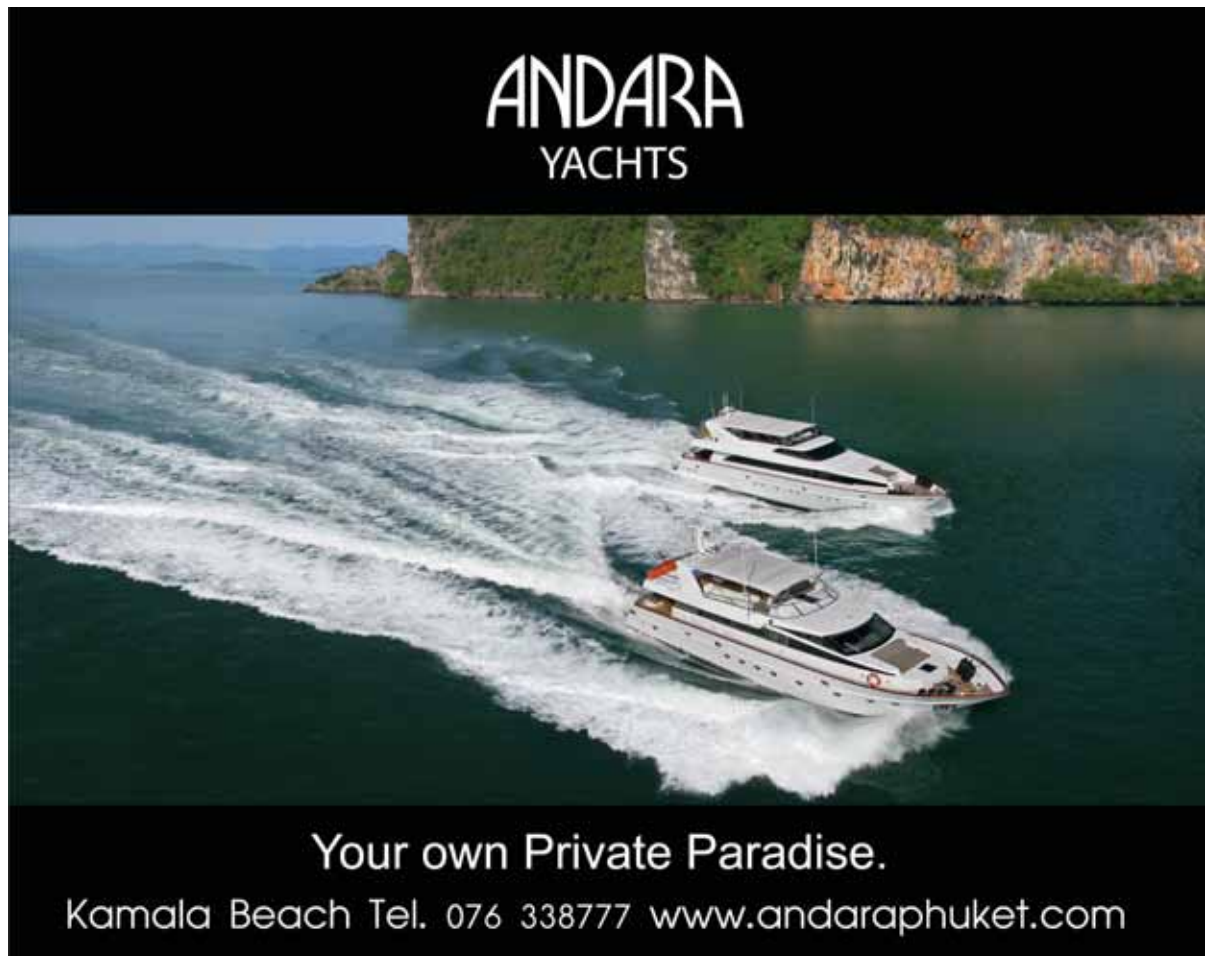
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Raven rant doesn't fly

Books

By James Eckardt

The Petting Zoo

By Jim Carroll

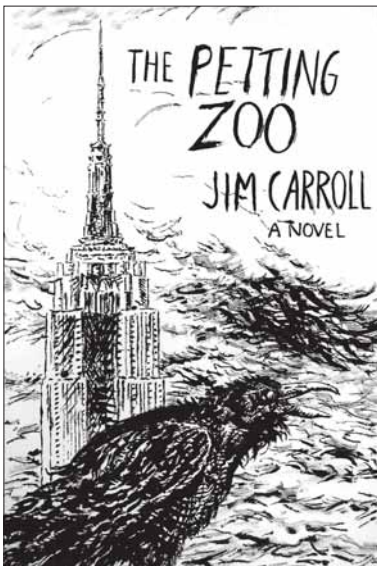
THE words of F Scott Fitzgerald "There are no second acts in American lives" are perfect for our author in question this week, Jim Carroll.

He was a basketball star at an elite New York Catholic high school who descended into heroin addiction and male prostitution.

He kept a diary from 1963 to 1966 when he was 16 and, based on this, published a memoir called *The Basketball Diaries* in 1979.

The book was a huge success, later made into movie starring Leonardo DiCaprio.

Carroll then coasted on his fame as a minor poet and musician and died last year at 59. His first fiction novel *The Petting Zoo* (Penguin Group, New York, 2010, 327pp) was his attempt at a second act. Unfortunately, it's an abject failure.



The Basketball Diaries was fast-paced, fueled by the youthful anger and rebellion of the mid-1960s, but *The Petting Zoo* is turgid, narcissistic, cliched, pretentious and cluttered with fancy verbiage. The plot is ridiculous.

At 38, Billy Wolfram – the main character – is a rich and famous New York painter.

When aged 13, he was masturbating on a toilet to a magazine photo of Barbra Streisand in a bikini when his mother burst in to tell him that President Kennedy had just been assassinated.

Boom! He's impotent for life. The rest of novel is taken up with his search for the "meaning of art" with the help of a talking raven.

He met a bird – a raven to be precise – at the Central Park petting zoo after suffering a mental breakdown when viewing a Velazquez exhibition.

He's taken to a mental hospital where he has a long conversation about spiritualism and art with his Chinese psychiatrist. It's really a monolog, 10 groaning pages long.

"I did look at those huge canvases...with each one I looked closer and deeper. The first two simply filled me with awe, but

certainly I've experienced that before. By the third one, however, the work lost its wholeness. I watched it break down into its separate elements.

"The canvas was reduced to its flux, flow, and vibration, and the movement was too fast, leaving me in this swirling haze. I felt nauseous, and stood back a few steps in case I heaved."

This is followed by another conversation on the same subject with the Hindu limo driver who is taking him home.

Then another on the telephone with his childhood friend and rock star in California, and another with the raven on his windowsill.

Better still – the raven was the original bird that Noah let loose in search of land, still alive after all these years! Who knew?

These conversations are endlessly soporific, huge fat paragraphs clunking along one after the other.

Wolfram goes into seclusion for three weeks to recapture his "art" and the innocent spirit of his Irish Catholic

childhood. You want to just chuck him out the window – anything to stop his artsy yammering.

There is no humor in this book, no characterization beyond what is going on in the head of the narcissistic artist, no worthwhile descriptions of New York, nothing but this sort of thing:

"Maybe he'd lost that divine spark, the scintilla vitae, of anamnesis, which propelled him with such ease to clarity in his intuition. His greatest fear was losing the inner register, which had served him so well.

"Billy also had to wonder whether the problem was not in his work, but in the jaded cultural atmosphere in which he lived, where the cult of celebrity stripped the artist of all dignity and put him or her on the same aesthetic level of a fashion model."

The book ends with another 10-page monolog, by the raven this time, about art and the life of the spirit. Billy is on the floor dying and unable to contribute much.

The raven proves that he can be just as much of a stupefying, long-winded bore as the poser of an artist who at last, thank God, dies.

Heed my advice – run, don't walk, from this book.

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Chinese New Year to lift island spirits

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

RED LANTERNS and banners line streets around Phuket this week as the island prepares for Chinese New Year on February 3.

Starting at 4pm on Thursday will be a full roster of high-quality free entertainment at Sanamchai Field, opposite Phuket Provincial Hall.

Highlights will include gravity-defying stunts of Chinese acrobats from Kuyang, China; a Kung Fu demonstration by the world-renowned Xiaolin Warriors and a "Lion Gives Birth" performance never before seen in Thailand.

There will also be musical performances by Ruth The Star, winner of The Star reality TV series, Beck Palitchoke and the G20 Band.

The fun doesn't end there. February 8 to 10 may be the best time to catch some Chinese New Year activities in Old Phuket Town and ring in the Year of the Rabbit.

Phuket City Municipality and the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) will host the 12th Phuket Old Town Festival on these dates. The festival, which will take place in

Old Phuket Town and Queen Sirikit Park, is held by the Phuket Peranakan Association, The Phuket Old Town Community and the Old Phuket Foundation.

From 7 to 10pm daily, performers from Suining City, China, will entertain visitors along Thalang and Phang Nga roads, which will be closed to traffic to create a "walking street" with local food and handicrafts, street performances, exhibitions, games and more.

A sacred image of the Chinese bodhisattva *Guan Yin* will be on display in Queen Sirikit Park during the festival.

Also exhibited there will be sacred objects on loan from Guangde Temple in Szechuan Province. Local people will be able to pay homage and make offering to bring good luck in the coming year.

Other activities to pay respect to the Chinese goddess will be in the form of a "pilgrim tour" on a local bus (*songtaew*).

From 9am to 5pm daily during the festival, a 99-baht tour will take pilgrims to nine famous shrines in Phuket Town to pay respect to *Guan Yin*.

The festival is expected to draw a huge number of guests to island, generating up

to one billion baht in revenue, says the Phuket Tourism Association (PTA).

PTA vice president Bhurit Maswongsa told the *Phuket Gazette* last week that January booking rate for Phuket hotels is about 90 per cent and may rise to 100 per cent in February as Asian tourists – especially from mainland China – come to Phuket for Chinese New Year.

However, Mr Bhurit said that the predicted average daily amount spent by each tourist is about 3,600 baht, down from about 4,200 baht last year.

Also taking place is a photo competition with the theme "Phuket Old Town Life Style". Only open to Thais, the contest is offering 50,000 baht as the grand prize. To submit entries contact Phuket Alpha Engineering Co Ltd on 076-215796 or visit W: phuketalpha.com.

Photos are being accepted from now



IN CHARACTER: *Chert sing dto* (lion dances) will feature at the celebrations.

until February 5. Selected photos will be on exhibit along Phang Nga Road during the festival.

– Additional reporting by Stephen Fein

Contact Phuket TAT office on T:076-212213 to take part in the tour or the Tourist Information Center on Thalang Road for more information.

Moseying on down to Phuket's old quarter



Phuket Town's old quarter is well worth a look. Photo: Jim Welch

IT WAS the American philosopher Henry David Thoreau who once said, "A morning walk is a blessing for the whole day."

With this in mind – and in light of Phuket Town's recent bid for UN Heritage status – I forwent a line-in last Saturday morning in favor of making friends with my feet to go explore the old quarter of Phuket Town.

Everywhere in Old Phuket Town is within walking distance, if you have the time, and my couple of hours spent in this fascinating neighborhood had me tickled pink.

I've always found thoughts come clearly while I walk, and

strolling down Thalang, Dibuk and Krabi roads, it was difficult not to muse on the district's unique blend of traditional and modern... the European-styled architecture fused with the weighty Chinese influence.

Elaborateness commingles with simplicity in the darling Sino-Portuguese shop-house buildings, with the pastel-colored architecture on Soi Romanee a definite highlight.

Old Phuket Town's busy art and culture scene should not be overlooked, particularly the four excellent shop-front galleries on Phang Nga Road, and several

more along Yaowarat Road.

The old quarter boasts numerous Chinese antique and boutique shops, a first-rate secondhand book shop (selling books in several different languages), plus several cozy cafes to unwind.

Chinese herb and garment shops, and an old printing factory, add to the district's traditional atmosphere.

A couple of hours isn't enough time for Old Phuket Town to reveal its true beauty and quaintness, but it still represents a splendid way to spend a lazy Saturday morning.

– Andrew Jennings

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Josh Lee

JOSH Lee arrived in Phuket from his native Australia in 1997, thinking he would be sailing his 35-foot sloop to Europe. But when he realized there were few marinas between Thailand and the Mediterranean, he gave up the idea and decided to sell the boat.

"In 1997, there weren't many options for selling a boat on the island. It was the beginning of the internet age and with my digital camera I was able to create a business online. I went down to the Ao Chalong Yacht Club and asked for members who wanted to sell their boats, and with that offering I launched Lee Marine."

Today, Lee Marine is the largest marine brokerage in Thailand, providing some of the world's most luxurious power boats to a growing market of enthusiasts who find the waters around Phuket the ideal place to recreate and relax.

Josh was born in Brisbane and says he was not a motivated student but was keen on water sports. His family suggested he take vocational training. He enrolled in a local college that offered an Elementary Seagoing Skills course. Part of the course required that he do an internship. He was accepted as a water taxi deckhand working around the Whitsunday Islands.

"I took some additional courses and became the youngest Master

EXPAT gallery

By Bruce Stanley

Class 5 Captain in Queensland. My 24 meter ferry carried 150 passengers. I worked on the ferry for four years before deciding to accept an offer to study derivatives trading in Hong Kong."

When he was not guiding ferries around the Whitsunday islands, he was offshore racing, competing in the Sydney to Hobart yacht race and other sailing events around the Asia/Pacific region.

Josh moved to Hong Kong in 1995 and spent two years as a researcher for Global Oriental, an offshore company that offered investment opportunities primarily to Cathay Pacific pilots. He passed the Bar at the Hong Kong Futures Exchange and became a qualified floor trader. When the handover occurred in 1997, the company moved to Singapore and the young Josh decided to go sailing instead.

"I really liked the Boat Lagoon Marina and we opened our office in 1997 by offering secondhand boats. We followed the market and as the demand for bigger and newer boats developed, we moved

in that direction. When we had our first client wanting a new boat, we sold him a high-end Riviera, a motor yacht perfect for a family."

Josh says he took a cautious approach to developing Lee Marine.

"We could have grown faster but we wanted to go step by step as the market developed. We sold secondhand boats such as the *Maid Marion*, a 115 foot New York steamship built in 1925.

"We decided to focus strictly on sales rather than service for the secondhand boats. When we began to offer new boats, service became a big priority to attract buyers."

Josh continued with his entrepreneurial instincts and opened a Bakery at the Boat Lagoon in 1998, then one of Phuket's premier restaurants, The Watermark, in 2003. He also opened a Lee Marine office in Pattaya in 2007.

"I needed a place to eat as there wasn't much around then. Also, these bistros became an extension for Lee Marine, an upscale place to entertain my clients."

He spends most of every summer at the high-end boat shows in Monaco, Cannes and Genoa, and visiting the boatyards where he can supervise the work on custom boats ordered by his buyers.

In his free time, Josh enjoys golf, swimming and being with his dog, a Staffordshire, at home.



By PETER CHILD FOR THE PHUKET GAZETTE

About Expat Gallery

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

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In need of parental guidance?

FOR most expats living in Phuket, news that your parents have decided to pay you a visit is usually greeted with as much uneasiness as it is happiness.

When the initial euphoria of learning you'll again get to meet the people that made you finally subsides, all that remains is an array of troubling questions: Where will I bring them? What will they do? Will I be responsible for them all the time? Will they be disappointed in me? Why me... why are they coming to see me?

Well, fret not, the *Phuket Gazette's* Andrew Jennings has conjured up 10 "parent friendly" things to do when the folks are in town, which will hopefully have them "ooohing" and "ahhhing" as you gently nudge them in the direction of the airport departure lounge so you can get your life back to normal.

LIFE'S A BEACH

Taste is the biggest issue here. With a plethora of beautiful beaches on the island, finding one to suit can be tricky. Being parents, and plainly getting on in years, probably best to keep clear of the hoards and go-go bars of Patong and some of its neighboring beaches. Safer bets include the more serene sands of Ao Yon, Ao Sane and Ya Nui beaches.

NIGHT MARKET MADNESS

The weekend night market, located just outside Phuket Town, is an interesting way to spend an evening. It's a place where you can literally find anything you want, from retro fashions to remote controls, and there's plenty of tempting food stalls dishing out noodle and rice dishes, meat on sticks and even fried insects. If shopping isn't your bag, just take a seat, grab a beer, and watch the world whiz by.

CATCH THE FOOTIE

There has hardly been a better time to get down to Surakul Stadium to catch a FC Phuket game following their promo-

tion to Thai League Division 1. Decent football and a great atmosphere (you can also bring your own beer into the stadium!) make this a low-cost activity daddy will appreciate.

OLDIES IN TOWN

There's rule of thumb which states "parents like nice places", and nowhere on the island is nicer for an afternoon stroll than Phuket Town's old quarter. Life flows a little easier in this part of town. Its attractive Sino-Portuguese buildings make it feel like a different part of the world, while the sprinkling of shop-front art galleries and pleasant cafes make it the perfect place to relax and unwind.

BIGGING UP THE BUDDHA

It's hard to miss Phuket's Big Buddha sitting up in the hills overlooking Chalong and Kata. The towering monument is 400 meters above sea level and offers sensational vistas of both sides of the island, making it one of the best sunset viewpoints. The hike up to the Buddha is a bit of a mission, but good exercise and worth it to see the Big Buddha up close.



KEEPING THEIR SPIRITS HIGH: What will your parents want to do on their island holiday?

ITCHY TRIGGER FINGER

Phuket need not be all sipping piña coladas on the beach at sunset. Why not escort your folks to one of the island's two shooting ranges for an experience they won't forget in a hurry.

Phuket Shooting Range is popular with tourists and fully equipped with a variety of firearms and bullets. There is also a shooting range in Kathu. Just remember to keep some distance when mummy dearest is lining up her 9mm!

TOP TEMPLES

There are some cultural gems to be found in Phuket, including several impressive Thai and Chinese shrines. Constructed 200 years ago, Put Jor Chinese Temple is Phuket's oldest Chinese temple and well worth a visit, while a tour of Wat Chalong is a peaceful way to spend an afternoon.

LOVELY LAGOONS

The east coast (about 10 kilometers from Phuket Town) is home to the Royal Phuket Marina and the Phuket Boat Lagoon. Entering either is like stepping into a different

world. This is Phuket's French Riviera and is a pleasant place to go for a stroll and stop off for coffee and cake. Even if you're not into sailing it's a good chance to see how the other half lives.

MOTHS AND CROCS

Strange bedfellows, yes, but both on show in Phuket. The Phuket Butterfly Garden is an agreeable way to spend a few hours, showcasing dozens of exotic butterflies and moths in a colorful garden setting. If your parents get snappy looking for a bit more bang for their baht, why not try the Chana Charoen Crocodile Farm. This impressive outdoor farm is home to hundreds of crocodiles and alligators.

TRANSGENDER THEATRICALS

Even for the most reserved, Patong's world famous Simon Cabaret is a sight not to be missed. The dazzling "ladyboy" performances include elaborate stage designs and costumes and is popular with tourists from all walks of life. After the show dad can even get the chance to have his photograph taken with the performers.

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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

January 30. Music in the Yard with Brass Monkeys

SALA Phuket will be hosting north Phuket's first concert of the year with their "Music in the Yard", live concert and garden barbeque. The Brass Monkeys will fly in from the UK to team up with DJ Steve Bray of Koh Samui, SALA's own DJ Noom and the North Coast Quartet for a great evening of music on Mai Khao Beach. Tickets are 1,300 baht++ and include SALA's Chillin' and Grillin' barbeque. For an additional 400 baht++ at the door, you can enjoy free-flowing draft beer and red and white wine.

Contact SALA Phuket on T:076-338888, E:Salesphuket@sala-phuket.com or visit W:salaphuket.com for more information.

February 1-6. Quest Fun Zone

Quest's Fun Zone is back once again for Chinese New Year with much-loved adventure activities for kids aged 5-15. This includes rock climbing, survival, wet 'n' wild and many more outdoor adventures. Activities run from 10am until noon and from 2-4pm. Register for either a half day at 400 baht or the full day for 750 baht, which will include lunch. Show proof of residency for great discounts. Contact Quest Laguna on T:076-314253, E:quest@lagunaphuket.com, visit W:lagunaphuket.com/qffz or their

February 9-13. The Bay Regatta



The Bay Regatta (formerly Phang Nga Bay Regatta) will sail through Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi showcasing some of the most stunning maritime scenery in the world. Now in its 14th event, and organized by Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC), this popular regatta will host about 50 boats and their crews for four days of racing, plus five nights of prizegiving presentations and parties, all of which take place at a new location each night. With its casual and fun-filled atmosphere, this regatta will attract both serious and not-too-serious racers. Contact Leslie on T:089-875 0064, E:bayregatta@acyc-phuket.com or visit W:acyc-phuket.com/bayregatta.htm for more information.

Draught beer 50 baht per glass. Contact Seemant Raju T:076-286464, E:sm@karonseasand.com or visit W:karonseasand.com for more information.

February 4. BIS Phuket's 15th Anniversary & International Day Fifteen years have passed since BIS Phuket opened its doors and admitted its first students. BIS Phuket invites you to join the celebration, being held in conjunction with its annual International Day on February 4. Teachers, students, parents and visitors are encouraged to wear traditional costumes representing their cultural background on the day, which will see many parades, performances, presentations, game stalls, food stalls and plenty of other activities for the young. Contact BIS's marketing department on T:076-238711, E:communications@bisphuket.ac.th or visit W:bisphuket.ac.th for more information.

Facebook page by searching "Quest Fun Zone" for the complete schedule or to book your kids in early.

February 2. The practices of a Zen peacemaker by R.J. Halifax

The practices of a Zen peacemaker gives a skillful approach to living a meaningful life. Taught by Roshi Joan Halifax, PhD, who is a Buddhist teacher, Zen priest, anthropologist, and author. She is Founder, Abbot, and Head Teacher of Upaya Zen Center, a Buddhist monastery in Santa Fe, New Mexico. As a founding teacher of the Zen Peacemaker Order, her work and extensive practice of over three decades

has focused on engaged Buddhism. Cost is 300 baht per person and the session is from 5-7pm. Contact Weena on T:076-336030, or at E:mtc@phuketinternationalacademy.com or visit W:phuketinternationalacademy.com for more information.

February 2. Lunar New Year at Six Senses

From 6:30-11pm. Welcome the Year of the Rabbit at Thailand's luxurious getaway with rejuvenation. This festive period will be showered with an array of inspiring, fun activities from dragon dancing to a mini carnival/bazaar and magicians. Contact Santi Lopez on T:076-371400, E:prnaka@sixsenses.com or visit W:sixsenses.com/sixsensesanctuary-phuket for more information.

lion dancing and firecrackers. Price: 1,200 baht per person for dinner and 1,700 baht ++ per person for a dinner including free-flow wine, draught beer and soft drinks. Contact Tibor Baan on T:076-338888, E:fbphuket@salaphuket.com or visit W:salaphuket.com for more information.

February 4. Curry Fridays

Every second Friday from 7-11:30pm at Navrang Mahal, Karon Sea Sands Resort & Spa. Revel in an authentic and lavish Indian curry buffet. Selections include all-time favorite chicken tikka masala, very hot mutton vindaloo, juicy kebabs, Goan fish curry, chickpea curry and much more served with naan bread and Basmati rice. Eat as much as you like for only 449 baht nett.

February 6. Dinghy Regatta Series

Topper Dinghy Sailing for Beginners and Improvers, February 6, 27 and March 13. Open to all dinghy classes. Come early to rig boats. Skippers briefing at 9:20am. Racing starts at 10am. Boats available for charter so come and join the fun with Optimist, Topper, Topaz and race Lasers and Hobie Cats. Booking required. New to Racing? Come and join our race training workshops on Saturday February 5, 26 and March 12. Topper Sail Phuket also offers sailing lessons for all ages. Courses run most weekends and during the school holidays, except race days. Contact Katy on T:085-2159185, E:toppersailphuket@gmail.com or visit W:toppersailphuket.com for more information.

Free Computer Clinics

Is Windows driving you nuts? Want to know about the best Internet connections in Phuket? Need help finding a repair shop or a dealer that knows what they're doing? Join *For Dummies...* author and local Windows guru Woody Leonhard in his free weekly seminars. Sponsored by Woody's Sandwich Shoppes and the *Phuket Gazette*.

January 30 – Chalong, February 6 – Patong, February 13 – Laguna. Starts at 10am.

For more info contact Woody T:076-290468

February 3. Chinese New Year at SALA Phuket

Enjoy a night in Old Shanghai as SALA celebrates the Year of the Rabbit. Wander the food stalls, nibble on pork crackling, roast duck, steamed dumplings and other Chinese treats. Recline and dine while our mood jockey lays down silky Chinese tunes to the back drop of kung fu theater. Snap, crackle, boom! Evil spirits will be warded off and the new year welcomed in with

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Food, glorious food



Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha (center) opened the 3rd annual Phuket Local Food Festival at Saphan Hin park last weekend. The event was organized by the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*), and included a range of attractions including a fashion show, jazz concert, performances by local school students, cooking and food exhibits, a handicraft exhibition and others. One of the highlights of the festival was the Miss Phuket and 'Mother and Child' pageants. Attendees also had a chance to sample the world's largest batch of Phuket curry sauce known as *ajaap*.



Japanese starlet spotted in Phuket

BIG IN JAPAN: Banyan Tree was host to Japanese singer, model and actress Mika Nakashima during her recent trip to Phuket. Mika starred in *Nana*, a film based on the manga comic book of the same name. She has also won the "Best Video from a Film" award at the MTV Video Music Awards Japan. Last year, Mika made her US film debut with a small role in *Resident Evil: Afterlife*. She recently spent four days on Phuket with her friends.



A day out with the ducks



THE Phuket Community Foundation (PCF) celebrated their 2011 Race Day fundraiser which was held at Laguna Phuket on Sunday January 23. PCF Director Janyaporn Morakot said the event raised over 800,000 baht the day, making it a huge success. Also part of the festivities were dragon boat racing, kayak racing and cardboard box races for children.

QUAKERS FOR RACE DAY: The 1,500-strong crowd were entertained by songs from school choirs, magic shows, several dance shows and a duckling costume contest for the children, who were completely enthralled by the day's festivities.

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BEAUTIFUL BIRDS: Duck catchers at the PCF Great Rubber Duck Race were Yanee Kalayanee (left), Joffy Rattanasopa and Ni Sirisopa.
Photos by PCF



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QSI Fun Run a scorching success

Quality School International (QSI) Phuket held their ninth annual Fun Run last Saturday at the Bang Wad Dam in Kathu. Hundreds of runners and families braved the scorching heat for an action-packed day of fun – and running of course. *Asia's Biggest Loser* TV star Garry Holden was MC on the day while the Colin 'Illy' Hill Band rocked out with some of their greatest hits. Congratulations to all competitors. Here are the race results from the day.



One-kilometer race (one)

Under-7s (boys): Thomas Munoz (1st), Ben Lavorel (2nd) and Santiago (3rd)
Under-7s (girls): Sophie (1st), Georgia Feekins (2nd) Zita Toth (3rd)
Over 30s (men): Tom Nuczec (1st), Bill Main (2nd) and Thaneth (3rd)
Over 30s (women): Gabi Coffin (1st), Katja Clark (2nd) and Nic Saengsawang (3rd)



One-kilometer race (two)

8-12 year-olds (boys): Dorian Gombos (1st), Bo Feekins (2nd) and Panu Punya (3rd)
8-12 year-olds (girls): Satakamol (1st), Sophia Saupe (2nd) and Jessica Clark (3rd)
13-17 year-olds (boys): Max Storm (1st)
13-17 year-olds (girls): Sudarat (1st)



6.5-kilometer race

Under 10s (boys): Boti Toth (1st), Jonathan Lavorel (2nd) and Joshua Biddell (3rd)
Under 10s (girls): Jessy Park (1st), Jessica Reseigh (2nd) and Fabienne Storm (3rd)
11-14 year-olds (boys): Jake Reseigh (1st), Dorian Gombos (2nd) and Tan Srisavat (3rd)
11-14 year-olds (girls): Jessica Lee (1st), Hanna Lim (2nd) and Kib (3rd)
15-19 year-olds (boys): Sean Massey (1st) and Aiden Massey (2nd)
15-19 year-olds (girls): Charmain Hill (1st), Natnaree Nuansri (2nd) and Serena Hannon (3rd)
20-29 year-olds (men): Steve (1st)
Over 30s (men): Fredvic Lavorel (1st), Pete Aston (2nd) and Jack Gomie (3rd)
Over 30s (women): Tamara Tapai (1st), Gabriella Johanson (2nd) and Becky Ouellette (3rd)



6.5-kilometer team race

Andaman Pearl (1st), ESP Team A (2nd) and ESP Team B (3rd)



13-kilometer race

Men: Sittiwong and Wuttipong (tied 1st) and Nick (2nd)
Women: Mayuree (1st), Sue (2nd) and Evelya (3rd)



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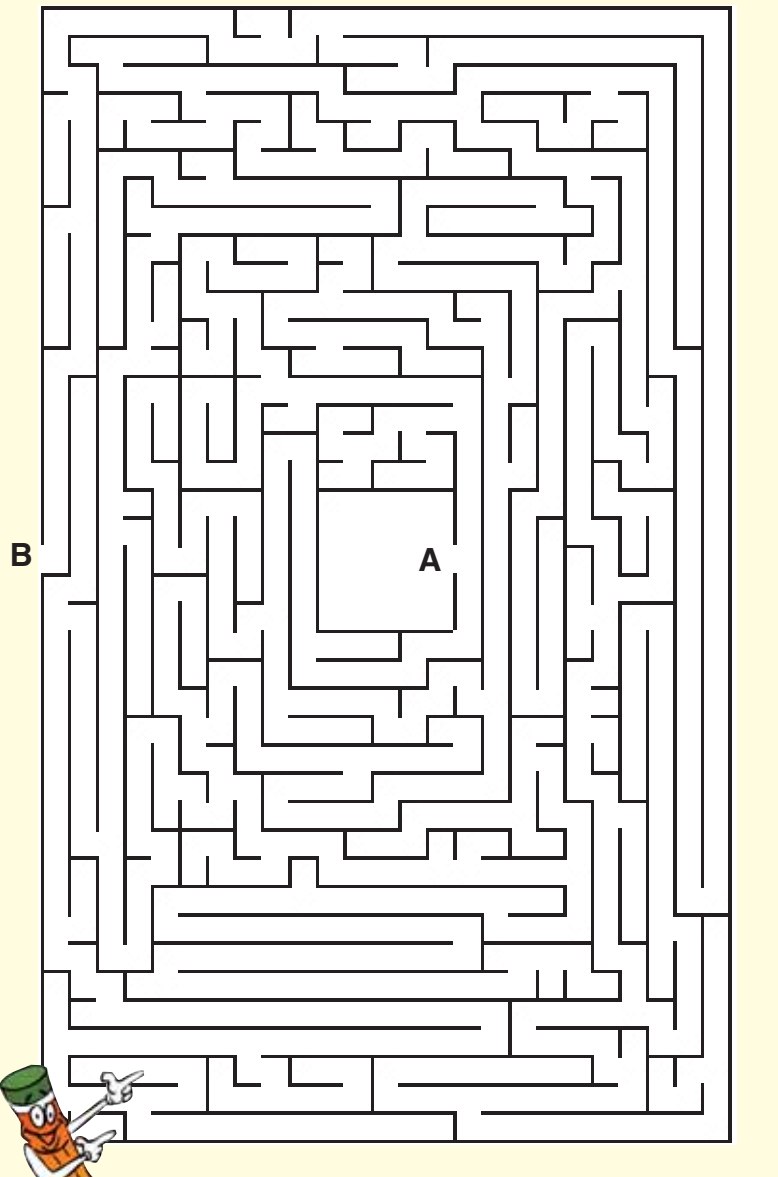


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A Gazette staff member completed this maze in three minutes. Can you beat their time? Make your way out of the maze.

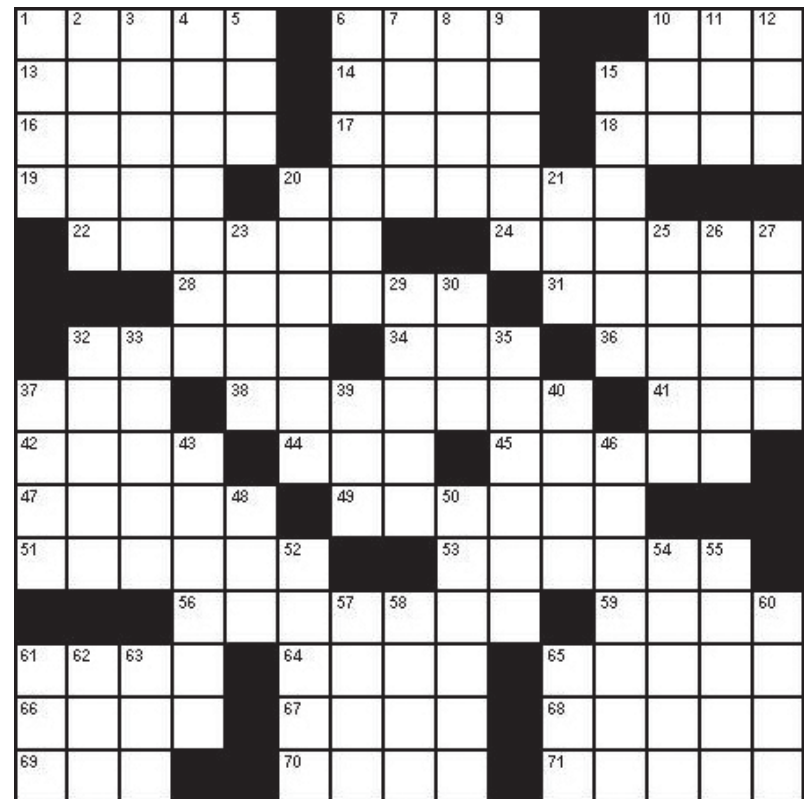


Across

1. Deadly black snake
6. Purim month
10. Gaster of *Saturday Night Live*
13. Pertaining to the small intestine
14. St Petersburg's river
15. Hoodwink
16. Strap
17. Augury
18. Hard ___! (sailor's yell)
19. Scottish boys
20. Giggle
22. Spirited
24. Begins
28. Like the Everglades
31. Clear the board
32. Essential oil
34. Campaigned
36. Abba of Israel
37. Tax pro
38. Deserved
41. Illustrative craft
42. Came down to earth
44. ___ Paulo
45. Uses a sieve
47. Continue a subscription
49. Abrading tool
51. Body art
53. Graceful
56. Graceful roundness
59. Travel on water
61. Species At Risk Act
64. Locale
65. Gong
66. Put a fancy coat on
67. Nights before
68. Goddess of tillage
69. Tax Deducted at Source
70. New Age musician John
71. Animal trap

Down

1. Factory
2. Shake like ___
3. Nobel Prize winner James Me ___
4. One who plays bass
5. Alcohol
6. Assumed name



7. Actress Moore
8. Opposite of sans
9. Arranges
10. You've got mail company
11. Not for a Scot
12. Chopper
15. Capital of Zimbabwe
20. Gazes fixedly
21. Hot time in Paris
23. Did the butterfly
25. Capital of Morocco
26. Autocratic Russian rulers
27. Dispatched
29. Earlier
30. Sun ___sen

32. Cop ___
33. Spoil
35. Snuggle
37. Wagon
39. Joplin song
40. Mon ___!
43. Foursome
46. Add more ice?
48. Court
50. Anew
52. Beginning
54. Currency unit in Nigeria
55. Stopwatch-holder
57. Plunge head-first
58. Australian pickup trucks
60. ___ majeste
61. Cpl's superior
62. Help
63. *Treasure Island* monogram
65. IV units

Provided by BestCrosswords.com. Used with permission.

Puzzle solutions on page 33

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19):

Your imagination is forecast to work overtime this week, possibly creating problems where none exist. This sensitive mood could make you vulnerable to gossip. The stars suggest avoiding the company of those who enjoy spreading rumors. Where romance is concerned, another air sign thinks you're hot, but a Taurean's interests lie elsewhere. Those with a birthday in the days ahead will have their eyes opened to new possibilities in the coming year.

PISCES (February 20-March 20):

Certain Pisceans may have to take the reins in a new business venture when an air sign pulls out. Your chances of getting ahead in February depend on efficient organization, but there are strong indications that your experience will allow you to see success. In the realm of romance, trying to prolong a holiday fling with an earth sign won't work. Those in a relationship can count on support from their partner.

ARIES (March 21-April 20):

Another fire sign could try to pass their problem to you at work this week. Those born under the sign of Aries who are tiring of being the scapegoat should schedule a discussion for

midweek. Putting personal finances on a new footing is indicated to make February a more stable month. Romance continues to be rewarding, with the stars shining on commitments. The number five can bring good luck this weekend.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):

Your usual need for security could be compromised by more questions than answers this week. As February commences, many Taureans will be undecided which way to go, but you should soon find that leaving matters open is not as stressful as you imagined. Communication from an old friend could come out of the blue. Lucky days for love are Sunday and Monday. The number eight can bring good fortune this weekend.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

Misunderstandings could result in Geminis getting hold of the wrong end of the stick this week. You are advised to double check that communication is clear, especially when related to business agreements. Those romantically involved with a water sign could learn of this person's plans to travel. If you are hoping to meet a soulmate, an earth-sign friend is forecast to arrange an introduction. Wear the color aubergine to encourage a sensible attitude.



CANCER (June 22-July 23):

Cancerians should have reason to believe that every cloud does have a silver lining this week. A gradual change of luck is forecast to make February a brighter month than January has been. Monetary gain is likely to come from an unexpected source and those with dreams of relocation could now see these become reality. Your chances of a romance with an air sign depend on how sensitive you are to subtle signals.

LEO (July 24-August 22):

Give more energy to faith than fear and February will be a fulfilling month. Leos who were disappointed by events during January will be cheered by information received this week. However, the stars suggest you should make more effort to get to grips with a financial dilemma. There is reason to believe that action taken now will bring satisfying results. Where romance is concerned, another fire sign has a confession to make this weekend.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23):

Virgoans may have to speed up their approach to business this week. The stars advise that quick reactions will ensure positive endings. An air sign appears to be tiring of your tendency to put off until tomorrow what should be done today. Those who were happy to start the year off single could have a change of heart when Sagittarius comes on the scene. Wear a piece of onyx as a lucky charm.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23):

You should have good reason to be grateful to an earth sign this week. The stars suggest that those Librans who have been taking an insecure situation for granted could need support. February is predicted to get off to a modest start where work and finances are concerned, but personal relationships are well highlighted. A romantic attachment that was waning could take on a new lease of life.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22):

You are advised to get out and about more this month. The stars suggest that Scorpios who put themselves in a situation where opportunities can find them will succeed. Time spent at home should involve seeking ways to freshen up your environment. Discarding unwanted

items will allow brighter energy to enter. In the realm of romance, expect a breakthrough with another water sign. The number six can be lucky this weekend.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21):

Following your instincts where business is concerned comes recommended. There are signs that Sagittarians' trust could be compromised this week when a water sign is economical with the truth. As February commences, travel plans are likely to take shape when you hear of a friend's recent experiences. Single Sagittarians could meet their dreamboat in an unlikely setting this week. Wear the color mocha to encourage more self confidence.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20):

Your financial picture is set to become rosier as February commences. Those born under the sign of Capricorn who were struggling to make ends meet last year should soon see improvement in their bank balances. The stars also predict a calmer atmosphere where romance is concerned. A relationship with another earth sign now appears to get the green light. The number three can bring good fortune this weekend.

PROPERTY Gazette

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Amari building on 'excellence'

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

AMARI Estates, one of the leading resort property developers in Thailand, will be expanding its business in Patong this year, introducing their new "hotel-serviced" condominiums concept to the area.

The CEO and President Yuthachai Charanachitta recently revealed the new investment plan for Patong in a press conference held at their existing hotel the, Amari Coral Beach Phuket.

"Amari Estates will still maintain our focus on development of resort and property projects including condominiums and hotels, particularly in major tourist destinations such as Hua Hin, Phuket and Pattaya, which have potential for strong growth and high demand from both Thai and foreign consumers," he said.

Amari Estates develops resorts and properties based on a mixed-use, hotel-serviced concept which is fairly new on the market and includes condominiums along with hotels providing a range of amenities, excellent service and convenience.

After the success with Amari Residences Hua Hin, where more than 80 per cent of the units were sold within the first year, they decided to start construction of the Patong project by the end of this year.

A name for the Amari Estates Patong development has not yet been chosen and final details are being added to the master plan.

The first phase of the project will be located on about 19 rai of the total 60 rai area on the left hillside entrance of Amari Coral Beach Phuket. With scenic views of the



IT'S AMARI: Conceptual images of Amari Estate's Hua Hin project. The Patong development will take on a similar form.

surrounding sea, the project will feature 197 condo units and 10 pool villas, which will be fully furnished by Chanintr Living.

Prices of the units range from 10 million baht for the smaller 50-square-meter units up to between 30 and 50 million baht for larger pool villas.

Sales of the units and villas will begin by December this year and construction is due to start at the end of next year.

The target demographic is mixed, and Amari are hoping to fill 40-45 per cent of the project with Thais and 55 per cent foreigners.

"We don't want to set the start

price too high because we would like to offer an opportunity to the white-collar market who are looking for a condominium resort to use as a relaxing spot or as for investment," Mr Yuthachai said.

Mr Yuthachai's estimated budget for this project is more than two billion baht. The project will be operated by the Onyx Hospitality Group, which is a Thailand-based hospitality firm operating four other hotel brands, namely: Saffron, Amari, Shama and Ozo.

Mr Yuthachai is also responsible for other firms belonging to his family, playing the role of Executive Director at Italthai Industrial Co



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Phuket's very own A-Team



VIEWING those glossy architecture books in villas or upscale bookshops you often come across a myriad of titles about Thai-style design.

Oddly enough, the "show ponies" in most cases are foreigners or overseas firms who have adopted an alter-ego and now proclaim their newly found "Thainess".

It has taken Asia decades to emerge from a colonial "inferiority complex".

During the many years I have lived here, the two-tiered system of domestic products versus imported was the norm with, amazingly, the harshest critics of domestic products being Thais themselves.

As Asia has become "the factory of the world", brand name or not, consumers have seen a graying of the lines.

Nowadays, the "Made in Thailand" seal doesn't automatically relegate a product to a bench warming position while imports run the field.

One example that stands out from the crowd in Phuket is Pakhin Aunggulasant's Able



MORE THAN ABLE: Able Architects stunning design of a beauty clinic located just off the bypass road in Phuket.

Architects firm.

The firm is part of the AEP Group umbrella organization, lead by Mr Pakhin, which also includes Edifax and Prodigy One.

The three companies work together to cover integrated solutions for architecture and design, landscaping, 3D animation, project management, surveying and structural engineering. There's a lot going on here with this "A-Team".

A new offshoot of the industry offered by AEP Group is property "brand management" to integrate a client's product vision with the actual execution and completion of products.

It's the next logical step in property development.

At the forefront of AEP Group developments are residential condominiums, hotels and villas including: Surin Park Condo-

minium, Kamala Falls Residential Resort, The Sky 2 serviced apartments in Rassada, Absolute Sansabai Resort & Spa in Patong, and the upcoming Kameha Naitai hotel in Phang Nga.

Perhaps the most high-profile design job has been their award-winning Orang Laut (sea gypsy) Cultural Center here in Phuket. The use of vernacular architecture, natural thermal ventilation and overall "eco" focus on the natural mangrove habitat have earned accolades both at home and abroad.

At Mr Pakhin's office there is a large workforce of talented Thai staff working on projects ranging from in-house designs to collaborations with overseas firms. It's a lively intersection of East meets West with the best of both worlds.

All too often there's a knee-jerk reaction to use a telescope instead of a microscope in the early stages of appointing professional architecture and design consultants, and the number of gems here in Phuket are often overlooked.

A decade of breakneck-speed

development as Asia's premier resort property leader has taught many lessons and educated a ready and willing workforce of innovative and talented Thai professionals.

While sustainability efforts in the West lead to "going local", preconceptions and the lack of familiarity are creating roadblocks to such developments in Thailand.

It's still tough for Thai companies to compete on a level playing field in certain sectors.

Brand Phuket, however, and its sizable collection of design options and prolific architectural firms – Roof Group and Naga Concepts to name two more – continues to amaze.

So, next time you care to start matching up many of the top structures you pass by every day, do a bit of research and see how many of them have been completed here by – yes, you guessed it – Thais themselves.

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

In brief...

Le Meridien Khao Lak developer launches new project

THE developer of the Le Meridien Khao Lak is launching 25 luxury pool villas branded "Les Residences", adjacent to the upscale Phang Nga resort. Oceanfront and pool-view villas range from one, two and three bedroom units, with sizes running from 159 square meters to 586sqm.

Every unit has its own private swimming pool.

Prices start from 23 million baht including a furniture package.

Buyers also have the option to join a rental pool with six per cent guaranteed return over six years and 60 day annual usage.

CBRE Thailand is acting as sole agent. Construction is already underway with full completion expected by November this year, just in time for next high season.

Thai firm Vitya Holding are the developer of this project.

Cambodian land prices expected to fall

LAND prices for residential and commercial development in Phnom Penh are expected to drop by two-three per cent according to Cambodia's NVA (National Valuers Association).

Based on data from Quarter three last year versus 2009, residential land is now US\$1,600 per square meter.

The country saw property prices skyrocket over a five-year period between 2004 and 2008. Once the global financial crises hit, declines started to creep into the marketplace.

Still early in the development story, risk and reward remain high in what is being termed as early days for the Cambodian real estate market.

Do you have any breaking news about Phuket property? Email property@phuketgazette.net

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Property tax initiative postponed

THAILAND'S Finance Ministry has announced that a controversial land and building tax has been shelved until after this year's elections.

Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva's administration intended to pass the legislation late last year, or in early 2011, but it appears the present political situation derailed these plans.

While the tax would have brought substantial revenue into the government's coffers, the issue of decreasing widening income gaps continues to burden political factions.

For landowners who continue to hold undeveloped land the news will come as a relief.

Dive in for pool show

THE inaugural PoolAsia Expo is coming to the island from March 4-6 at the Hilton Arcadia Resort in Karon Beach.

Featuring pools, spas and aquatic lifestyle products, this event is bound to make a splash with locals.

A series of workshops, seminars and demonstrations is open to those interested in design, upkeep and new products.

Eight projects approved

CONSTRUCTION of eight new projects was approved at a meeting of a Phuket provincial committee on residential estate development recently.

The meeting, held at the Phuket Land Office, was chaired by Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha.

All of the eight projects considered by the committee were approved, namely:

1. Jomthong Thalang, by Jomthong Property Co Ltd
2. Promphun Paklok, by Baanpromphun Co Ltd
3. Pruksa Ville 45, by Pruksa Real Estate Plc
4. Poonsup (Songkhun), by Phuket Shinawatra Property Co Ltd
5. Chalongsuk, by Jarungklin Co Ltd
6. Rassada Home 2, by Phipop Phlaengjakjang and Torsak Wittayapichet
7. "Double" project by Pharanee Deejaroernkul
8. SK Home Saiyuan, by Phuket SK Home Co Ltd

Other requests considered by the committee included requests to establish juristic entities to develop new housing projects, construction permits for public utilities and changes to approved plans.

After the meeting, Gov Tri asked all developers to proceed with construction in strict accordance with the terms specified in permits.

For projects "with problems" or which had been taken over by new investors, he asked developers to follow recommendations made by the committee following site visits in order to bring the work to completion.

Gov Tri commented that the new projects, which range in size, represent continued strength, investor confidence and high demand in the Phuket real estate market.

However, he stressed that during construction, developers must minimize the impact on surrounding communities, such as by not allowing soil run-off to clog storm drains and cause flooding.

Construction of new residential estates, especially in heavily-settled areas, was a common source of complaints received by Provincial Hall, he said.

- *Phuket Gazette*



GREEN LIGHT: Governor Tri Augkaradacha recently gave the go ahead for eight new developments on the island.

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Smelling swell for centuries



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

JASMINE'S scent has inspired poets for centuries and the Persians didn't give it the name "gift from God" for nothing.

It's a must for our Top 20 Phuket Plants list, and while Jasmine is not the most spectacular beauty in the tropical garden, it is one of the most fragrant.

Around the world, many different variations of the plant exist today.

Ask Europeans about Jasmine and they will probably reply that it is a flowering shrub with rows of single yellow flowers sprouting from leafless stems, often the first splash of color in the drab days of winter. Its Latin name *Nudiflorum* gives the game away.

This however, is a far cry from the tropical varieties. Take the *Murraya paniculata* (also known as Orange Jasmine or Chinese Box) for example.

Not strictly a Jasmine, the Chinese Box is usually bracketed in this family because of its many similarities.

It is deservedly popular in Thai gardens, on account of its evergreen, glossy foliage, and small but powerfully perfumed white flowers with curved petals.

Like *Wrightia religiosa*, it is often grown by Thai shopkeepers in containers fronting yards or patios, in order to provide a floral and sweet-smelling screen.

Sometimes *Murraya* is culti-



CATCH A WHIFF: Jasmine is a favorite plant in Thailand due to its scent and beauty. Photo: Anna Panina

vated as a substantial hedge, since it will grow to three or four meters in height.

A good-natured, spineless plant, the Orange Jasmine will tolerate a range of conditions, though it is happiest in full or filtered sun and with an adequate supply of moisture. It naturally assumes a compact shape, but will withstand some pruning.

Remember though, that clipping inevitably reduces the number of

flowers. And it is good at flowering. In the right environment, it will bloom year round.

Propagation, from hard-wood cuttings or by marcotting, is straightforward. It can also be grown from seed.

Unlike the *Murraya* variety, some Jasmines are climbers. In Thailand the most popular vine is *Jasminum sambac*, or Arabian jasmine, known in Thai as *mali*. It is a climber that covers fences and walls in countless gardens.

Jasminum sambac was probably the first variety to be grown here. It has dark green, deeply ribbed leaves which are evergreen, and clusters of single or double flowers that are white or cream in color.

Intensely fragrant, the flowers are employed in many religious rites, worn in the hair by Asian women, and used to flavor tea and food.

In Thailand, the buds are threaded on leis and garlands along with the longer-lasting Indian Milkweed (*Calatropis gigantea*) and hung inside vehicles, both as a gesture of good luck and as a natural perfume.

Hang one from your driving mirror, close and open your car door, and the smell will be pervasive and delicious.

The so-called common Jasmine (*Jasminum officinale*) is more widely distributed, occurring throughout the Middle East and China.

The shrub is grown here, but it is close to the limit in Phuket as far as temperature goes, and is happier in somewhat cooler climates.

In ideal conditions, it will sprawl and twine up to 30-feet high. The flowers are powerfully scented, and are white or pale pink.

There are now a variety of cultivars available with variegated leaves, of which the best known are the cream-edged *Argentovariegatum* and the gold blotched Aureum.

On the other hand, *Jasminum rex* is native to Thailand. The virtues of this variety (also called Royal Jasmine) are different: while it has virtually no scent, it produces much larger, star-shaped flowers that are more conspicuous than the blooms of other Jasmines.

Multiflorum or Star Jasmine also blooms more liberally than

Tip of the week

The root of the matter

WHEN selecting a small tree at a garden center, ensure the plant has one strong central stem.

This indicates healthy growth and means the tree should develop a single straight trunk.

Avoid plants with two leaders, or a damaged or discolored one. Shrubs, on the other hand, should possess a number of strong-growing stems.

Check to ensure they are not root-bound (too long in the planter bag), and not in a very loose soil mix (recently re-potted and therefore not properly settled in).

It is usually better to buy smaller plants as these will establish more rapidly.

Always water before planting. Most plants are now sold in plastic planter bags or pots.

However, if you do buy bare-rooted plants, make sure that they are not damaged or cut, and plant quickly before the roots dry out.

most of its cousins and is becoming increasingly popular.

Not strictly speaking a Jasmine, *Trachelospermum Jasminoides* is a fast grower and particularly popular in the US, where it is known as Confederate Jasmine.

So the choice from the family of Jasmines is huge.

More than 200 species exist, and most of them are denizens of warm climates. In every way, apart from the unspectacular appearance of its flowers, it is a Top 20 must.

If you have a garden that you would like to be featured, please email pcampbell45@gmail.com



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4 rai at 9.5 million baht per rai. 40 meters ASL. Tel: 081-273 5047. Email: pataksoi2@hotmail.com

BAAN SAIYUAN VILLA



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HOUSE FOR SALE

In Chalong. A house with 4 bedrooms on a 1 rai land plot. Includes aircon and swimming pool. Tel: 081-403 3870.

PHUKET'S ALL POOL CONDOMINIUMS
Actual photo taken September 2010

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THAI VILLA AND POOL

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LUXURY HOUSE W/ POOL



Near Rawai, Nai Harn Beaches. Fully furnished large house w/3 bedrooms, ensuite. Large pool w/sala. Aircon; Cable TV; and WiFi. Long-term rental: 48,000 baht per month. Contact for details and photos. Tel: 076-613254, 087-267 1282 (English). Email: david_rosamond@yahoo.com

500,000 BAHT YEARLY RENTAL



Rawai Beach. 400sqm, guesthouse, 6 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms. 30-year lease 7.2 million baht paid over 10 years. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com

58 MONTHLY PAYMENTS



of 35,000 baht. Located at Rawai Beach. For sale: 28 years leased pool villa, furnished, WiFi and car park. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com

ONE BEDROOM IN CHALONG

With a swimming pool. Fully furnished. Tel: 087-881 0813 (English), 089-586 3095 (English & Thai). Email: yumiphuket@live.jp For further details, please see our website at <http://pukeyomefc2.web.fc2.com/roomphuket.htm>

LUXURIOUS VIEWS IN YAMU

Breathtaking panoramic ocean and mountain views. Located at exclusive cape heights, with only 15 minutes to PIA/British International School. Private villa with 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, set in gardens with a pool. Fully furnished to a high standard. Rent: 70,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-279 6283.

PRIVATE POOL VILLA

Super luxury, with jacuzzi and all amenities. Near Laguna. Rent: 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-594 4067.

KATA CONDO



Large, western, 110sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, with huge covered terrace Fully fitted teak kitchen, baths with granite tops, fully furnished, cable, ADSL, parking. Located in a quiet area. Tel: 084-840 1262. Email: north8east98@yahoo.com

5 BEDROOM HOUSE

All rooms with aircon, fan, cable (including lounge), safe, WiFi, bathroom, pool and use of 3 scooters. 40,000 baht per month (negotiable). Tel: 083-636 9213 (English), 084-628 4018 (Thai). Email: cps@iwayafrica.com

BEACH FRONT LAND FOR LEASE

3 rai (4,800sqm) of beach front land located at Kamala for long lease (10 years). The key money is 4.5 million baht. Tel: 083-633 5582. Email: skhan0607@yahoo.com

POOL VILLAS FOR RENT

In Bang Tao. 2-4 bedrooms, with a large pool. Furnished. Price: from 20,000 baht. Tel: 085-674 6786.

PATONG TOWER

Apartments and shops for rent and sale. For details, contact 076-292734. 080-692 6114. Email: orsorealestate@gmail.com

1-BEDROOM APT IN MID PATONG

A large, nicely furnished, light and airy unit with a full kitchen and aircon. In Central Patong in Paradise Complex. Long-term rent: 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-276 7608.

LOVELY HOUSE

Fully furnished, aircon, cable TV, WiFi, large pool. Long term rent. 16,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-475 1200 (English & Thai). Email: info@welcome-inn.com

PENTHOUSE STUDIO

Overlooking Patong B each. Short- or long-term. Tel: 089-972 3861. Email: penthous2102@gmail.com

PHUKET VILLA DAORUNG



House for rent, 55sq wah, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, no phone line, unfurnished. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-270 9093.

360,000 BAHT YEARLY RENT



at Rawai Beach. Or 60,000 baht per month. A villa with 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, a living room and kitchen. Has WiFi and cable TV. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com

3 BEDROOM POOL VILLA

A luxury brand new 3 bedroom pool villa available for both long and short term rental, 4 km from Layan Beach. Tel: 081-891 1826 (English), 081-891 2926 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-238940. Email: kevinq@loxinfo.co.th For further details, please see our website at www.baanboosakorn.com

DELUXE PENTHOUSE



to let in Kathu. At a quiet location, overlooking a large lake and golf course. Fully furnished. 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-189 4712.

KATHU GOLF VIEW PENTHOUSE

for rent. 3 bedrooms, 3 and half bathrooms, quiet on a private hill. 330sqm, grand view of Loch Palm Golf, Valley Lake, big pool, furnished. Long-term 65,000 baht per month. Contact Noi. Available on March 15, 2011. Tel: 087-269 8492.

3-YEAR LEASE FOR SALE

20 meters from beach. Perfect for a small bar. Key money paid till November 2011. 20,000 baht per month. Key money: 200,000 baht a year. Price: 600,000 baht. Tel: 084-848 4876.

LAGUNA BEACH APT

Casuarina shores, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 pools, gym, and WiFi. 24-hour security. Price: 12.5 million baht. Rent: 50,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 7082.

Classified Advertisements

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

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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 January 08, 2011 issue: Thursday, Dec 30 before 3pm.

Live in Rawai?
Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at
'The Network' property office

Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it
with **Khun Anna (086-478 0201)**

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!

Property Wanted

POOL VILLA WANTED
Chock Chai property in Nai Ham looking for investors from Sweden for pool villas with 2-3 bedrooms. Price: from 5 to 10 million baht. Please send email to offers. Email: info@chokechai.property.com

Accommodation Available

LUXURY KATA APARTMENT
Central location, pool, Internet, etc. One bedroom. For rent weekly or monthly. Tel: 084-063 9223, 086-941 7733 (English). Fax: 076-384385. Email: eburneday@gmail.com

LIVING IN PHUKET TOWN
1 and 2 bedrooms for rent. Fully furnished with spatial and chic design. Please contact for more additional details. Tel: 089-668 3639. Email: zhunaumann@gmail.com

BEDROOM IN LARGE HOUSE
Kitchen, laundry, WiFi, TV. Expat male or female, long term. Secure and safe. Chalong. For further details please contact at tel: 087-077 9816. Or send email to: williet98248@hotmail.com

HOUSE NEAR CHALONG
Fully furnished house with 2-bed, 2-bath. Long term rent (min 1 year): 15,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-026 1362. Or send email: cjitsomboon@hotmail.com

฿ 500 PER DAY ฿ 10,000 PER MONTH



On Rawai Beach. 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, with aircon, WiFi and cable TV. Cheap rent. Car and motorbike also available for rent. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com

APARTMENT PATONG
140sqm, fully furnished. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, plus storage room. Spacious living/dining area with full western kitchen and large balcony. Full aircon. Includes free WiFi. UBC ready. Quiet location. For more information, please call. Tel: 084-185 8536.

2 HUGE SEAVIEW CONDOS
35/210sqm. In Rawai with a pool and 24-hour security. Short-or-long-term rent from 500 baht a day. Tel: 087-054 3034. Email: morelian@hotmail.com

KATA LUXURY VILLA RENTAL
Seafront 3-bedroom villa at tip of Kata Beach headland. Built-up area: 3,400sq ft. 15m above the sea with spectacular Andaman seaviews. 6m x 15m infinity pool, dense foliage, spacious balconies, outdoor showers in natural settings. Very private and secluded. Thai, Japanese, and Balinese design influences and artifacts. Excellent Thai cook. Please contact for more info. Tel: +65-9-621 0254, +65-9-621 0254 (English). Email: seavest@singnet.com.sg Please visit our website: www.housephuket.com

3-BEDROOM POOL CONDO YAMU

Luxury 3-bedroom condo with private pool for rent at Cape Yamu. Fully furnished. Brand-new, sea views, onsite manager, all facilities. Prefer long term. 75,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-894 1530 (English). Email: andrew@leemarine.net

LUXURY APARTMENT IN PATONG

Room for rent with swimming pool. Daily and monthly. Tel: 081-894 4730 (English & Thai), 081-892 5983 (Thai). Fax: 076-292149. Email: mori@phuket.ksc.co.th Website: www.nanaivilla.com

ROOMS IN KATHU: 6,000 BAHT

Large modern rooms with their own bathroom, satellite TV and Internet connection. At a great location with mountain views, near Loch Palm Golf Club. Tel: 083-593 6955. Email: cssmyth@hotmail.com

LUXURY HOUSE FOR RENT



The tropical modern Thai design is pleasing to the eye and so are the classy furniture, fixtures and fittings which compliment the overall environment of luxury. 3 bedrooms, 1 maid's room, swimming pool and garden. Long term: 100,000 baht per month. Short term: 140,000 baht per month (November-March only). Tel: 076-289121, 086-276 2785, 084-848 7474. Send email to: vgyorkshire@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR SALE OR RENT



2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, big kitchen, 2 aircons, big garden, cable and internet. Fully furnished. Just move in. Sales price: 2.5 million baht. Rental price: 14,000 baht per month. Located on bypass road behind the SoHo Roast Duck restaurant. Call for more details. Tel: 084-848 7474 (English & Thai). Email: kasina888@gmail.com

APARTMENT & ROOM IN PATONG

Apartment for long term rent. 8,000-20,000 baht per month. Room from 600-1,500 baht per night. Tel: 076-512151, 089-290 9567. Email: info@brommathaihouse.com See our website at www.brommathaihouse.com

KATA BEACH

High- and peak-season last-minute promotional prices for daily rent from 700 baht to 1,200 (in peak season) and 600 baht to 1,000 baht (in high season). Tel: 081-894 8446. Email: sfrkata@hotmail.com Website: southernfriedrice.com

APARTMENTS FOR RENT/SALE



Stunning luxury apartments created by an innovative new property developer, Phuket Land and House Legal Co Ltd. The Royal Palm residence is made up of new small apartments at Nai Ham Beach with various styles of units to choose from. These include studio, 1-bedroom and 2-bedroom apartments plus a 3-bedroom Penthouse. Sizes range from 33-200sqm. Each unit features a unique modern design with quality custom furnishings, LCD TV, an IP Phone System with high-speed wireless Internet connection, intercom, alarm, automatic Gate, balcony / terrace, and private parking. Starting price from 2.79 million baht. Tel: 076-289122, 084-848 7474. Email: theroyalpalmresidence@yahoo.com For further detail, please visit our website: www.theroyalpalmresidence.com

Accommodation Wanted

POOL VILLA LONG TERM
2 bedrooms with access to pool for retired gentleman. Aircon and internet essential. 12 months + 25,000 baht per month. Email: daoverland@gmail.com

SEEKING APT / STD KATA/KARON

Looking for annual rental apartment/studio / house with modern furnishings and basics like aircon, internet in Kata/karon area. must have parking and maintainer for electrics / plumbing, etc. Tel: 080-268 2767. Email: dusktodawn.morgan@gmail.com

SEEKING CONDO RENTAL 2011

German couple, retired (ages 66 and 62), looking for vacation rental of a condo or apartment in South Thailand, such as Phuket, Khao Lak or Krabi, for February / March 2011. Maximum monthly rental: 25,000 baht. Email: b.damm@t-online.de

1 ROOM IN VILLA

I would like to rent a room in a nice villa for 1 month. Price flexible. Please email with photo and details: holtum007@gmail.com

AFFORDABLE APT / ROOM

I am moving to Phuket. And looking for a year-long lease on an apartment or room. It needs to be affordable and I need TV and good WiFi. Please email: jonnyhips@hotmail.com

2 BED NEEDED FOR FEB 24

Looking for a 2-bedroom, fully furnished house to rent for 3 or 4 weeks from February 24. Ideal location is the central Phuket area. Tel: 081-797 7796. Email: watandleisa@live.com

SEEKING ROOM IN KATA

I am interested in renting a room or apartment at Kata Beach. Looking for a good price for 2-3 months with good references. I visit Phuket twice a year. Email: us@palm Springs.de

Holiday Homes & Villa Rentals

KAMALA BEACH HOUSE OR APT

Private, quiet 2 BR apartment (2,000 baht per night) or 1 BR house (1,700 baht per night). Pool. Tel: 076-385909, 086-278 8598. Email: curlyphyl@yahoo.com

Household Items

SUPER CHEAP PRICE
Teak furniture, fridge, sofas, washing machine, table, beds, fans, etc. Tel: 083-181 4418.

FRIDGE FOR SALE
220-24 v Homax Refrigerator, 86l. 450 x 450 x 817mm, white, 1 year old and in very good condition. 3,000 baht. Tel: 083-388 3145. Email: sy.tombatu@gmail.com

KING-SIZE MATTRESS
King-size mattress for sale, Conceptspring angola. Very good condition, no stains. New: 12,500 baht. Will sell for 4,500 o.n.o. Kata Beach. Tel: 083-392 6795. Email: a7lfrance@yahoo.ca

KITCHEN WANTED (NEW OR USED)

Also, bedroom, living room and dining room furniture, and window bars / mosquito nets for whole house. Tel: 086-741 5611. Email: ukxian@gmail.com

MOVING OUT

6-piece black synthetic ratan furniture. Very nice. Will sell cheap. Email: bigluke45@yahoo.com

NEED WASHING MACHINE

Would like to buy a washing machine with hot water. Tel: 081-978 0819. Or send email to: genybr2010@gmail.com

BRAND-NEW MATTRESS

New king-size mattress, 200 x 180 x 32cm. Swiss technology. 25,000 baht. Will sell for 12,000 baht. Tel: 087-881 9550. Email: fachour@gmail.com

GARGOYLE STATUES

Each weighs over 20 kilos. Custom base with lights. Paid over 60,000 baht; will sell for 25,000 or best offer. Moving back to USA. Tel: 083-690 7737. Email: steveastray@hotmail.com

Household Services

PHUKET PRO-BUILT

Construction, renovation, electrics, shop fitting. Tel: 089-909 8604.

QUALITY CARPENTER

We guarantee a fair price and perfectly finished kitchen furniture, flooring and a lot more. Tel: 089-972 5378.

DWF HOME SERVICES

Built-in bars, counters, pools, kitchens, ponds, etc. Contact: K. Noi. Tel: 081-606 5746. Email: DWF_homeservices@hotmail.com

Classified Advertisements

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

_____ (heading)

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

38FT CATAMARAN

It has 4 double cabins, 2 toilets / showers. In composite, under construction. Price: 390,000 baht. Tel: 087-461 8089.

POWER CAT FOR SALE

Brand-new, 35 feet, fiberglass with fly bridge. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

LUXURY CHARTER SUNNAV F.B. 72 FLYBRIDGE



One-day tour: 190,000 baht. Price includes captain, crew, cook, and snorkelling and fishing equipment. Tel: 089-476 7443, 085-352 1942. Email: sales@sunnnav.com www.sunnnav.com

55 FOOT CATAMARAN

With 6 double cabins, 105sqm sails, in composite. Ready to sail. Price: 1.5 million baht. Tel: 087-461 8089.

REMOTE SEARCHLIGHT

Guest stainless remote operated, motorized, 12v spot / floodlight. In excellent condition. 7,000 baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 081-397 7598 (English & Thai). Email: kajoda1954@yahoo.co.uk

7.5M RIB

7.5m AB Rib, on galvanized road trailer. Hull 5 years old, Suzuki 175Hp engine with 25 hours, Raymarine pilot, chart plotter, VHF, GPS and full safety gear. Lying Pattaya. 1.3 million baht. Tel: 081-811 8930. Email: gasson@buzzcats.com

SWISS CATAMARAN 24 FEET

A perfect fishing boat made of fiberglass. Comes with 2 Honda 4-stroke engines, each 50 HP. It has a hydraulic system, a Simrad navigation system and electric Ankerwisch equipment. Phuket registration. With 4-wheel aluminium trailer. Price: 600,000 baht. Contact Khun Aree. Tel: 089-474 5168.

40FT CRUISING YACHT

Fast fiberglass boat well equipped for cruising. It's been used for circumnavigation. Sale price: US\$85,000. Tel: 081-866 8716. Email: stormbay2@yahoo.com.sg

43FT ROBERTS CRUISING YACHT

Fiberglass boat with equipment warranty. It is undergoing major refitting. Price: US\$43,500. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-866 8716. Email: stormbay2@yahoo.com.sg

ALUMINUM SPEEDBOAT

6.3 meters LOA, Marine grade aluminum construction. 115 Suzuki 4-stroke with 110-liter fuel tank. Asking 1.2 million baht. See at Max Marine showroom. Tel: 076-617269. Email: craig@maxmarine.asia

RACING YACHT FOR SALE

Inglis 47ft racing yacht. Lift keel, sweptback spreaders, masthead and fractional asymmetrical. 1.5 bowsprit, twin wheels and aft nav station. In excellent condition and ready to race. Tel: +61-418-939336 (English). Email: nomadaust@hotmail.com

BIG GAME FISHING BOAT FOR SALE

13 meters, purpose-built big game fishing boat. Price: 4.5 million baht. Serious offers considered. Tel: 082-2183177. Email: deudale@yahoo.co.uk

INFLATABLE DINGHY

Lodestar 2.6 meters dinghy. Hypalon construction with 5Hp Yamaha outboard. Price: 65,000 baht. Tel: 081-397 7598. Email: kajoda1954@yahoo.co.uk

NEPTUNIAN



33ft Motorsailer. Sailed single handed from UK. New paint and varnish. GPS, autohelm, radar, depth, VHF. Many new parts. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-968 1437. Email: bobeward1@hotmail.com

WAKE/SKI BOAT FOR SALE



2-year-old, 4.2 meters long Cholmark boat with a 60Hp Yamaha Enduro engine. Includes trailer, GPS sonar, Waketower and more. Price: 475,000 baht. Call for more info. Tel: 086-949 1913. Email: juraj_t@yahoo.com

50% BOATSHARE

Riviera 48 and 34 ft speed boat, both fully equipped for fishing and diving. Approx Investment: US\$ 275,000. FULL MANAGEMENT AND FULLY CREWED.



Tel: 081- 895 1724 or Email: smuldersos@hotmail.com

PROPELLER

Stainless Steel Propeller! 13-1/4' X 15'. Fits Suzuki or Evinrude. Hubs available for other engines. Price: 5,000 baht. Tel: 081-397 7598 (English & Thai). Email: kajoda1954@yahoo.co.uk

DINGHY FOR SALE

New Quicksilver, 2.7 meters, soft bottom, inflatable keel, hypalon. Price: 60,000 baht. Tel: 081-817 8377 (English & Thai). Email: bucephalus1950@yahoo.com

AZIMUT 46 (2001)

For sale. New listing. Very good condition, mail for brochure. Tel: 086-690 0444 (English), 085-887 7414 (Thai). Email: rico@yachtcharter-asia.com

18FT SPEEDBOAT

In very good condition, with an overhauled 90Hp Yamaha engine. Price: 370,000 baht or best offer. Tel: 085-253 4429.

SEA DOO 255 RXT JETSKI

A few months old! just 9 hours used, new condition and modify to 280 horsepower! Price new: 625,000, NOW sale for 490,000 baht. Tel: 084-690 6304.

£29,000 ONO

38ft steel videos sailing yacht. Nice condition. Inspections in January ashore at Langkawi. Tel: +44-013-06640898. Email: brianralphgoodwin@yahoo.com

MOTORSAILER



Neptunian 33. Bluewater cruiser. New paint and varnish, inside and outside. Sailed single-handed from UK. Tel: 081-968 1437 (English). Email: bobeward1@hotmail.com

SALING BOAT FOR SALE



Year: 1989. Length: 32' - 9.75m. Country: Thailand Builder: Beneteau. Hull material: GRP Engine: Volvo Penta. Price: 1.5 million baht. Tel: 081-090 9170.

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SELLING YOUR BOAT?
We can meet you on board, take up to 80 photos and full details. We will accompany all viewings and provide non exclusive brokerage on a "no sale, no fee" basis.

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Part of the Boatshed.com Yacht Brokerage Group with offices across the world.

SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES



Crossword puzzle:

1	M	A	M	B	A	6	A	D	A	R	10	A	N	12		
13	I	L	E	A	C	14	N	E	V	A	15	H	O	A	X	
16	L	E	A	S	H	17	O	M	E	N	18	A	L	E	E	
19	L	A	D	S	20	S	N	I	C	K	E	R	21			
22	F	E	I	S	T	Y	23	S	T	A	R	T	S	27		
28	S	W	A	M	P	Y	29	E	R	A	S	E	30			
32	A	T	T	A	R	34	R	A	N	35	E	B	A	N		
37	C	P	A	38	M	E	R	I	T	E	40	D	41	A	R	T
42	A	L	I	T	43	S	A	O	44	S	I	F	T	S		
47	R	E	N	E	W	48	G	R	A	T	E	R	49			
51	T	A	T	T	O	52	F	L	U	E	N	T	53			
56	R	O	N	D	U	R	E	57	S	A	I	L	58			
61	S	A	R	A	62	S	I	T	E	63	C	H	I	M	E	
66	G	I	L	D	67	E	V	E	S	68	C	E	R	E	S	
69	T	D	S	70	T	E	S	H	71	S	N	A	R	E		

THAILAND'S LEADING BROKERAGE & NEW YACHT DEALERSHIP

LEE MARINE

International Marine Brokerage

Please visit our website for more listings

Grand Banks 47 Europa (2000)

- Cummins QSC 8.3 x 2 diesels
- Smartcraft engine monitoring
- Onan 11kW genset
- Loads of cold storage
- Extended teak flybridge
- Raymarine E120 displays x 3
- AGM batteries
- Hydraulic tender crane
- Bowthruster
- Naiad stabilizers

Kelly Peterson 44 (1979)

\$137,000 USD

HJB Cumulant 40 (1996)

175,000 Euro

Gulf Craft Ambassador 25 (2005)

1,500,000 THB

Riviera 48 Flybridge (2000)

\$450,000 USD

leemarine.com

Riva
FERRETTI
PERSHING
PRESTIGE
YACHTS
J/BOATS

Dealership Office
The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
Contact: Martin Holmes
Tel: 076 238 803
Fax: 076 273 319
Email: info@leemarine.com

Brokerage Office
The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
Contact: Andrew de Bruin / Marcus Overman
Mobile: 081 894 1530 / 081 968 1437
Tel/Fax: 076 239 729
Email: andrew@leemarine.com

Yacht Haven Marina Office
The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket
Contact: Jim Poulsen
Mobile: 081 891 3237
Tel/Fax: 076 206 260
Email: jim@leemarine.com

Pattaya Office
Ocean Marina Jomtien Beach
Contact: Mark Heath
Mobile: 081 787 9408
Tel: 038 235 061 Fax: 038 235 062
Email: mark@leemarine.com

www.erawana.com

ERAWANA

Erawana Co., Ltd. has developed over 100 villas in Phuket since 2003. To support our continuously growing business, we are currently seeking individuals for **3 Sales Executive Positions** who possess the following qualifications:

Sales Executive

- Age 22-30 years old / Male or Female
- Good command of English both speaking and writing
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Minimum 1-2 years of working experience, any direct real estate experience will be considered favourably
- Salary 12,000-16,000 baht not including commission
- Valid car driver's license

Please e-mail your resume to: info@erawana.com or contact us at: 089-729 2989

New Zealand Natural
PREMIUM ICE CREAM

Bourbon Natural Dairy Co., Ltd. is the exclusive importer & distributor in Thailand of the New Zealand Natural brand of premium quality and exceptional tasting ice creams, sorbets and low fat frozen yoghurts. Produced in New Zealand then shipped to our shops and HORECA partners across the world, our award winning flavors are made based on our own exclusive recipes, from New Zealand's world famous and freshest milk and pure cream, and contains only the finest ingredients. That is why we offer much more than just a challenging and rewarding career opportunity. It is a chance to share pure taste adventures with many, many people every single day. To support our wholesale business expansion, we are urgently looking for professional and qualified candidates to join our team in Phuket.

Sales Manager, Sales Executive

Qualifications:

- Preferably 25-35 year old Thai female
- Minimum 2-3 years experience in sales and/or marketing of fine food products in Phuket
- Good negotiation and English communication skills
- Self-motivated and dynamic, service-minded and result oriented
- Pro-active and well organized
- Pleasant personality
- Computer literate
- Car driving license with own car will be an advantage

Key responsibilities:

- To target the key markets: hotels, restaurants, cafés and other leisure and entertainment facilities
- Finding new business opportunities with existing clients and new prospects
- Developing and maintaining a good relationship with clients
- This function requires 70% prospectation, 25% customer follow up and 5% PR work
- Reporting to the Director of Sales

Other positions:
Branch Manager, Office Secretary, Driver / Delivery Man

The suitable candidate will receive a good salary and benefits

Please send a recent color photo and resume to: recruit-phuket@nzn-thai.com

CLX ASIA

CLX Group is one of the World's leading premedia companies in Europe. The group maintains a strong international position in color management and image retouching for prepress production of catalogs, magazines, and advertising campaigns. The Phuket operations have been well established and are growing well.

With the recent expansion plan, our client would like to fill the following positions to support their Phuket operation.

GERMAN COORDINATOR (several positions)

Location: 44 Moo 3 Palai Soi 2, Chalong, Muang Phuket

Responsibilities:

- Support production admin activities (ie. download images, dataentry, e-mail, scan photos, etc).
- Help prepare and organize data for day-to-day operations of the production activities.
- Prepare reports and records for management.
- Coordinate and ensure effective communication between the production departments and external business partners overseas.

Qualifications:

- Any nationality
- Must speak fluent German and Thai
- Male/ Female, energetic.
- Experience in computer admin or related fields are an advantage.
- Solid computer skills with good experience in preparing data and reports.
- Highly self-motivated and willing to work towards tight deadlines.
- Honest, proactive and assertive to work with the team. Ability to develop effective relationships with Phuket team and business partners overseas.

CLX Asia offers excellent benefits including a highly competitive salary. The company will provide full training, but industry knowledge and experience would be an advantage.

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Premedia JOBS

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Resort and Spa, Kata, Phuket

Job Opportunity - Pre Opening Team

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Qualifications:

- 20 - 35 years, Thai young with activeness and enthusiasm.
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- Able to apply extraordinary service standards and behavior.
- Must have good presentation and be customer focused.
- Able to work under pressure and in a team.

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We offer a competitive salary with an incentive service charge guarantee of 3,500 THB, 14 public holidays and vacation, staff transportation, staff canteen, and uniform.

Applicants who would like to join our Avista family must have good interpersonal and communication skills. Please send your full resume, qualifications, expected salary and recent photo to HR Manager at hr@avistaphuket.com Tel: 076 298888 Fax: 076 298889 visit us at: <http://www.avistaphuket.com>

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Sales & Marketing Office Bangkok Business Centre 18th Floor, Ekkamai 63, Klongton Nua, Wattana, Bangkok 10110 Tel: +66 (02) 714 3547-8 Fax: +66 (02) 714 3549

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Sawan Anda Property is looking for a room maid: Thai, honest, experienced, own vehicle, able to speak English. Good salary. Tel: 081-956 8611 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-620075. Email: kirana.goy@sawananda.com For further details, please see our website at www.sawananda.com

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We are a Childcare Foundation looking for a:

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 - Proficiency in both written and spoken English
 - Thai nationality
 - Advanced computer skills
- CLERK / ACCOUNTANT
 - High Certificate or BA in accounting.

Tel: 089-645 1877, 081-397 1567. Email: thaidien@td-building.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuketsunshinevillage.org

HOUSEKEEPER KAMALA

English and Thai speaking female living close to Kamala and able to: drive a car, do cleaning, laundry, shopping and administration. Mon-Fri, Good salary for the right person. Tel: 076-385502, 082-534 3344 (English). Email: henrik_oesten@yahoo.com

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for a spa in Phuket Town, good English skills. Tel: 089-652 5664.

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Thai national, flexible, salary 15,000 baht. Tel: 089-652 5664.

MESSAGE GIRLS

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Seeks part-time work: 3-4 hours a day, 3 days a week. Speaks English. Tel: 089-972 3861.

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Captain required for 33m motor yacht based in Phuket. Previous command experience essential. Experience with twin water jets advantageous. Minimum qualification Yacht Master Offshore with commercial endorsement. Please send CV to yachtphuket@gmail.com

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Positions available for Thai Nationality only

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

Film Production Secretary

Job Description
Assisting the Production Manager & Coordinator

Job Period from
February-April 2011

Job Environment
Office-based & on location

Work Activities
You're mainly responsible for administrative and clerical duties, like

- Researching travel, transport and accommodation,
- Filing, and answering emails and phone calls
- Updating important documents like contracts, script
- Changes and contact lists

Required Qualities
You should be hard working, efficient and have a calm, organized nature

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Mobile: Mr Alex **086-277 2323**, Khun Janet **088-442 8296**
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- Guest Relations Officer
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- Assistant HR Manager
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Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree or related field.
- Good command of spoken & written English.
- Minimum of 2-3 years experience in the same field or position.
- Positive attitude, problem solving skills and leadership skills.

Interested candidates please send a detailed CV, recent photo, current and expected salary and other related documents to:

HR DEPARTMENT
Horizon Karon Beach Resort & Spa
3 Soi Karon, Soi 2, Karon District, Muang Phuket, Phuket
Tel: 076-284555

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 Wed and Sun 7 PM
 Bangkok Hospital - Phuket City
 Fri 7 PM
 Patong Hospital - Patong
 Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun 17 PM
 Green Man Restaurant - Chalong
 Tue 1 PM
 Stereo Lab Restaurant - Surin Beachfront
 Thur 9:30 AM
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 Elephant Restaurant - Karon
 Tue and Sat 7 PM (Nov-April only)
 Tel: 086-8440460 Sive, 085-4647450 Sive
 For info on other Thailand AA meetings inquire @ 02-23118300 (for Thai language press 3) www.aathailand.org or email: info@aathailand.org

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Samba sensation

By Andrew Jennings

THE start of FC Phuket's league season may still be three weeks away, but one new signing is already setting pulses racing at Surakul Stadium.

On Tuesday night against Thai Premier League champions Muang Thong United, Brazilian Paulo Reneto produced an action-packed display which had Phuket supporters already chanting his name, despite him only signing for the club just over a week ago.

Phuket's new silky-skilled

South American, who has previously played with Brazilian giants Palmeiras, was the star man for the home side during a creditable 3-2 defeat to the best club side in Thailand.

Reneto's direct dribbling style had the "Hulk" support on the edge of their seats on Tuesday. The the only thing missing from his display was a goal.

During Phuket's first attack he bewildered the Muang Thong defense with half a dozen "Cristiano Ronaldo-esque" step-overs before hammering a dangerous cross into the penalty area.

Reneto started up front alongside Ivorian Kone Adama and Korean playmaker Choi Wan Goen in a three-pronged attack.

It was Kone's cross which was bundled into the net by a Muang Thong defender to open the scoring, while substitute Nirun Phunthong was Phuket's other goalscorer.

Phuket were due to face Muang Thong in a friendly rematch on Thursday.

See W:phuketgazette.net for a match report on the game.

SILKY SKILLS: Paulo Reneto in action against Muang Thong United at Surakul Stadium. Photo: Nicholas Altstadt

'Monty' to visit for BMW World Final

PHUKET'S Blue Canyon Country Club will host the World Final of the BMW Golf Cup International next month.

Some of the world's top amateur golfers will fly into Phuket for the event, which runs from February 21 to 26.

Players from 37 countries will compete in the tournament – the final stop in the BMW Golf Cup International series.

BMW have announced Scottish golf legend Colin Montgomerie as the special guest for the event.

The victorious Ryder Cup cap-

tain will hold the "Monty Golf Clinic" during the tournament.

The event will determine the series winners in two men's classes, one ladies class, as well as the team competition.

The national team score will be the aggregate of the net scores achieved by three players from that country, and prizes will be awarded to the top three teams.

The World Final of the BMW Golf Cup International is expected to draw large crowds and help promote golf tourism in Phuket.

– *Phuket Gazette*



PRO: Colin Montgomerie will be a special guest. Photo: Paddy Briggs

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