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Phuket rescue workers strike

Drug tests, corruption allegations at center of dispute

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

TOP-LEVEL management of the Phuket branch of the Kusoldharm Foundation met on Wednesday to negotiate a settlement to a nasty dispute over a number of issues facing the rescue-worker organization, the largest and best-funded charity on the island.

Relations between management and staff appear to have taken a turn for the worse three months ago following the re-installment of Benjawan Tamphanuwat as president.

Mrs Benjawan, who held the presidency from 2000 to 2002, ordered mandatory drug testing for all foundation workers following the July 11 arrest of one volunteer on drug charges.

The volunteers said the drug testing, to be carried out at the foundation offices and overseen by police and public health officials, would be unfair.

They refused to be tested and demanded that any testing be carried out in a hospital.

The incident seemed to trigger a release of pent-up tension that



GET OUT! Protesters were clear about their demands. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

had been building among the organization's 60 to 70 salaried employees and 300 volunteers.

On July 12, some 50 foundation workers, mostly from Patong, staged a strike and protest, charging the organization's management with misuse of funds and demanding their immediate dismissal.

At 9am the protesters blocked the entrance to the foundation's offices on Phoon Phon Rd Sois 7 and 9.

They used foundation rescue vehicles and displayed a coffin and cloth banner that read: "We don't want a president or manager who ignores the foundation's work" and "We don't want a cheat for a president".

Mrs Benjawan was unable to confront her detractors directly at the time as she had left for Bangkok that morning.

The protesters also called for

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Mr Mont Blanc



FLYING THE FLAG: Long-time Phuket resident Les Bird flies the Thai flag atop Mont Blanc, the highest peak in Europe. Les and climbing partner Harry Taylor reached the summit on July 10, to raise money for children under the care of the Child Watch Phuket foundation.

See pages 4 and 5 for the full story on how Les conquered the mountain and his next breath-taking challenge: swimming the Solent.

Governor leads delegation to 'sister' city Nice

By Stephen Fein and Sittipong Nongkaew

PHUKET Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop will lead a delegation of government officials and private sector representatives to Nice, France to discuss ways of improving links between the two tourist destinations, which have been "sister cities" for more than two decades.

The visit, from July 16 to 23, follows receipt on July 9 of a letter of invitation

from Rudy Salles, Nice Deputy Mayor in charge of international relations.

On the tour agenda are discussions on ways of improving cooperation in areas such as trade, tourism, education and cultural exchange.

The two "cities" have been twinned since the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in 1989.

"This is a good time to visit Nice again. Phuket and Nice are similar in that they are both tourist destinations. I hope that our

leaders can learn some useful community development strategies during the trip," said Governor Wichai.

In a bid to lure French investors, the delegation will deliver information about investment opportunities in Phuket tourism, real estate, restaurant and marina industries.

Bhuritt Maswongsa, vice president for marketing at the Phuket Tourist Association (PTA), said the delegation stands to learn a great deal from Nice, especially in regard to marina management.

Nice is a major yachting destination in the French Riviera and Phuket has similar ambitions in Thailand's Andaman Coast region, he said.

Phuket maintains "sister city" status with a number of cities around the world: Nakhodka in Russia's Far East; Yantai and Hainan in China; and Port Blair, India.

Although the two would seem to have little in common, Phuket City also maintains the sibling status with Las Vegas, Nevada.

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This Week

Samui oil rig plan draws fire
Koh Samui residents object to new oil rig too close to their shores.

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Some Phuket tourists like being a cut above, literally.

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Chef Nathan Chilcott raises the bar at the Sand Box.

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New Urbanism arrives in Phuket, via 2-billion-baht project.

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

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Sport



FC Phuket shoots for promotion; Phuket 7s; Hash House Harriers on the run.

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Old Phuket Town to resume cable project

By Atchaa Khamlo and Stephen Fein

HAVING passed the public hearing process with almost unanimous approval, the second phase of the project to bury electric cables in Old Phuket Town will get underway in August, with completion scheduled for March 2011.

The project contractor will have 240 days to complete the 57.4-million-baht project, which will cover: 250 meters of Krabi Rd, between Yaowarat Rd and Satun Rd; 250m of Dibuk Rd, between Yaowarat Rd and Satun Rd; Phuket Rd, from Thalang Rd to Aram Bridge; and Thepkrasattri Rd, from the bridge at Taewnam Intersection to Thalang Rd.

Phuket City Municipality has agreed to use smaller, more flexible wire than that used in the first phase, which covered the west end of Thalang Rd and Soi Romannee, and to have the above-ground lengths cables painted to match the homes they run along.

A secondary budget of 11.7 million baht has been allocated to improving the phone network in the area: 8 million baht for TOT; 1.24 million baht for TT&T; and 2.5 million baht for CAT Telecom.



Famed Soi Romannee is already looking cleaner. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

Cable television operators will be called on to share in the expense of installing a cable to continue providing services to subscribers in the area.

Most people living and running businesses on Thalang Rd expressed satisfaction with the first phase project, which took six months in the latter half of 2009 to complete.

"The road looks clear and tidy. It would be good if they could do this over the whole island," said Marium Yomdee, 47, who has run the Ban Thalang clothes store for

more than two decades.

Singha Lumkaew, 25, of Wanchan Restaurant, said, "It makes more people visit the area and come into the restaurant. The road also looks better."

Although pleased with the project, Old Phuket Town Foundation President Dr Prasit Koeysiripong pointed out that budgetary and technical constraints meant that the cables had to come out of the ground and be connected to one house, then to up to six others through a cable running along the face of each building.

City police arrest confessed rapist

PHUKET City Police have announced the arrest of a Wichit man who has confessed to raping a young woman at gunpoint and then stealing her computer.

The suspect was identified as Phuket resident Wuttikrai "Nueng" Prasopsorn, 25.

On the night of June 29, the victim reported that a man entered her rented room with a gun and raped her. The rapist then stole the victim's laptop computer before leaving the room.

After the assault, the victim managed to escape and reported



Wuttikrai 'Nueng' Prasopsorn, 25.

the case at Phuket City Police Station. Police on July 8 arrested Mr Wuttikrai, a van driver for a company in Wichit. After his arrest at the company offices, Mr Wuttikrai confessed to all charges.

Rescue volunteers strike out

From page 1

the resignation of Foundation Manager Banyong Sirisoonthornwong, charging him with self-serving practices.

Mr Banyong was also unavailable at the time as he was busy transporting a cadaver off the island. The protesters alleged he was using his own vehicle and charging above the standard seven baht per kilometer for the delivery.

To try and end the protest, Phuket City Police Superintendent Wanchai Ekpornpit met protesters and a foundation vice-president, but to no avail, as the workers continued the protest until nightfall.

Protesters on July 12 accused Mrs Benjawan with failure to up-



Provincial Hall official Wigrom Jaktee talks to protesters. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

hold foundation principles. As examples, they cited her refusal to authorize a request to donate 300

crash helmets to the Phuket City Police road safety campaign.

Mrs Benjawan also ordered volunteers to stop performing important public service work such as helping animals that fall into canals or removing the carcasses of dead animals from roadways, they said.

At the time of going to press Mrs Benjawan had been unavailable for comment.

The protesters also alleged that the foundation's management committee spent millions of baht on unnecessary equipment while denying requests for urgently needed equipment such as first aid kits and stretchers.

They also objected to the foundation paying Mr Banyong a 20,000-baht monthly fee they described as a "salary".

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Immigration launches foreigner tracking

PHUKET Immigration will next week conduct a training session for hotel staff and apartment owners taking part in an Internet-based tracking system of foreigners living in Phuket.

Phuket Immigration Superintendent Panuwat Ruamrak said that his office is already at work creating a database of accommodation establishments catering to foreigners.

Owners of these establishments will be able to report the identities of foreigners staying with them.

The database will allow authorities to better track the movements of aliens living on the island and improve security for Thai citizens and expats, Col Panuwat said.

Immigration officers will conduct the Thai-language training, tentatively scheduled to start at 8:30am on July 20 at the ICT (Sipa) building at Saphan Hin, within walking distance from Phuket Immigration Headquarters on Phuket Rd.

Those who would like to join the session can call Phuket Immigration at 076-221905 ext 118 to reserve a seat or apply online in English by visiting www.phuketimmigration.go.th/hotel-en.php

— *Atchaa Khamlo*

Family mourns Wanphen

By Sitthipong Nongkaew

THE BODY of slain bar hostess Wanphen Pienjai was cremated at a small ceremony held at Wat Kitt Sangkaram (Wat Kata) at noon July 14.

The simple ceremony was attended by about 10 friends and relatives of the deceased, whose remains were discovered stuffed into a suitcase in a remote area off Chao Fa Thani Rd in Wichit on the morning of June 24.

Her killer, who police believe to be a Caucasian expat still on the island, remains at-large despite the most intensive police manhunt in Phuket in recent years.

Among those taking part in the ceremony was the late Wanphen's cousin, Sangwan Paisan, who works as a maid at the Karon Municipality offices.

"We grew up together in a village in Petchaboon... I saw on TV that they found the body of a naked woman. They kept repeating images of her shoes. I knew she had gone missing and I prayed for it not to be her. It was so hard for me to have to tell her mom she wasn't with us anymore," she said.

"I think the suspect is still here in Phuket, but I understand that it may be difficult to find him. I hope that police can arrest him, or maybe that he turns himself in," she said.



Above: A picture of Wanphen rests on her coffin. Below: Friends mourn Wanphen at her cremation ceremony. Photos: Sitthipong Nongkaew



"There are many things I would like to say to her. I hope she rests in peace and has no pain in the

next life," Ms Sangwan added.

The body of Ms Wanphen was brought to the temple from Vachira Phuket Hospital on July 13 following an autopsy and forensics exam that police hope will yield DNA evidence of the person who killed her.

Ms Wanphen's mother, who remains in Petchaboon to care for her two young children, asked Ms Sangwan to take care of the funeral arrangements.

Ms Sangwan's partner, Boonkuea Kongchana, said he broke down in tears when identi-

fying Ms Wanphen's remains at the hospital morgue.

"My wife and I and Wanphen's friends at the bar helped collect money to pay for the funeral. We didn't get much, but it was enough for a small ceremony," he said.

A friend from the bar told the *Gazette*, "I pray that her soul finds peace and that she doesn't worry about her mother or two children. We will try to help them as much as we can," she said.

Other friends of Ms Wanphen who attended said they were terrified of meeting a similar fate.

"I really don't trust the expats here anymore. Now I prefer tourists. Now before going out with any of them we talk for a lot longer, trying to learn as much as we can about them.

"We also take photos of them at the bar and call up our friends who have gone out to make sure they are safe," she said.

The *Phuket Gazette* set up a channel for charitable donations to help the family with immediate financial needs for funeral-related expenses.

A total of 20,000 baht was raised and that amount was turned over to Mrs Sa-ard Maliwan, mother of Wanphen, on July 14.

Mrs Sa-ard was grateful for the assistance and asked that the *Gazette* relay her thanks to those who helped raise the money through their donations.

Over 30,000 items seized in island copyright raids

A CRIME Suppression Division (CSD) intellectual property rights unit from Bangkok led local police in crackdowns on intellectual property (IP) violators in Phuket last weekend.

Officers at Phuket City Police Station on July 10 were busy counting up a large haul of counterfeit CDs, DVDs and music videos seized in a raid on four stalls at the Phuket Variety weekend market on Wirat Hongyok Rd in Wichit earlier that day.

The raids were led by Pol Maj Krit Wongwit, deputy superintendent of the CSD's IP division, and Phuket City Police deputy superintendent Lt Col Chaiwat Auykham.

Among the seized discs were hardcore pornographic DVDs "starring" both Thai and international performers as well as DVDs of popular Thai and international films, including some currently being shown in local cinemas.

Eight people were arrested and will be charged with the sale of goods in violation of the Motion Picture Video Copyright Act of 2008, receiving the benefits derived from such sales, and violating Section 271 of the Criminal Code that prohibits the sale of counterfeit goods using deceitful means to trick consumers into believing they are genuine.



An officer showing one of the items seized. Photo: Sitthipong Nongkaew

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Murderous month of June

A WAVE of violent crime swept across the island last month with five murders and 14 cases of manslaughter being reported, according to the latest crime statistics released by the Phuket Provincial Police.

The five murders more than doubled the figure from June 2009, when two cases were reported.

There were a total of 45 murders reported on the island in 2009, an average of 3.75 per month.

In other crimes resulting in death, there were nine

arrests in 14 reported cases of manslaughter, the same number of cases as in June last year.

There were also 14 cases of assault reported, with nine arrests, with 35 reported cases of theft with 27 arrests during the period, and four cases of motorbike theft reported with arrests in all cases.

Gambling was up 25% year-on-year, with 160 people arrested in 60 cases, along with 33 people arrested in 31 cases involving the illegal lotteries.

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Kids' scuffle ends up in police complaint

By Atchaa Khamlo

THE PARENTS of a teenage boy are considering legal action against a Phuket policeman they allege assaulted their son outside a municipal school in Phuket Town.

Anchada Tabkrai visited the Phuket Reporters' Club office at Provincial Hall on July 8 to announce that her son, Atthaporn, 15, was hit on the head repeatedly by an off-duty officer.

Mrs Anchada, 42, said Atthaporn was sitting in front of Tessaban Samkong School with his twin brother Atthapol and friends after classes finished on July 1.

Atthaporn was eating grilled meatballs on a stick when a young boy running by accidentally hit him, causing the skewer to pierce his inner cheek, he said.

He lashed out, hitting the boy on the arm in return.

The child, a nine-year-old, went running to tell his father, who was in a nearby car. The father pulled up, rolled down the



ROUGH JUSTICE: Mom Anchada Tabkrai (left) explains to the Phuket Reporters' Club President Peerapong Ponpramun her complaint. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

window and screamed obscenities at him, Atthaporn said.

The man then parked the car, got out and approached him. with one hand clamped around the youth's throat, the man hit him in the head five times before leaving, the youth said.

The assault caused injuries requiring hospital treatment, the mother said. "It was a children's argument. The guy should not have done that. He hit my son in the head, which is very dangerous," she said, adding she was consulting a lawyer about what action to take next.

The family have filed a complaint with Phuket City Police. Duty officer Pol Lt Ekkapot Fangnian said the case is now being processed and that the officer will be called in for questioning.

Tung Tong Superintendent Col Kraitong Chantongbai said he was aware of the case and had questioned the officer, who told him he was only protecting his son against an unprovoked attack from an older boy.

The incident was not as bad as the family have described it, the officer told him.

The officer admitted to grabbing the child by the nape of the neck, but not hitting him, Col Kraitong said.

Les Bird:

By Fraser Morton

AS LES BIRD made his descent down Mont Blanc on July 10, boot-prints filling fast with snow and a Thai flag fluttering in the wind were the only signs that he made it to the 4,810-meter summit.

Just a few hours after the elation of reaching the top, 59-year-old Les was abseiling down a 2,000-meter rock face on the Grand Couloir, when he froze as a deafening crash came from above.

Looking up, small stones hurtled towards him as he wedged himself under an overhang while larger boulders and ice shelves (or seracs) plummeted into the void below.

"I closed my eyes and prayed the mountain would swallow me up," Les wrote.

As the rockfall subsided, Les and his four-man team, made up of fellow Briton Harry Taylor, French Alpine expert Sebastian Montez and another long-time Phuket resident Phil Russell, made the arduous task of continuing their abseiling descent.

Reaching a plateau at the base of the Grand Couloir, Les and his team heaved off their packs and slumped in the snow.

"We sat in silence for what felt like hours. There was nothing to say. We all knew how close we had come to death," Les wrote.

CHARITY

British-born Les, who currently lives in Chern Talay, was climbing Mont Blanc, or the White Mountain in the French-Italian Alps, to raise money for children under the care of the Child Watch Phuket foundation.

Through his Mont Blanc challenge, Les hopes to raise Bt1 million for the foundation, which since 1998 has helped more than 1,500 Phuket youngsters through scholarships, daycare and shelter.

Arriving in the Alps on July 4, Les and Harry, a former British SAS soldier and Mount Everest climber, spent a week on the Mont Blanc massif, altitude training with other climbers, acclimatising to the shifting sub-zero to high 30°Cs heat and planning their route.

On July 6, two British climbers, who Les and Harry had met that day, died in what has been



reported as being caused by rockfall. "We found out about their deaths when we walked into the memorial ceremony directly under the Giant's Tooth ridge, on the mountain. Very sad," Les wrote on July 7.

"We met those two climbers in a halfway hut during our climb," Les wrote.

"I only said 'good morning' to them, as we were in a hurry."

As Les and his team were on their second day's descent of Mont Blanc on July 11, they narrowly avoided being swept into a 2,000-meter crevasse in the Glacier du Geant after a portion of the giant ice shelf they were traversing across collapsed.

"There was an incredibly loud crack, and at first I thought it was thunder," Les wrote.

"Then the whole serac of snow and ice on the north-face of Mont Blanc fell some 2,000 meters into the bottom-lands below.

Les described the free-falling serac as being an almost perfect 100 square-meter cube that engulfed everything in its path.

"A sharp reminder that, although half way down the mountain, we were still in a dangerous place," Les wrote.

After two days, including a night camping out on the mountain, the team made it safely to their base camp in the

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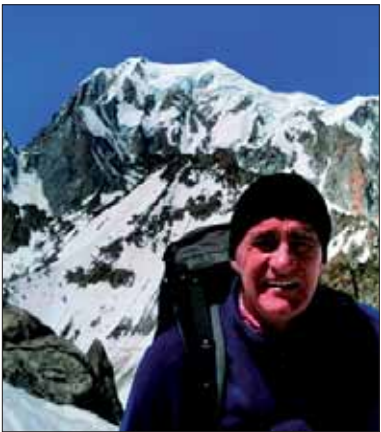
from the mont to the sea



PERILOUS CROSSING: As Les Bird and his team crossed the Glacier du Geant a massive ice shelf cracked off.



HANGING ON: The team ascends an ice wall on Mont Blanc.



Mountain man Les Bird on Mont Blanc.

Chamonix Valley. But before he could even catch his breath, Les was off again.

THE SOLENT

As this newspaper went to print, Les was in contact with the *Gazette* via phone and email.

He wrote on the morning of July 14: "I'm now in England. The Solent swim is on".

And the meaning of this cryptic message? Remarkably, just two-days after leaving Mont Blanc, and after losing seven kilograms and describing his physical condition as "shattered", Les was due to swim the Solent on July 14.

The Solent is a four-kilometer stretch of water between England and the Isle of Wight flowing into the British Channel, and is a major shipping route for commercial and military ships.

Les will be tailed by a safety boat during his swim. Taking into account the "S" shaped route that he will have to swim due to currents, Les wrote, "It will be more like five kilometers; just to keep things interesting."

In the days before Les arrived in Chamonix, France for his climb, he swam five-kilometers from Ryde to St Helen's Fort, both small coastal towns on the Isle of Wight.

"Water was a tad cold," he wrote.

To find out how Les gets on with his swim across the Solent, or to hear more about his next big climbing expedition, visit www.phuketgazette.net.

Those who would still like to help Ironman Les reach his Bt1 million goal for Child Watch Phuket can do so by donating to the following account:

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Tsunami sculpture to return home. Photo: Phatarawadee Phataranawik

Tsunami sculpture 'not stolen': official

DEPUTY Permanent Secretary for Culture Apinan Posayanont on July 13 denied that he had stolen the "Hold Me Close" sculpture, created in the memory of lives lost to the 2004 tsunami, but insisted that he had it moved out of Krabi province to be repaired.

The sculpture could be returned to the province before week's end, he added.

Krabi residents demanded that the sculpture, currently on display at the Bangkok Art and Cultural Centre, be returned to the memorial site on Nopparat Thara Beach.

Apinan said that the sculpture's creator, French artist Louise Bourgeois, designed the piece so it could be placed in an area surrounded by trees and with a pond. It is one of three sculptures dedicated to the tsunami victims. The other two are in Phuket and Phang Nga provinces.

During a recent visit to Krabi, Apinan said he had noticed that Bourgeois' sculpture was deteriorating due to its proximity to the sea, and had it removed to be repaired in Bangkok.

Apinan explained that when he tried to call Bourgeois to commission a piece for the Culture Ministry's "Imagine Peace" exhibition, he learned the artist had died, making all her work immensely valuable.

He said he had become concerned that the "Hold Me Close" piece might be stolen and that its loss could affect Thailand's image.

Apinan said he later called on the Krabi Cultural Office to send the Krabi National Park Office and provincial governor a letter requesting permission to have the sculpture repaired and displayed in an exhibition honoring the late artist before returning it to Krabi.

Saying that the accusations calling him "a thief" were too harsh, he added that he was willing to return the piece even though it had not yet been repaired just to end the conflict.

He said he was happy the local residents were so devoted to the sculpture and encouraged local authorities and the public to take good care of the work of art.

— *The Nation*

Violence erupts as emergency is extended in South

AROUND THE nation

THE CABINET has extended the state of emergency in the Deep South for another three months.

Until further notice, the state of emergency will be in effect in Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat provinces from July 20 to October 19. The preceding deadline was July 19.

The announcement followed a policeman being killed and a marine being injured in an ambush at a joint security outpost in Narathiwat's Muang district on July 12.

Police Snr Sgt-Major Cherdasak Singbunta, 55, died at the scene, while marine Ek Nimnual was paralyzed from brain damage caused by a shot to the head.

Mr Cherdasak was promoted posthumously to the rank of police colonel and his funeral in his



The threat of violence remains a constant in Thailand's Deep South.

home province of Amnat Charoen was scheduled to be held July 14.

A joint security operation was carried out that same day to hunt down a team of insurgents in neighboring Ba Choh district. A firefight ensued after officials encountered eight insurgents in the jungle who then fled the scene. No casualties were reported on either side.

Police said the gunmen were possibly led by Waheh Kadeng and Marosoh Jantharawadee, RKK commandos much wanted by authorities. Found at the RKK campsite was an assault rifle magazine linked to an ambush two years ago in which Police Snr Sgt-Major Osama Saleh was killed and his rifle stolen. — *The Nation*

Bt10m to challenge Cambodia

SOME 10 million baht was allocated by Cabinet on July 13 for the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry to campaign against Cambodia's management plan for Preah Vihear, which it will present at the World Heritage committee meeting in Brazil later this month.

The Hindu temple near the Thai-Cambodian border was listed in July 2008 as a World Heritage Site, but Thailand has been lobbying member countries

to delay Phnom Penh's management plan due to disputes in areas next to the temple.

The Thai authorities want Cambodia's management plan to be delayed until the border dispute is settled, government deputy spokesman Marut Masayawant said.

The 10 million baht will be spent by a delegation representing Thailand at the meeting, which will run from July 25 to August 3, he said. — *The Nation*

Iran couple nabbed in Bt64m 'ice' airport bust

AN IRANIAN couple have been arrested at Suvarnabhumi Airport for allegedly smuggling 18.4 litres of liquefied "ice" (crystal methamphetamine hydrochloride) worth 64 million baht, Customs Department Director-General Somchai Sujjapongse told a press conference Tuesday.

Javad Firusi, 28, and wife Manise Asadari, 30, were arrested carrying the drug in alcohol and shampoo bottles on their arrival from Istanbul Monday.

Police said they had confessed that in exchange for US\$3,000 (97,000 baht), they had brought the drug to give to an accomplice who would then deliver it to a customer in Pattaya.

— *The Nation*

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Anger over drill plans

SELECTIONS FROM Samui

By Dan Waites

AS AMERICAN anger over the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico continues to make headlines around the world, Koh Samui residents are up in arms over plans for a new well in the Gulf of Thailand.

On July 7, around 300 tourism business operators, activists and residents forced the cancellation of a second public hearing on the project.

US oil giant Chevron is behind the plans, which would see driller Nucoastal (Thailand) sink a well into the sea floor around 42 kilometers off the coast of Samui.

A campaign video distributed by protesters on the internet said the hearing was the last hurdle before drilling could begin.

The video noted the destruction caused by the Deepwater Horizon spill in the Gulf of Mexico and



Workers place material on Orange Beach, Alabama, to absorb oil washing ashore from the Gulf oil spill. Samui residents fear the same fate for their beaches if a new rig is permitted near the island. Photo: AFP

warned a similar accident in the Gulf of Thailand would have a devastating impact on the environments of Koh Samui, Koh Pha Ngan, Koh Tao and Ang Thong Marine National Park.

Thanongsak Somwong, chairman of the Rak Chaweng ("Love Chaweng") conservation group, led the protest, which took place in front of Koh Samui Municipality office.

He delivered a letter expressing opposition to the project to Mayor Rammanate Jaikwang.

Four days later, a senior Energy Ministry official was forced to defend the project through a statement to MCOT, the Thai state news agency.

Kurujit Nakhonthap, director-general of the Mineral Fuels Department, said such projects were needed to cope with Thailand's rising demand for oil and gas.

The country needs to become less dependent on foreign imports, he said, adding that Thailand produces only 40% of its total oil consumption.

The project was safe and would have no negative impact on the environment, he said.

Mr Kurujit stressed the difference between the drilling environment in Thailand and that of the Gulf of Mexico, where the Deepwater Horizon well is currently spewing at least 60,000 barrels of oil into the ocean each day.

While the BP well was around 1,500 meters underwater, drilling in the Gulf of Thailand took place at a depth of 30m to 80m, he said.

The Gulf of Thailand contained mostly natural gas and therefore pressure was much lower, Mr Kurujit added.

Some Samui expats have it bad, too

A SAMUI resident recently wrote to *KomChadLuek* columnist "Uncle Jam" claiming that the island's expat retirees were being made to pay 5,000 baht to extend their retirement visas at Immigration and receiving receipts for payment of just 1,900 baht.

The writer claimed that when she asked an officer why she was being made to pay more than the official rate, she received the answer: "Koh Samui isn't like other places. You have to pay more... If you don't pay 5,000 baht, we won't extend your visa."

When the writer called the police for help, she was told she had to produce evidence of any alleged corruption herself.

Uncle Jam contacted a Samui Immigration officer for an explanation. In response, he received a categorical denial officers were asking for any more than the required 1,900-baht application fee.

There were additional requirements for expats applying for retirement visas, the officer said, such as having at least 800,000 baht in the bank.

Some expats were unhappy with the requirements or could not produce the required evidence, so they made up these accusations against Immigration officers, he said.

Democrats in land scandal, again

A KOH Samui land scandal continues to dog senior Democrat Party figures in a case that eerily resembles the Phuket land scandal that brought down the Democrat government of Chuan Leekpai in 1995.

The opposition Pheu Thai Party alleges that Democrat Party executive Nippon Promphan and Tan Thaugsuban, son of Deputy Prime Minister Suthep Thaugsuban, illegally acquired plots of land on Khao Paeng on Koh Samui.

Pheu Thai spokesman Prompong Nopparit claimed the land grab was much larger than the *SorPorKor* scandal that ended Mr Chuan's first term as prime minister. In that case, Mr Suthep, who was Agriculture Minister at the time, was accused of abusing a

land-reform program aimed at allowing poor farmers to work arable government land. Allegations that Mr Suthep had given control of valuable plots in Phuket to wealthy families allied to the Democrats forced Mr Chuan to dissolve parliament.

The latest accusations are under investigation by the Land Department. On July 12, Natural Resources and Environment Minister Suwit Khunkitti announced his department had studied aerial photographs of the land and found no evidence of forest clearance.

The department was investigating claims that Mr Nippon's plot overlapped 5,000 rai of land that the prominent Huntrakul family had formerly owned and donated to the state, he said.

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Greenwashing for the masses

Phuket, and those living on it, have jumped on the green hybrid bandwagon and held many campaigns in order to promote and minimize carbon footprints. From using cloth shopping bags and recycling to opening "green" hotels and hosting eco-tours.

It's all just a front. A friendly smiling mask covering a scowling grimace of greed.

Business owners know that being green is a money maker, and if they hope to reap the benefits, they'd better fall in line.

Green businesses can hike up prices because eco-friendly goods are more expensive. They also know that people who can afford these goods will pay more to ease their guilty consciences for not doing what they could to save the planet.

People generally seem to love using money to make themselves feel better; it's easier than recycling.

Although there are those establishments who genuinely conduct their affairs in an environmentally friendly manner, many will just promote themselves as such, with consumers none the wiser.

When a company spends more on advertising its environmental friendliness than on environmental actions, that's "greenwash", environmental profiteering.

So, Phuket, let's put a little more effort into "being green" and maybe we can effect some real change.

*Katherine Scott
Phuket*

New style is a hit

Congratulations on the new-style *Gazette*! It looks so much more modern and fresh!

Keeping track of the real criminals

The ability of police to track down foreigners living in Phuket has been a hot topic since the savage murder of bar hostess Wanphen Pienjai. The killer remains at large despite the best efforts of police to find him.

Having a database listing where all foreign residents in Phuket live may have helped, but it is not a certainty. However, there is no reason why the Immigration Bureau and other police divisions shouldn't be making better use of existing technology in their fight against crime.

The authorities should have no problems tracking down foreigners, since they are required by law to report their place of residence to police so regularly.

Section 37 of the Immigration Act of 1979 requires foreigners to make their whereabouts known to authorities in a number of ways. These include entering one's intended address on the TM-6 immigration entry card upon arrival and notifying immigration within 24 hours of any change of residence.

And that's just the beginning. Section 37, sub-section 4 reads: "If the alien travels to any province and will stay there longer than twenty-four hours, such alien must notify the police official of the police station for that area within forty-eight hours from the time of arrival."

Foreign residents with one-year permit-to-stay extensions must also comply with the 90-day reporting regimen as specified under Section 37, sub-section 5, part of which reads:

The whiter paper really makes the text look clearer and easier to read.

Great to know that what I am buying is environmentally friendly as well.

One thing that I really appreciated was the film review. It doesn't matter if I agree or not

with what the reviewer says as long as it is an entertaining read, and it was.

Keep it up, *Gazette*. I look forward to seeing how these new changes play out from week to week.

*Sylvia Simmons
Surin Beach*

Phuket Gazette

"If the alien stays in the Kingdom longer than ninety days, such alien must notify the competent official at the Immigration Division, in writing, concerning his place of stay, as soon as possible upon expiration of ninety days. The alien is required to do so every ninety days."

Failing to do so incurs a 2,000-baht fine.

As if all the reporting requirements placed on foreigners weren't enough, Immigration law has also long required all accommodation establishments to report within 24 hours the names of foreigners staying on their premises. Until recently, however, compliance was mostly limited to hotels.

This is why Phuket Immigration's latest effort to extend on-line reporting of guests beyond hotels to include apartments and all other accommodation establishments makes good sense.

But it won't be easy and similar initiatives in the past have yielded less-than-stellar results. As long as characters like arms dealer Viktor Bout, international terrorist Riduan "Hambali" Isamuddin and others of their ilk view Thailand as a safe place to hide out, they will continue to come here in droves.

Thai Immigration should make stopping them the top priority, while looking for ways to ease the burden placed on law-abiding foreign residents.

Shantytown blues

What's with all the tin shacks and makeshift housing that seem to be scattered all around Phuket? Are they legal? I moved here a few months ago and have been living in an awesome house in Phuket. When I moved in it

was quiet and private. Shortly after, a workers' camp popped up near my house with babies, chickens and everything else. It is noisy and it makes me feel uncomfortable.

I find it hard to believe that these camps are legal, as the conditions seem appalling. The people who live in them are being exploited and forced to live in these camps right next to luxury estates in Phuket.

Something must be done about this. The first step would be for the *Gazette* to look into these camps and possibly shed some light on the issue; not just for me and my privacy, but for the poor people who live out there in tin shacks.

*Ken Jackson
Phuket*

One for the Bird

Les Bird, climbing to the summit of Mont Blanc, at the age of 59, is remarkable! I read the story in the *Gazette* about the treacherous territory he is covering, and I don't think it would be an easy task for even the fittest of young athletes.

It is a grueling experience for your body, never mind how it may take its toll on your mind, especially knowing the number of lives the mountain claims each year.

Not everyone can summon the mental and physical strength to conquer a feat that big, knowing that you may not survive to tell the tale.

He is an inspiration.

The fact that he's embarking on such a dangerous mission on its own is amazing, but that he's doing it in a selfless act of fund raising for charity is even more commendable.

Well done Les.

*Laura Marshall
Kata Beach*

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Issues & Answers...

Why are meter taxis not using meters?

I am confused by the meter taxis operating at Phuket International Airport. They call themselves meter taxis, but whenever I ask them to use their meter they refuse and say they will only take a flat rate.

I live close to the airport about 1.5km and they will often refuse to take me.

If they do accept me as a passenger, I have to bargain hard to get the trip for 200 baht.

Is there an authority to regulate the meter taxis in Phuket? Why are they allowed to call themselves meter taxis when they do not use the meter?

*Name supplied
Thalang*

An officer at the Taxi Meter Association replies:

If the driver does not turn the meter on, please remember the driver's name and license plate number on display inside the taxi.

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

You can then call the Taxi Meter Association at 076-202171 or 082-4211644 to report the driver.

You can also check taxi fares on our website, taximeter-phuket.com.

If you hire a taxi at the airport, you will be charged an extra 100-baht airport tax on top of the metered fare.

We use meters in taxis from the airport to other locations. However, if you take a taxi from another location to the airport, you will pay a flat rate.

For more information you can visit our counter in the Phuket International Airport or email us at taxi.meter.phuket@hotmail.com.

Who's responsible for illegal dumping?

As I ride my bike around the beautiful loop of Baan Laem Sai in the morning I am disgusted by several illegal garbage dumps right along the road. Who can fix this? Clean this up, please. This is not the Phuket we want.

Also, is it legal to dump trash on private land? This is being done on land across the road from Mission Hills golf resort.

*K.C. Bechtolt
Baan Laem Sai*

An officer at the Pa Khlok Tambon Administrative Organization Health and Environmental section replies:

It is illegal to dump garbage on private land. Please notify our office if you see this taking place. We are responsible for the area covering Baan Para and Mission Hills Phuket Golf Resort and Spa. The Baan Laem Sai area is covered by the Thepkasattri Tambon Administrative Organization.

Overcoming the highs and lows

FIRST PERSON

MANY new destinations today, such as Vietnam and Sri Lanka, have caught the eye of tourists around the world. If we don't change our tourism strategy on Phuket, or if we continue to only present the island's natural attributes, we will be in a hard spot and it will be hard to keep the tourism industry running.

Some say that some areas of the island are overdeveloped; there are Starbucks and McDonald's on every corner, which is not at all representative of Thai culture. We should turn Phuket around with "creative tourism".

That's why we have organized the "Phuket Creative Tourism I" seminar from July 23 to 24. We have invited experts in creative tourism to share their views and strategies.

South Korea is a good example of creative tourism. In the past, the country was not popular, quite boring. But now, many people talk about South Korea in terms of creative culture. They promote their food, culture and history through popular movies and musicians.

Now many female tourists, including from Thailand, go to South Korea just to visit places like a coffee shop that was in a famous movie scene, just to sit on the chair the main actor once sat on. This kind of strategy has brought much attention to Korea.



Phuket Tourism Association Vice President of Strategy Bhumkit Raktaengam talks about 'creative tourism' and his thoughts on changing the face of Phuket's tourism industry.

Is Phuket a creative tourism destination? Well, that's up to the tourist's point of view.

Tourists usually first come to Phuket for its natural beauty, but we have to think about why they come back. If it is because of the low cost, then we are not happy with it. Do they come back because Phuket's beaches are still beautiful? Or maybe they come back because of an experience they had here that they cannot have in their home countries: something uniquely Phuket.

For example, the TAT is hosting a Peranakan (Straits Chinese) wedding ceremony next month. It is a creative tourism event, the first of many to come. These events help preserve our culture and local people get involved to bring more tourists to experience it.

I believe the tourists who will be married in the upcoming ceremony will come back to Phuket for an anniversary or to recall their precious memories. Maybe they will bring their family, their children, to show them where they were married. This kind of cultural activity is sustainable tourism and it doesn't destroy nature at all. In my opinion, this wedding ceremony is a superb idea.

Creative tourism encompasses a wide range of possibilities: anything from promoting local traditions to a technological event. Many people travel to fireworks displays overseas or even to see something like Paul, the famous octopus in Germany that predicted the outcome of World Cup matches. That was very creative. If I visited that town, I would have seen him.

There are many aspects of Phuket culture and lifestyle that can be promoted but we need to come up with a plan, how to create a sustainable strategy. Therefore, we have invited speakers with traveling experience to come to this month's seminar and help us shape our ideas.

Speakers at the Thai-language seminar, at the Hilton Arcadia Resort and Spa, Karon, will include former Bangkok governor and adviser to the prime minister Aphirak Kosayodhin, TAT Vice President of Marketing Wansadet Thavornsuk and Sasin Graduate Institute of Business Administration Chulalongkorn University Research and Management Consulting Center Director Dr Suvit Maesincee.

Compiled by Pimwara Choksakulpan

Elections won't change a thing

Island View

By Terry Seagram



Opening an office in Phuket may get Pheu Thai more votes, but it will not mean great change for Phuket.

FINANCE Minister Korn Chatikavanij, a deputy leader with the ruling Democrat Party, has been making noise that a national election is on the cards for early next year. That might help appease relations with people in the red-shirt stronghold of Isarn, but it is hardly likely to make any difference to people in Phuket.

It is no secret that the constitutionally mandated gerrymander in the Thai Parliament lends great favor to Isarn. So much so that former governments have won power without winning a single seat in the South.

The red-shirt Pheu Thai Party opening an office in Phuket late last month was an interesting move. They want to win seats down here. Maybe at the time they thought the Democrats were settling into their Bangkok roles for the long term.

However, the money scandals now rocking the prime minister, his Cabinet and the rest of his party are raising concerns about whether the Democrat Party will survive as such at all.

Yet, does all this make any difference to Phuket? Maybe, but only maybe. What does make a critical difference are the slices of the national budget allocated toward the development of Phuket, slices that are determined solely on the basis of the number of people registered as living here.

Most Thais living in Phuket were not born in Phuket, and that means they are unlikely to be registered as living here. One cannot blame for not registering their new address. For most, it is only tem-

porary, they just work here. Their true home is where their parents live, and that is where they are registered.

But if the Thais who move to Phuket do not register themselves as living here, then the amount of the national budget allocated to Phuket will continue to be much less than needed to serve the number of people actually living on the island.

If we want more money so Phuket can have better roads, better schools, better hospital care, among other government-provided services, then we need those Thais to register themselves as living here.

Otherwise, come early next year, we will go through the rigmarole of yet another election that will not change a thing for Phuket.

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

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

You can come in to our office and fill out a complaint form. We are located at 98/3 Moo 2, T. Pa Khlok, A. Thalang, Phuket 83110.

We need to record the complaint with a correct address, then we can go and check on it. This process will take about two days. If we find that illegal dumping is taking place in an area covered by our office, we will send a garbage truck to clean it up.

For more information, please call us at 076-529500 or visit our website: info@paklok.go.th.

Karaoke is rocking the house

I live in the village of Rungrawee, just off of Route 4026 near Phuket Airport. There are six karaoke bars on Route 4026 near my house. Every night they play loud music until 3am and some nights until 4am. It's very difficult to sleep with this noise and sometimes the bass sound actually shakes my house. Is there a law that does not allow loud noises after 11pm? I know in some cit-

ies in Thailand there is such a law. It is very difficult to sleep with this noise every night.

*Bill Winters
Thalang*

An officer at the Sakoo Tambon Administration Organization (TAO) Health and Environmental section replies:

Road 4026 is the main road running from Thepkrassatri Road to Phuket Airport. We call it "Technic Thalang Bypass Road" and it is an entertainment zone on both sides. However, if the karaoke bars are staying open very late, like 3am or 4am, you can come into the Sakoo TAO offices and fill out a complaint form. We are located at 24 Moo 3, Sakoo-Naithon Road, Amphur Thalang, Phuket 83130.

The first step will be to send one of our staff members out to check the location for noise and closing times. We will then send our lawyer to speak with those responsible at the karaoke bars. Upon discussion with the director of the TAO Health and Environ-

mental section, we will decide what further action, if any, is required.

For more information, you can call us at 076-205328 or send us an email at info@sakhu.go.th.

Do I need a work permit to help friends free of charge?

I was told that it is illegal to work without a permit in Thailand, even if it were volunteer work for no pay.

Some Thai friends asked me to help them with their English by giving them some lessons in the evenings. I was told that even this was not allowed, although I would not be paid for it. Is this true?

*Jackie Kam
Malaysia*

An officer at the Phuket Provincial Employment Office (PPEO), Work Permit section, replies:

You are not allowed to do any job in Thailand without a work

permit, even if you are not being paid for it.

If you work as a volunteer, your organization will need to apply for a work permit for you.

For more information, please come by the PPEO at 38/27 Rattanakosin 200 Pi Road, T. Talad Nua, A. Muang, Phuket 83000. You can call us at 076-219660 ext 13.

Careless neighbor is killing my trees, what can I do?

Next to my resort there are many coconut trees that are not being taken care of. For quite some time now many of them have been dying. Insects that have infested the neighboring trees are now attacking mine, and I have lost about 10 already.

I have been told that there is nothing I can do about my neighbor's trees, such as climbing up them and placing insecticide or simply cutting the dying trees down.

My question is, can I ask the owner of those trees for compensation?

*Horst Lakits
Chalong*

An officer at Chalong Tambon Administration Organization replies:

You have to talk with your neighbor about the problem and ask him to cut his own trees down.

If he still does not do anything, you can fill out a complaint form at your local Tambon Administration Organization (TAO).

The TAO can then send him a letter notifying him of the damages caused to you by his dying trees.

The TAO cannot, however, just go and cut down trees on private property. Only with permission from the landowner can a TAO cut them down.

For more information please come to our office at 38 Moo 4, T. Chalong, A. Muang, Phuket 83130 or call 076-282255. You can also send an email to info@phuketchalong.go.th.

Honda Bt50m revamp unveiled

ANTICIPATING continued strength in local auto sales, Honda of Phuket has invested 50 million baht to renovate its dealership on Phang Nga Rd in Phuket Town.

The new facility's service bays enable maintenance of up to 40 vehicles per day.

Montri Hongyok, managing director of Anuphas Wiwitgarn Co Ltd, said: "Renovation of the showroom and service center are complete and the showroom is now larger and can conveniently display up to five vehicles, while the increased capacity at our service center allows maintenance and repair."

The company, authorized dealer for Honda cars in Phuket and Phang Nga, expects sales to top 1,600 cars from its three dealerships.

Anuphas Wiwitgarn Co Ltd also operates a large showroom on Chao Fa West Rd in Wichit and a third dealership in Phang Nga's Takua Thung District.

"The car market in Phuket remains strong. Some 700 to 800 new cars are registered each month here, roughly 180 of which are Hondas. We sold more than 1,000 cars during the first six months of this year, and our target for the year is 1,600," Mr Monti said.

Sales are chiefly of smaller models like the Jazz, City and Crv. The stumbling economy, however, has resulted in fewer car sales overall in Thailand, Mr Montri said. This has forced leading car makers "to reduce investment in line with the shrinking market," he added.



NEW AND IMPROVED: Honda's new-look facade in Phuket Town. Photo: Anuphas Wiwitgarn Co Ltd.,

To ensure customer satisfaction in the increasingly competitive market, Mr Montri said Honda Phuket has implemented a booking system whereby those needing service can telephone the service center,

which then appoints a date and time for repairs. "Our new facilities are much more modern," he explained. "The showroom has been redesigned to make customers feel at home. We've installed a Tiny

Coffee branch, a reading area, cable TV, Internet and a children's play area. We've also created an "Accessories Corner" so that customers can inspect custom parts."

Source: Kom Chad Luek

Airlines reaping benefits of iPad revolution

By Alastair Carthew

IT HAS arrived. In the cockpit of single engine, non-commercial aircraft or general aviation (GA), and down the back of large passenger aircraft: the iPad is now available

for use, in the air. It hasn't taken long for the airline industry to latch on to the advantages of the iPad, with its portability, flexibility and high technology solutions.

Most significantly, the advantages of using the iPad as an

in-flight entertainment system have been recognized.

An American company called Blue Box Avionics Ltd, has successfully brought its application to the iPad in the form of a product called Bluebox Lite. This is a hand

held in-flight entertainment (IFE) that would enable airlines to use a portable product for entertainment rather than the current full cabin system.

In the future, the iPad could migrate to a full seatback solution, making an airline's hardware investment more flexible.

IFE is an essential part of airline offerings, particularly as the demand is now for individual seat screens, but they are very expensive and heavy.

Ultimately iPads will be able to connect to the internet system in the cabin. There does, however, exist a few downsides to the in-flight iPad as well.

One company promotes gambling in the air through the iPad and there is the prospect of people playing video games, many of which are based on the subject of terrorism.

The advantages far outweigh these inconveniences though.

The iPad's battery life would be sufficient for all but the longest of flights and, for airlines; it would reduce the need for massive investment in built-in IFE, which is expensive, complicated and somewhat tricky hardware to maintain [nothing worse than the IFE going down at that exciting time in your favourite movie].

An American company has developed the iPad Mobile HD 3.5 device for small, single engine, usually privately owned aircraft which provides moving maps, one tap aircraft positioning and tracking, animated radar and satellite, to give a bird's eye view of airports.

Artwork illustrates lightning, tornado and hail activity and a base map for radar and satellite provides street and airport level detail. Routes are fully integrated taking advantage of the large iPad screen.

The information available includes distance, course, fuel burnt



One of Apple's latest products that is taking the world by storm is the revolutionary iPad.

and time; a one tap facility to file a flight plan, look up favorite routes and recent routes and be able to recall the last saved route.

This device is not a pipedream. It has been tried and tested under trying conditions at 11,000 plus feet under simulated circumstances to test it during climb, cruise and descent.

The introduction of the iPad will gradually do away with papers and charts, which are heavy and cumbersome in small aircraft.

TWITTER is starting to make its mark in the air as well. There is the story of an airline pilot in Europe who owned the original @KLM account [KLM is the Dutch airline].

When Air France AF447 crashed in June, 2009 little information was coming out from the airline through the traditional media, public relations department, police, airline authorities etc. for the public to know.

But the pilot, Tim Van Waard, used his Twitter account to provide an ongoing stream of information. Mr Van Waard did not actually work for KLM, which is a partner of Air France, but he used the brand name to positive effect.

On Sunday 1st August 2010, it's Swiss National Day – a time of considerable celebration at this Swiss-run company. Try some of the exceptional Swiss cuisine that you may have missed (there's a lot more than just fondue and rösti). Swiss music will pervade the air, but no alphorns, we're sorry to say, will be played. The grand buffet begins at 7.00 pm at Pacifica restaurant, and guests wearing the Swiss national costume will be especially welcome. THB 950 per person.

Contact Carlos Vizan, our Food and Beverage Director, at: +66 76 396139, ext 444 or 470, or email carlos.vizan@moevenpick.com.

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Injecting life into tourism

With more and more tourists going under the knife, medical-tourism operators are cashing in on Phuket.

By Alexandra Andersson

CONVENTIONAL tourism in Thailand may have suffered some blows recently, but one sector is experiencing a surge and drawing in people from all around the world: medical tourism.

This niche travel market is providing an alternative source of income for Phuket's tertiary industries such as hotels, airlines, restaurants and hospitals during the low season.

According to TTRweekly, a news agency covering travel in Thailand and the Mekong region, medical tourism in Thailand grows by 10 to 15% per year, and last year saw 1.39 million tourists arriving for medical reasons.

Revenue from this sector reached an estimated 360 billion baht in 2009, with medical treatments alone accounting for 108 billion baht. In response to this rising business opportunity, the Institute for Small and Medium Enterprises Development and the Office of Small and Medium Enterprise Promotion have formed the Medical Tourism Cluster, which is aiming to be fully operational next month.

This initiative will work as a business network recruiting a wide range of tourism players to offer wellness and medical services in Thailand.

It will also coordinate business contacts and sales in order to promote service standards, as well as



Dayna Perandis, 27, traveled to Phuket from Australia for surgery last month.

invite hospitality related companies to join, helping to connect local companies to overseas markets and suppliers.

This will serve to perpetuate the medical tourism boom that is being experienced all over Thailand, and especially in Phuket.

Dr Peter Davison, manager of International Services at Phuket International Hospital (PIH) said the hospital treats around 1,000 foreign clients for plastic surgery each year, and even more on top of that for dental and other medical tourism services.

"Medical tourism, particularly in Phuket is growing rapidly, and I would expect a growth of at least 50% year on year for 2010," Dr Davison said.

Demonstrating the mushrooming trend of businesses organizing overseas medical services, PIH alone has over 30 agents registered with them from around the

world who refer patients there for elective and aesthetic procedures.

One such company, CosMedi-Tour, is a relatively new business run out of Queensland that sends clients directly to Bangkok, Pattaya or Phuket for their surgery, and allows patients to recover comfortably in the privacy of five-star hotels before flying back home.

"Australians, especially Queenslanders from the Gold and Sunshine coasts, are leading the drive for medical tourism in Thailand" Dr Davison confirms.

He adds that over 80% of PIH's medical tourists come from Australia and New Zealand, particularly Sydney, Brisbane, the Gold Coast, and Perth. Clients also often come from Japan, America, Canada, UK and Scandinavia.

The main driving force behind this industry expansion is the difference in price.



CUTTING EDGE: Professional services and cheap prices are luring more medical-tourists to Phuket. Photos: Phuket International Hospital

For example, breast augmentation in Australia costs around AUS\$ 13,000 (approximately 360,000 baht) contrasting with the price of the same procedure in Phuket, about 55,000 baht (AUS\$ 3,600).

The same differences apply, with around 50-70% cost savings, for most plastic surgery and dental procedures. Even cheaper and very popular "package deals" are also often offered, which include the procedure, return flights and a hotel stay. The boom has seen some drawbacks, such as when the Australian Medical Association (AMA) advised caution to medical travelers, citing the unknown medical standards of doctors in Thailand as their main reason.

Dr Davison however, disagrees with this: "All our plastic surgeons are registered with the Thai authorities, as well as being members of the International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, trained to western standards."

He continues, "The AMA's response is typical where a representative group is looking after the vested interests of its members. It is natural that they are threatened by places like Phuket which can provide comparable surgery in terms of quality and outcome, with significant cost savings to patients."

Medical tourism businesses are nevertheless taking off with force, injecting life into an otherwise suffering industry.

VAT rise a taxing matter

THAILAND'S Finance Ministry is reviewing the entire tax structure in light of the greater cost of social programs.

An increase in value-added tax (VAT) is possible, along with a cut in personal income and corporate tax rates. Finance spokesman Ekniti Nitithanprapas said many allowances could also be scrapped as each year the Revenue Department loses 50-100 billion baht as a result of tax allowances.

Chief among them was permission for individual taxpayers to deduct taxable income of up to 300,000 baht for investment in long-term equity funds (LTFs).

"The Fiscal Policy Office is studying tax restructuring as part of government efforts to increase tax revenue to support more social programs," he said.

The LTF allowance, he said, only benefited high-income earners. But many other tax allowances needed to be reviewed and some

would be lowered or cancelled.

Personal income taxes currently range from 10 to 37%, but the top rate could be cut to 32% in the future. Meanwhile, the corporate income tax ceiling of 30% could also be lowered. He noted that the

VAT rate of 7% may be raised to 10%. "Each increase of a percentage point will raise about 50 baht billion in tax revenue," he said, noting that VAT in Indonesia and Vietnam was 10%.

Source: The Nation



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By Sitthipong Nongkaew

AS PART of a nationwide initiative by the Ministry of Education to make Thailand a prominent leader in education in Southeast Asia, Prince of Songkla University (PSU) launched its first "English for Communication" seminar on July 5-9 to help native Thai teachers master the language.

The seminar was the first in what is expected to become a routine course offered to private faculties in an effort to improve the standard of education provided by universities in Thailand's southern provinces.

Dr Methi Sunbhanich, Vice President for PSU Phuket campus, chaired the opening ceremony, which was attended by over 80 staff members and administrative officials from private education institutes throughout the southern region.

The seminar was held by PSU's Faculty of International Studies (FIS) in hope that improved instructional ability on behalf of teachers will better prepare students to enter international fields, where English is frequently the unofficial standard.

Dean of the FIS at PSU, Supachai Sangpunya, acknowl-

Raising the bar

PSU takes on the Ministry of Education's goal of making Thailand the center of education in SE Asia



Faculty from various universities at the "English for Communication" seminar at PSU. Photo: Sitthipong Nongkaew

edged that the new course is offered in recognition of the Ministry of Education's initiative, dubbed the "Education Hub" project. He explained the reasoning behind the

course by saying that the FIS department at PSU realizes the importance of English language communication in the international field.

"It is important for private education personnel to partake in the Ministry of Education's 'Education Hub' project. I expect to see [the students] being an important

force for the country's future development," said Mr Sangpunya.

Niyada Yenchan, a teacher from Pattalung attending the seminar, agreed.

"English is important for communication; as a teacher I will use the skill of knowing the language to motivate my students and change their perspectives about using it, so that they know that if they can speak English they will have better chances to get a job," she said.

Nida Hamngarm, a FIS teacher and one of the trainers of the new course, said the opening went well and that there was a lot of interest and enthusiasm on behalf of the attendees.

Boonserm Sangapan, a teacher from Serm Salon Hair School in Krabi, also confirmed this, saying that he felt very fortunate to be attending such a high-caliber course, and that it helped give him confidence that he could pass on to his own students.

He added that routine training for teachers would also help businesses in Krabi, where English dominates the region's tourism-based economy.

The courses will be offered in a range of skills levels from beginner to advanced.

Phuket hosts world's best and brightest

LEADING experts from academic institutions throughout the world will travel to Phuket for the Portland International Centre for Management of Engineering and Technology (PICMET) conference from July 18-22.

HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn is among those being honored with a (PICMET) award this year, receiving the Leadership in Technology Management Award (LTM).

The award committee unanimously agreed that this year's award should go to Princess Sirindhorn for her work using applied technologies in developing the country's rural areas for the well-being of underprivileged and disabled people, especially in

education, nutrition and healthcare.

The award is given in three categories: Leadership in Industry, Leadership in Education and Leadership in Government. To date, only 24 people have been honored with the award.

The conference will be held at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort and Spa.

The president and CEO of PICMET, Dr Dundar F Kocaoglu, presented the award to Princess Sirindhorn on July 13 at Chiralada Palace's Chaipattana building.

The PICMET LTM Award has been given annually since 1991 to individuals who have provided leadership in managing technology by establishing a vision.

- The Nation

Thailand's whiz kids set a gold standard

EDUCATION Minister Chinnaworn Boonyakiat announced on July 13 that 12 Thai students had bagged a total of 17 medals through their outstanding performance at the Po Leung Kuk Primary Mathematics World Contest in Hong Kong.

The Office of Basic Education Commission (OBEC) fielded two Thai teams in the international contest.

Another Thai team jumped in independently via their school, Anubarn Suteetorn, which won a respectable honorary mention.

In the team category, three

Bangkok-based educational establishments and one in Nakhon Pathom won gold medals.

"I would like to congratulate them all on their success. They have bolstered Thailand's reputation in the international arena," Mr Chinnaworn said.

The whiz kids returned triumphantly from Hong Kong to Thailand on July 14.

Chinnaworn said OBEC planned to send Thai students to more international maths competitions in South Korea, Taiwan and Indonesia over the next two months.

- The Nation



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Risky business

Despite gambling being illegal in Thailand, millions of Thais try their hand with lady luck each week.

By Alexandra Andersson

DESPITE laws prohibiting it, gambling is widespread throughout Thailand. From high-stakes tables in Bangkok to bird singing competitions in Phuket, the billion-baht-a-year industry shows no signs of "folding" anytime soon. The government has on various occasions considered legalizing gambling, but what would this mean for Phuket?

The recent World Cup is a case in point. The Thai Chamber of Commerce estimated that gambling transactions in Thailand during the FIFA World Cup 2010 involved as much as 37 billion baht. Bangkok police reported arresting more than 250 people and seizing over 50,000 baht in cash and betting slips in just the first few days of the tournament.

In Phuket, before World Cup fever set in, police announced there would be a crackdown on betting during the tournament.

During the whole of this year's event, police made 23 gambling-related arrests in Phuket. This is in stark



contrast to statistics from the 2006 World Cup, when 229 people were arrested on the island.

Betting on football is one of many gambling activities in Thailand and Phuket.

Horse racing and the government-run national lottery are the only two legal ways to get your fix, but many opportunities also exist outside the law.

Muay Thai fights, the popular bird singing competitions, cock fighting and card games present perfect opportunities for putting your money where your mouth is, and illustrate how cultural

activities often lend themselves to gambling tendencies.

There are also several casinos strategically located just beyond Thailand's borders that are funded, managed and visited mainly by Thais.

To name a few, in Burma there is the Andaman Club Resort off Ranong. There are also casinos near Chiang Saen; in Cambodia there are casinos at the Koh Kong border crossing and Phratabong.

There was even talk of building a casino resort in Phuket Bay, the plans for which were initiated in 2005 and scheduled for completion in 2015. This 135-billion-baht project was to be built as a floating "international city," positioned on the water in order to circumvent Thai gambling laws.

All this demonstrates gambling culture prevailing in society. The question of whether to legalize such a vice divides opinion.

Some argue that suppressing gambling is pointless, and that the government should be able to control and access the huge financial gains it generates, while others believe the

state has a duty not to be seen condoning, encouraging, or profiting from an activity which is opposed to the teachings of Buddhism.

Ultimately, the figures speak for themselves. If the findings of a 1999 government-ordered report entitled "Gambling with Thailand" are true, an estimated 70% of Thai adults gamble regularly and the industry profits stand at 200 billion baht a year, then many gambling sympathizers would argue for its legalization.

Numerous international examples prove that the profits

that stand to be made from this industry are substantial.

The recently opened Marina Bay Sands casino in Singapore attracted over 500,000 visitors in June alone.

This has had a ripple effect on other industries, with record-breaking hotel occupancy rates every month since its opening and restaurants, shops and entertainment venues reporting similar successes.

The implications of legalizing gambling in Thailand would be manifold. A casino in Phuket, for example, could be advantageous in that it would circulate a massive amount of capital, provide numerous jobs and attract tourists from the regional and domestic markets.

Legalizing gambling could also hamper the activities of illegal gambling rackets.

Conversely, Phuket would risk damaging its reputation as a family destination, and lead to problems such as compulsive gambling, debt, poverty and crime, if made legal.



Photo: AFP

LUCKY NUMBERS: Millions of Thais play the national lottery each week.



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The Bad boy is back in form

Books

By James Eckardt

The Pregnant Widow

By Martin Amis

THE BRITISH novelists Martin Amis and Ian McEwan have long been rivals for the title of best of their generation. Amis is often favored especially for his big, sprawling, exuberant, savage, uproariously comic novels of his early years.

McEwan writes small, earnest, cleverly-plotted novels that have especially found favor among the critics. In recent years, Amis has gone through a slump, but McEwan could do no wrong.

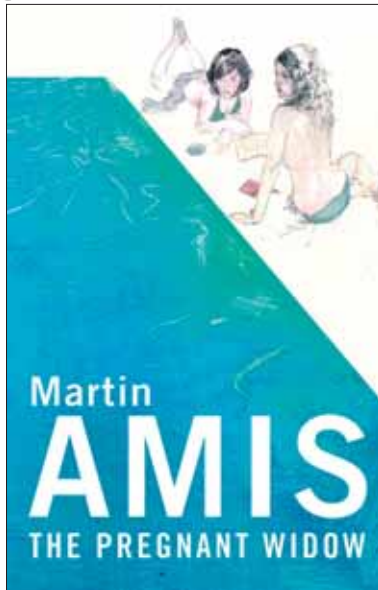
This year, however, critics turned their noses at McEwan's latest novel, *Solar*, but welcomed Martin Amis's latest as a triumphant return to his old form.

The Pregnant Widow (Jonathan

Cape, London, 2010, 470pp) is the largely autobiographical tale of a summer Amis spent with friends in an Italian castle in Campania. The year is 1970 and Amis and his friends are all around 20 years old.

He opens with a tremendous set piece. The narrator, Keith Nearing, is walking in the Italian village below with castle with his girlfriend Lily and her best friend Scheherazade. The women are at the height of their blond beauty, clad in skimpy mini-skirts.

"Now something happened — something he had never seen before. After fifteen or twenty seconds, Lily and Scheherazade . . . were swiftly and surreally engulfed by a swarm of young men, not boys or youths, but young men in sharp shirts and pressed slacks, whooping, pleading, cackling — and all afflacker, like a telekinetic card trick of kings and knaves, shuffling and riffling, and fanning out under the street lamps... The energy coming off them was on a level (he imagined) of an East Asian or sub-Saharan prison riot."



They spend their time lounging by the castle's swimming pool, Keith tortured by the sight of Scheherazade's topless figure. He is falling in love with her and Lily teases him about it and bears confidences to him of Scheherazade's starved lust. Her religious-minded boyfriend Timmy is delayed in

Jerusalem, and she pines for him. This is the main driver of the plot.

The younger Amis might have lavished a huge amount of descriptive prose on the castle, but here it stands only a backdrop to masses of clever dialog, mostly between Keith and Lily. The older Keith also drops in for mature reflections in sections called "Intervals", dated 2006. These are also clever, but a bit overwrought and lugubrious as well.

The odd thing is that this is 1970; a time of sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll. There's no music and no drugs (Keith confesses he's never even had a hangover) and the sex is sparse. But the yearning is omnipresent. The heat of the summer comes to a boiling point by the swimming pool.

"On their upper lips, on their brows, plump globules of sweat, like strips of translucent bubble wrap. Even their sweat was plump. It gathered under their eyes like the tears of inconsolable five-year-olds... But when Keith closed his eyes he saw himself as

a scarecrow, stalled in a standstill of frost."

The climax to the tale, when it comes, is a big surprise. And it haunts Keith for years afterward through three marriages.

The last 80 pages of the book follow Keith and the other characters through the rest of their lives until Keith's 60th birthday dinner in 2010, which brings the book to a close.

Even though the story is full of a love affairs, disasters, wrong turnings, bad decisions, delusions and crazy passions, there still manages to be surprises. The plot speeds up as life does when one ages.

As Keith says in his introduction, "As the 50th birthday approaches, you get the sense that your life is thinning out, and will continue to thin out, until it thins out into nothing. And you say to yourself: That went a bit quick..."

But then you pass through your 50s and life thickens out again as you recollect the past, as Amis does here.

Behind the pages

DESPITE an unexpected and untimely death from a massive heart attack in 2004, author Stieg Larsson has become an international phenomenon with his posthumously-released trilogy, *Millennium*.

The dark and somber detective novels, Larsson's first fictional releases, currently hold three of the top five best sellers spots on *amazon.com*. The trilogy has sold more than 20 million copies in 41 countries.

Larsson proclaimed the books were written merely for his own enjoyment and did not seek a publisher until just before his death. Constantly under the death threats from his life-long struggle to fight the rise of neo-nazis and violent extremism in his native Sweden,



it is quite possible that he needed the break from reality.

Prior to his worldwide success as a mystery novelist, he was mostly known as the chief editor of *Expo*, the magazine of a research foundation by the same name that shared Larsson's vision

Stieg Larsson

of fighting racism and intolerance in Swedish society. He was also a major player in the creation of the foundation in 1995.

The third book in the *Millennium* series, *The Girl Who Kicked the Hornets' Nest*, is both a critical and commercial success and is being praised as the best novel in the series. Having only been released in the US for a few weeks, its ultimate place in 21st century literature has yet to be seen, but one reviewer wrote that it will inevitably be considered "*The Lord of the Rings* of mystery thrillers."

With such a promising fictional debut and a lifelong conviction as a political activist, the title of his most recent biography perhaps sums up Larsson most effectively: *The Man Who Left Too Soon*.



Bestsellers

English language books in Thailand

1) Pirate Latitudes

Michael Crichton (350 baht)

2) Last Night in Twisted River

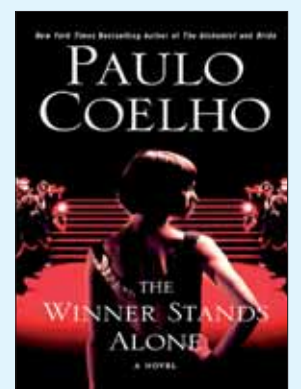
John Irving (350 baht)

3) Private Dancer: Love, Lies and Death

Stephen Leather (395 baht)

4) Why Were We Born

Buddhadasa Bhikkhu (255 baht)



5) The Winner Stands Alone

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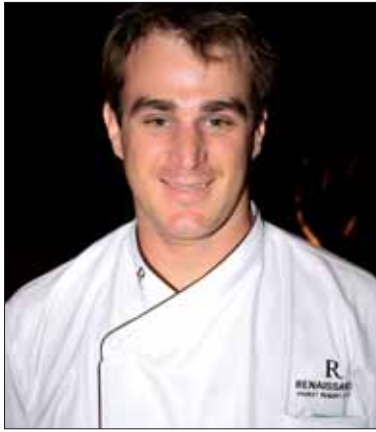
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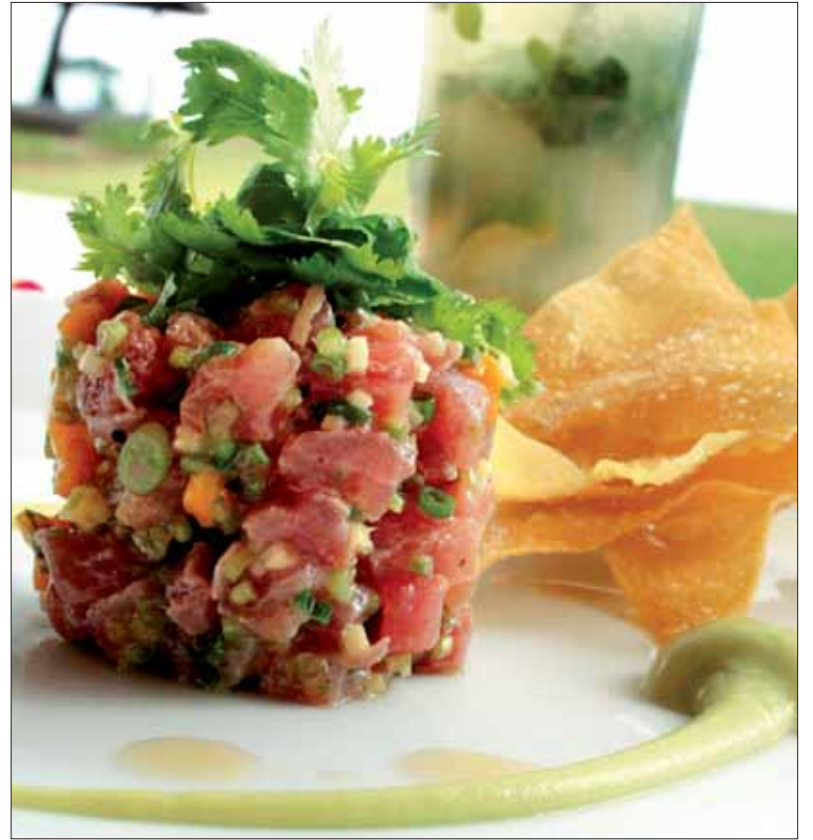


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Australian chef Nathan Chilcott (top) has designed a mouth-watering selection at Sand Box and Takieng.



Sunset in a Sand Box of flavor

On the Menu

By Nicky Vermeulen

THE RENAISSANCE Phuket Resort and Spa has been lucky enough to secure the services of Executive Chef Nathan Chilcott, who, at 30-years old, already has an impressive career background.

The Australian-born, third-generation Chilcott chef has received several prestigious culinary awards and has worked at renowned establishments worldwide, including in Austria, France, Portugal, China and England. It was this last country where he experienced the biggest challenge of his career to date: working for famous British chef Gordon Ramsey at his

Petrus restaurant, recipient of two Michelin Red Guide stars. Working at that esteemed venue taught him to strive for perfection on a daily basis no matter how high the standards or the pressures.

It is only natural then that Chilcott works with only the finest quality ingredients, as can be tasted in the dishes he's designed for the Sand Box and for Takieng.

His specialty dish, at Sand Box, is Tuna Tartar (260 baht), a delight of cube cut raw tuna, ginger, mango, avocado purée and sesame wafers, both of which disappear all too quickly from the palate and the plate.

The gourmet pizzas (350 baht to 400 baht) are baked in a pizza oven that can be seen from any angle of the beach-side lounge bar

and are topped with fresh tomatoes, rosemary and mozzarella.

Other items on the high-society menu Chilcott has skillfully created for the Sand Box include grilled salmon and sesame salad (290 baht); pumpkin, Parmesan and rocket salad (290 baht); honeyed ham leg and aged cheddar cheese (320 baht) and Australian rib-eye steak complemented by asparagus, sage and onions, pine nuts and rosemary garlic butter (900 baht).

Situated above the Sand Box is Renaissance Phuket's Takieng restaurant, serving authentic Thai cuisine. Once again, the quality of the food is a cut above, which is exactly as Chilcott wants it to be.

His spicy prawn salad, scented with lemongrass, mint and chili

paste (450 baht) contains sizable shrimps that are succulent and neither overcooked nor undercooked. Just right.

More dishes worth a try are *pla nueng manao* (steamed seabass with lemongrass, kafir lime leaves and chili dressing, 750 baht); *gaeng phed ped yang* (roast duck red

curry, 450 baht); *tom yum gung* (classic Thai soup flavored with lime, chili and shrimp, 350 baht) and another classic *kao neaw manuang* (mango sticky rice with coconut ice-cream, 200 baht).

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Vincent Tabuteau

VINCENT Tabuteau is one of the early pioneers in yacht charters and eco-tourism in Phuket and around the north of Thailand. In 1983, he was operating his own yacht charter service in the Eastern Mediterranean on Rhodes when he was offered an opportunity to take a boat to Thailand.

"I had no idea where Thailand was. I had sailed in the Med for many years but, as I was young, the adventure of sailing to South-east Asia appealed."

He was immediately attracted to life in tropical Phuket and began running the island's first day tours, from the Pansea Resort (now The Chedi) at Pansea Bay.

"The owner wanted to build a traditional Chinese junk to use for charter. As I had graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, with a French architect, we spent a year and half building the 16 meter *Suwan Macha*. Fortunately, I was able to find a retired local boat builder who was able to teach me how to set up the rigging."

Vincent went on to build a number of well known charter boats that still offer tours on the Chao Phraya and Mekong Rivers. He supervised the building of a teak barge, the *Mekhala*, which ran tours to Ayutthaya, and completed a refit on the *June Bahtra*, a Chi-

EXPAT gallery

By Bruce Stanley

nese junk that is still sailing around Phang Nga Bay.

He was appointed cruise manager for Asia Voyage, in charge of the building and operation of their growing fleet of vessels. In 1992, Vincent was promoted to General Manager of Asia Voyage and under his direction the company moved toward eco-tourism.

"We built an eco-lodge north of Chiang Mai and invited the Lisu hilltribe people to work with us. It was the first project where the native mountain people were given a share in an international tourism business. The Lisu Lodge is still in operation."

Vincent stayed with Asia Voyage until 2006, directing development. With Diethelm as partners, they expanded their eco destinations and built three lodges with the cooperation of the Hmong and poor Thai farmers, both of whom benefited from the revenues.

Vincent was born in Saint Malo, a seaport in front of the Jersey Islands in Brittany. When he was

just three years old, the family moved to Brazil where they stayed until Vincent was 13, when they returned to France.

"I come from a family where life on the water has been a tradition. Both my parents had lived abroad and were very enterprising. My mother was a diplomat and my father spent a couple years exploring Antarctica."

Vincent's first job after receiving his degree was as a teacher in Tunis where he spent his summers sailing. He stayed in the Mediterranean until he came to Thailand.

In addition to his many years as General Manager of Asia Voyage, he was a principal in Thai Marine Leisure, and he helped to bring Sunsail to Phuket.

Under his direction, Asia Voyage developed tour programs to Indonesia, Cambodia, Burma, Laos and around Thailand.

"By 2006, I was ready to return to Phuket full time. I am now Managing Director of Asia Marine, based at the Boat Lagoon. We sell boats, offer bareboat charters and boat management services, and provide insurance," he says.

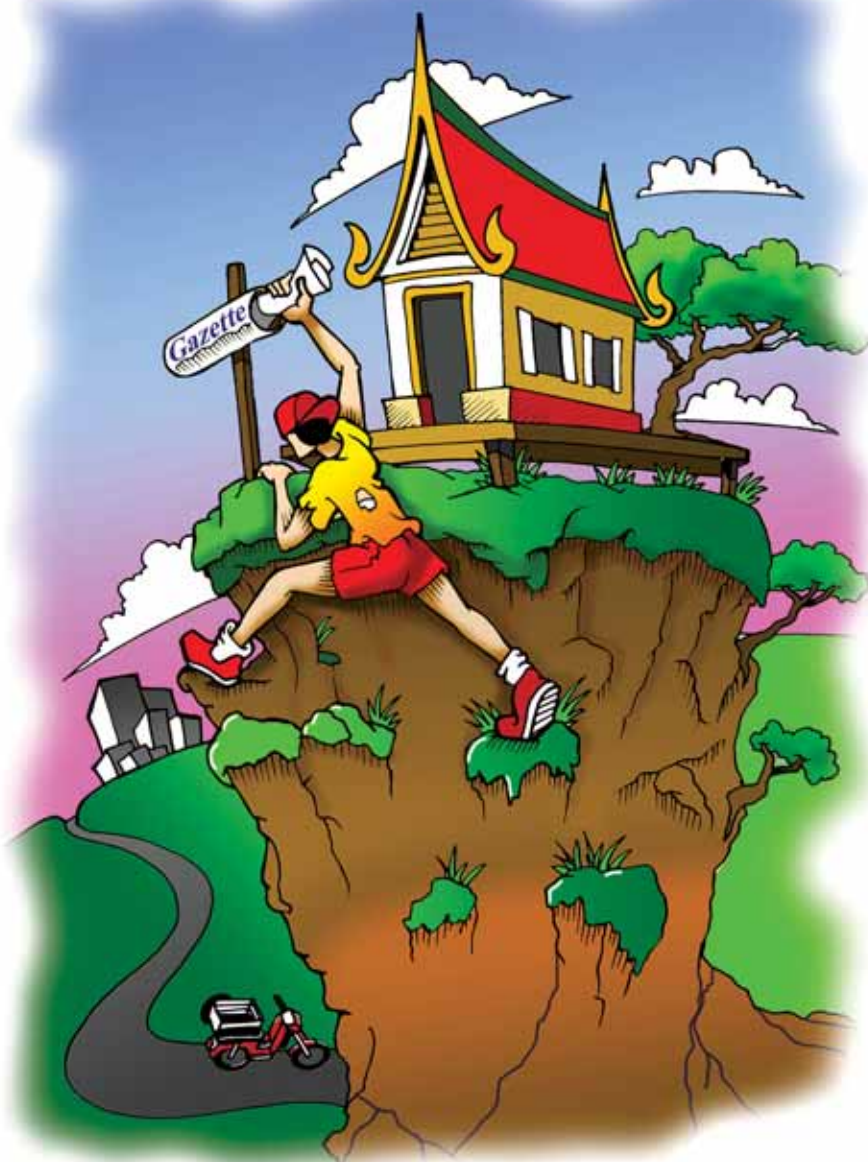
"I am always happy to open doors to new destinations. Mass tourism is not my interest as I appreciate and want to protect the native cultures of the region."



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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Chris Hogan, big and small

By Nicky Vermeulen

AUSTRALIAN Chris Hogan is an artist who doesn't see the big picture. He believes that life's beauty is found in its detail.

On Phuket for a three-month stay with his wife Beres, Chris has been serving as resident artist for Anantara Phuket Villas and Laguna Phuket. The 59-year-old is holding a number of art classes, including some Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) sessions for about 120 children from various schools around the island.

Included in the CSR activities was Minor Group International's Founders Day, which coincided with World Environment Day. This event saw Chris and employees from Anantara Phuket Villas – which is one of Minor Group's hotels, planting trees with staff at Hongyok Bumrung School in Mai Khao.

After planting trees, a group of 30 well-behaved students were chosen to take part in an art class with Chris. Students were given magazines filled with brightly colored underwater scenery and viewfinders, which the children used to focus on an interesting area of the photographs.

With paint, brushes and canvases all supplied by Anantara and Chris, the children, aged about 12-years-old, set to work on their mini-masterpieces under the guidance of the Australian artist.

Known for his acrylic on canvas "macro reflections of marine life", which fetch from between 20,000-90,000 baht, the artist avoids trying to capture big picture scenes in his work, and instead turns his attention to the intricacies and tiny detail of his aquatic subjects.

Simple dots and stripes of paint smeared on canvas form plankton, fish scales and other macro images, and appear regularly in his work "The Reef Series".

Once he lays his brush to rest, vivid abstracts with soft round edges jump from the canvas.

"There are plenty of people doing well-behaved marine landscapes, but I wanted to do something different," said Hogan.

His organic soft paintings vastly contrast to his sculptures, which tend to be more geometric and hard, using a selection of mediums including timber, stainless steel and cardboard.

Inspired by the sea from an early age, Chris lived a short boat ride away from the most splendid example of underwater marine environments, the Great Barrier Reef.

His most esteemed career highlight to date was when he was commissioned for a uniform



design used in a 130-villa resort in the Maldives.

"I worked with a fabric designer in Shanghai who produced my work onto fabric that we integrated into prototypes for staff uniforms for the resort," he explained. In addition, the theme appeared throughout the rest of the hotel.

Hogan was born in Brisbane in 1951 and raised in Cairns. He began painting at an early age but it was only in the early 1980s that he was able to pursue and enjoy being a full time artist.

He graduated in Arts, majoring in visual arts and attained the highest mark possible.

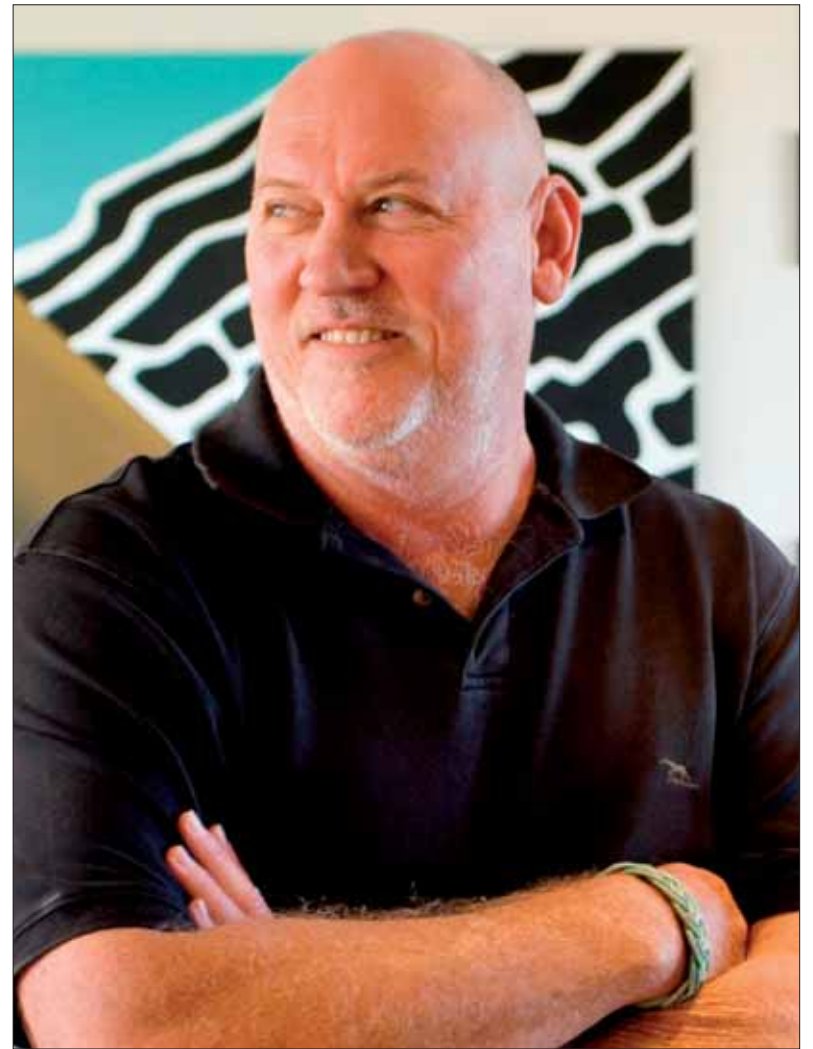
As a result he was invited into the Golden Key Honor Society – an international organization that recognizes exceptional academic achievements.

Hogan also has a Fine Arts Diploma from the Brisbane Institute of Art and has exhibited extensively, both in solo and group exhibitions throughout Australia as well the Middle East and throughout Asia.

Chris's final day as resident artist at Laguna Phuket is on July 31, when a final evaluation of his

students from the Ban Jao Krue school will take place. The children will paint once more with Chris so he can see how they have improved and give some final tips.

In the weeks following, their pictures will be sold to raise money for future projects for the children.



TALENT FOR THE TINY: Chris Hogan's art focuses on the smaller things in life.

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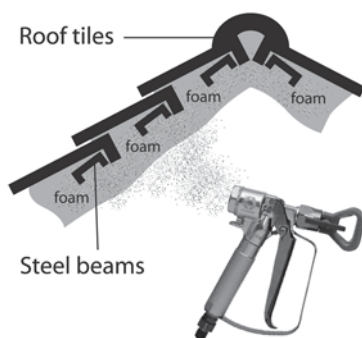


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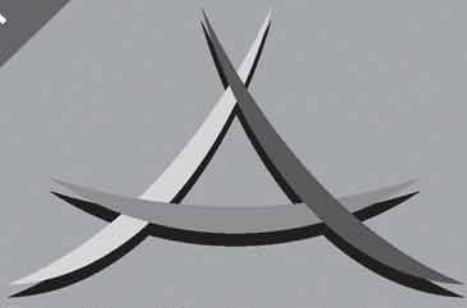
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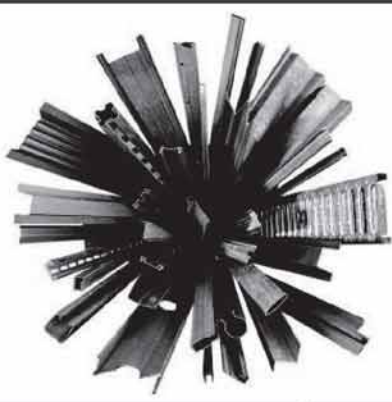
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Phuket Gazette

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June 6-August 8. Belly Dancing Course

The 10-session course "Introduction to Baladi" teaches beginner techniques for aspiring belly dancers and is being conducted by the famous Malika. All beginners are welcome. Participants need shorts and a hip scarf to start. Tickets are 600 baht per person, per session. Held Sundays from 12:30pm-2pm, RPM Health Club. For further information contact Murat Can Sakarya. T: 081-797 3364 E: muratc@royalphuketmarina.com

July 18. Phuket Amateur Open Golf Tournament

The July 18 tournament to discover "Phuket's best amateur golfer" is the second of 11 monthly events in the Phuket Amateur Open Golf series and follows on from the first tournament of the series last month at Laguna Phuket. There are 144 places available and entry forms are available at all courses and driving ranges on the island. Sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV. From 7am-12:30pm at Loch Palm. For further information contact T: 082-2803486 W: phuketamateurgolfopen.com

June 22-July 22. Formula 1 at Radisson Plaza

Catch all the Formula 1 action live on the big screen. Specialty red and white wines from Spain are available during the race at 195 baht++ per glass. Order a Formula 1 pizza and receive two bottles of Singha beer for only 350 baht++. From 7pm-10pm at the Octo Lounge at Radisson Plaza. For details contact Khun Anothai. T: 076-602500 E: pr.phuket@radisson.com W: radisson.com/phuketth_plaza

June 26-August 20. Summer Family Festival at Laguna

The Laguna Phuket Summer Family Festival is for both kids and parents. There will be a bouncy castle, flying trapeze, "Kidz Lounge" with movies, video games and more to keep the young ones occupied while parents relax with happy hour prices and barbecue fare in the Festival Beer Tent. From 2pm-midnight at Canal Shopping Village. For details contact Chureeporn Manabutr. T: 076-362330 E: shopping@lagunaphuket.com W: laguna.phuket.com/familyfestival

July 23. Curry Fridays

Indian food buffets are invited to

Six Senses Phuket Raceweek. July 21-25

Now in its seventh year, **Six Senses Phuket Raceweek** comprises four days of world-class yacht racing and five nights of beach-side parties at the Evason Phuket & Six Senses Spa. The regatta is run over seven classes, including cruising/bareboat/charter yachts. It's competitive, high-octane racing for the serious boats and fun courses around the islands for the less serious racers. For further information contact Grenville Fordham. T: 076-264491 E: raceweek@image-asia.com W: phuketraceweek.com

WHAT'S ON in Phuket

enjoy an authentic and lavish Indian curry buffet on the second and fourth Friday of each month. Enjoy an all-you-can-eat buffet with classic Indian dishes like chicken tikka masala, mutton vindaloo, juicy kebabs and more for 399 baht. Draft beer by the glass for 50 baht. From 7pm - 11:30pm at Navrang Mahal, Karon Sea Sands Resort & Spa. For further information contact Seemant Raju. T: 076-286464 E: sm@karonseasand.com W: karonseasand.com

July 24. Seafood Extravaganza at Le Meridien Phuket

Enjoy a night of seafood fare and indulgent portions coupled with an equally mouth-watering spread of appetizers, soups, salads and an indulgent dessert selection. 1,350 baht nett per adult. Get a 20% discount when you present this listing upon arrival. From 7pm-10:30pm at Pakarang Restaurant. For further information contact Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort. T: 076-370100 E: reservations.phuketbeach@lemeridien.com W: lemeridien.com/phuketbeachresort

July 26. Asarnha Bucha Day - Public Holiday

This full-moon day of the eighth lunar month commemorates the Buddha's first sermon to his first five disciples after attaining Enlightenment more than 2,500

years ago. Evening candlelit processions are staged in all Thai Buddhist temples.

July 27. Buddhist Lent Day (Khao Pansa) - Public Holiday

Khao Pansa marks the beginning of an annual three-month retreat during which Buddhist monks customarily stay at a specified temple to study and meditate. The monks are not allowed to stay at any other location during this period. Sculpted beeswax candles depicting mythological creatures are carried in a ceremonial parade in each province before being presented to local temples.

July 29-August 1. Architect & Engineering Exhibition 2010

See the latest breakthroughs in construction technology, interior design and building maintenance at the Construction Materials and Tools Exhibition. Products from more than 100 manufacturers and importers. New light-weight structural materials for floors and roofing. Learn how to design smart homes for multi-million-dollar projects - IPTV, 3G internet, IP Phone, CCTV and high-tech devices. The latest products for home spas, swimming pools and gymnasiums. From 11am-8pm at Royal Phuket City Hotel. Contact PIC Phuket Co. T: 076-522828 E: info@picphuket.com W: aaashow.com

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August 1. Swiss Feast

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Aug 2-6. Kids Sports, Arts & Adventure Day Camp

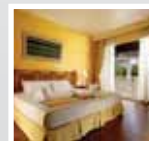
PIA Sports and Leisure Club's Kids Camps combine the best of sports, arts and adventure programs. The camps are to help students develop their self-esteem, confidence and leadership qualities. From 9am-5pm at the PIA Sports & Leisure Club. Contact Khun Nok. T: 076-376000 W: phuketinternationalacademy.com

Aug 7-8. PIA's Kids Adventure Weekend.

Camp overnight on PIA's adventure weekend for 6-14 year olds. Contact Khun Nok as above for details.

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Properties for sale within Laguna Phuket

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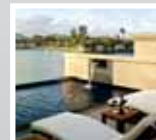
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4 Dusit Thani Pool Villa USD 1.78 M

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5 Banyan Tree DoublePool Villa THB 105 M

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July 18 and 25 - Chalong

August 1 - Patong

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YOUR Phuket Butterfly effect



IN THE WILD: The Phuket Butterfly Garden and Insect World held its fourth annual butterfly release ceremony last Saturday at the Khao Phra Thaew Wildlife Conservation Area in Thalang.

Hitting the water



IN THE WATER: DaVinci restaurant's new 39-foot catamaran hit the water last week, just in time for the vessel's grand unveiling at the Royal Phuket Marina on July 20. The *DaVinci* vessel was built by Composite Catamarans in Phuket and is set to compete in many regional sailing competitions, such as the Six Senses Raceweek and the King's Cup Regatta.



Gazette gathering



IN THE OFFICE: The *Phuket Gazette* hosted an in-house luncheon on July 9. Among those in attendance were (above, L-R) PG General Manager Natthira Susangrat, PG Managing Director Oranee Hildebrand, Phuket Provincial Administration Organization President Paiboon Upatising, PG Publisher John Magee, Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pigad Thantipong, and PG Editor Parichat Utintu.

ALL SMILES: PG Administrator Passara Kaewbumroong (left) and Phuket Governor Representative Veerapong Witayawongsakul.

PICK OF THE BUNCH: (From left) Kathu Police Inspector Lt Col Nikorn Chuthong, Kathu Police Superintendent Arayapan Pukbuakao, PG Managing Director Oranee Hildebrand and PG Editor Parichat Utintu. Photos by Suchart Changate



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Proud to be President

MEDAL OF HONOR: Former Rotary International District Governor Prasert Fakthongphol (right) presents the Presidential medallion to Mark Pendlebury (left), the new President of the Rotary Club of Patong Beach. The club won national awards for its commendable work throughout Thailand, with more than 50 separate projects accomplished from 2009-2010.

Woody's latest treat arrives



BORN ON THE 10th OF JULY: Andy Leonhard arrived weighing 3.6 kilos and measuring 55cm. The proud parents are Woody and wife Khun Add.



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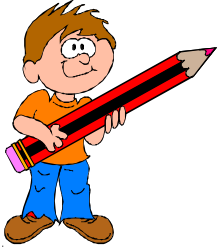
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Puerk-Pailin	80	5,680,000	100,000	2,740,000	2,840,000
Puerk-Ampai	111	6,570,000	100,000	3,185,000	3,285,000
Ladachon	100.72	6,980,000	100,000	3,390,000	3,490,000

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Spot the Difference



Can you find the ten differences between the two cartoons below? And can you find them faster than the rest of the family?

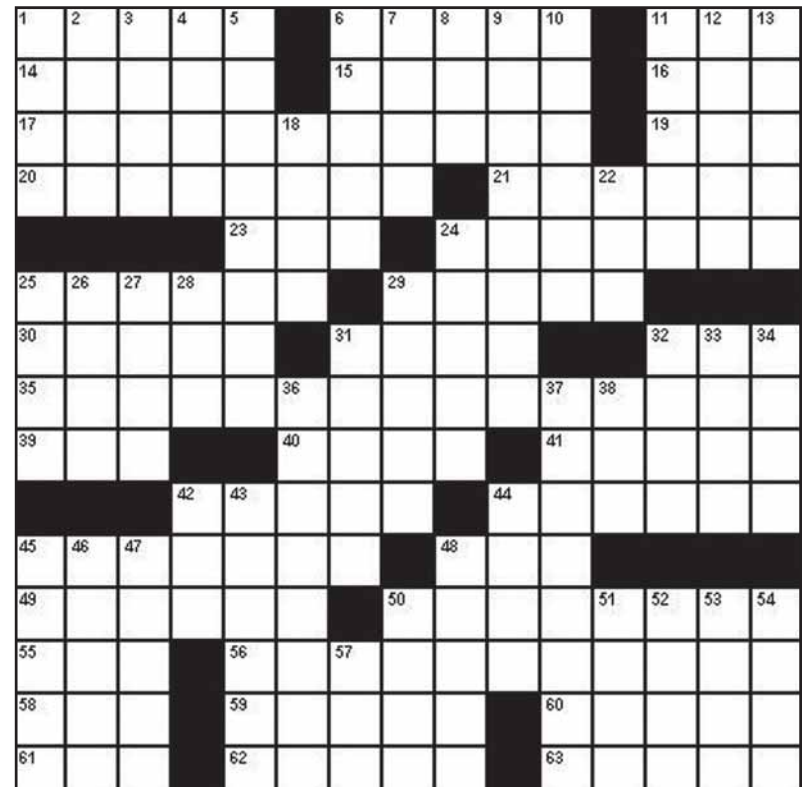


ACROSS

1. Chocolate substitute
6. Mountains
11. Hi-___ monitor
14. Addis ___
15. God of Islam
16. Cornerstone abbr.
17. Revise
19. Loss leader?
20. Free
21. Dealer in textiles
23. Not for a Scot
24. Plant-eating aquatic mammal
25. Although
29. Compact
30. Lasso
31. Bound
32. Nipper's co.
35. Think about
39. Small batteries
40. Change for a five
41. Like some bears and icecaps
42. Yellowish brown
44. Tall
45. Piece of hardware with a ring-shaped head
48. Clear tables
49. Strong cigar
50. Vortiginous
55. Actor Gulager
56. Option
58. And so on
59. Roofing stone
60. Join securely
61. Chow down
62. Church council
63. Correct

DOWN

1. Autos
2. Busy as ___
3. Floating platform
4. Ancient Greek coin
5. Fit for a magnate
6. Temporary stop
7. Fashion mag
8. According to
9. Capital of Nepal
10. Lusters
11. Hit back, perhaps
12. Lauder of cosmetics
13. Blank look
18. Castle ring
22. Actress Charlotte
24. Confronts
25. Horne solo
26. Director Wertmuller
27. Cave dwellers
28. Hot time in Paris
29. Gambler
31. Belief
32. Anger
33. Emperor of Russia



34. Ethereal
36. A thick gruel
37. Renegade
38. Base
42. Aladdin's monkey
43. Bog
44. Rotate
45. Host
46. Seaport in the Crimea
47. Something drawn out
48. Made a hole
50. Rejection power
51. Bit of gossip
52. Motion picture
53. Mary Kay competitor
54. Advance
57. Convert into leather

Provided by BestCrosswords.com
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Puzzle solutions on page 34

CANCER (June 22-July 23): A difference of opinion at work gives you reason to doubt the motives of an earth sign colleague. Cancerians are advised to keep suspicions to themselves for the time being – the stars suggest that someone with more power will deal with this situation at the appropriate time. Those with a birthday in the days ahead will be more interested in spiritual matters in the coming year. Wear amber for luck this week.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Your free time this weekend could be affected by a partner's plan of action. Those born under the sign of Leo who are feeling frazzled should ensure that they get enough rest. Compromise can be reached for now, but this is the ideal opportunity to suggest fairer delegation of household tasks. Your financial outlook is rosy – the stars offer support this week if you are trying to sell something.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): As July progresses, your confidence grows. However, the stars suggest that Virgoans' tendency to dismiss others' opinions without proper consideration could cause problems. In the

world of work this week, another earth sign indicates that they are tired of not being taken seriously. Your luck in love improves and those who are single are forecast to enjoy attention from an air sign. Wear pastel shades to encourage wider perception.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): People find you hard to fathom this week which could lead to misunderstandings. Librans are advised to say what they mean, and mean what they say. Tuesday is the best day for important talks as the stars will back your efforts to get the correct message across. Those with a partner may have to give more backing than they expected to a new scheme.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Your emotional balance is affected by unpredictable astral conditions this week. Scorpions are likely to make mountains out of molehills. Take distance from minor issues, view them objectively and avoid getting involved in what doesn't concern you. The stars suggest a new romantic relationship is hard to juggle with work commitments – plan ahead to avoid problems. Number nine can bring good fortune this weekend.



SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Feeling fenced in causes stress for some Sagittarians this week. At work, your need to achieve greater things could be compromised by an air sign's competitive streak. In the realm of romance, a partner's insecurity could begin to cause ripples in a relationship. The stars advise that you will benefit from spending time alone in quiet contemplation this weekend.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Your patience brings tangible results this week. Those born under the sign of Capricorn who were beginning to believe they might have to stop a business project will be motivated to continue. The stars predict a fire sign who didn't support your efforts will try to cash in on your success. Where romance is concerned, lack of interest in a partner's problem doesn't go down well.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Aquarians are forecast to be setting new trends during the second half of July. Others will look your way for inspiration, but this could start to irritate. A Piscean colleague in particular is ready to steal your thunder. A romantic link you made recently will be on your mind, but the stars suggest that the person concerned is occupied elsewhere.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Your outlook becomes more positive during the last two weeks of July. Pisceans who have been trying to make better connections in the world of business will be reminded of an influential person they met earlier in the year. Lucky days for meetings and money are Wednesday and Thursday. Romance is bright this weekend – your interest in an earth sign encourages the right reaction. Wear a piece of red stone to balance energy levels.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Arians who still have too much on their plates will be relieved to know that this week sees the beginning of a calmer period. Even if vacations are the last thing on your

mind, there are indications that a partner has other ideas. If you are single and seeking, Cancer could set your heart on fire this weekend. Chasing after an earth sign will be a waste of energy.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Taureans should catch up with overdue tasks before it's too late. The stars suggest that your reluctance to face up to responsibilities this month needs to be addressed. Tuesday is the most auspicious day to approach bureaucracy – you could find that you gain more than you lose. Personal relationships are well-starred, with emphasis on a reunion with someone you thought you would never see again.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Your need to be ahead of the crowd coincides well with others' lack of progress. Business minded Geminis are forecast to explore new areas for possible expansion this week. If this involves travel away from your home ground, there are signs that you could find more to your liking than suspected. Those with families are forecast to hear surprising news this weekend. Wear a piece of rose quartz to soften your mood.

PROPERTY Gazette

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

Exploring urbanism on Phuket

By Nicky Vermeulen

THE EXPLORER, a Bt2 billion retail and residential complex, is making its mark in Phuket as one of the first multi-purpose complexes designed under the "New Urbanism" town-planning movement, fusing shopping and living into a single combined-concept project in one of the island's most affluent areas.

The location, near the entrance of the Laguna Phuket resort, has

developers The Explorer Co Ltd, headed by Sitthipan Tanthaveewong, aiming to pair exclusive retail brands alongside luxury sea-view residences.

New Urbanist designers incorporate architecture and landscape design that celebrate local history, climate, ecology, economy and building practice.

"We believe multi-purpose complexes are a good idea because people only have to walk around the corner to where they need to

be to buy their goods," said Norbert Witthinrich, the project's general manager and owner of sole agents SEA Property International.

Construction of The Explorer Plaza, set to house designs, world-class brands and fine-dining venues, began earlier this month with on-site parking, walkways and multiple-story outlets already underway.

The plaza will comprise 31 retail units of 260sqm, which are due for completion July 2011.

Developers are inviting brand companies to join them at the prime location to fulfill the shopping needs of those seeking quality retail. Prices for the Plaza units start from 15 million baht.

The Explorer's residential area boasts 78 villas and 156 condominiums with views over Bang Tao Beach. With the first phase already being built, owners should be able to make themselves at home in the contemporary Thai-European units by July 2012.

The luxurious double-story residences host master bedrooms and jacuzzis, whilst penthouse condominiums boast roof pools.

Condominium prices start from about seven million baht, two-bedroom villas from 13 million baht and the 900sqm, three-bedroom villas from 17 million baht.

The complex hopes to enjoy high traffic from guests staying at surrounding hotels, as well as added support from expatriate and local residents living in the area.



ON THE UP: How The Explorer Plaza and Residential complex will look like upon completion.



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For more information, please contact: Laguna Property Centre, Canal Village,
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In brief...

An optimistic rebound

THAILAND is growing more optimistic for a big bounce-back for tourism this year.

The country's tourism authority (TAT) is boldly predicting that end-of-year figures for 2010 will hit those of 2009. As for 2011, growth to 14.4 million is being touted as the anticipated goal by the media.

While this goal has been met with significant criticism, proponents point towards last year's impressive 3rd and 4th quarter tourism numbers, which came on the heels of yellow-shirt incidents.

Coming to her Senses

FORMER CBRE Real Estate Sales Director Malaiwana Charlies Filleul has taken a post with leading resort brand Six Senses as part of their expansion into private residences.

While Phuket continues to lead the Asian region in resort real estate, the move signals a shift

towards an increasing focus on the island's considerable pool of talent. Six Senses are looking to expand their growth in private residences in Sri Lanka and Maldives while selling existing product at some of their boutique upscale resorts.

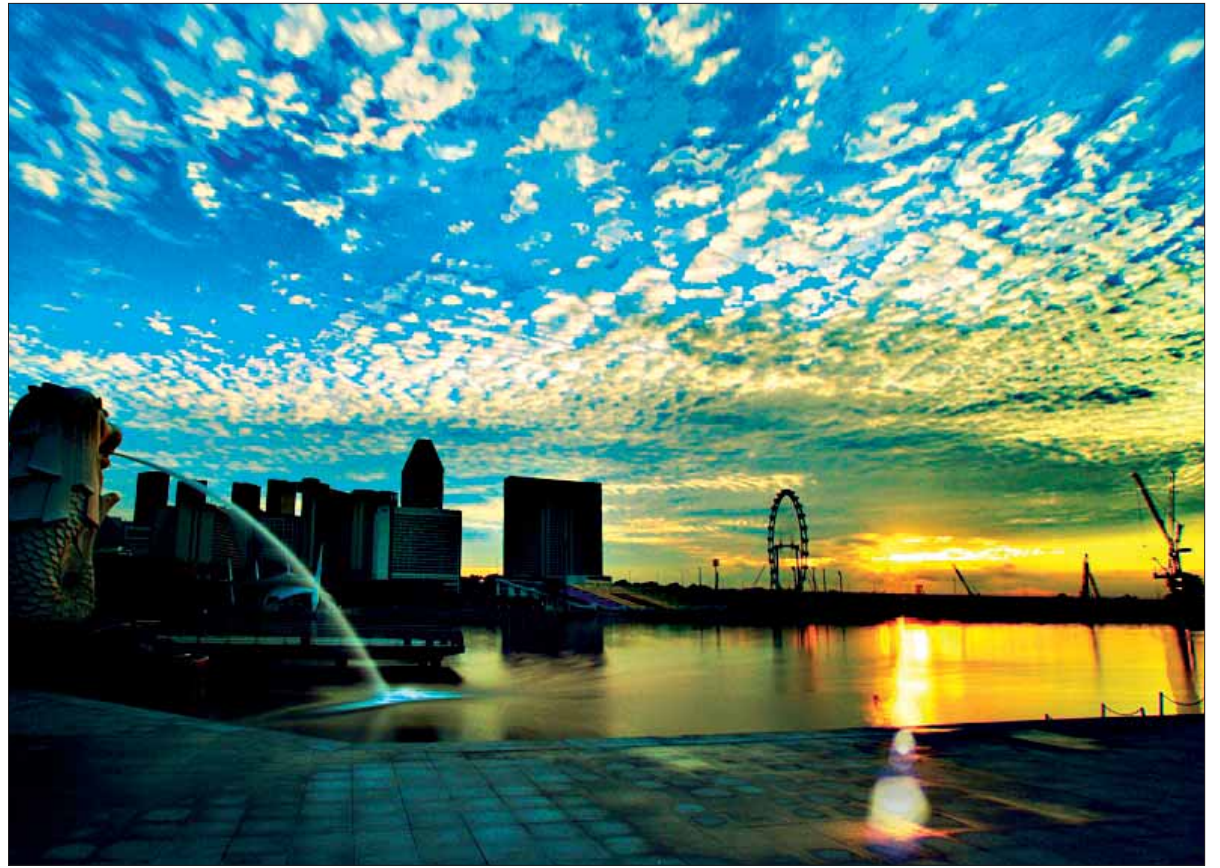
TAT hopes women follow Martha Stewart

THE TOURISM Authority of Thailand (TAT) has reportedly invited media maven Martha Stewart for a series of television spots that will focus on Thai cuisine and lifestyle to be broadcast internationally.

A fee of 10 million baht has been offered to Ms Stewart in order to help attract more female tourists to the Kingdom by placing an emphasis on Thai culture, lifestyle and food.

According to the *Bangkok Post*, Ms Stewart is set to arrive in the Kingdom in September.

No comment was given on whether she enjoys her Thai food "pet" or "mai pet".



EASTERN PROMISE: Singapore is currently riding a tourism high. Meanwhile, Thailand is adapting towards a new trend that sees fewer tourists from the West and more from the East. Photo: Wikimedia

Shooting sky high

AS THE world recovers from the global financial crisis, two important trends shadow the future of a changing property and tourism market in Phuket.

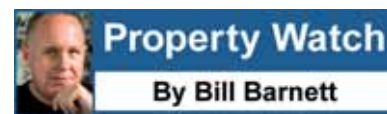
The first is a strong shift towards Phuket and greater Asia seeing less reliance on the West to fuel their crucial tourism-based economies.

The second is a shift from the lucrative off-plan and new home sales that dominated the "boom years" (the first decade of the new millennium) on Phuket, towards a booming resales and rentals market that is taking the lion's share of property transactions.

Island real estate has seen the rise from the ashes of the global economic crises in a new light as rentals and resales represent the vast majority of activity in the sector.

An estimated 50% of market transactions in 2009 were in existing luxury villas, condos and vacation homes, and this figure has grown in 2010 to even higher proportions.

With the shifting market trends, many are wondering what changes will also come to the demographic



Property Watch
By Bill Barnett

of tourists visiting the island. Property owners want to know where the next buyers and tourists are going to come from.

Using April of this year in Singapore as an example, with visitor arrivals up over the same month last year by 20%, over half of these came from regional locations including Malaysia, India, Indonesia, China and Australia.

As the world recovers from the global economic crisis, the influx of incoming tourists seems to be defined by the length of a plane ride to Phuket. Currently, the majority of inbound tourists step off flights of eight hours or less – quite a switch from the former standard of about 18 for the incoming Europeans.

Door-to-door travel time, shorter stays that rely on volume of visitors, discount tourist-generator offers and the astronomical growth of low-cost airline carriers are all key pieces of the puzzle.

Should AirAsia be a new member of the United Nations? Interesting twists and turns reveal what could be a fascinating new trend in the next decade.

I wholeheartedly buy into the concept that after what happened in 2007, Wall Street, Lehman's and the rest will simply never be the same as they were.

While some businesses rely on the old model of, "wait, watch and listen," and keenly reminisce about "the good old days", successful companies will find a way to transform and adapt their working business models.

Viewing the world of travel on a much larger scale, it's hard to ignore the effect that the massive political debate on climate change has had on aspects of everyday life, air travel being no exception.

A recent article in the *International Herald Tribune* highlighted the UK Conservative Party's recent public denouncement of "binge flying" for Brits.

A quick and decisive cancellation of expansion plans for Heathrow, the world's fifth-busiest airport, surprised many and was not a promising sign for those hoping for an increase in European travelers.

Also put on the back burner were expansion plans at Gatwick and Stansted, both key hubs for budget carriers.

While the whole strange brew of eastern and western expats makes an interesting conjecture, be it for the long or short haul, we find ourselves increasingly in an unpredictable and topsy turvy world at present.

Though I'd have to say eight hours and under looks to be a game changer anyway you look at it.

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

John Gill joins Kata Group as GM



LONG-TIME tourism player John Gill has joined the Kata Group as General Manager at the Phuket Orchid Resort. After a long stint in Hua Hin for more than a decade at the Dusit Resort and Polo Club, he has held posts at the Chandara Resort in Ao Po and at the Katamanda in Phuket.

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Get set for a sports upgrade

By Alexandra Andersson

SPORTS facilities available to Phuket residents and tourists is about to undergo a radical revamp, with construction work on Phuket International Academy's Sports and Leisure Club (PIASLC) on course for completion in November of this year.

The project is already attracting interest from numerous international leisure institutions due to the standards of the facilities PIASLC will have to offer for training, matches and activities.

What started as an idea just two years ago, today has blossomed into a US\$45 million complex in the works, set on 134 rai of land in the north-east of Phuket.

According to PIA, the PIASLC is poised to become a sought after specialist sports training facility in the region, following a wave of increasing high profile sports events being hosted in Asia in the last decade.

These include the Beijing Olympics, Tennis Masters in Shanghai, Formula 1 in Macau/Shanghai/Singapore and the Commonwealth Games coming up in India. "Sports tourism will only continue to grow as more international-standard facilities such as PIASLC are established in the region," said SLC's General Manager Sean Panton.

The new center will house some state-of-the-art sports facilities: An International Rugby Board-standard rugby pitch, FIFA-approved soccer field, Phuket's first 50-metre swimming pool, a tennis academy, a 400 meter running track and a hi-tech gymnasium equipped with the latest equipment from Star Track, as well as an Arts Center and a Day Spa.



GOING FOR GOLD: An artist's impression of the completed Phuket International Academy (PIA) Sports and Leisure Club. Photo: PIA

There will also be two boutique hotels, offering 115 well-appointed rooms for visitors such as individual athletes, teams and corporate groups.

The club has rapidly gained recognition through high-profile affiliations with global sporting organisations such as Brazilian Soccer Schools (BSS), NZ-RugbyResources (NZRR) and US-based IronKids Triathlon, with announcements pending in relation to tennis and swimming.

PIA Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Nick Seaver, said that the PIASLC is being positioned as Asia's finest destination not only for sports, but also for corporate events such as conferences, incentives, retreats and team-building.

"Every element of the club has been planned down to the finest detail. From using cutting edge materials and equipment to employing the most qualified staff to manage and coach at the club,"

Mr Seaver said. NZRugbyResources, has chosen the club as their Asian base for elite training camps for global members of its programmes, and plan to conduct elite and amateur training camps and competitions on the grounds.

Another key partnership for junior athletes has been with the

internationally-renowned BSS, after officials endorsed the club as its official partner in Phuket. The head of BSS in Leeds England, Richard Sutherland said PIASLC would play a vital role in increasing the profile of the coaching programme in Thailand.

The PIASLC has also confirmed an affiliation with the US-

based IronKids programme, which is part of the IronMan Group. This partnership will organize junior Triathlon events and training camps for young children.

Four IronKids events per year are planned, and training programmes will start commencing in 2010, targeting local and regional children.

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Beneath the Buddha's gaze

The *Gazette* unearths the tips and tricks that has made one reader's hillside yard a blossoming success.

Gardening

By Green Sleeves

OFF THE steep road up to the Big Buddha are a number of secluded properties, many of which boast splendid gardens. None is more magnificent than that of Joan and Richard Watson.

It is, as one would expect, a terraced estate which, in common with the house, was created 11 years ago from an existing rubber plantation. One link with its past remains: the resident Thai gardeners – husband and wife – used to harvest and process the latex before the trees were replaced.

Situated at the top of a small, private soi, visitors are greeted by a large paved patio, fronted by a dramatic bed of *Heliconia rostrata*, all displaying their massive pendulous bracts of red and yellow. Beyond, framing the scene, is a Norfolk pine and sealing wax palm, each at least 40 feet tall.

Walk through the lounge, and beyond is a sloping vista of lawns and flower beds, running water cascading down stone steps, an azure swimming pool and a cornucopia of mature trees and shrubs.

Here, the first thing to catch the

eye is another huge planting of heliconias. They are a signature shrub in this garden. Besides rostrata, the familiar orange "golden torch" and a flourishing cultivar called "sexy pink" also thrive here.

All these features are set in sloping lawns where two types of grass exist side by side; a narrow-leaved variety for the sun and Malaysia grass to cope with the shade. As Joan pointed out, the areas of shade have inexorably spread as the garden has matured, and the trees have spread their canopies. What began as a suntrap has become a place that mimics the understorey of the rain forest.

There are specimen trees and shrubs everywhere. A potato tree (*Solanum macranthum*) in full purplish-blue bloom catches the eye, as does an orange flowering *Cassia fistula*, a mycelia or champaca, and a number of pagoda bushes (*quesonia*) with their conical red pyramids of florets. A row of smaller ones have recently been propagated from cuttings.

Skirting the lawns are numerous varieties of bamboo, ranging from a dwarf variegated cultivar (*Aureo variegata*) to a stand of giant bamboo (*Dendrocalamus giganteus*) at the garden's outer edge. Joan tells me there are alto-



GARDENING HEIGHTS: One of Phuket's most spectacular gardens lies on the same hill as the Big Buddha. Photo: Patrick Campbell

gether at least 15 kinds.

What makes these foliage plants so effective is the way they are strategically placed next to other plants with contrasting leaf shapes and colors: for example, shrubby lady's finger and Macarthur

palms, variegated crotons (*codiaeum*), especially the curly leaved variety, low-growing false heathers (*cuphea*), grass-like dwarf pandanus, and tradescantia.

There are mighty examples of bird's nest ferns (*Asplenium nidus*) and elephant ear (*alocasia*) appropriately sited in shady pockets.

And there are palm trees everywhere – at least 16 types, ranging from towering sealing wax palms with their characteristic red stems (*Cyrtostachys renda*) to yellow cane ones (*Dypsis lutescens*).

Many of these are home to various ferns which grow so well here that they have to be culled. A rain tree, only eight years old, is already a substantial tree, and philodendrons have climbed right into its upper branches.

An old palm bole with its numerous cavities is home to no less than 250 orchids, of which at least 20 are usually in flower. The stump is often lit up by a number of yellow *oncidium* orchids.

This is indeed a spectacular

garden, so profusely stocked that there seems hardly any room for more. Joan has long since given up buying from nurseries: everything is homegrown, mostly from cuttings taken in the rainy season.

So what's the catch to growing such a successful garden? Of course, there have been casualties and there are some absentees. Exotic hibiscus do not do well here, and the soil is too clayey for canna lilies.

The green jades have gone and a flame tree (*Delonix regia*) succumbed after a load of subsoil was dumped on its roots.

Also, because the plot is on a hillside, there is inevitably some soil erosion, a problem much reduced by terracing, constructed with – of all things – rubber tires.

In one sense, the garden has quite literally gone back to its roots...

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

Tip of the week: Mulching 101

DESPITE the odd name, mulching is a straightforward business, and one of the best presents you can give your shrubs and flowers.

The mulch you decide on will probably depend on availability. For example, the most common materials in Western gardens are wood chippings, bark, or peat. In Phuket, it is more likely to be coconut fiber. But other materials pressed into service might include grass cuttings, compost, manure, leaves, or domestic waste, such as dried coffee grounds or tea leaves. You should use enough to create a layer about five centimeters thick.

The benefits are massive. First, the mulch dramatically reduces evaporation, which means less watering (consider it Mother Nature's moisturizer). Second, it helps to keep weeds in check.



Photo: Flickr

Third, it provides protection for shallow root systems and consequently allows for more vigorous growth. Finally, it looks attractive.

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for sale. 3.4 million baht, near Land and Houses Park. 29.5sq wah, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, hill view, common pool, club house. Tel: 089-873 1009 (English), 081-893 8524.

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35/20 Soi 1. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 aircons, some furniture, 50sq wah, garden. For sale or for long-term rent. Must see. Contact Nina. Tel: 087-689-9679. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com

HOUSE IN KAMALA

for sale. 2 houses on land. 1 Ngan 89sq wah. Chanote title, near mountain, peace and safe, 10 minutes from the beach. 7.8 million baht direct from owner. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: yaris.vios@gmail.com

BEAUTIFUL NAI YANG LAND

9.5 rai, beachfront. 5 minutes to Phuket airport. Asking price: 120 million baht. Chanote. Must see. No agents. Email: allservices29@gmail.com

48 RAI KHAO LAK / BANG SAK

250m from the beach. Chanote, Nor Sor 3. Only 1.7 million baht. Call or mail for further info. Tel: 080-522 4089 (English), 081-397 4957 (Thai). Email: kamala@phuket.ksc.co.th

720 SQM NEAR MISSION HILL

Nice corner plot, a stone's throw from Mission Hill golf course. Tel: 081-892 1097. Email: colan007@hotmail.com

SEAVIEW LAND 5.95 MILLION BAHT

Near Surin beach. Exclusive development. Million dollar homes already built. All utilities. Very quiet. Contact: K. Ross. Tel: 084-744 2240.

LAND FOR SALE IN KOH YAO YAI

Beautiful land set amongst the tropical jungle of the island. While this property is classed as inland, it is positioned a mere 500 metre walk to the beautiful sandy beach of Klong Son Bay in Phang Nga Bay. Nor Sor Sam Kor. 5,033 rai of land. Price 1 million baht/rai. Negotiable. Tel: 076-281121, 084-848 7474. Fax: 076-281121. Email: kasina_navamachiti@yahoo.com

PATONG CENTER

12-room hotel. Take over for 2 million baht or rent for 70,000 baht. Tel: 087-272 0303.

TOWNHOUSE 2 STORIES

opposite Boat Lagoon. 24sq wah, 3 beds, 2 baths. Email: info@allaboutwebanddesign.com

LAND IN KATHU

for sale. Baan Bang Tong area, Kathu, near main road. Includes Chanote title, 13.5sq wah. Price: 2.3 million baht. Tel: 087-889 5656.

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2 stories, 100sqm, corner position with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Quiet location, 2 carparks, 2 minutes to Super Cheap. Price: 2.5 million baht. No agents! Tel: 087-270 9093.

RAWAI PROPERTY

close to pier. Exclusive private property, with 4 apartments, pool and big terrace. All together 6.9 million baht including furnishings. Tel: 081-788 8280.

CHEAP PATONG POOL

Villa with a seaview, 6 rooms, 3 bathrooms, 4 aircons, 2 kitchens. Quick sale. Price: 6.4 million baht only, sold before at 12 million baht. Tel: 087-053 6016.

NAI YANG GARDEN VILLA

Land 1 rai with 4 houses, 7 bedrooms and bathrooms, swimming pool, fully furnished, 2km to beach, 5km to airport. Sale price only 9.5 million baht. Tel: 081-691 9346. Email: sumon@ridethailand.com

PATONG LUXURY SEAVIEW VILLA

Villa in Patong with stunning sea view. Ready to move in, Chanote title. Price: 23 million baht. Tel: 086-982 2888 (English & Thai). Fax: 02-960 7051. Email: prim_purdue@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.awphuket.com

HEAVEN ON EARTH

5 bedroom Thai-style villa in Phuket. Magnificent Phang Nga Bay sea view. 3 big bedrooms are ensuite with seaview. Private swimming pool. Land plot 730.8sqm. construction area approx. 573sqm. Full security service. Located at Rommai Chailay Estate. 24.9 million baht. Tel: 089-474 2234.

PATONG HILL LAND

Panoramic seaview. Many lot sizes. Includes Nor Sor 3 Kor. Price: 20 million baht per rai. Tel: 089-476 7400. Email: narisaz@yahoo.com

SINGLE HOUSE

for sale in Supalai Hill, near Heroines Monument. 55sqm, 3 beds, 2 baths. Call K. Aree for more info. Tel: 083-649 1218.

PATONG CONDO FOR SALE/RENT

New, cheap freehold condos. 300m from beach, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom. LCD TV included. Please contact Rommel at Tel: 087-277 8781 (English). Email: tj_biggie@hotmail.com

2-STORY HOUSE IN PATONG

sea view. 50 Pi Road, 49sqm. 4 bedrooms with balconies, 2 bathroom, aircon, fully furnished. Chanote. Price 17 million baht only. Tel: 087-270 9093. Email: a.pueng@gmail.com

17 RAI WITH PALM TREES

At Kok Kien, Takuapa, Phang-Nga. 85,000 baht per rai. Contact Khun Piek. Tel: 081-892 4094, 084-304 9339.

EXCLUSIVE SEA VIEW PATONG

Luxury villa, overlooking Patong bay, 3 bedrooms, Chanote title, 1 office. Price: was 23 million baht, now 22 million baht or best offer. Tel: 086-982 2888 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-374882. Email: prim_purdue@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at <http://awphuket.com>

NEW HOUSE KAMALA BEACH

Western style, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, fully furnished, aircon, phone, ADSL, quiet. Mountain view, close to beach. 6 million baht. Tel: 083-645 3546.

ONLY 1.9 MILLION IN PHUKET

Villa 3 Park, Phuket town/Chalong, 3-bedroom townhouse, 90sqm, Chanote title. Now renovated. For quick sale 1.9 million baht. Tel: 081-788 8280.

4-BEDROOM TOWNHOUSE

for sale. Modern Sino-Portuguese house, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms and a built-in kitchen. Quiet area, near Tesco Kathu. Price: 8.9 million baht. Tel: 076-346269, 081-803 8061. Email: meeboon@hotmail.co.uk

HOUSE AND SHOPHOUSE

1,100sqm, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, living room, kitchen. 150sqm shophouse, 1.5km from Laguna resort, good for a nursery or factory. Only 6 million baht. Tel: 076-274975, 081-891 2503 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-274976. Email: yai_k@hotmail.com

LAND FOR SALE

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

RAWAI/NAI HARN LAND

180 wah, walled, elevated, plot off Saiyuan Road. All utilities. Bargain price. 4.2 million baht. Tel: 085-782 7551.

LAND AT PA KHLOK

49 rai, nice flat land. Chanote, 2.5km from Heroines' Monument. 1.7 million baht per rai. Tel: 083-180 2143.

TWIN VILLAS AT NAI YANG

Only 600 meters from beautiful Nai Yang beach, this modern pool villa is perfectly located. Featuring a chic, clean-cut design coupled with a choice selection of quality materials and furniture, this villa is a promising investment for holiday seekers and permanent residents. Price: Bt10.2mil. Contact Khun Penprapa. Tel: 087-898 9646. Email: penprapa2526@gmail.com

BEAUTIFUL HOUSE, FULLY FURNISHED

Ready to move in, 254sqm. 2 floors. Near Downrungs school, Laemchan area, close to Phuket Town, nice living room and garden, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, 2 car parks, very nice and quiet area. Price: 6.8 million baht. Tel: 081-541 2025.

2 RAI IN AO MAKHAM

Chanote, in Soi Rat-U-Thit 1, public utility area. easy access in and out. Just 12 million baht for both rai. Tel: 076-522938, 087-689 9679, 089-588 5458. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com

VILLA RAWAI

Near "Platinum residents", 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, pool. 740sqm land, view 4,340sqm. Quality as premium. Price: 13.49 million baht. Tel: 082-272 1289.

URGENT SALE SEA VIEW LAND

Super sea view land 132sqm. 76 meter from sea level. Nor sor 3 gor. 2 minutes from Patong Bay. Urgent sale for 8.2 million baht. Tel: 086-982 2888 (English & Thai). Fax: 02-960 7051. Email: prim_purdue@yahoo.com

BOAT LAGOON PHUKET

on the waterfront. Renovated house, 2 bedrooms includes furnishings. Price: 6.8 million baht. Freehold. Tel: 081-788 8280.

LAND NEAR NANAI

for sale. 90 wah near Nanai Road, with mountain and ocean views. Tel: 076-296326, 087-883 1756.

3-BEDROOM HOUSE

for sale or rent. 312sqm, 2 bathrooms. Fully furnished, 24-hour security. 5 minutes to Chalong Bay, 10 minutes to Nai Harn Beach, 20 minutes to Patong Beach and 15 minutes to Phuket Town. Price: sale: 6.5 million baht. Rent: 45,000 baht per month. Please contact Khun Sam (English/Thai) 085-1106449. For further details, please see our website at <http://ipdproperty.com/30-chalong-villa/30-chalong-villa.html>

2 HOUSES IN PATONG

for sale. Live in 1 and rent the other or sold separately. 5.1 million baht each, fully furnished, well kept, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, Western kitchen. Center of Patong, 2 minutes to Jungceylon. Contact owner at Tel: 087-279 3312. www.phukethouseapartment.com

KATA HILL-MUST SELL!

Luxury villa. 3 bedrooms, big pool and garden. Includes furnishings. From 19 million baht. Now 15 million baht or best offer. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-788 8280.

LAND FOR PROJECT

9 rai in a developed estate, ready to build, 500 meters from a golf course. For sale direct from owner, only 2.9 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-343 0777.

THE ROYAL PLACE

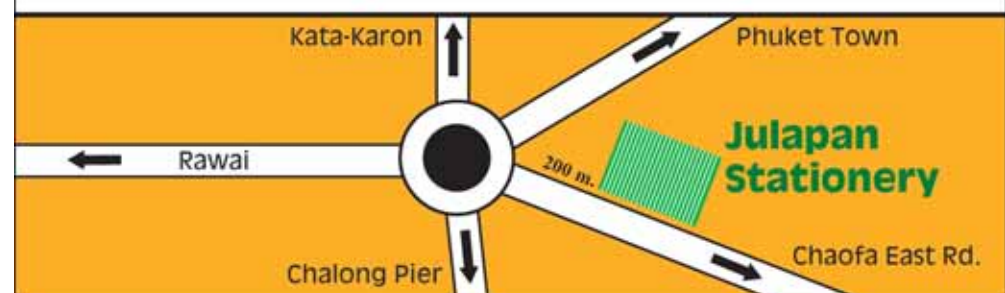
4th floor unit with 2 balconies. Approx area: 42sqm. Fully furnished, ready to move in. Please email: info@allaboutwebanddesign.com

BEACHFRONT LAND

Ready to build, 3.5 rai with 90 meters ocean frontage and view to Yacht Haven Marina. Surrounded by a very natural and peaceful environment. The ideal place for relaxing and a secure investment. For sale direct from the owner for only 5.7 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-343 0777.

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Property Classifieds

Properties For Rent

EUROPEAN-STYLE BUNGALOW

Renovated bungalow for long-term rent. 4 bedrooms, large living room, annex, study and dining room. Large renovated western-style kitchen with pantry. Charming front garden and a back garden with totally renovated pool close to Laguna and walking distance to Bang Tao Beach. Tel: 076-270703, 087-265 4268 (English). Email: henkt@hku.hk

THE GREENHOUSE POOL BUNGALOWS



In Chalong, 2 bedrooms, fully furnished, cool, green, QUIET with ADSL, cable and aircon. Price: 13,000 baht per month. Contact John. Tel: 081-979 1976.

FRIENDSHIP BEACH

2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, living room, kitchen, balcony, garden and gardener, sala & BBQ. Fully furnished including aircon, fans, shared pool, private entrance and secure parking. Price: 18,000 baht per month + utilities + cable + internet/TV. Tel: 089-729 7622

SEA VIEW HOUSE RAWAI

1 bedroom + loft, 1 bathroom, kitchen, high & vaulted ceilings, lots of windows. Fully furnished, including aircon and WiFi. Price: 28,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-540 2391.

SEAVIEW BUNGALOW

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, private garden with pool. 10 minutes to BIS school and Royal Phuket Marina. Price: 45,000 per month. Tel: 086-279 6283.

3-BEROOM HOUSE IN KATHU

Furnished house in Kathu on a private road. Has UBC, Internet and a European kitchen. For long-term rent. Tel: 089-875 2532, 081-477 2929 (English & Thai). Email: paulstrong23@hotmail.com

HOUSE IN CHALONG

For rent. Near Palai beach, 2-3 bedrooms, aircon, ADSL. Fully furnished, cable TV, car park. Tel: 089-728 8311.

STUNNING SEA VIEWS

Yamu house. Cape Yamu. This charming house, has arguably the most remarkable ocean views, in Phuket. Entrance Hall, 2 reception rooms drawing room study, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. Pool set in attractive walled gardens. 10 minutes to British International School. Price: 80,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-279 6283.

STUDIO IN SURIN FOR RENT

Looks over pool, includes kitchen, gym, cable and aircon. Tel: 085-472 5646.

LONG-TERM RENT

Nai Harn beach. Large luxury house, 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, air-conditioned, maid room, nice big walled garden, on the lake, swimming pool. Price: 55,000 per month. Tel: 081-397 1835.

RAWAI STUDIO

1 room with bath and terrace. Fully furnished with a pool and ADSL. Long-term rent. Price: 11,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-606 7410.

HOUSE WITH POOL

Bang Tao, 2-4 bedrooms and fully furnished. Includes sat TV and ADSL. For sale. Price: 4 million baht. Contact MatTel: 085-674 6786.

1-BEDROOM APARTMENT PATONG

Located at Phuket Palace with access to pool. Furnished and WiFi. Long-term rent: 20,000 baht per month. Contact for more details. Tel: 081-892 1621.

84 MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF 100,000 BAHT



Located in central Rawai. For sale: 400sqm, land + villa, 6 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, furnished. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

VILLA FOR RENT/SALE

Financing available. Tel: 081-895 7310 (English & Thai). For further details, please see our website www.horizonresiden ceandspa.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.

SURIN BEACH CONDO

1 bedroom, pool, 150m from beach. Please email Jeff. Email: jgstryker@gmail.com

THAI VILLA AND POOL

Soi Naya, Nai Harn, long term. Price: 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-270 5126. Email: mervyn.crocker@yahoo.com

30 RAI FOR LEASE

Flat land in new Dowrung School. Very good location for business. More details. Tel: 081-691 2526.

MODERN HOUSE NEAR BANG TAO BEACH



Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 aircon, hot water, washing machine, ADSL, WiFi, tel, garden. 10 minutes to Bang Tao beach. Price 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-795 6363. Email: sara_supetik@yahoo.co.th

2-BEDROOM APARTMENT FOR RENT

Lersuang, swimming pool, 100sqm, near beach. 42" TV, aircon, modern kitchen, washing machine, UBC. Price: 22,000 baht. Tel: 085-888 2022. Email: sleeves@sleeves.com. For further details, please see our website at http://www.phuketwest.com/view_property.php?id=1400

KATA SINGLE HOUSE, SEAVIEW

Fully-furnished, personal sun-bath with sea-view, 2 aircons. bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, living room, internet, green area on the private hill. Price 15,000 baht/month. Please call for more information. Tel: 085-245 1155 (English). Email: nij017@hotmail.com

LUXURY 4 BEDROOM VILLA & POOL

Located in Boat Lagoon. 85,000 baht per month, long-term only. Email: folke@frp.se

RAWAI HOUSE

For rent long-or short-term. Fully furnished with a nice pool. Website: www.ferienthailand.com

Baan Suan Pana CHALONG PHUKET

Special offer

Phase I houses for long-term rent. Very private with mountain view, 2 bedrooms, living room, bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished, sat TV, ADSL, UBC.

Contact: 089-7243669
Email: info@baansuanpana.com www.baansuanpana.com

58 MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF 35,000 BAHT



Located in Rawai beach. For sale: 28 years leased apartment, 92sqm, furnished and car park. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

3-BEDROOM FURNISHED HOUSE



Near the monument, 3 aircons, hi-speed internet, cable TV. Long-term rent preferable. Price: 17,500 baht per month or sale 2.95 million baht. Tel: 081-538 7050.

GOLF VIEW STUDIO

for rent. 130sqm, big pool. Over-looking Loch Palm Golf. Fully furnished, WiFi. Long-term rent only. Price: 20,000 baht per month. Please call for more information. Tel: 087-269 8492.

NEW HOUSE W/POOL, 13,000 BAHT

Modern new 1- & 2 bedroom Western houses. Fully furnished, aircon, cable TV, WiFi, pool access. Tel: 076-286500, 089-475 1200 (English & Thai). Email: info@welcome-inn.com

3-BED HOUSE GREAT SEAVIEWS

Large 3-bedroom house on hill with pool. Great seaviews. 50,000 baht per month. Tel: +44-7769-941124. Email: rickhorger@hotmail.com

VILLA FOR RENT

Luxury villa with large pool, sala with shower and terraces. Located on gentle east-sloping site, stunning sea views. 4 ensuite bedrooms, open-plan living area, fully equipped kitchen, gym, maids, room and double garage. The home has only been occupied. For 18 months since new, for rent 50,000 baht per month. Tel: +44-172-782 5227, +44-794-652 3947. Or please send email to: gwrev@talktalk.net

1-BEDROOM CONDO

for rent. 1 bedroom, ground floor, poolside, furnished condo, central Patong, long-term. Viewing preferred. Tel: 087-887 9070.

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- Female 30 years or older
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This position requires a very committed person with the right attitude, common sense and a bit of style - if that's you then please submit your current resume along with a photo and expected salary to:

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Looking for Thai nationals for the following positions in Phuket:

- Beauty/ Spa Therapists
- Assistant Manager

Good English & communications skills required
Please send your resume with recent picture to:

staff@sunspa-esthederm.com



FARANG FOOD PARADISE CO., LTD.

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

Branch Manager (KRABI)

- Thai National
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- Strong English communication skills
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- Good interpersonal skill, service-minded and well organized
- Possess car and driver's licence
- Self motivated and able to work independently

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

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99/33-34 Moo 1, Billion Plaza, T. Kathu, A. Kathu. Phuket 83120
marco@phuketfood.com or Tel. 076 612 733 - 076 248 900
<http://www.phuketfood.com>

Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project

SEEKING EXPERIENCED CANDIDATES FOR COMMUNICATION LIAISON POSITION


Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand are working together through the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project to improve the lives of coastal populations through better management of the Bay of Bengal environment and its fisheries.

The BOBLME Project will soon be based in Phuket. We want to establish a local presence, encourage a sense of ownership among stakeholders in the eight participating countries; promote BOBLME as a major source of information and advice; and communicate the results and progress of the project to stakeholders, especially to people in the coastal communities. One of the major tasks in 2010 will be to set up of media liaison outlets in each of the countries partnered with the project. These outlets will convey the project messages in appropriate language, and actively seek communication opportunities locally.

We are looking for an individual or company to take a leading role in the implementation of our communications strategy over the next four years.

For more information on the role and responsibilities, please see our website; www.boblme.org.

Interested individuals or companies should send a CV or company profile together with a covering letter outlining your professional competence to the Regional Coordinator Dr Chris O'Brien on chris.obrien@fao.org by June 11, 2010. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.



Thanyapura

PHUKET INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

FLOURISHING IN A SUSTAINABLE WORLD

Phuket International Academy (PIA) comprises three centres: the PIA Day School, the PIA Sports and Leisure Club (inclusive of Hotel and F&B Outlets) and the PIA Mind Centre.

We will have the OPENING JOB FAIR DAY at the Phuket Rajabhat University at the Main Auditorium on Saturday, July 10th, 2010 from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm. We are looking for suitable applicants for the positions listed below:

SPORTS CLUB /HOTEL & F&B/MIND CENTRE

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Call Centre Operator | • Recreation Attendant |
| • Art Coordinator/Teacher | • F&B Server |
| • Administrative Assistant | • Chef De Partie /Commis /Cook |
| • Membership Service Coordinator | • Pastry Chef |
| • Activity Desk Attendant | • Steward Supervisor |
| • Kids Club Coordinator | • Steward |
| • Swim Coach | • Housekeeping Supervisor |
| • Life Guard | • Housekeeping Agent |
| • Sports Coach | • Event Coordinator |
| • Tennis Coach | |

INTERNATIONAL DAY SCHOOL

- Guest Relations Manager

ADMINISTRATION (THANYAPURA OFFICE)

- Training Officer

CONSTRUCTION

- Health & Safety Manager
- Site Architect
- Scheduling & Logistics Engineer
- ME Engineer

All positions are based in Phuket and require self-motivated, confident people with excellent interpersonal skills, pro-active leadership and proven training skills. A high degree of proficiency in English is necessary. Candidates with the above qualifications are welcome to apply on the Opening Job Fair Day or to submit a resume with a recent photograph in advance to the HR Department at pansak@phuketinternationalacademy.com

For more information, please visit our website at www.phuketinternationalacademy.com

SECRETARY WANTED

For property management company in Cherng Talay. Must communicate well in English and good computer skills. Tel: 083-391 7254. Email: parkfld@yahoo.com

TELE MARKETING JOB

Native English speaker, top rates. Working in Patong. Please contact for more details. Tel: 086-479 4027.

GRAPHIC ARTIST WEB DESIGNER

Illustrator, Photoshop, Indesign. Full time or part time position depending on skills. Creative work environment with unlimited potential. Must read and write English reasonably well. Tel: 086-275 2480 (English). Email: tony@graingerdesigns.com.au For further details, please see our website at www.graingerdesigns.com.au

GRAPHIC ARTIST WEB DESIGNER

Illustrator, Photoshop, Indesign. Full time or part time position depending on skills. Creative work environment with unlimited potential. Must read and write English reasonably well. Tel: 086-275 2480 (English). Email: tony@graingerdesigns.com.au For further details, please see our website at www.graingerdesigns.com.au

LIVE IN MAID

Wanted, Cherng Talay area. Cooking and English not necessary. Salary: 8,000 baht a month to start with. Tel: 076-275085.

PERMANENT POSITIONS

Permanent positions available:

Accountant - experience with all facets of accounting including sales, purchases and tax requirements. Good English necessary.

Secretary - experience working in office and good English necessary.

Please email CV to: daragh@techworx-projects.com

SALESMAN WANTED

On commission basis to sell or rent inflatable playgrounds to hotels or shopping centers. Tel: 087-417 4501. Email: thanyainternet@hotmail.com

ASSISTANT WANTED

Assistant to service director. Qualifications required: Experienced (minimum 5 years) in water filtration, domestic & commercial. Good command of written and spoken English, leadership qualities. Driver's license is essential. Contact to make appointment: 076-620193.

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Spa Therapist

- Female (Thai Nationality)
- Minimum 2 years Spa therapy experience in an international standard Spa.
- Relevant license/massage certificate and qualification required.
- Team player and Professional attitude
- Flexibility with scheduling including evening, weekends and holidays.
- Able to communicate verbally in English.
- Non overseas experience is required

Hair Stylist

- Female
- Minimum 2 years Hair styling experience in an international standard Salon.
- Technical skill of ladies and gents' hair cutting and styling, hair coloring, hair straightening, hair treatments, equipment operations, manicure, pedicure and waxing required.
- Team player and professional attitude
- Flexibility with scheduling including evening, weekends and holidays.
- Able to communicate verbally in English.

Please submit your resume with current photograph and salary expectation to ang@asianahotels.com or shri@asianahotels.com

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SALA Phuket Resort and Spa:

SALA Phuket is a stylish 5 star resort located on Maikhao Beach, Phuket. The property offers 79 luxurious villas and suites on unspoilt beach frontage.

SALA Resorts and spas is a home grown Thai hospitality company which owns and operates three luxury resorts in the Kingdom.

We are looking for the following professionals:

Food & Beverage

- FB Supervisor 2 Positions
- Waiter/Waitress 2 Positions
- Bartender 2 Positions

Restaurant Manager

Requirements:

- We require an enthusiastic and experienced restaurant professional
- Excellent leadership and communication skills, understandings how to manage people with an emphasis on training & development
- Bangkok F&B experience would be an advantage
- Candidates with restaurant, bar and room service experience is preferred in return for the right candidate an excellent package is on offer

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Chief Accountant

1 Position

Spa

- Spa Therapist 1 Position
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Requirements:

- General knowledge of the hospitality industry
- English Language – moderate to proficient
- Teamwork - must be able to work effectively with all colleagues within the resort

If you have what it takes and you would like to join our dynamic team, please forward your CV or contact our Human Resources Dept. Contact details below.

Human Resources Department
333 Moo 3, T.Maikhao, A.Talang Phuket 83110 THAILAND
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Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following positions:

Web Programmer (3 positions)

General Duties:

- Designs, programs, implements and maintains computerized business systems for use on the Internet or Intranet
- Develops both internal and external website and web-based applications/features
- Researches and develops new web technologies
- Provides continuing diagnostic support for applications and execution of web services.

Requirements:

- Bachelor Degree in Computer Science/Programming
- Proficient in asp, asp.net, PHP, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, XML, MsSQL, MySQL and Ajax programming
- At least 2 years' experience in programming
- Ability to work within tight schedules
- Independent and attentive to detail
- Able to communicate effectively and show good problem solving skills
- Fluent in English, written and spoken
- Must be a team player.

Web promoter & IT support (1 position)

General Duties:

- Search engine optimization
- Manual directory submission
- Link exchange development and admin
- Procurement from PC hardware/software suppliers and building system providers
- Maintenance of PCs, networking, and building system functionality
- Troubleshooting re user problems
- Independent resolution of hardware break-fix issues, network connectivity, and application related questions
- Weekly conversion of Pagemaker files to PDFs, and compilation of the Digital Gazette
- Conversion of AVI to Flash video for PGTV
- Other related tasks.

Requirements:

- Degree in IT or equivalent work experience
- Minimum of 2 years' experience in web promotion and IT support
- Understanding of search engine algorithms (a must)
- Excellent skills in Search Engine Optimization
- Knowledge of promotional techniques through Google/Yahoo/MSN
- Fluent in English, written and spoken
- Proficiency in Internet research
- Ability to maintain web pages.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to big@phuketgazette.net

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International crowd sets up for Phuket 7s

By James Goyder

THE POPULAR Phuket Soccer 7s tournament will celebrate its eighth anniversary this year. Due to the increasing popularity of seven-a-side football tournaments, there are now three taking place in Phuket every year.

The Andaman Soccer 7s was introduced five years ago in order to accommodate a growing number of teams wanting to enter the Phuket 7s.

This year the tournaments will take place over two weekends, starting with the Andaman 7s on November 21-22 and following up with the long-running Phuket 7s the following weekend.

Local team Phuket Morning Star, who were the main winners at the Spicy 7s tournament in February, will be looking to build on their recent success at the Phuket 7s this November.

The island's seven-a-side tournaments have yet to secure a long-term home on the island and



Action from the Andaman 7s football tournament last year.

have used a variety of venues, including Karon Stadium, the FIFA pitch in Cape Panwa and most recently at Prince Songkhla University.

Organizers are hoping that future tournaments will all take place

on the state of the art artificial pitch which is currently under construction at PIA, but there is a question of whether or not this will be ready by November.

Meanwhile, an official announcement has yet to be made as to what venue will be used for the Phuket 7s, leaving many hopeful to play on the new pitch.

Alain Bruilfert, who organizes the tournaments alongside Tim Hodgson, feels that this year could be the biggest yet.

"This tournament has developed into one of the largest and most sought after Soccer 7s tournaments in Asia.

"At this stage, 80 teams from 18 countries are confirmed then we have a long waiting list of teams.

"This year, teams will come from all over Asia as well as from the Middle East, England, France, Germany and Denmark," he said.

For more information visit: www.phuket7s.com.



THE HASHERS: An eclectic bunch of Phuket fitness fun-runners.

Hashing it out

THE HASH House Harriers do not consider themselves to be elite athletes. They are as much a social club as a sports club, but while competition may be far from fierce, a group of up to 100 runners still manages to meet almost every week at various locations around Phuket.

The Hash House Harriers has over 1,700 chapters worldwide, or kennels, as the individual groups are affectionately referred to. The Phuket kennel was formed in 1986, just after Pattaya held the very successful World Interhash, a meeting for hashers from all over the world.

There are actually seven Hashes

organizing events in Phuket, including hashes for families, exclusively for women and for mountain bikes, but the main hash, dubbed PH3, is open to all.

Hashers in Phuket are an eclectic mix consisting mainly of expats with a handful of locals and a healthy contingent of dogs.

Once the race is finished the Hashers will settle down to the serious business of enjoying a few well earned drinks and each other's company.

For more information about Phuket's Hash House Harriers visit: www.phuket-hhh.com.

— Phuket Gazette



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FC Phuket reach for league glory

By James Goyder

FC PHUKET added even more energy to the hype coming from their growing fanbase as they came three points closer to their dream of promotion with a strong 3-1 win away at Pattani on July 11.

The away win, the Southern Sea Kirin's second this year, came as the second-place Satun United "Witch Doctors" were unable to work their magic against Surat Thani FC, going down 3-1 on the road.

Surat Thani FC and Satun United are now tied for second place with 27 points, seven points behind the top-of-the-table Sea Kirin.

FC Phuket also got some unexpected help from 12th place Phang Nga FC, who pulled off a shocking 1-0 away win at former league leaders Trang FC, who then fell to fourth place on 26 points.

FC Phuket took the field at Rainbow Stadium in Pattani with some confidence, having defeated the "Big Guns of Langkasuka"

Current standings: Division Two (Southern Section)

Rank	Team	Points
1	FC Phuket	34
2	Satun Utd FC	27
3	Surat	
	Thani FC	27
4	Trang FC	26
5	Ranong FC	25
6	Phattalung FC	24
7	Krabi FC	22
8	Pattani FC	21
9	Yala FC	21
10	Hat Yai FC	19
11	Nakhon Sri	
	Thammarat FC	17
12	Phang Nga FC	15
13	Chumphon FC	12

Source: phuketfcfanclub.com

3-0 at their previous meeting in Phuket on March 21.

Sarach Yooyen got the scoring underway early, taking advantage of

some chaos in front of the goal to slip a shot past Pattani goalkeeper Artur Philips just eight minutes into the first half.

FC Phuket stretched the lead to 2-0 at 28 minutes, after Nitiroj Sokuma took advantage of another defensive blunder by Pattani deep in their own end.

Any chance of a comeback was ended when Thawin Butrsombat hit the third goal at 82 minutes.

Pattani's Dumaka got his team on the scoreboard by converting a free kick at 89 minutes, but it was too little, too late for Pattani FC, who now sit in eighth place out of the 13 teams in Division 2 (South) of the Football Association of Thailand's Regional League.

In other division matches played over the weekend: Yala FC 1 - 1 Chomphon FC; Krabi FC 1 - Phattalung FC 2; Ranong FC 1 - 1 Nakhon Sri Thammarat FC.

FC Phuket's next match will be at Surakul Stadium on Sunday, July 18, when they take on 10th-place Yala FC. Kickoff is at 6pm.



FC Phuket defender Nives Petchjamras fires up the home fans at Surakul Stadium earlier this season. Photo: Fraser Morton

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