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Aldhouse extradition delayed

By Atchaa Khamlo

THE move to have British murder suspect Lee Aldhouse extradited from the UK back to Phuket took a step backward this week after the Phuket Public Prosecutor's Office returned the case file to Chalong Police for more DNA evidence, the *Gazette* has learned.

Mr Aldhouse, 28, is wanted for the August 14 stabbing murder of 23-year-old American Dashawn Longfellow in Rawai.

Despite an island-wide man-hunt, Mr Aldhouse managed to flee the island and then Thailand.

He was arrested by authorities at Heathrow Airport as he tried to enter the UK.

A Metropolitan Police spokesman told the press, "He was wanted on a warrant for recall to prison and has been returned to the prison service."

Phuket Provincial Prosecutor Tawan Sukyiran told the *Gazette* that he sent the case file back to the investigating officers with a request for DNA evidence from the alleged murder weapon, a bloodstained knife found about 500 meters from where Mr Longfellow was stabbed in his rented room at the Ya Nui Paradise resort.

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Maid throat slasher escapes mob wrath

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

EMOTIONS ran high in Thalang as local villagers and relatives of Sunee Premprasert, the maid whose throat was slashed by an intruder, reacted angrily to the August 27 re-enactment of her murder.

Mrs Sunee, 43, was stabbed some 80 times before her throat was slit and she was left to die bleeding on the floor at the home where she worked, said the police report.

The attack on July 22 was captured on CCTV cameras inside the home, an upscale residence near Sirinat National Park surrounded by cleared land.

The suspect, whose face was shown clearly in the CCTV footage, wore a balaclava during the re-enactment.

He remains unnamed by police as he is 17 years old, not in his early thirties as initially estimated.

Brought to the scene by Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pekad Tantipong and Tah Chat Chai Police Superintendent Sakchai Limcharoen, the youth was protected from the angry



A policeman stops one of the angry mob from attacking the vehicle with the killer inside. Photo: Pimwara Choksakulpan

crowd by a squad of officers.

The protection was very much needed. After the re-enactment, officers had to rush the youth into the waiting police car and hold off

angry witnesses trying to beat him.

Some climbed up onto the car's roof and tried to open the doors to get to him.

Present to witness the re-enactment was house owner Khwanjai Aroonjareornkul, 50, who also owns Nanachart Mansion, opposite the Pearl Hotel on Montri Rd in Phuket Town.

Also present were Sunee's cousins and village neighbors.

Police arrested the youth in Krabi on August 26. Officers at the re-enactment identified him only as a Thalang resident and a former student at Phuket Technology College with the nickname "Phee Dib" (Zombie).

After the murder, he fled to his cousin's house in Tambon Klongphon, in Klong Thom District, the youth told police.

Sai Khao District Police moved in and arrested him at the nearby Klongphon sports field.

During the re-enactment, he related how the murder unfolded.

He pointed to the bathroom window he scaled to gain access to the home, as well as the outdoor kitchen where Sunee was murdered.

He also pointed out some of the CCTV cameras around the house that he had destroyed.

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New U-turn to solve bus terminal woes

HOPES are being pinned on a novel approach to traffic control to solve the problem of how off-island buses will head north after departing from the new provincial bus terminal on Thepkasattri Rd southbound in Rassada.

Buses heading north is one of two crucial issues facing the new terminal, which has sat idle since its completion in December last year.

The other problem is the lack of a local administrative body to oversee day-to-day operations at the facility; neither the Phuket

Provincial Administration Organization nor Rassada Municipality say they are ready.

The Phuket Land Transport Office, which built the 128-million-baht station, said last month it was prepared to run the station on its own from October 1 until Rassada Municipality was up to the task.

But that announcement sparked a protest by local residents after they learned that the opening would entail scores of large tour buses having to make U-turns on an already-congested stretch of Thepkasattri Rd.

They also complained about the lack of

a public hearing before the station was built.

At a meeting held at Phuket Provincial Hall on August 26, a unique solution was proposed: As a trial project for three months, the existing set of traffic lights at the Tantalum Junction are to be modified to stop all traffic on the two inside lanes.

This, in theory, would allow buses to approach the intersection from the breakdown lane, giving them enough room to make the U-turn while all other vehicular traffic waited for them.

— Atchaa Khamlo



Similar U-turn traffic lights near Boat Lagoon.

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This Week

Back to beaches

Community effort hailed top priority in preserving the country's best beaches. **Page 4**

UK's tax vice-grip tightens



British Expats cry mercy with new UK tax rules. **Page 10**

Wine to whet your palate



Walking among the vines at a Hua Hin vineyard. **Page 15**

Raw food for thought



Discover the benefits of raw food with chef Brian Burger. **Page 16**

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Everything you need at prices you can afford, from jobs to homes. **Pages 25-34**

Sport



FC Phuket defeated at home in opening round of Toyota League Cup. **Pages 35**

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Turtle meat exorcism lifts sea gypsy spirits

SEA gypsies in Rawai held a ceremony on Mai Thon Island on August 25 to exorcise evil from turtle meat and seek forgiveness from their guardian spirit.

They were looking to appease spirit Balai Da Toe after two fellow sea gypsies died from food poisoning in June after eating Hawksbill turtle meat.

Many others fell seriously ill, but survived the meal.

The ceremony on Mai Thon Island last week involved the release of three sea turtles, and took place at a shrine to Balai Da Toe.

The release ceremony, presided over by sea gypsy shaman Hari Fongsaitan, began at about 10am.

About 20 villagers took part by bringing the remaining deadly meat for exorcism.

Phuket Public Health Office workers reportedly said that while the poisonings of the sea gypsies were unprecedented in Phuket, they suspected toxins might have accumulated in the turtle's flesh due to its diet, which includes sponges and jellyfish.

The sea gypsies taking part in the ritual believe otherwise: that the deaths and illnesses may have stemmed from the turtle being protected by Balai Da Toe.

To eradicate any lingering effects on those who ate the meat and survived, Shaman Hari blew incense smoke over the heads of survivors and pleaded to Balai Da



Villagers pray to guardian spirit Balai Da Toe before releasing the turtles.

Toe for forgiveness before releasing the three Hawksbills.

"We believe the turtle was caught in this area and thus under the spiritual protection of Balai Da Toe. From now on the sea gypsies in Rawai will refrain from eating the flesh of any sea turtle species," said Shaman Hari.

This will come as good news to the local office of the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMRC), which operates the Phuket Marine Biological Center on Cape Panwa.

The DMRC provided the three

Hawksbill turtles used in the ceremony as well as the boat used to transport the group to the island.

Paitoon Panchaiphum, head of the regional DMCR office in Phuket, said the ceremony would lift the sea gypsies' spirits.

The DMCR has an uneasy relationship with the community, whose poverty and traditional way of life often puts them in direct conflict with the marine conservation laws the agency is sworn to uphold.

— *Phuket Gazette*

Russian woman dies in high-speed smash

POLICE have confirmed that the woman who died in a high-speed crash on the bypass road in the early hours of August 26 was Russian citizen Vera Lovtsova, 33.

The accident occurred at about 4:20am in the southbound lane, in front of the Tesco shopping com-

plex. Witnesses said they saw Ms Lovtsova's red Toyota Vios traveling at high speed before it swerved into the median strip and smashed into a concrete pole. She suffered massive head trauma, a broken neck and broken limbs.

After she failed to respond to calls by the emergency rescue team, the rescue workers resorted to using "jaws of life" cutters to recover her body.

Police initially suspected that she may have fallen asleep at the wheel under the influence of prescription drugs prescribed for a fever.

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The knife, found between Freedom Bar and Ya Nui Paradise, has since been confirmed as *not* one of two stolen from a nearby 7-Eleven store, where CCTV images of Mr Aldhouse were recorded.

The knife is now being examined by Forensics Police at Police Region 8 headquarters in Surat Thani, Mr Tawan said.

The DNA results were expected to be added to the case file no later than September 3, Mr Tawan said, after which time he will forward the case to the Office of the At-

torney General (OAG) in Bangkok, the International Affairs Office of which will be responsible for contacting their British counterparts to request extradition.

Mr Tawan declined to say what the main charge against Mr Aldhouse will be, or even confirm that the case will in fact be prosecuted. He added that releasing such information at this time could affect future legal proceedings.

He did say, however, that Mr Aldhouse will likely face assault charges against his girlfriend, whom he allegedly beat while she was asleep in bed. That incident

was sometime before the night of the stabbing.

Mr Aldhouse's girlfriend, from the northeast province of Udon Thani, was questioned by Chalong police on September 1, the *Gazette* has learned.

The assault left the woman with bruises on her face, broken ribs and damaged kidneys, Mr Tawan said.

Mr Aldhouse also faces a lesser charge of theft from the 7-Eleven store, he added.

Whether Mr Aldhouse will be charged with premeditated murder or a lesser charge could play a key factor in whether he can be extradited back to Thailand.

Like many European countries, the UK does not extradite in cases where a conviction could result in the death penalty.

Aldhouse extradition delayed

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BIS wins 'best in Thailand' award



PM Abhisit Vejjajiva (left) with BIS School Manager Prof Dr Nares Pantaratorn (center) and Marketing Manager and Assistant Service Manager Surang Thiplueporn. Photo: Courtesy of BIS

BRITISH International School Phuket (BIS) has won the "Best Provider of International Education for 2010" in this year's selection of the Prime Minister's Export Awards.

Collecting the prize in person from PM Abhisit Vejjajiva at Government House in Bangkok on August 23 was BIS Headmaster Dr George Hickman.

In a recent school newsletter, Dr Hickman explained that the

award follows hot on the heels of BIS recording its highest International Baccalaureate (IB) examination results in the 14-year history of the school.

"Our IB Class of 2009 produced an overall set of final scores which exceeded the world average, and this outstanding achievement is something of which students, parents and teachers can be justly proud," said Dr Hickman.

Arson considered in pawnshop inferno

POLICE have not ruled out arson in a pre-dawn blaze that gutted a Phuket pawnshop warehouse on August 30.

No one was reported as injured in the fire, although it took five firetrucks 30 minutes to extinguish the inferno on Sri Sena Rd in Rassada.

An initial investigation suggests that an electrical short circuit might have started the fire, but the shop had been the target of arson attempts in the past, said Phuket City Police duty officer Sien Kaewthong.

Keen competition for customers among the many pawnshops on the island might have been a motive for arson, he added.

He will forward the case to police arson investigators, who are expected to question Sadayen "Bang Yen" Merteria, the owner of the warehouse, he said.

The fire was reported at 2am. Among those responding to the call were firefighters from Phuket City and Koh Kaew, who had difficulty accessing the flames that were largely contained within the structure.



Fueling the blaze were oil-filled drums, paper, plastics, wood and gas cylinders.

Windy conditions helped the fire to spread, and fueling the blaze were a large variety of flammable materials, including oil-filled drums, paper, plastics, wood and gas cylinders that sent out echoing booms as they exploded.

An inspection of the warehouse

found extensive damage, including a scorched six-wheel truck, valued at an estimated 500,000 baht, parked inside.

Bang Yen was not present at the time of the fire, though some of his employees were asleep in the area at the time. — *Phuket Gazette*

Maid throat slasher

From Page 1

He retraced his steps through the house, showing where he pocketed 500 baht in cash and a mobile phone, the only valuables he could find in the house to steal.

He also explained what motivated the attack. The youth said he drank a few cans of beer before riding past the house. Stopping at the front, he threw a few empty cans at the gate.

Mrs Sunee told him off as he rode away, but her admonishments angered him into returning and entering the house by climbing over a fence into the maid's quarters bathroom.

The two argued at the back kitchen for about 20 minutes be-

fore Sunee told him to climb back over the fence, even placing a ladder there for him.

That's when he started stabbing. He stopped only after slicing her throat, he said.

He then spent the next two hours walking around inside the house before Ms Khwanjai returned home.

"He was not afraid of being caught because I arrived home about 8:30pm and he was still inside," Ms Khwanjai said.

"I knew something bad had happened, so I drove away from the house and called the police," she added.

Rawai mulls surau at Laem Phromthep

RAWAI Mayor Aroon Solos has confirmed to the *Gazette* that Rawai Municipality is considering plans to build a Muslim prayer hall (*surau*) at Laem Phromthep, the iconic peninsula at the southernmost tip of the island.

"The project has been proposed to Rawai Municipality council already. I think the budget will be about one million baht, but we must first discuss it further with the leaders from the [four] mosques and the Phuket Islamic Committee. We must also survey the area to find the right spot," he said.

"I think construction could start next year," Mayor

Aroon added. The announcement follows Mayor Aroon leading a high-level delegation to Baan Bang Konthi Mosque in Rawai on the evening of August 24 to talk with local Muslims who were observing the Ramadan fast.

Mayor Aroon told the *Gazette* that Rawai Municipality already provided 30,000 baht each year to each of the four mosques in Rawai to support their Ramadan activities.

From the 30,000 baht provided, each of the four mosques sends one person annually to complete the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca. — *Sitthipong Nongkaew*

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...Terrace

Local effort top priority for beaches

By Lesley Chittayanon

CONCERNED by the deteriorating state of the nation's beaches, the Pollution Control Department (PCD) has announced plans to launch a program aiming to teach coastal communities the importance of protecting their beaches.

The announcement follows the release of a PCD survey of 233 beaches throughout 18 provinces earlier this month.

PCD Deputy Director-General Worasart Apaipong expressed his concern about the poor quality of beaches and the toll of destructive activities: "Wastewater discharges are the main threat to beaches, and in many places, untreated wastewater has been

ACROSS THE
bay

released into the sea, leading to poor quality sea water."

Mr Worasart said officials will concentrate more on improving the environmental condition of low-rated beaches in an effort to raise their rating in the next beach survey.

The PCD Deputy shared his strategy. "The local community is key to fixing beaches. We are devising incentives for coastal communities to work harder in



Ao Bi Leh at Koh Hong was rated 'five stars', but keeping it that way is a top concern. Photo: Lesley Chittayanon

protecting beaches," he said.

The announcement bears special importance to Krabi province, which had two of its beaches bestowed a "five-star" ranking in the survey, from a total of just six nationwide.

The two five-star beaches in Krabi were Ao Bi Leh (also known as Ao Pilay) at Koh Hong and Koh Rok off the coast of Koh Lanta.

The other five-star beaches were Koh Samsao and Ao Kha beaches in Surat Thani, Lidi beach

in Satun, and Tai Muang beach in Phang Nga.

The survey criteria was based on how well the beaches adhered to the strict guidelines on environmental protection; pollution management; conservation of natural resources; and tourism management.

What stands out about the Krabi beaches that received acclaim are that both are located within National Park boundaries, with no human settlement nearby.

In contrast, Ao Nang beach, one of Krabi's most developed tourist destinations, is increasingly gaining a reputation for its water pollution, rubbish and tuk-tuk drivers.

The overall findings from the PCD survey reflect the general deterioration of beaches throughout the entire country; litter, pollution from diesel engines and waste water discharges are constantly increasing and are damaging beaches nationwide.

Krabi kids lend a hand

KRABI-based international volunteer group Projects Abroad recently enlisted the help of local school children in an effort to clean up Ao Nang Beach.

It didn't take the blue team of Klong Muang School students long to fill their refuse sacks. They gathered Sang Som bottles, plastic water bottles and even a baby's milk bottle. The bags were color-coded so glass, plastic and paper could be separated and recycled.

After the beach clean-up, the team headed out of town to the Royal Palace in Klong Muang, where they planted rare "lady's slipper" orchids in the palace grounds.

Members of the public are rarely permitted on the grounds of



A student shows his collection. Photo: Jonathan Aitken

the royal residence, but this visit was pre-arranged as a special gift for HM Queen Sirikit on her birthday on August 12.

— Lesley Chittayanon



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Convention center to be ready 2014

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

WORK on a world-class conference and exhibition center in Phuket should begin next year and be ready to open by mid-2014, attendees at recent public hearings on the project have been told.

Two days of public feedback meetings over the proposed Phuket International Convention and Exhibition Center (Phuket-ICEC), planned for the island's northern tip, met with no serious opposition, but some concerns over environmental impact and infrastructure needs were voiced.

The first hearing took place on August 24 at the Mai Khao Tambon Administration Organization offices near the Tah Chat Chai checkpoint. This was followed by a gathering at The Metropole hotel in Phuket Town the next day.

About 100 participants from various government agencies, elected bodies and members of the public took part in each session.

Presenting both groups with the proposed project design and draft environmental impact assessment (EIA) report was Prasit Suebchana and his consulting team from King Mongkut's Institute of Technology, Ladkrabang campus.

Mr Prasit, currently deputy director-general of the Treasury Department, served as head of the Phuket Treasury Office for six years, from 1998 to 2003, and is a key project advisor.

The 150-rai plot of state land where the project is to be built, behind Tha Chat Chai School, is administered by the Treasury Department's State Property Management and Services Office, or Ratchapassadu.

Under the current design, the 2.6-billion-baht center would include a convention hall, exhibition hall, 200-room hotel and a 100-



A preliminary plan for the project.

room accommodation facility for government officers and staff.

Although everyone taking part in the hearings agreed in principle with the project, concerns were raised over a variety of issues.

A representative of the Phuket Disabled Peoples Club reminded all present of the need to provide access and facilities for a range of people with different physical disabilities.

Another participant pointed out the lack of deep sea port near the center. "Transport of goods should be a concern. When international meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibition (MICE) events take places, most goods must be shipped in. Development of a deep water port near the center would help facilitate this," said the participant.

Others raised the issue of road access, saying Thepkasattri Rd was too narrow to accommodate



The project's environmental impact on the site's beachfront was presented at the hearings. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

all traffic during large events and no other roadways led to the site.

Another concern was that the center would sit idle for long periods between events. "It is impossible to have events all year round, so the consultants should add some entertainment and a shopping facilities for locals and tourists. This would keep the center active all year long," said one participant.

Mr Prasit said all of these factors had been considered.

The idea of expanding Thepkasattri Rd to four lanes had been discussed with Phuket Vice-

Governor Teerayut Eimtrakul, he said

As for shipping, an existing pier near Sarasin Bridge could be improved to accommodate larger vessels, and air access was not a problem due to the proximity of Phuket International Airport, he said.

The airport, Thailand's second busiest, is 10 kilometers south of the proposed site.

As for environmental protection, existing mangroves in the area would be preserved as a barrier against tsunami waves. Different species of mangrove vegetation could also be labeled for the area to serve as an educational and recreational area, he said.

As for public utilities, Mai Khao villagers worried about water shortages would be glad to know that a water supply system to be built as part of the project would be shared with their community, he added.

On the financial front, funding has been approved and both Finance Minister Korn Chatikavanij and his deputy Man Pattanotai want work to begin as soon as possible.

Mr Prasit added that after the hearing all of the comments and concerns voiced would be added

to the EIA report, which will then be forwarded to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) for approval.

Once the EIA has been approved, the next step would be to consult with executives from existing Thai conventions centers in order to gain from their experience and expertise in large convention center design and management. After that, architectural design work could begin and construction bid plans drawn up.

Mr Prasit said he expected the construction contract to be signed in mid-2011, with the work completed about three years later.

Mr Prasit said he expected the construction contract to be signed in mid-2011, with the work completed about three years later.



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A map showing the 150-rai plot in Mai Khao where the project is to be built.

Saving scrap to save lives

A POLICE officer in Phitsanulok has resorted to collecting scrap plastic while on duty to raise money for surgery on his two sick children, *Khao Sod* reports.

Sen Sgt Maj Thanat Chiang Saen's 10-year-old daughter needs an artificial stomach, which must be replaced every year. His five-year-old son needs major heart surgery.

He and his wife Jiraphan have spent more than 200,000 baht in savings on hospital fees and had to sell 10 rai of land belonging to Maj Thanat's mother and borrow money from the Police Cooperative Bank and from unofficial lenders.

Today the couple owe more than two million baht and need another 80,000 baht to pay for his son's heart surgery.

Maj Thanat tearfully told *Khao Sod* he earns 14,900 baht a month, but for the past two years hasn't had a single baht left after loan repayments are made.

Every day, Maj Thanat collects rubbish while on patrol and exchanges it, making about 100 baht a day, he said.

Dems sweep Bangkok polls

AROUND THE nation

THE ruling Democrat Party swept to victory in the Bangkok municipality and district council elections on August 29, comfortably beating opposition Pheu Thai Party in both polls.

The yellow-shirt New Politics Party (NPP) failed to win a single seat, despite predictions it would "split the vote" with the Democrats.

The Democrats won 45 of 61 seats in the Bangkok Metropolitan Council (BMC) and 210 of 256 seats in the capital's District Councils, while Pheu Thai won 15 seats in the BMC and 39 District Council seats.

An independent candidate won a BMC seat in Laksri District, while seven independents won District Council seats.

The Bangkok Election Commission estimated voter turnout at 41.15%.



Bangkok voters defied 'expert' predictions at the polls. Photo: The Nation

The Democrat victory follows the party's Bangkok by-election win last month, when Panich Vikitsreth beat Pheu Thai candidate Kokaew Pikulthong to a seat in parliament.

Ong-art Klampaibul, a minister and elections adviser to the Democrat Party, cautioned that the result

did not necessarily reflect what would happen in a national general election.

Voters paid more attention to individual candidates in local elections, while they looked at parties in the general election, he said.

Pheu Thai Party deputy leader Plodprasop Surassawadi said his

party lost partly because of the red-shirt protests.

"Bangkokians always think about the burning of the city," he said.

Mr Plodprasop added that the "silent majority" not coming out to vote was another reason for the defeat.

NPP Secretary-General Suriyasai Katsasila blamed his party's dismal showing on low voter turnout and "the fact the party did not cheat".

The party would have won some seats if voter turnout reached 60% to 70%, he said.

Meanwhile, Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) Permanent Secretary Charoenrat Chutikarn, who was in charge of the election, promised an investigation into why voter turnout was not higher.

One of the reasons was that the candidates did not campaign sufficiently to encourage the public to exercise their right to vote, he said.

He also blamed the poor weather, insisting the BMA had tried its best to get voters to the poll.

Thepthai gets more than a load

THEPTHAI Senpong, Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva's forthright spokesperson, received a parcel full of excrement in the post on August 30, *Kom Chad Luek* reports.

The parcel arrived at Democrat Party headquarters at 10am and was reportedly sent straight to Mr Thepthai's office without examination by security staff.

Inside the box was an envelope and a plastic bag. Mr Thepthai opened the envelope to read the letter, while another official opened the bag.

As soon as the bag was opened a stench engulfed the room and excrement spurted out onto the official's hands.

The letter was reportedly from "The Northern Isaan Association, Kumphawaphi District, Udon Thani Province."

It read: "I've sent you a letter to praise you for being a loyal dog for your owner. I notice someone has sent you a muzzle. I think this is a bit inconvenient for you, so I'm sending you a little bit of excrement for you to eat. Dogs like to eat excrement. If you've eaten it and you want to eat more, please go ahead and get the most out of life. The day I see you in northern Isaan is the day you die, you son of a bitch. Isaan people want to kick you in the mouth. Yours, Kan Muangkum."

Mr Thepthai said that the incident was just people who see things differently expressing themselves and that he was not bothered by it.



Thepthai Senpong. Photo: The Nation

He understood that in doing his duty he sometimes hurt this group of people, but that everybody should respect each other in performing their duties, and accept non-violent modes of expression.

Mr Thepthai, who serves as an MP for the southern seat of Nakhon Sri Thammarat, has been fiercely criticized both within and outside the Democrat Party for his outspoken comments.

In February 2010 he was quoted by *Matichon* as comparing former premier Thaksin Shinawatra to the owner of a dog farm and his red-shirt supporters to dogs.

In July 2010 he came under pressure to resign after claiming the red shirts had set up training bases where recruits were taught to use weapons.

Authorities denied Mr Thepthai's claims and the comments reportedly earned the displeasure of PM Abhisit.



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New traffic lights stall commuters

Who thought this out? The new U-turn lights north of Boat Lagoon are an absolute disaster. I understand the concept but the delivery has failed. Whoever set them up obviously doesn't have kids at BIS.

These lights have created an additional wait of over 20 minutes each way for everyone with huge traffic tailbacks, not to mention the anger that brews in people while waiting patiently.

Does anyone from the local government review their success or failure and change or modify to suit? I would like to think something will change and they will fix this soon.

*BIS Kidcourier
Phuket*

Does anyone care about Nai Harn?

The place used to have a bit of soul, but today, as I look around, all I see is the place being torn apart from its insides out.

Blighted by construction and power cables strewn all over the place, Nai Harn seems to be a lost cause. The road to the beach is too narrow and motorcyclists drive way too fast, without any consideration for local residents.

Most of the time it's foreigners I see driving their death-machines at high speeds, trying to impress whoever is within earshot of their mid-life-crisis-mobiles, or any girl they can lay their eyes on.

Idiots.

There never seems to be any police officers in the area, either. With new construction going on and more and more people

Look twice before making a U-turn

PLANS to introduce an "experimental" U-turn lane for inter-provincial buses departing from the new Phuket Bus Terminal 2 on Thepkasattri Road in Rassada is indeed a novel approach to a vexing problem, but one that is likely to confuse motorists who are unfamiliar with the rather unique approach to motoring we have here in Phuket.

To quickly summarize the proposed solution: departing buses will turn left out of the station and drive along Thepkasattri Road southbound in the breakdown lane until they reach Tantalum Junction. [See page 1] Modified traffic lights at the junction will signal all other traffic there to stop, theoretically giving the large buses the space they need to complete the U-turn and begin the journey north.

The fact that such a system has never been tried anywhere else in the world, at least that we are aware of, should set off at least a few warning bells, however. For it to work safely and effectively, everything will have to be clearly marked and there will also need to be an active police presence at all times, especially at night.

Most important of all is that all motorists will have to exercise patience, discipline and common sense, all virtues not necessarily in great abundance on the streets of Phuket. Failure to comply with the rules could produce some very messy results – such as being crushed to the thickness of a pancake by these buses, which can run up to 30 tonnes

moving to the area, I would think a heightened police presence would be a good idea. It also might be a good idea to drag a few of these motorcyclists from their death-machines and give them a good talking to, or a clip around the ear.

I lived in Nai Harn for a long

time before relocating, but coming back for a visit I am saddened by the transformation of what was once a peaceful part of Phuket. Let's hope someone shakes things up for the better, before it's too late.

*Sid Viscous
Nai Harn*

Phuket Gazette

before they are loaded.

This will not be the first time the Phuket authorities have resorted to "creative" solutions to traffic problems. The one-way system introduced in Patong in 2007 continues to confound visiting drivers. One unique characteristic of the system is the need for drivers to "keep right" on connecting roads, making them the only roads in Thailand where a North American driver would feel right at home: at least until he hit the next intersection, and quite possibly another vehicle.

When he took up his post early this year, Kathu Police Superintendent Arayapan Pukbuakao announced as his top priority redirecting the one-way system from clockwise to anti-clockwise by year's end. We hope he makes good on that goal.

As for the Rassada U-turn, if things gets ugly don't be surprised if local residents take to the streets in protest the same way they did back in 1986, when they burned down the tantalum factory that the junction is so famous for.

The *Gazette* would advise readers not to hold their breath waiting to see the outcome of this experiment, however. The new station continues to sit idle nine months after its completion, and with no opening date sufficiently firm to be announced as yet.

Next stop: decent public transport

Why is the local government planning to build a light-rail link in Phuket?

Is it that now Bangkok has its own Airport Link, costing the

capital city administrators more than they can afford and offering travelers absolutely nothing in terms of convenience, that we now have to have one too? I just cannot understand why Phuket actually "needs" a project of this magnitude.

Kudos to Anand Singh in last week's paper (*Island View*) for pointing out that Phuket doesn't need such an expensive project – all we need is some buses.

*Hitch
Patong*

Saving the island through change

After reading "Where bureaucrats fear to tread" (*Gazette* online, August 22), I have to say that I have fond memories of Phuket, touristic and non-touristic places and its people, about 15 years ago when I used to visit through Star Cruise.

I agree that the civil service must act quickly to accommodate the rapid change on the island. Infrastructure and crime prevention tops the agenda.

It is time that people are educated in making that change, even if it means pressuring local government.

*Islander
Kedah, Malaysia*

Floating a new idea

I think it's fantastic to see that Karon Municipality are taking serious steps to stop wastewater pollution in their area ("Tough new waste rates", *Gazette*, August 28 issue). Sure, everyone is going to complain, but how else is the municipality going to get local businesses to take the issue seriously? When it comes down to costing you money, everybody listens.

*Terry Seagram
Chalong*

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Issues & Answers...

Has bank online security gone haywire?

HAS Kasikornbank had a hacker access their computers? An email sent to me from the bank on August 24 said I could no longer transfer money from accounts for security reasons.

On August 28, I received another email from the bank about additional security measures for accounts.

I checked my anti-virus software and found someone has been trying to access my computer since August 24.

*Allen Clark
Phuket Town*

Customer Service Officer Khun Sukanya (ID 10530) at Kasikornbank replies:

The email on August 24 was not the result of a hacker accessing KBank's computer system.

It was a notice announcing enhanced security measures so that

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

our customers can now transfer money *only* to accounts that have first been nominated and registered on KBank's computers by the customer.

This of course will prevent any potential hackers from transferring money to an account that you have never transferred money to before.

If someone tries to transfer money from your account to an account not registered on our system, KBank will suspend the transaction until customer has been informed.

If the customer verifies that the transaction is genuine *and* adds the account number (of the account to receive the money) into

KBank's system, then we will make the transfer.

Adding an account to receive funds is very simple. A customer can choose to use a one-time password, or "OTP", and add an account into the system immediately.

Alternatively, a customer can be issued a second PIN number to enter when making such transactions. Please note that you will need *both* your original PIN and the second PIN to authorize accounts to receive funds transferred from your account.

To be issued a second PIN number, you can either complete the application form and submit it in person at your nearest KBank branch. This will take two days to process.

You can also download the PIN2 application form from the KBank website (kasikornbank.com) and fax it to your home branch.

This will take five days to process. The extra days are needed for the bank to verify that the application is genuine.

Real learning takes something special

FIRST PERSON

ALL parents want their children to be special, to have that extra something that other children don't have.

For most parents these days, that usually means being smarter.

The only way children get smarter is by learning, and the more opportunity they have to learn, the smarter they get. That's why children should be provided extra lessons or more opportunity for skill development than simply by going to school.

Have extra opportunities to learn helps develop children's brains. The brain is like a muscle: the more it's used, the stronger it gets. Research indicates that most people use only 30% of their brain's potential. Extra lessons help children to use their brains better, not just more, and extra learning in different areas improves different skills.

Children can start taking extra lessons from three years old, depending on the support from their parents.

The ability to speak English is given high priority in Phuket because the island's economy relies on tourism that needs English-speaking people.

For this, it is much better for children to learn foreign languages from a very young age. They will become "near native speakers" and will not need to translate their



Dr Worachot Garunyasopon, 29, has a master's in behavioral science from Howard Taft University in Canada and currently teaches four special students in M1 (first year high school) in Kajonkietsuksa School's English Program. Here, he talks about getting the most from extra learning for the child's benefit.

thoughts from Thai into the foreign language and then speak.

Learning any kind of art, such as painting, handicrafts and so on, makes children use their imagination and become creative. Using-hand skills is also an advantage. Learning music in particular helps them to concentrate and to control their emotions. The practicing involved in learning to play a musical instrument teaches them discipline. Also, children have better listening skills than adults. If they start early, they will develop an ear for musical notes.

Computers are also important today. Learning to use computers and the internet at school or in extra lessons is much better than just letting the child play on the computer at home, because parents never know what – or if – the child is learning anything at all.

Some parents worry about which lessons to start their child with. I say parents should let their child learn about whatever subjects the child is naturally interested in. But if the child later says he

doesn't like it, don't let him to stop or change immediately. Let him continue for at least 20 more lessons before making a decision.

Most people – not just children – like doing things that are easy. If it gets too hard, they give up. But if you have to do something say 20 times, then it becomes habit and little extra effort is required to do it, regardless whether you like it or not. By that time a child will know whether they really like, or dislike, what they are learning.

As for parents who like to teach their children at home, what we call "home-school education", I think that actually reduces the child's learning opportunities and is appropriate only for special needs children.

I urge parents to raise their children with love and care. Don't compare them with other children because each child is unique.

Base your expectations on your child's potential, not on what you want them to be. If you do that, your child will be a genius anyway.



BACK OFF: A small sample of photos taken in traffic in Phuket.

A license to kill?

AFTER reading the *Gazette's* recent article about red license plates in Phuket (*Phuket Gazette*, August 7) I would like to bring up another related topic; that of driving without a license plate.

Like most expat residents, who drive on Phuket, I see many driving infractions on a daily basis but one sticks in my mind.

I was waiting at a major intersection and when the lights turned green, a black, nondescript pickup in front of me pulled away fast and clipped a motorcyclist who fell into my path.

I braked in time and the motorcyclist was able to scramble away without major injury but as I watched the pickup speed away I saw that it had no rear license plate.

If I had run over the motorcyclist and was questioned by the police surely the first question they would ask would be, "Did you get the license plate number?"

Since that day it has become a habit of mine to play a solitary version of "I spy with my little eye" when driving and I cannot believe the high number of vehicles on the island without rear plates.

After reading this try it yourself and you will be surprised.

While I can, more or less, understand the 'red plate' dilemma how can we explain the 'no plate' situation?

The number of vehicles is staggering and range from mini-vans and luxury cars to rusty trucks where the plate could have indeed fallen off (around the same time as the brake lights but that's another story).

License plates can fall off but can only explain away a small proportion of cases.

Island View

By Roy McAllum

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

In some sightings it appears that the screw holes where the plates are bolted on have been filled giving a smooth appearance which leads me to wonder if the plates are deliberately removed to send out some sort of message.

Is the driver trying to say that he is somehow above the law?

Maybe this is a fashion statement to give the vehicle a 'Mad Max' appearance as with the bullet hole stickers so popular in Phuket.

I have noticed that many of the vehicles that have the rear number plate is missing, the front one is intact (but not always), so I think we can rule out a simple case of a car awaiting registration.

Given that there are so many similar vehicles on the road and many hit-and-run accidents, like the one I witnessed, surely the rear number plate is the most important identifier that exists.

This also goes for drug smugglers and other criminals.

In my opinion a vehicle can be a lethal weapon and as such requires a license in the same way as a gun. What, if any, are the penalties for driving without plates and why are they not enforced?

Apart from making the driver accountable don't these plates also bring in revenue?

With the recent advent of CCTV on the island and road blocks to control helmets it would be nice to know that these lawbreakers' numbers are also up.

...asking the questions that affect you

Bike bomb couriers or 2nd-class citizens?

I WOULD like someone to explain why, when you visit Jungceylon on a motorcycle, you are stopped by a security guard who conducts a search of the space underneath the seat of your motorcycle?

I ask because when you visit in a car, no search of the inside of the car is undertaken – ever.

I don't know exactly what is being searched for, maybe guns, knives, drugs or even a bomb, but I can assure you that whatever it is, a lot more of it could fitted into the boot of a car than under the seat of a motorcycle.

It seems that if you are riding a motorcycle it is presumed you don't have enough money to be able to afford a car and are therefore treated like a second-class citizen.

If you arrive in a car you are waived through and saluted.

If someone from Jungceylon would like to give me a different explanation and prove me wrong,

I would be very glad to hear it.

Also, I would like to point out that at least Jungceylon provides covered parking for motorcycle visitors, something other large shopping complexes on the island clearly didn't think worthwhile even though a huge portion of their customers arrive on motorcycles.

D Wright
Phuket

Paul Rochel, Jungceylon General Manager replies:

First, I would like to apologize for any inconvenience and would like to confirm that customers coming by motorbike to Jungceylon are not "second-class citizens". Most of our customers come by motorbike.

The reasons we search underneath the seats of motorbikes and not open the boots of cars are:

- Customers coming by car to Jungceylon have to take a card and go through a checkpoint with CCTV, of which we keep records and can identify the driver later, which is currently not the case for motorbikes.

- We are looking for explosives and we use mirrors to check under cars. If there were a crisis situation, would also check the boot, though this is not currently required.

- Our coordination with police, and the experience of incidents in the Deep South show that motorbikes are more often used for planting bombs, and this is the policy that police recommend for safety standards.

Our policy is to salute all customers, and we will reinforce this. The number of motorbikes compared with cars coming to Jungceylon may explain why security guards find it not as easy to salute all the motorcycles arriving as it is to salute all the cars that arrive.

However, I confirm that all our customers should be welcomed and security guards will be trained again on this issue.

Thank you for your comments. This will help us improve our service and improve customer satisfaction.



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Taxing times for British expats

Island Investor

By Bill Anderson

BRITISH expatriates living in Phuket who still have connections with the UK may face a challenge over their residency that could put them at the mercy of the taxman.

Under the new guidance, UK tax authorities will scrutinise more closely the non-resident status of British citizens living overseas.

With an estimated 50,000 British expats living in Thailand, the new UK tax rules are expected to have an immediate and long-term impact on Thailand's economy.

Until last year, British expats could claim non-residency status if they spent no more than 91 days a year in the UK. Now, the number of days spent in the UK is only one factor.

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) are going to look at many things about the way your life is arranged and decide if

HMRC is looking at:

- i Property and whether it is rented
- i Where you stay when in the UK
- i Correspondence address
- i Any commercial interests held
- i Education
- i Any bank accounts
- i Social activities such as club memberships
- i Mobile phone contracts
- i Any UK company pension scheme

the UK is the center of your life.

The new guidelines from HMRC require British nationals claiming non-resident status to prove they do not retain connections with the UK.

These links include having a property, holding sports or social club memberships, keeping a mobile phone contract and having family there or children going to schools or universities in the UK.

A Briton who makes regular visits home could also be liable for UK tax. UK residents are required to pay British taxes on their world-

wide assets and income, whereas generally non-residents only pay UK tax on income that originates from UK sources.

The changes in UK tax practice followed the case against Robert Gaines-Cooper, a British business tycoon who lost his appeal earlier this year to HMRC.

Mr Gaines-Cooper, who has established a business empire since the 1970s in the Seychelles, claimed to be wrongly denied non-resident status since he complied with HMRC guidance.

He is now facing a tax bill estimated to be in the region of GB 20 million pounds.

British expats should make three checks. The first is to ensure they really are non-resident under the new UK rules.

If they could be seen as UK residents, the second step is to decide whether they want to change their lifestyle to sever the connections, which may mean not flying back to the UK every summer to visit their family and friends.



OUT OF SIGHT: Brits shoving their heads in the sand won't spare them from paying UK taxes. Photo: Flickr

Third, they might need to change their approach to tax planning.

If you are not prepared to make such changes, you might need to change your tax planning.

You might need to think about planning your affairs from the point of view of being a UK resident, which is a very different outlook to planning your affairs as a non-resident.

British expats with property offshore should take the necessary steps to convince UK authorities they are not UK residents.

Transferring a British company pension outside the UK, disposing of non-investment property as well as holding an offshore bank account are also recommended ways to indicate non-resident status.

This rule change could herald

a host of measures from Western tax authorities seeking to boost tax revenues from nationals overseas.

The big concern is that the next step by the UK and all the other indebted Western governments will be to move to an American-style tax basis, where all citizens are liable to tax on worldwide gains and income, irrespective of their residence status. This could affect millions of expats worldwide and have a huge impact on the economy of countries such as Thailand.

Therefore, British expats must ensure the UK is not regarded as the "centre of gravity" of their lives or financial interests.

Bill Anderson is the Phuket Associate Director of MBMG International.
E: bill@mbmg-international.com

TAT changes tack in luring high-end tourists

IN A bid to attract more high-end tourists to Phuket next year, tourism leaders will try a different approach in their marketing strategy.

Sailors and celebrities will be the focus of next year's efforts according to the director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand's (TAT) Phuket office Bangornrat Shinaprayoon.

The move comes on the back of hotel occupancy rates in favor

of four and five-star resorts, which had 25% more occupancy over the lower end of the market establishments in July and August this year, according to the South of Thailand Hotel Association president Suchart Hirankanokkul.

Another influential factor is Phuket being voted the Best Asian Maritime Capital by the Asia Boating Awards this year, and the amount of luxury services

available around the island.

"At the moment, middle-income tourists make up the majority of arrivals in Phuket. Overseas marketing that promotes Phuket as a high-end destination will be launched to attract more big spenders," says Mrs Bangornrat.

Property groups are also showing signs of following this trend. Phuket Ocean Villas, together with parent company Ocean Villas

Group, recently announced that they will be targeting China in the second half of this year as they look to add many more "high net worth individuals" to their database of clients.

Sales Director of Ocean Villas Group, Rebecca Smith said, "China has been on our radar for some time now as the wealth in the country increases and the number of new high net worth

individuals is growing all the time. China currently boasts over 477,000 millionaires and 89 billionaires."

Meanwhile, Mr Suchart said the combination of Phuket's growing high-end facilities would help the promotional drive next year.

"The revenue generated from an increase in high-end tourism would be great for Phuket," he added.

—Alexandra Andersson

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Revenue Dept targets startups, e-coms

Government looks to new and e-commerce businesses to balance national budget

By Anand Singh

THE REVENUE Department plans to increase taxes this year and next, aiming to add 350,000 new businesses to its tax base within the next fiscal year.

According to Mr Winai Witthawatkanvech, head of Thailand's Revenue Department, the planned increase in tax collection is part of the government's plan to balance the national budget within the next five years.

In the past, the government has been running a budget deficit, with public spending exceeding revenue collection.

Although such deficit spending from the public sector is vital to stimulate the economy during economic slumps, now that the national economy is recovering, it is expected that businesses will be able to expand their revenue and meet higher tax demands.

Mr Winai said the department plans to target businesses that continue to earn revenue but may have been left out as a source of government taxation, such as service apartments and e-commerce businesses.



ON THE UP: New Phuket condominiums and apartments are just one of many business sectors the government is eyeing to be included in next year's tax base. Photo: Jim Welch

The department estimates that there are around 10,000 businesses that conduct their trade through the Internet but do not pay tax. These are potential businesses that can be added to the country's revenue base.

According to Mr Sanchai Rattanasangoun, head of the Phuket Regional Revenue Office, the National Revenue Department holds a general meeting at the start of every fiscal

year to discuss taxation policies.

Details and changes to the taxation policies for next year, will therefore still need to be finalized in a national meeting to be held in October.

With regards to service industries in Phuket, Mr Sanchai mentioned that it is the duty of his office to decide which businesses are earning enough revenue and

are liable to be brought into the provincial tax base.

When asked about service apartments in Phuket, Mr Sanchai mentioned that there are a number of service apartments in Phuket that may still be liable for increased taxation.

"I believe most service apartments that are doing business in Phuket are already paying the correct taxes and contributing to the provincial tax base," he said.

"However there are also several newly constructed condominiums and apartments that have yet to register with the provincial Revenue Office. Some of these apartments rent out their rooms on a daily basis. If this is the case then they are classed as service apartments. Such businesses are liable to pay VAT," Mr Sanchai said.

"Increasingly more newly constructed apartments in Phuket are joining the market as service apartments.

"If the Revenue Department is able to prove that an apartment is letting out rooms on a daily basis, they will be liable to pay VAT as well, provided their income exceeds 1.8 million baht per year," he added.

According to Mr Sanchai, hotel businesses in Phuket contribute to around 50% of the provincial tax income.

Real estate businesses and construction industries contribute another 40% to the provincial revenue.

Abac voices worries over free-trade ties

BUSINESS leaders attending the third meeting of the Apec Business Advisory Council (Abac), which drew to a close in Bangkok on August 27, voiced their concerns over trade-protection measures, which have been increasing globally in the wake of the financial crisis.

The council also renewed its call for Apec member economies to work towards establishing a free-trade area within the Asia-Pacific region.

ABAC chairman Mr Gempachiro Aihara said that in the past, free trade and capital liberalization had increased employment, whilst helping to reduce poverty and social instability throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

As more countries resort to increased trade protection during

times of economic hardship, it is vital for APEC to renew their commitment to economic integration and free trade.

The APEC Business Advisory Council includes representatives from business communities in each of the APEC's 21 member states.

The council provides APEC leaders with information and concerns of the business sector.

The previous year saw the fastest decline in world trade since the Great Depression in the 1930s.

Many countries that were hit hard by the global economic crisis have increased trade protection to their home industries, reversing over three decades of continued effort in liberalizing world trade.

— Anand Singh



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A strange Splice of sci-fi life

Film

By Scott Phillips

Splice

Director: Vincenzo Natali
Starring: Adrien Brody, Sarah Polley, Delphine Chanéac
Genre: Sci-Fi/Horror
Gazette Rating: 2.5/5

THERE'S a reason old-school "creature-based" movies of the 80s are no longer made. It could be that the flimsy storylines that drive those sci-fi/horror films have simply run their course, and audiences expect a bit more. Or it could be that the modern target audience for horror – young adults – prefer twisted psychopaths to science experiments gone wrong.

Whatever the reason, *Splice* feels about 20 years overdue, and that doesn't help the fact that even if it was intended to be a homage to movies such as *The Fly* and *The Thing*, it's still a bad movie – and also exceptionally weird.

Splice does give the requisite explanatory scene on the science behind what happens – but eh, whatever. Nowadays, audiences don't need a scientific theory to justify a bloodbath.

This is the cell phone generation. Just give us the sadist who got dropped on his head when he was a baby.

Nevertheless, giving credit where it is due: Clive (Brody) and Elsa (Polley), an ambitious and

free-spirited biochemist couple, are in charge of a breakthrough project that splices – or combines – animal and human DNA to make "perfect creatures" (which are nothing more than moving blobs of excess flesh).

Conveniently, they seem to have complete autonomy and unlimited resources to experiment with whatever their hearts desire, and Elsa decides she can quietly use the company's resources to make a "super-species" that she has envisioned. All she needs is Clive's support. This is a prime example of why people who are dating should not work together. Ever-wanting to be the supportive boyfriend, Clive agrees to it.

This is where the tone of *Splice* becomes confusing. As "the creature" first appears on the screen, it almost kills Elsa, but then it's cute. It makes high-pitched squeaky noises and clumsily jumps around the lab room in search of a hiding place.

Clive insists on killing it immediately, but Elsa proves that it is an intelligent and gentle creature. Together, they start to care for it and while hiding it from the outside world.

At this point, the film is like *E.T.* for grown-ups, which is what makes it all the more bizarre when weird sexual elements come into the situation – try to imagine what it would have been like if little E.T. discovered that little finger wasn't just for calling home.. Yes, a bit awkward. *E.T.* meets *Species*... It doesn't work.



TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE: *Splice* fails to make an impact in modern sci-fi.

As the story disappears further down the rabbit hole, some of the scenes are so strange that the audience was laughing out loud – myself included. What I can't figure out is if this was intended.

Cult classics like *The Evil Dead* became famous because they were aware of their own brand of humor so perfectly that they didn't need to make it obvious.

The result was a select group of horror fans laughing endlessly as others in the theater gasped in horror – more from the people laughing than the gore on screen.

That's how cult classics are made. There are scenes in *Splice* that come close, but are certainly not destined for the same cult status as *Evil Dead*.

Although some of *Splice*'s scenes are so bizarre and offbeat that they could have been intended to be funny, there's too much inconsistency clouding its potential.

In the end, *Splice* struggles to find its identity, but might find it somewhere among buffs of old sci-fi movies with lots of gore and storylines with gaping holes in them.

It is reminiscent of the days when blood and gore was indeed graphic but not as serious as the "torture porn" genre that seems to have reared its head in Hollywood today. Back in the times when movies like *Splice* ruled – gore was for people who knew how to take it with a sense of humor.

What else is on...



The Expendables

Director: Sylvester Stallone
Starring: Sylvester Stallone, Jason Statham, Jet Li, Mickey Rourke
Genre: Action/Thriller
Gazette Rating: 3/5

A TEAM of mercenaries specializing in a variety of destructive tactics head to an island in South America in order to assassinate a ruthless dictator. They discover that not all may be as it seems and the team's leader, Barney Ross (Stallone) is forced to make a decision. Sad but true to its name, the film comes across as a tribute to the action-heroes of yesteryear with a Hollywood-veteran all-star cast including Sly, Jet, Mickey, Dolph and cameo appearances by Arnie and Bruce Willis.



Piranha 3-D

Director: Alexandre Aja
Starring: Elisabeth Shue
Genre: Horror/Comedy
Gazette Rating: 4/5

ROUNDING out a week's worth of blood-soaked cinema offerings is a 3-D gorefest about a swarm of killer fish that threatens a group of strangers forced to stay close to each other if they want to stay alive. Chock full of everything a cheap-thrills monster movie needs, including gratuitous violence, nudity, and comedy, *Piranha* uses the 3-D medium like no movie has done before.

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(15.30)

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Robert Wigman

ROBERT Wigman likes wine, so he decided to open his own boutique wine store where he can spend his free time sharing his appreciation of the fermented juice with his many friends on the island.

"When I moved to my home at Laguna, I soon discovered I could not find a decent bottle of wine in the area, so I opened *Wine and Taste*. Wine has long been my hobby and I was interested to present the best of New World wines for the growing numbers of local residents."

He is proud that he offers only high-end and boutique labels, none of which are available locally. He has partners in Bangkok where they maintain an enormous inventory, in addition to the already large stock on the shelves in Phuket.

"I have a particular love for Italian wines and can offer such superior bottles as Gaja from Tuscany which rates 99 points from *Wine Spectator* magazine. It's an exclusive wine and I could only get four bottles for 2010."

But Robert has not always been focused on wine. He was born in Rotterdam, Holland and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Electronics. Because he likes people and communicates well, he worked his first five years out of school in sales, for a French electrical equipment and electronics company.

EXPAT gallery

By Bruce Stanley

He then joined a Dutch engineering firm and worked as a marketing person for high voltage equipment, and later became involved in the export business. By the time Robert was 27 years old, he had his own staff and was traveling abroad to such developing countries as Egypt, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

He spent the next 25 years as Sales Manager for another French company, a provider of high-end electronic components for the aerospace and maritime industries.

He was posted to Germany, France, Holland and finally Singapore. He rose through the ranks of the company holding positions as Sales and Marketing Director, Commercial Director, and Regional Director and Vice President - Sales and Marketing.

When he was posted to Singapore, he and his wife Maggy soon bought an apartment at The Allamanda in Laguna Phuket as he wanted to pursue his interest in golf and enjoy the beauty of Phuket.

"Phuket was the natural choice for us when we decided to retire. It's a beautiful island with good hospitals and easy transport to Europe. We both love Asia and are happy to have found this place."

In 2003, he built his own villa at Laguna Homes, the couple's dream retirement home. Then he decided to open the wine shop.

"I've been known to have a good nose for reds and I wanted to know more about Italian wines, which hold a very interesting mystery."

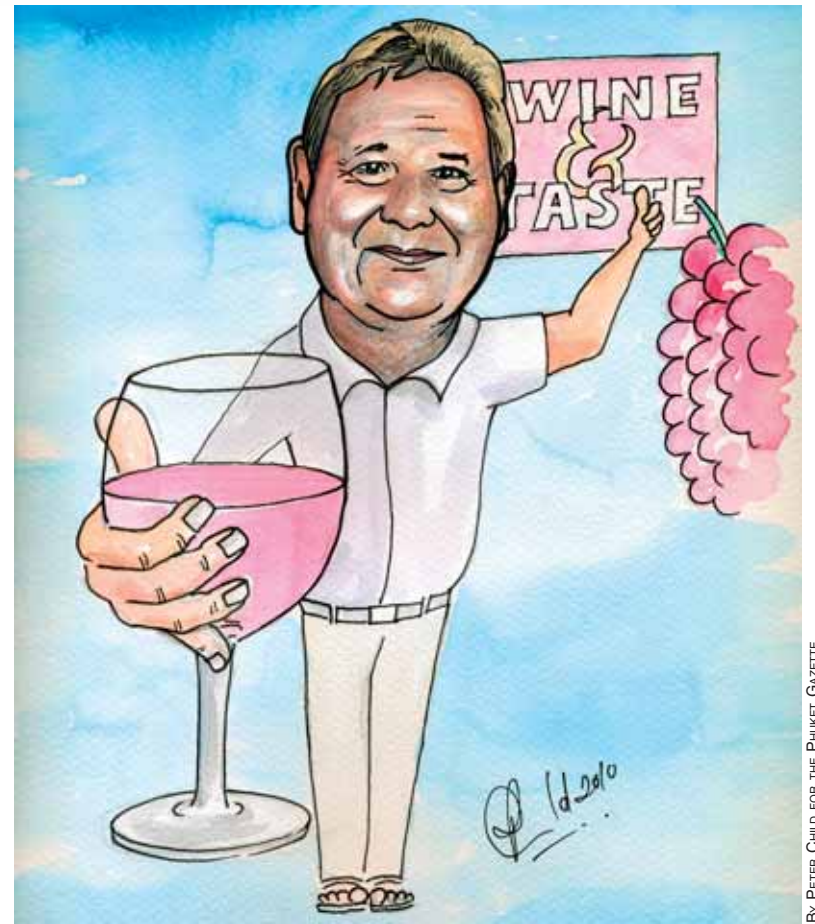
"In my first five years with *Wine and Taste*, we've developed relationships with 65 different wineries from countries as diverse as China, France, Australia and Argentina, and from California. So we can offer a higher-end quality not found elsewhere on the island."

Robert still plays golf when he can. He also hosts elegant dinners at top resorts, pairing his special wines with a gourmet menu.

"I recently held a wine tasting at Le Meridien Phuket. It was for food and beverage professionals on the island."

"On that occasion, we offered small bites of the resort's excellent cuisine, paired with some of my finest new wines."

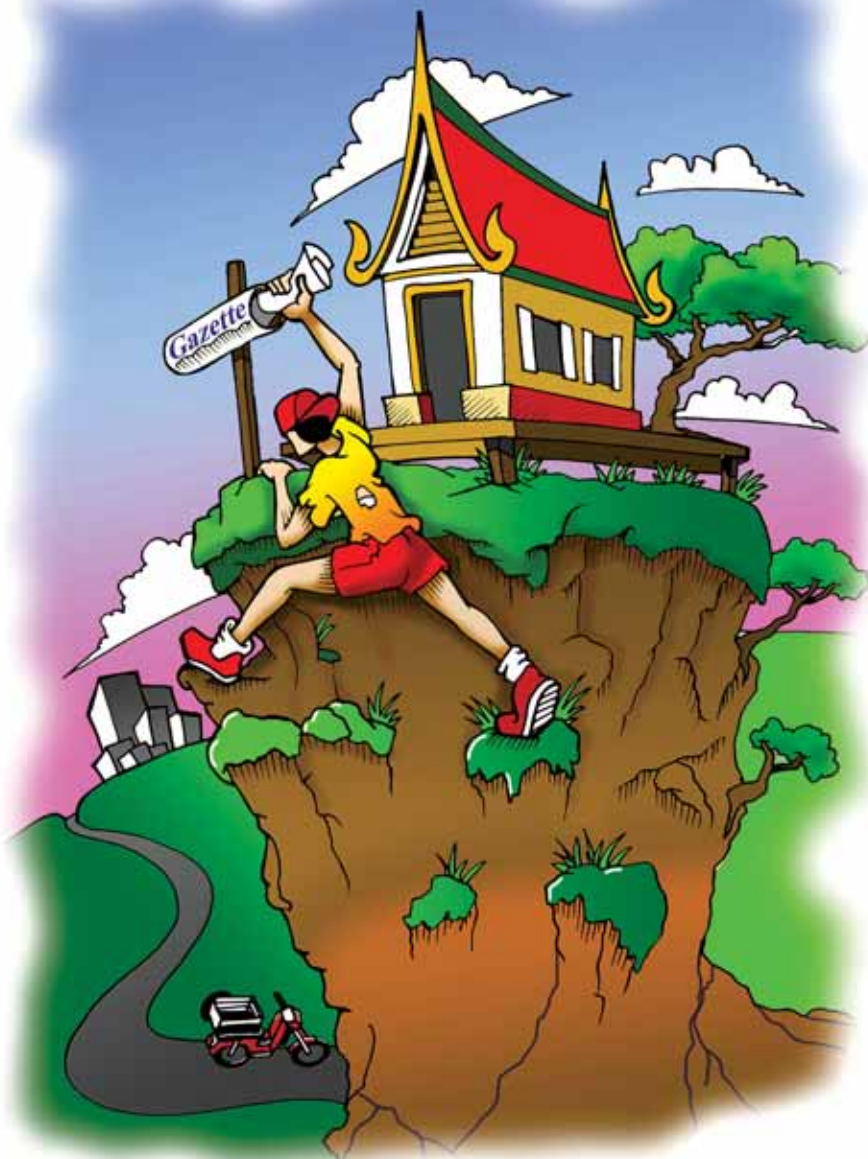
"Yes indeed, I'm having a lot of fun sharing my love of wine."



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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Hua Hin wine high

Travelers find there's plenty to whet their appetite, and thirst, at the Siam Winery.

By Lesley Chittayanon

THINK HUA Hin, and wine isn't the first thing that springs to mind.

But in the sultry heat of the southwestern Thai tropics, a region more famous for its beaches than its wine, there is a vineyard proving popular with tourists.

The Siam Winery is defying the belief that wine-making grapes can not be successfully grown in tropical climates. The company's Monsoon Valley wine, made from Thai-grown grapes is exported to 20 countries. Last month, the label won five awards at the 13th Japan Wine Challenge, to add to its accolades.

Previously thought to be an unsuitable climate for wine production, Thailand's wineries have been labelled as New Latitude wines. Siam Winery is helping bring a new wine culture to South East Asia.

Many experts believe New Latitude Wines, and their *terroir* (the personality of a wine due to environmental factors) complements Thai cuisine.

Siam Winery's vineyard (hua.hinhillsvineyard.com) is located on a former elephant corral, around 40 kilometers from downtown Hua Hin. A transfer service from Hua Hin Market shuttles visitors to and from the site; minibuses depart from the town at 10:30am and 3pm. It is essential to book your seat on the minibus in advance (telephone: 032 526 351).

After a 40 minute drive through the rolling hills of Hua Hin, visitors are greeted by a landscape which could almost pass for the Napa Valley. Until an ambling elephant gives the location away.

Neat rows of fruit-laden vines lead the eye to the winery's Sala Bar and Bistro which overlooks the vineyard. Designed by former Norman Foster architect, Sylvia Soh, the sala pavilion's design was

recently cited by the World Architecture Community Awards for receiving the admiration of many of their honorary members.

The bistro's menu offers guidance on pairing the Monsoon Valley wine with a selection of Thai appetizers.

Pairing wine and Thai cuisine is challenging, but the chef's choice at the bistro makes perfect sense. The aromatic Shiraz Special Reserve is a divine partner for the spicy beef salad with grapes, and the crispness of the Colombard complements the zesty seafood salad. Standard fare, such as fried rice, spaghetti, and sandwiches, are also available.

Entrance to the vineyard is free, but it's a good idea to book an organized tour if you want to gain real insight into the concept of New Latitude wine.

A tour package consisting of a wine pairing and tasting session, video presentation, vineyard tour by elephant back, and a souvenir, costs 1,200 baht. For 600 baht more you can add a three course meal to the package. Transfer to-and-from the site is an additional 200 baht.

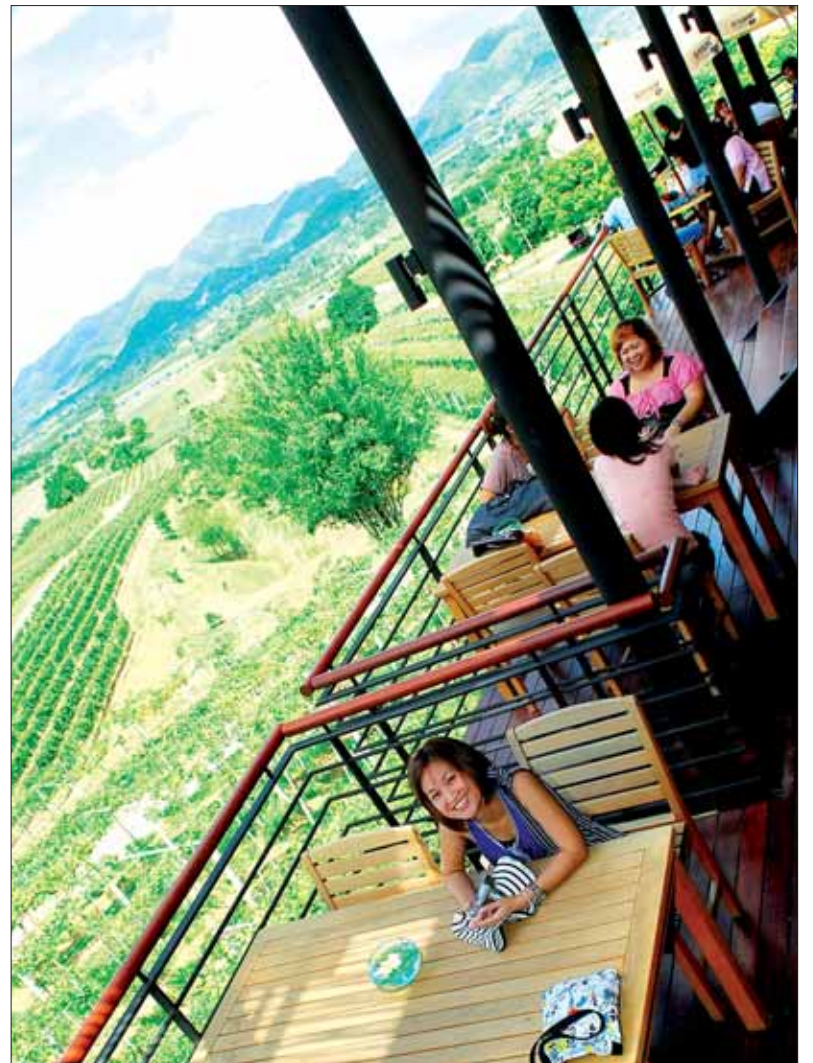
The vineyard is open all year but just before harvest season – late November to early March – visitors can view the vines laden with bunches of plump rosy grapes.

A visit to the winery will consume half a day, leaving time to explore other nearby attractions. Pa La-U Waterfall in Kaeng Krachan National Park is reachable and well-worth a dip mid-afternoon. Hiking the 15 tiers to the top, is no walk in the park, but experiencing the natural beauty makes it worth the mosquitoes, sweat and leeches.

Other local attractions include Khao Takiab (Chopstick Mountain) with its quaint hilltop temple, and Khao Sam Roi Yod National Park, home to one of Asia's most diverse bird populations.



LONG WALK: Amble around for hours.



ON A HIGH: Visitors enjoy breathtaking scenery. Photos: Lesley Chittayanon

Hua Hin travel tips

Travel between Phuket and Hua Hin is time consuming. It's a seven-hour drive north. Taking the scenic route through Ranong adds some visual pleasure despite lengthening the journey. Coaches take 10 hours and while the overnight train from Surat Thani guarantees a bed, it adds an extra leg to the journey.

Regardless of your mode of transport, be sure to make a stop at Hua Hin Railway Station. Thailand's oldest and most beautiful railway station was once a royal pavilion in Nakon Pathom.

Accommodation in Hua Hin varies from basic guesthouse digs to plush five star luxury hotels. If being within easy access to the night market, beach, and local amenities is more important than spa services and a squash court, you can find a good room for around 1000 baht.

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Raw food to rock your body

In the Kitchen

with Brian Burger

EATING raw food doesn't sound particularly mouth-watering, but it is when South African Chef Brian Burger is the one preparing it.

Chef Brian believes raw food contains benefits for both physical and mental well-being.

The Executive Chef at Six Senses Destination Spa on Koh Naka, says most green vegetables boost the body's ability to fight ailments.

He said living the "raw" lifestyle is about following a few simple guidelines.

Heating vegetables and meat

above 42°C destroys food enzymes which diminishes the nutrient value in food, according to Chef Brian.

"Keeping the enzymes alive is of the utmost importance because they are essential to the digestion process.

"By using uncooked, unprocessed organic food and following simple preparation steps, you don't need expensive kitchen equipment or a professional cooking background to create delicious healthy meals," he added.

"A common misconception is that the majority of raw food diets consist of eating salad and fruit, but it is far more than that.

"Anything you can cook can be adapted into a raw version,"

according to Chef Brian.

There are two concepts that fall under the raw food ideology: raw living and vegan.

Raw living produce includes uncooked and unprocessed meats and dairy. But not all produce can actually be eaten in its raw form.

"Some have toxins that need to be removed first and while most foods are simple to prepare, others can require advanced planning," said Chef Brian.

Rice and other grains tend to require soaking overnight to become digestible.

There are fairly lengthy processes for some raw food recipes such as crackers, breads and cookies which produce the

taste and texture of cooked food.

Most raw recipes usually call for a blender, food processor, juicer and dehydrator to achieve best results.

For *Gazette* readers this week, Chef Brian has recommended a quick and easy recipe for making zucchini pasta with dehydrated *shitake* mushrooms.

And if you like results, and want to know more about raw food, Chef Brian holds regular raw food classes on-site on Koh Naka Island.

– Nicky Vermeulen

For more information, or to talk to Chef Brian contact E: exchnaka@SixSenses.com or T: 076 371 400.



RAW BELIEVER: Chef Brian Burger.

Raw shitake mushrooms and zucchini pasta

Ingredients:

Marinated mushrooms

5 cups shitake mushrooms
1 red onion
2 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil
1 Tbsp nama shoyu (or tamari)
1 Tbsp lemon juice
2 Tsp lemon zest
1 medium clove of garlic, minced
1 Tbsp agave

2 Tsp fresh thyme, minced
2 Tsp fresh oregano, minced
2 Tsp rosemary
5 medium sized zucchinis

Coconut sauce base

(Should be quite thin, not thick)
½ cup of macadamias, soaked: 1hr
½ cup of young coconut meat
1 cup of Coconut water

Method

For the zucchini pasta wash and clean zucchinis. Slice and cut to resemble spaghetti. Sprinkle with sea salt to drain the water out and let stand in a colander for about 10 minutes until softened. Rinse with water and pat dry.

Mushrooms

Quarter or slice all your mushrooms and set aside. Mix the rest of the ingredients together in a blender. Toss the mushrooms with a little sauce and place on a teflex sheet. Place into the dehydrator at 40°C for 1 hour.

Sauce

Blend coconut sauce ingredients until smooth. Add a third of the marinate mushrooms and pulse.

Serve

Mix the sauce with the zucchini and toss so the sauce coats the pasta. Add the dehydrated mushrooms. Garnish with some raw pesto. Serves four people.





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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

September 5. Phuket Yacht Club 'Back to School' Catch Up

All are welcome to attend the "Back to School" social and open day. Enjoy a beach buffet, catch up with friends and make some new ones at the Phuket Yacht Club in Ao Yon at the south end of the island. Kids can play on the beach, paddle a kayak, or go for a dinghy ride. From 10:30am-4pm. For further information contact Donna Stephens.

T: 086-1200752

E: phuketyachtclub@gmail.com

W: phuketyachtclub.info

September 5. Floyd's final farewell

Floyd's Brasserie will close business on September 5, but they aren't going quietly! In a manner true to style, the last-ever Floyd's Sunday Brunch: 12 noon-4pm. Feast on imported oysters, seafood, special carvery, fresh pasta, European cheese, cold cuts, fabulous desserts and much more. In addition to offering a fabulous buffet, enjoy a free-flow of wine, smoothies and live band *Groove Trio* playing live jazz and vocals. Price: 1,600 baht per person. Includes one free Floyd's souvenir. Booking recommended.

Adult Futsal League – Season 5



The Adult Futsal League (AFL) will kick off every Thursday, starting September 2 at 6pm. Only 700 baht per team, over 18s only. The Veterans Futsal League (VFL), for over 40s only, will start September 6 at 6pm. Only 600 baht per team. Games take place at the PIA Sports and Leisure Club (PIASLC) in Thalang on a FIFA-approved astroturf football pitch. Contact football@PhuketInternationalAcademy.com or visit [W: PhuketInternationalAcademy.com](http://W:PhuketInternationalAcademy.com) T: 076-336000 for more information.

September 5. Amateur Golf Open Tournament

The third round of the tournament to find Phuket's best amateur golfer is being held at the Blue Canyon Country Club's Lakes Course. Trophies will be awarded to the top three players in each flight. The top two places in each flight will join the 12 qualifiers from the previous rounds in the season-ending Master's event, to be held in May 2011. From 12pm-3pm. Contact Neil or Mark T: 087-856 4426 E: phuketamateurgolfopen@gmail.com W: phuketamateurgolfopen.com

September 11. Phuket Surf Lifesaving Carnival 2010

The Phuket Lifeguard Club will host a full day of beach and water events from Under-15s to Over-50s age groups. All are welcome to join the fun and compete. Registration from 8:30am, events start at 9am. Official opening by the Phuket Provincial Administration Organisation is at 10:30am. The *Phuket Gazette* and *PGTV* are sponsors of this event.

September 16. Phuket International Women's Club monthly lunch

This month's lunch will be held at The Holiday Inn, Patong. All are welcome. Members: 450 baht; Guests: 600 baht. Prior registration is essential as this is always a popular event. From 10:30am-2pm at The Holiday Inn hotel in Patong. For further information contact Carole. T: 085-7821332 or 076-271727 E: info@phuketiwc.com W: phuketiwc.com

September 17. Curry Fridays

Every second Friday is "Curry Friday" night, where you get the chance to enjoy an authentic and lavish Indian curry buffet. Selections include all-time favorite chicken tikka masala, very spicy mutton vindaloo, juicy kebabs, chickpea curry and much more. Served with nan bread and basmati rice. All you can eat for only 399 baht. Draught Beer by the glass for just 50 baht. Special discount on beverages. Venue: Navrang Mahal

Indian Restaurant at Karon Sea Sands Resort & Spa. Time: 7pm-11:30pm. For reservations, please call: 076-286464, ext 4. For other information contact Mr Seemant Raju. T: 081-629 5063 E: sm@karonseasand.com or visit [W: karonseasand.com](http://W:karonseasand.com). The next Curry Friday will be held on October 1.

September 19. Phuket Yacht Club 'Wet and Wild' race day

Come along to the Phuket Yacht Club for a fun day of swimming, food and good company at the "Wet and Wild" race and family day. RSVP for catering if you intend to come. If you are interested in racing tasars or dinghies and would like to be placed on the mailing list, contact Andrew at 081-894 1530 or email andrew@leemarine.net. From 9am-4pm in Ao Yon Bay. For more information contact Donna Stephens.

T: 086-1200752

E: phuketyachtclub@gmail.com

W: phuketyachtclub.info

October 1-3. Asian Hospitality & Travel Show

The Asian Hospitality & Travel Show will bring together suppliers and exhibitors in industries from all over Asia and will offer professionally coordinated business appointments between sellers and suppliers. Over 2,000 visitors are expected. From 11am-8pm at the new Häfele showroom on the bypass road. Contact Simon Samaan for more information. T: 084-768 0536 E: simon@events-thailand.net W: eventsthailand.net

October 23. End of Buddhist Lent Day (Khao Pansa)

On this day, the three-month rain retreat for Buddhist Lent (Khao Pansa) is over for the monks.

October 23. Chulalongkorn Day – Public Holiday

This holiday commemorates the reign of Rama V, who is remembered for abolishing slavery.

November 2-7. 2010 Swatch FIVB Beach Volleyball World Tour for women

Over 70 of the world's top volleyball teams will take part in this year's tournament. Volleyball clinics and an amateur tournament will be ongoing. Admission is free. From 9am-6:30pm at Karon Beach. Contact Geoffrey Rowe. T: 02-311 3414 E: geofrey@pentanglepromotions.com W: pentanglepromotions.com

November 13. 'One Night in Rio' PIWC's Annual Party

The Phuket International Women's Club annual fund raising event "One Night in Rio" will be held at The Hilton from 6:30pm-1am. Tickets are 3,000 baht, inclusive of cocktails, buffet dinner, drinks and entertainment. Early discount for tickets purchased by September 30. Contact Sue. T: 087-277 6948 E: info@phuketiwc.com W: phuketiwc.com

Free Computer Clinics

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

September 5 – Patong

September 12 – Laguna

September 19, 26 – Chalong

October 3 – Patong

October 10 – Laguna

October 17 – Chalong

For more info contact Woody T: 076-290468

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Grandparents Sokhoon and Amnaj Jitvileatlat (right) with their grandson Boonwiroj.

The PIWC's treasurer Sue Arnulphy (left) hands out a scholarship at the award ceremony.

Phuket Rajabhat University Students Chonnipa Saeju and Chodok Saknaweepon (below) also received tuition scholarships.



By Alexandra Andersson

SOME 55 students were awarded scholarships to support their studies by the ladies of the Phuket International Women's Club (PIWC) on August 25. So far this year, PIWC has awarded 196 scholarships.

Parents, teachers and PIWC members beamed from the sidelines as the fortunate students collected their scholarships at the award ceremony in Satee Phuket School's Mahogany Hall.

The scholarships cover tuition fees ranging from 10,000 baht to help children through the first three years of *mathayom* (secondary school) to 60,000 baht for a six year medical degree. Uniforms, books, stationary, lunches and living costs are also included in many of the scholarships. The program is designed to help students from impoverished and underprivileged backgrounds.

Boonwiroj Jitvileatlat, 13, from Bang Neaw is just one of many children who received a scholarship on August 25. His favorite subject is science and he wants to be a doctor. Like all the students who receive the scholarships, his grades are excellent. His grandmother, Sokhoon and grandfather Amnaj, both in their 70s have struggled to provide for Boonwiroj and his sister since their parents passed away when

Boonwiroj was just three years old.

"He once asked me if he would be able to continue on to higher education, I could not promise anything. I was very worried about his future, but now I am happy and I have hope for our family," says Sokhoon.

The PIWC scholarship program has helped a total of 625 students over the past two decades study a wide range of programs in mass communication, computer programming, medicine and teaching.

Kittituch Maitreejit is living proof of how important the scholarships are to the students. After completing a four-year course at a nursing college in Nakhon Sri Thammarat under a PIWC scholarship, he now works in the emergency room at Vachira Phuket Hospital. He gave a speech at the Satee school event, inspiring the other students and thanking the PIWC for helping so many young people have a chance at a better life.

Wipa Tanmanatragul, president of the PIWC explains: "We do not want anything in return from the students. We are proud that we can give Phuket young people a better start in life".



John Dux with scholarship students. Photos: Alexandra Andersson

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FINE WINE: The Evason Phuket & Six Senses Spa received the Wine Spectator Award of Excellence for the second year running. Celebrating from left are Alain Ruffier, Executive Assistant Manager, Krungsin Mungnarnkru, Restaurant Manager of Into The Sea, Frank Grassmann, General Manager and Lluís Cantons Pesarrodona, Executive Sous Chef.



GROOVY: Royal Phuket Marina (RPM) hosted a 70s themed Les Mills Body Pump Launch Party on August 28 for its fitness club members. From left are Andrew Jordan, General manager at RPM, DJ Tommy from 90.5 Blue Wave FM, Yulia Kisel, Praewprawlin Inchomchuen, Sales and Marketing Manager of Image Asia and Rattichai Suchaiyah from Baan Yamu.



DANCE FANS: Danzsteps Dance Studio invited Phuket families to come see student performances and watch the movie *Step Up 3* recently. Pictured is dance teacher Pathumwadee Khongwan with some young ballerinas.

Winners all round



PRIZES GALORE: The Rotary Club of Patong Beach held the Scrambles Charity Golf Tournament followed by a Golf Charity Ball at the Laguna Phuket Golf Club on August 29. The day was full of fundraising, gifts, trophies and prizes.

See page 35 for the Gazette's sport report on the event.

Photos: Wolfgang Man Kneisel



Winners of the best gross score were (from left) Nigel Peters, Martin Carpenter, Andy Jackson and Mark Phillips.



Winners of the best net score were (from left) Jeremy Stokes, George McCall, Mel Broitman and Mark Hemsted.

Happy birthday to you



BIRTHDAY BASH: Radisson Plaza Resort on Panwa Beach celebrated its first anniversary on August 21 with a special buffet and night of entertainment. From left are Director of Sales and Marketing Siriwan Nipatcharoen, Bangkok Airways Vice President of Corporate Communications, M.L. Nandhika Varavarn, Managing Director Pannida Chalermaphayakorn and General Manager Peter Schiess.

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◀ TO PATONG BEACH

TO SURIN BEACH ▶

WORD DETECTIVE

All the words listed below appear in the puzzle - horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backwards. Find them and circle them. If you are an especially skilled word detective, you may also find an additional 'secret word' hidden in the puzzle.

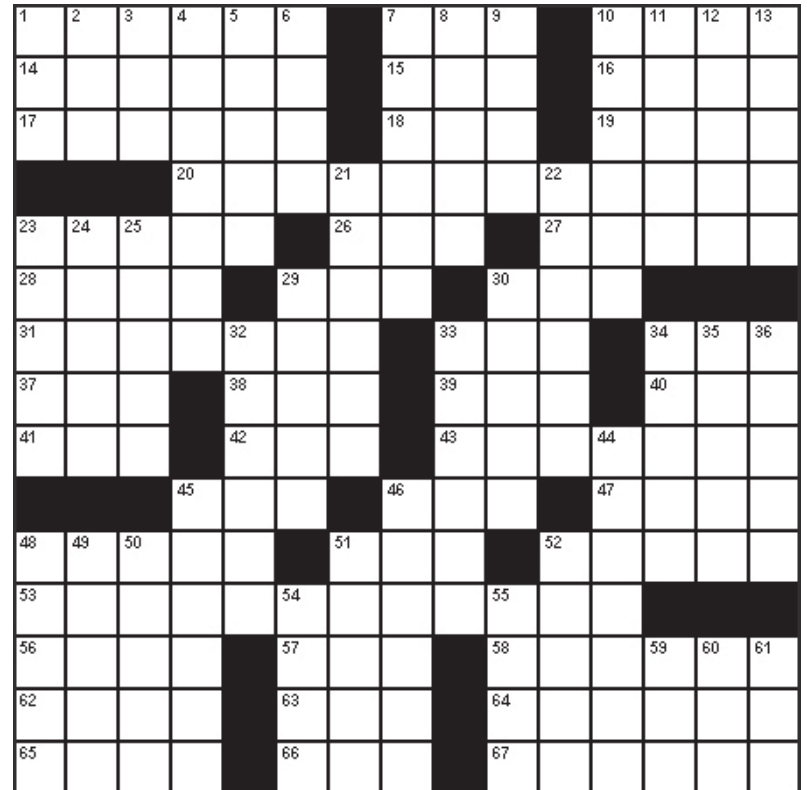
Theme: Tasty Thai dishes

N	Y	K	U	D	F	T	M	N	M	H	K	K	O	G
N	A	D	A	T	E	A	O	A	C	H	L	A	G	A
P	D	A	O	N	S	P	Y	M	A	H	R	N	N	E
E	A	I	W	S	O	O	G	I	Y	H	R	B	E	N
N	P	D	A	W	A	M	D	N	P	A	H	O	A	G
A	O	M	T	H	O	A	J	A	E	A	M	R	H	K
E	A	Y	K	H	O	E	R	E	N	A	B	G	O	A
N	H	C	V	M	A	K	I	T	E	R	G	O	O	E
G	K	I	C	V	K	I	H	K	A	N	G	O	M	W
V	J	P	F	A	R	A	V	L	G	V	W	M	Z	S
K	W	S	P	P	R	M	O	S	G	N	E	A	G	O
P	A	D	P	A	K	B	O	O	N	G	E	N	O	M
A	O	T	O	M	K	H	A	I	G	M	R	A	T	T
P	A	S	M	O	T	V	G	D	F	G	W	K	G	A
N	A	M	P	R	I	K	N	E	S	N	O	O	W	M

Tom kha, massaman, khao yam, nam prik, pad thai, penang, gaeng som, tomyam, somtam, larb, gaeng ped, moo haeng, kana moo grob, kanom jeen, gaeng kaew, pak kraphrao, khai dao, woonsen, tomsap, khao pad, pad pak boong, khao nieow mamouang, gaeng kieow waan, raht nah.

Across

1. Understands
7. Feeling of self-importance
10. Tempo
14. Persons in general
15. Failure
16. French 101 verb
17. Old West watering hole
18. How was ____ know?
19. Explorer Tasman
20. Teach
23. Slink
26. Eye infection, pig house
27. External
28. Actress Heche
29. Aliens, for short
30. Thunder Bay's prov.
31. Campers bedding
33. Hindu title
34. Chow down
37. Monetary unit of Romania
38. Broke bread
39. Common English beverage
40. Song syllable
41. Compass point
42. In place of
43. Ben Cartwright, for one
45. Bordeaux, e.g.
46. Bounder
47. Clasp for a door
48. Bears the ictus
51. Moo goo ____ pan
52. Pub orders
53. Fiercely
56. Other, in Oaxaca
57. May honoree
58. Greek goddess of the moon
62. Christmas
63. Flightless bird
64. Views
65. Sea eagles
66. Paris possessive
67. Three lines of verse

**Down**

1. Some docs
2. Actor Stephen
3. "You've got mail" co.
4. Upsetting team
5. Cheap wine
6. E-mail command
7. Decrees
8. Tough
9. Scent
10. Goober
11. Up

12. Minotaur's home
13. Conger catcher
21. Stableman
22. Sea off Greece
23. Fine fur
24. Leg joints
25. Excessive
29. Singer John
30. Mountain nymph
32. Uncouth
33. Make taut
34. Actor Hawke
35. Give it ____!
36. Diamond protectors
44. Device for cooling
45. Essential parts

Provided by BestCrosswords.com.
Used with permission.

Puzzle solutions on page 29

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Something does the trick to restore Virgoans' balance during the first week of September. Answers to pressing problems should become crystal clear this week and you will find it simple to take action. Romance is forecast to bring more satisfaction this month – those who have been trying to maintain a long-distance relationship see a viable solution. If your birthday falls during the week ahead, look forward to a more fun-filled year.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): There is hope on the horizon for those born under the sign of Libra who have recently been let down concerning a work situation. This week you learn of an opportunity that lies outside familiar territory, but could lead to more job satisfaction. Finances should be carefully monitored during the first half of September as unexpected expenses are forecast. Love with Scorpio is well-starred, but a relationship with Aries should be approached with caution.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): A mixed bag lies in store for most Scorpions this week. The strongest focus in September is on creativity and related projects and ideas are

forecast to go smoothly. However, money issues are affected by unsettled astrological conditions and it will be wise to start economizing at the start of the month. The stars suggest that at least one ongoing debt can be quickly cleared by better financial planning.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Some Sagittarians could be upset by an earth sign friend giving them the cold shoulder this weekend. It appears that false information is the cause of this and you will need to set matters straight. Tuesday is the most auspicious day for an honest conversation. Where romance is concerned, a date with Pisces gets the green light this weekend. The number seven can bring good fortune late next week.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): After treading a somewhat rocky road in August, this month promises to bring better times for Capricorns. Money matters are well-starred this week, with a payment due to surprise you. Your romantic outlook is strong – a fire sign is more interested than you suspect. Those who have been trying to find a way to end a relationship that was going nowhere will see closure soon. Wear a piece



of garnet to encourage more positive expectations.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Your energy levels are high during the first half of September and many Aquarians will be tempted to take on more commitments. The stars suggest that another air sign has intriguing suggestions this weekend. There is also firm emphasis on your social life this week – there are signs that Taurus is about to reveal that they are nuts about you. Financial dealings are best conducted on Wednesday and Thursday.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Pisceans are advised to take the high ground and resist responding to a work colleague's digs this week. A stormy astral atmosphere could encourage words to be spoken in the heat of the moment, particularly on Monday and Tuesday. Those who are trying to find a more desirable living situation should listen to an earth sign's tips. Where love is concerned,

your chances of impressing a fire sign are strong this weekend.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Many Arians will be over the moon this week when they receive news of a financial windfall. September promises to be a lucrative time, with the spotlight falling on promotion later in the month. Your luck in love also looks promising – those who have been toying with the idea of commitment will be able to come to a decision during the coming days. Wear the color chestnut brown to encourage a down to earth attitude.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Taureans looking for a new challenge can see beyond their usual boundaries this week. By the middle of September you will know which direction offers the best rewards. Those who have suffered a disappointment in love recently will be cheered by an encounter with an attractive air sign this weekend. This person is also ready to take romance slowly. Wear the color peppermint green to encourage fresh energy to flow your way.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Not too many dull moments for Geminis this week. Your luck in the world of work is set to increase – this is the

ideal time to ask for a pay rise. New responsibilities are indicated, but these should help to make your life more interesting. Where love is concerned, there are indications that an earth sign is about to set your heart on fire. The number four can bring good luck this weekend.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): The first half of September offers chances to expand your social life – another Cancerian can help you to have a good time. Making mistakes at work is highlighted to cause problems early next week. You are advised to pay more careful attention to routine tasks and not expect others to do jobs beyond their capabilities. Sagittarius is looking at you in a romantic light. Wear a piece of amethyst to promote good health.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Communication should be smoother than usual for Leos during the first half of September. Important discussions are best scheduled for Tuesday as the stars will back your efforts to get to the heart of the matter. Those involved in disputes regarding property could be helped when a water sign pulls some strings. Hottest days for romance are Tuesday and Wednesday. Wear the color lemon yellow to promote a cool demeanor.

PROPERTY Gazette

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

Toyota's third site nears the finish line



THAT'S BETTER: An artist's impression of the soon-to-open Toyota showroom on Choa Fa East Road.



WORK TO BE DONE: The construction site as it looks today.

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

CONSTRUCTION work on a new Toyota Pearl car showroom named "Choa Fa" is entering the final stages, and a grand opening ceremony has been penciled in for November 1 this year.

The new showroom is on Chao

Fa East Rd, opposite the Dowroong Wittaya School.

While the car showroom and sales office will open for business on October 1, the service center and launch party will follow a month later.

This is the Toyota Pearl dealership's third Phuket showroom.

The dealership has one branch in Rassada opposite Mission Hospital and its head office is located on Thepkasattri Road.

Toyota Pearl service manager Suchon Srianan said the new showroom is a sign of Toyota's popularity on Phuket.

"Last year, we had a great sales

year and many more customers are using our services.

"The new showroom will help support our growing customer base," he said.

Construction work is being carried out by Three Touch Engineering Co Ltd.

The new three-floor state-of-

the-art showroom will cover an area of 7000 square meters.

The new 100 million baht showroom is on course to be completed within budget.

Anyone interested in more information can contact Toyota Pearl T: 076-377600 ext 11.



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Real estate BC, today

Venturing back in time to discover what cave people and modern buyers have in common

LET'S take a trip to the dawn of civilization, when dinosaurs, or perhaps gigantic overgrown soi dogs, roamed the earth looking for their next meal.

When cavemen, sorry, cave people, scoured the land looking for shelter, hiding from the rain and searching for safety from predators higher up the food chain.

These first forays into "Real Estate BC" took into account the basic human needs. A place to live, to eat, and sometimes indulge in a spot of cave scribbling.

Of course, throw in a cave woman, cave kids and away you go to the next level of Neanderthal suburbia.

While caves were simple abodes, with the melting of the Ice Age along came the biggest infinity pools of all time: the great oceans.

Throughout the course of history, home ownership has had its fair share of trouble over the years.

In the Middle Ages for instance, property ownership was firmly in the grasp of the wealthy and those earliest of people who could afford rent, even if it was paid in lump installments of manual labor or farming commodities.

Fast-forward to the 1950s in



Property Watch
By Bill Barnett

America, and there was a mass call from families who wanted their own dream home. This spawned the rise of tract housing, or "cookie-cutter" developments, which saw rows upon rows of identical looking houses spanning huge swaths of land.

With a little help from Mr Disney and Lassie to help mold family values, the American suburban utopia was well on its way.

Sound familiar?

Fast-forward again to the turn of the noughties (00s), which ushered in the mysterious Y2K debacle, and home ownership had taken on a new face as property prices skyrocketed out of orbit.

Home buyers had become ravenous property scavengers, once again: Trading up time and time again, taking on vacation, second, or third homes, content in the knowledge that the property market was only going one way; up.

In the property market sunny days of the 00s, parents who were ushering their kids out the door to



A CAVE TO CALL HOME: The days of owning three homes and a retirement pad are gone for most people. Like the Neanderthal man, basic needs are priority number one for most home owners today. Photo: Wikimedia

university could sleep well at night, safe in the belief that their home was their own private ATM.

At a moments notice, these home owners could insert a property title and out came an unending supply of travel, luxury goods and of course, a posh little retirement pad with one of those great infinity pools to swim in their own success.

But in 2007, as we know, the bubble burst and everything changed. For many today, retirement has been put on ice. Personal wealth has been halved, quartered or obliterated in much of the West. Housing value has been slashed to ribbons and many estimate the recovery to take a decade, or longer.

When will things get better?

That, I cannot answer. Most likely nobody can, except for the octopus who called the World Cup winners, and even he's gone silent of late.

On the flip side, it could be argued that Asia is leading the recovery and the next decade could be a time when the region is really going to shine.

But for Phuket resort-grade

property – that has limited domestic demand and relies on the West heavily for tourism – things are not all that clear.

What is becoming clear, is that we are rewinding the clock, back to the start of the boom, when people bought property to live in, to use themselves, kind of like our Neanderthal chums of old.

It's not all pessimism here, what we can perhaps look for-

ward to is a continued trail of cave people who are end users. Those looking for shelter, safety, and yes, one of those ever-popular infinity pools.

History, like the property market, is never straightforward. Things happen. We adapt, and we strive on.

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

In brief...

Stars hit Khao Lak

LOCALS in Khao Lak are getting excited as Hollywood gets set to come to Greater Phuket.

Set work has commenced in Bang Sak for *The Impossible*, which stars leading man Ewan McGregor and Academy Award nominee Naomi Watts. Director Antonio Bayona has been filming in Spain and is set to move cast and crew to Khao Lak in October. Local hotels will no doubt be

jumping on the bandwagon to take advantage of the high profile event.

Courtyard discounts

THE Phuket three amigos of the Courtyard by Marriott hotel chain have decided a single hotel room just won't do. From September to the end of October, the properties in Patong, Surin and Kamala are offering special rates for suites.

With package prices including breakfast and food and beverage credits. Prices start 3,899 baht net. See www.courtyard.com.

Thailand Group takes over Manathai

BANGKOK based HotelCorp Ltd has taken over ownership of the 52-room Manathai Resort in Surin.

A renovated beach club is also set to open in November. The hotel management company is also operating the Manathai in Chiang Mai, a villa resort in Pattaya and have plans to take the brand name further afield.

HotelCorp also manage two hotels in Bangkok and another two in Phuket.

Graceland to expand into Khao Lak

THE owners of the 460-room Graceland hotel in Patong have broken ground on a new resort in Khao Lak. Located on approximately 40 rai near Bang Sak Beach, the property will be slated to open in early 2012.

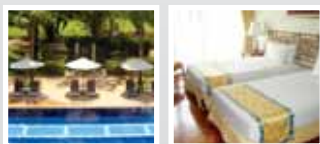
Do you have any breaking news about Phuket property? Email property@phuketgazette.net

LAGUNA

PROPERTY RESALE

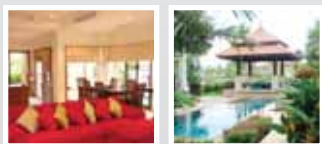
Properties for sale within Laguna Phuket

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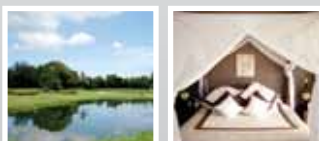
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- fully furnished • freehold
- golf course view

2 Laguna Village Townhomes THB 21.3 M



- 2-storey 4 beds 3.5 baths
- partly furnished
- lagoon view • leasehold

3 Laguna Townhome THB 24.5 M



- 2-storey 4 beds Townhome
- fully furnished • private pool
- golf course view

4 Laguna Village Residence III THB 27.5 M



- 4 beds 3 baths Residence
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- private pool • lagoon view

5 Dusit Thani Pool Villa THB 33 M



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Chinese mega-developer looks beyond light-rail

By Sitthipong Nongkeaw

YET another Chinese development company is vying for a slice of the Phuket development pie.

Executives from the Pan-China Construction Group Co Ltd met with Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop on August 28 to discuss the Chinese group's intention to construct a light-rail system for Phuket.

The Pan-China executives not only showed interest in the light-rail project, but also put on the table the possibility of taking on other mega-projects, such as private universities, hospitals and entertainment complexes, among others.

Pan China Group General Manager Yuan Shan said Phuket was famous for its high potential in tourism development, but that the island's transportation system needed much improvement.

"[Pan China] has ability to design and invest in developing Phuket into a more beautiful place and also to extend into

other kinds of business development in the future," he said.

However, the executives insisted on first conducting a study to ensure the preservation of the local culture and the environment before moving ahead with any plans.

Governor Wichai said his office would assist Pan-China with its research, if needed.

"As the company [Pan-China] representatives are interested in investing not only in the light-rail project, but the whole system, they want to conduct their assessment survey by themselves," said Governor Wichai.

To help the company in its research, the governor proposed the formation of a bi-partisan committee comprising Pan-China specialists and provincial officers so that the final proposals are in line with government policy and guidelines.

Pan-China is not the first Chinese company to express interest in Phuket's light-rail project.

On August 2, executives from the Ershisanye Construction

Group, a part of the China Minmetals group, met Governor Wichai to discuss their interest in the project.

China Minmetals was ranked 332 on the Fortune 500 list in July this year. The firm enjoys annual revenues of just under US\$25 billion.

Governor Wichai presented the Ershisanye executives with a copy of a government-commission research study entitled *Feasibility Study of Light Rail Transit for Phuket and Phuket Airport Rail Link*.

On August 23, the Ershisanye were back on Phuket to meet with the Governor and reaffirm their interest in the project.

As this newspaper went to print, the executives were seeking confirmation from the province and central government that they are ready to move forward with the project.

Earlier this year on June 18, Pan-China signed a strategic cooperation framework agreement with the Shanwei government in Guangdong Province, Southeast



HAPPY TO BE HERE: Yuan Shan, General Manager of Pan-China Group Co Ltd.

China, in connection with land area of 200 square kilometers.

The area, located in the Shenzhen-Shanwei special cooperation zone, is expected to attract a total investment of about 137.89 billion baht with a 15-year cooperation period.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva was due to visit China on September 4 to finalize details of another Thai-Chinese joint venture to invest in a high-speed train project for Thailand, said Finance Minister Korn Chatikavanij in August.

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Shining light on hedging shrubs

Gardening

By Green Sleeves



KEEN gardeners will have noticed that one of the most popular hedging shrubs in Thailand is a lustrous-leaved, evergreen plant with bright green, oval foliage.

If you look closely, you will see that the tiny leaves, usually about one centimeter or so in diameter, are slightly scalloped at the edges.

The plant is widely sold at garden centers in soft plastic containers, and is often used by resort and hotel landscapers to create rectilinear hedges. What is it?

My own guess, for what it is worth, is that it is Japanese holly, or *ilex crenata*. Thais call it *chaa*.

Sometimes known as box-leaved holly because of its clear similarity to European box varieties, it is used for low hedges and borders almost as much as the *ixora* and *duranta*.

Its popularity in Asia is reflected in the wide range of cultivars that exist, of which *compacta* is the smallest, and *maresii* the slowest growing.

These are landscapers' preferred choice. The columnar "Sky Pencil" is a surprising, but unusual member of the family.

Of all the tropical hedging plants, *chaa* is perhaps the most amenable



NEAT: Manicured shrubs feature in many prominent gardens in Thailand, including at the Grand Palace. Photos: Flickr

to clipping, a fact reflected in its frequent selection as a topiary specimen.

The Japanese influence is evident elsewhere in Thai formal plantings. *Ligustrum* or Japanese privet is a similarly compact and dense evergreen shrub, with masses of leathery, olive-green leaves.

The young foliage is very shiny, but loses its sheen with age.

A member of the olive genus, known in Thailand as *tonsai*, it is extremely tough, tolerates drastic clipping and can form a substantial screening hedge.

A number of cultivars exist, among them *rotundifolium* which is particularly slow-growing.

As its name implies, it possesses small, round leaves. The faster growing *texanum* has fragrant white flowers, and larger oval, pointed leaves reminiscent of *privet*.

When newly formed, the leaves are light green, but darken with age. This variety is a heavy feeder, and when placed next to other plants, is liable to deprive them of nourishment.

Nonetheless, it is deservedly popular because of its resilience.

It also retains its shape very well, and is frequently used to create elegant, conical tree shapes.

Outside the Honda Showroom on Chao Fa West Road there are some fine examples.

If one thinks of the hibiscus, one usually thinks of *rosa-sinensis*, the eponymous tropical variety, which is cultivated all over Phuket for its large, dramatic flowers, or more mundanely, as a tall, decorative screening shrub.

But there is also a variegated form, propagated as much for its foliage than for its smaller red blooms, which is often pressed into service as a low, formal hedge or border.

Since its mottled leaves are bi

fast-growing shrub and the foliage will thicken with regular, light clipping.

Like all members of the hibiscus family, it will, however, need good soil and plenty of sun to be seen at its best. If it is unhappy, it will likely contract fungal disease.

The fire bush (*hamelia patens*) is not usually thought of as a hedging plant. In Phuket however, it is routinely cultivated as a bedding or border shrub, where its clusters of tubular orange flowers can be seen to advantage, and makes for an attractive and unusual hedge.

The fire bush is fast-growing, tolerates full sun, has an open structure, and in the right conditions can attain a height of two or three meters.

But, unlike many rapid growers, it responds well to hard pruning, and can be regulated to medium hedge height if required.

The reddish stems and pale, oval-shaped leaves which turn an attractive shade of green and orange, make this a good choice as a formal element of your garden. It's easy to find in plant nurseries.

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

Tip of the week

Fertilizers: The dirty truth

FERTILIZERS are often in the news. Recently, Potash Corp, the world's largest producer of inorganic fertilizers, has been subject to a hostile takeover bid from Billiton, the world's biggest miner.

One of the reasons behind this is population increase, which demands more efficient ways of producing food.

Everywhere crop production is on the increase, and Fertilizers are central to this strategy, since plants benefit from supplementary feeding. Few soils on their own contain adequate nutrients.

Fertilizers can be divided into

organic and inorganic categories. Inorganic ones are chemically synthesized or mined, and are usually marketed in granular form in clear plastic bags. Commercial quantities are sold in 50 kilogram sacks.

They contain the essential macro-nutrients, nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. The strength and balance is stated in numbers.

Thus 16/16/16 (the most common formulation) means that there are equal proportions of the three elements in the mix. This basic formula is suitable for general garden use.


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FERRARI



Properties For Sale

KATHU LUXURY POOL VILLAS



2 and 3-bedroom villas, near golf course, 12 minutes from Patong. Price: 8.5 million baht. Tel: 089-724 7211 (English), 080-522 4433 (Thai). Email: julienmayard@me.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuket-cottages.com

4-BED HOUSE KATHU



Kitchen, living room, TV, 3 bathrooms, maid/store, UPVC windows, nice gardens, 110sq wah. Includes Chanote. Tel: 087-417 8187.

3.9M NEW POOL VILLA RAWAI

166-186sqm, 2-3 bedroom villas with pool for sale in Sai Yuan. Price: 3.9 - 4.5M baht. Tel: 083-594 9273 (English). Email: info@intiravillas.com Please see our website at www.intiravillas.com

POOL VILLAS RAWAI

3 or 4 bedrooms. Fully airconditioned, private pool. Fully furnished. Great rental price. Sale starts from 9.9 million baht. Tel: 087-893 8747.

TOWNHOUSE FOR SALE

Ban Leam Sai (near airport). Newly renovated. Price: 850,000 baht. Tel: 084-710 4847.

SUPER SEA VIEW VILLA PATONG

Luxury villa, overlooking Patong bay, 3 bedrooms, Chanote title, 1 office. Price: was 23 million baht, now 21 million baht or best offer. Tel: 086-982 2888. Email: prim_purdue@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at http://awphuket.com

2 HOUSES IN PATONG

for sale. Live in 1 rent the other or sold separately 5.1 million baht each. Fully furnished, well kept, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Center of Patong, 2 minutes to Jungceylon. Contact owner. Tel: 087-279 3312. For further details, please see our website at www.phukethouseapartment.com

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.

LAND IN SAIYUAN

2 rai for 13 million baht. Chanote. Tel: 084-837 4429.

URGENT SALE



New detached house in Phanason 3, Thalang. 253.25sqm, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, double garage, furnished and landscaped garden. 2.8 million baht. Contact Phing. Tel: 087-278 0067. Email: sweetpinkylive@live.co.uk

2.85 MILLION BAHT NEAR BOAT LAGOON



Jao-Fah Garden Home 3 in Koh-Kaew near BIS, 10 min to Lotus. 2 beds, 2 baths, 2 aircons. Nice living & kitchen room, car park, fully furnished. Ready to move in. Tel: 081-541 2025. Email: c.junlarat@gmail.com

4 BEDROOM PATONG SEA VIEW

Nice view, 5 mins to Patong Beach & town. 4/5 bedrooms/office space, 3/4 bathrooms (2 ensuite + separate toilet) 5 airconditioners & fans. Laundry room, European timber kitchen, large balcony. (130sqm x 2) + flat top (135sqm) ready for a jacuzzi & garden. Covered car + motorbike parking space. Possible to separate into 2 living areas with own entrance, kitchen and bathroom. Priced around 12.5 million baht. Negotiable. Tel: 081-273 1326 (English), 081-979 4547. Email: jeanwass@yahoo.com.au

URGENT SALE SEA VIEW PLOT

Super sea view land 139 square wah. 76 meters from sea level. Nor sor 3 gor. 2 minutes from Patong bay. Can be accessed via concrete road and has electricity supply. Urgent sale for 8.2 million baht. Tel: 086-982 2888 (English & Thai). Fax: 02-960 7050. Email: prim_purdue@yahoo.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.

BEACHFRONT CONDO

Located in north Patong, freehold, top floor, 2 bedrooms. Price: 9.7 million baht. Renting also possible. For photos call 086-276 5117. Email: jihshand@gmail.com

PATONG LOFT CONDOMINIUM

44sqm with fully new furniture for sale in Patong Loft. Price 2.8 million baht. Tel: 081-891 5932.

PHUKET PROPERTIES

Phuket properties for sale & rent. Tel: 076-385292, 081-892 5649 (English), 081-893 1360 (Thai). Fax: 076-221448. Email: noi@phuketinvestments.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuketproperties.com

30 RAI IN TOWN

Long lease. Near Daorung School in Phuket Town. Tel: 081-691 2526.

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.

THAI-STYLE VILLA IN CHALONG



Luxurious, lakeside, Thai-style villa in Chalong. Has 8 rooms and a swimming pool. Price: 38 million baht. Tel: 081-892 8740.

NICE AND SPACIOUS HOUSE



in Heritage Project, Kathu. 2 floors, fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 1 maidroom. 234sq. wah. 18 million baht. Tel: 081-8920190 (Warit), 089-6464823 (Rattana). Email: prayoon_jp@hotmail.com

THE HEIGHTS PHUKET CONDO

for sale. Beautiful pool and ocean views 195sqm. Best offer. Tel: 086-883 9815.

HOUSE & FURNITURE

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

CHEAP HOUSE FOR SALE

1-story house on land. 1.5 rai, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished at Tai Muang, Phang Nga. 2.5 million baht. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: yaris.vios@gmail.com

PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

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

LAKEVIEW HOUSE



3 bedrooms house in Chalong. Partner or sale. Tel: 087-417 8187.

SEAVIEW LAND IN AO MAKHAM



For sale. Chanote title, easy access in and out with concrete road. Price: 12 million baht per rai. No agent! Tel: 087-270 9093.

NEW TOWNHOUSE



in Phuket Inter villa project for sale. 2.3 million baht. 36.5sq wah. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, includes furniture, curtains, kitchen, 1 aircon unit, common pool access. Tel: 089-873 1009 (English), 081-893 8524.

3-BEDROOM HOUSE

for sale. 62sq wah, 2 bathrooms, Villa Dawroong. 4.5 million baht. Contact Khun Tar. Tel: 076-377052, 089-971 1268.

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

LAND AT PA KHLOK

1 rai, 18sq wah, Nor Sor 3 Gor, Tha-Rue - Pa Khlok - Muang Mai Road. Near Mission Hill. Price 3.5 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118.

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

for sale. Each building has 3 floors. On big road at Kamala Beach, near Krungsri Bank. Price 20 million baht. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: yaris.vios@gmail.com

3 OR 4 BED VILLAS

Rawai private pool, quiet area, fully furnished. Full aircon. Sale or rent. Tel: 087-893 8747.

LAND FOR SALE

Code L269 19.99 rai Naka yai island. Beachfront code L06336 76.49 rai Hillside near Loch Palm Golf Club Kathu district 10 land plots Haaduti project Por bay. Tel: 081-408 4991. www.kkasset.com

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NEW TOWNHOUSE

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: 081-956 2406.

TOWNHOUSE 2 STORIES

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

SURIN BEACH

Land on Soi Haad Surin 2 for sale. 2.2 rai, 5 mins walk to Surin Beach. Email: costello@hotmail.net.au

1/2 RAI LAND READY TO BUILD

Nice flat land located behind the shell museum. Very good location, private, pond view, concrete road and electricity. Includes chanote. Price: 3.8 million baht. Tel: 089-589 0085 (English & Thai). Email: micsta75@hotmail.com

PRIME SEAVIEW

Land in Mai Khao with fantastic panoramic view over Phang nga bay. 79m ASL road access & utilities. 4 rai, can be split: 5.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 087-417 8187. Website: www.phuket-estate.com

KATA APARTMENT BUILDING

8 suite western apartments with huge terraces, most with sea view. 130-160sqm. Options: 5x2 bed, 2 bathrooms, 1x3 bed, 2 bathrooms, 2x1 bed, 1 bathroom or penthouse. Over 1,400sqm developed at 35 million baht. Also owner's large sea view pool villa available next door at 10 million baht. Email: daladdawan@yahoo.com

PATONG CONDO SEAVIEW

Freehold, 125sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, big living room, Western kitchen, terrace with nice sea, mountain, city view. 11th floor, corner, big pool, car parking. Price: 10.8 million baht. Tel: 081-824 1385 (English). Fax: 076-293149. Email: jbiwo@csloxinfo.com

1,000SQM LAND

for sale. Near Nai Harn and Chalong. Flat, quiet and residential. Price: 4 million baht. Tel: 082-420 3134. Email: paul.phuket@gmail.com

LAND ON KHAO RUNG HILL

For sale. Located on Khao Rung Hill, 3.5 rai with project plan. Great 180 degree view of downtown and the ocean. Situated in Phuket town's upper-class area. Great for condos or a hotel. Tel: 089-772 3758, 089-408 1558.

VERY NICE SEAVIEW LAND

same as Soi Villas Solitude, Na-Kok, Chalong. 8 rai land for sale, Chanote title. Can buy separate. Price 7 million baht per rai. Contact to see. Tel: 087-689 9679.

RAWAI 4 APARTMENTS ONE SALE

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.

3 BEDROOMS HOUSE

2 story, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. No agent. Tel: 081-956 2406.

HOUSE & 6 RAI CHANTABURI

4 bedroom, 4 bathrooms, office with broadband, European kitchen and 6 rai of fenced land, private but not remote. 1.5 km from Sukhumvit. With Chanote. Price: 4.9 million baht. Tel: 087-059 7226 (English & Thai). Email: stevebragg28@hotmail.com

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

LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

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

RAWAI SEA VIEW CONDOS

Freehold 8.5-9.5 million baht. Tel: 082-801 3445. Email: troyadrian@hotmail.com

BRAND-NEW CONDO

Mid Town, Royal Place Project. Studio condo, fully furnished, reasonable price. Tel: 086-476 9612.

CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

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

TOWNHOUSE FOR SALE OR RENT

In Moobaan Tinawut, Samkong, close to Yada Dental Clinic. 2 connected buildings, 2 floors, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. For rent: 12,000 baht per month, sale: 2.8 million baht. Tel: 081-597 6302, 081-597 9441.

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.

KATU GOLF PENTHOUSE CONDO

Freehold 135 sqm. 1 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, 1 big living room, Western kitchen, terrace with nice golf course view. Price: 5.5 million baht. Tel: 081-824 1385. Fax: 076-293149. Email: jbiwo@csloxinfo.com

LAND MISSION HILL

Opposite clubhouse, overlooks a lake. 4 rai, 4 million baht per rai. Tel: 087-417 8187. Website: www.phuket-estate.com

KAMALA APARTMENT

Reduced from 7.1 million baht to 5.1 million baht. Apartment located in a serene, forest setting. Also ocean front condo. Tel: 085-641 1801. Website: www.phuketcondoforsale.com

HOUSE ON WATER FRONT

Boat Lagoon, Phuket. Nice, 2 bedrooms. Just renovated, freehold. Price 6.5 million baht or good offer. Tel: 081-788 8280.

FREEHOLD CONDO FOR SALE

44sqm with fully new furniture for sale in Patong Loft. Price 2.8 million baht. Tel: 081-891 5932.

TOWNHOUSE 2.2MTB
Villa 3 Park, Phuket Town/Chalong, 3-bedroom townhouse, 90sqm, Chanote title. Renovated. For quick sale 2.2 million baht. Tel: 081-788 8280.

4-BEDROOM TOWNHOUSE

Modern Sino-Portuguese house, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms and built-in kitchen, quiet area, near Tesco Lotus Kathu. Price: 8.9 million baht. Tel: 076-346269, 081-240 8924.

LAND IN KATHU

for sale. Baan Bang Tong area, Kathu, near main road. Includes Chanote title, 83sq wah. Price: 2.3 million baht. Tel: 087-889 5656.

NAI HARN LUXURY CONDO

2-3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 111sqm. From 4.5 million baht. Must see. Tel: 084-993 7308. For further details, please see our website at www.amphaiseabreeze.com

ROYAL PLACE CONDO

New 37sqm one-bedroom condo for sale at Royal Place, near the Tesco Lotus intersection on the bypass road. Comes fully furnished including all electrical appliances. Ready to move in August. Complex has pool, gym, restaurant etc. 1.85 million baht. Tel: 083-982 3768. Email: drbeamsnshaw@gmail.com

PATONG NICE 3 BED SEMI 6.5M

Spacious semi detached. Common pool/ gym. Off Nanai rd, quiet. Have photos. Tel: 084-441 3905. Email: ashworth.ross@gmail.com For further details, please see at: http://www.simplesite.com/Patong-House

CHALONG HOUSE SALE/RENT

Lake view, 3 bedrooms house on 400sqm and fully furnished. Price: 5.5 million baht or 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 082-420 3134. Email: paul.phuket@gmail.com

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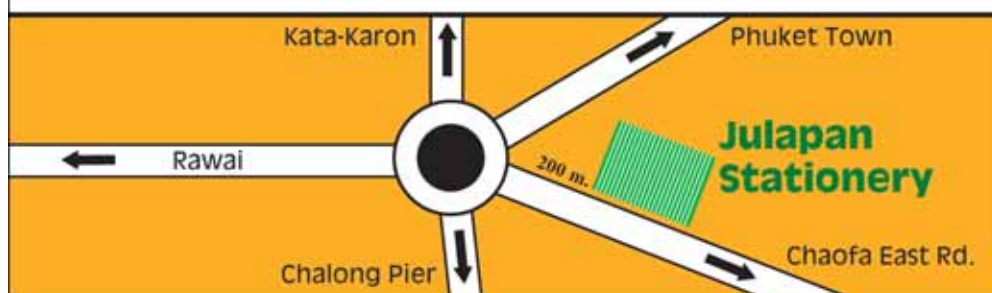
New condo in Patong: 46sqm, pool, fully furnished. 2.75 million baht freehold. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

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.

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3,900,000 USD

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Email: mark@leemarine.net

BAREBOAT WANTED

Wanted: bareboat motorsailer for one or two weeks around Phuket for a Swiss inventor and a Lincolnshire farmer with 30 years experience. Please text Graham as above for more information. Tel: +44-179-0763249, +44-777-4473916. Email: gla myman@btinternet.com

ONAN GENERATOR

Onan MDL3 Marine Generator 12kVA at 1,500rpm, 2,600hrs. Excellent condition. Recently underwent major service: new engine mounts, water pump, hoses, etc. Includes sound shield and muffler. Tel: 081-821 1812 (English), 081-819 5152 (English & Thai). Email: leigh@glslithotripsy.com

POLYESTER MOTOR SAILOR

6 meters. 28Hp Yamaha engine. Price: 260,000 baht. Tel: 087-893 8747.

DINGHY, 6 PERSON

Yamaha 40Hp. Chalamark Hypalon. 2 years old. Perfect island hopper. Price: 199,000 baht. Tel: 087-893 8747.

SPEED BOAT



35ft Yamaha 200 6V 25 people with big sound system and 2 engines. Included: life jackets, fins, masks, snorkels, banana boat that fits 3 people & all security items. Price: 1.25 million baht. Call for more details. Tel: 087-035 9241 (English), 083-102 5444 (English & Thai). Email: yellowsharktour@hotmail.com

CUMBERLAND 44 (2006)

Professionally maintained power cat. Sale price: 430,000 euros. For further details, please visit our website at: www.boatshedphuket.com

2 CRUISING CATAMARANS

55', 6 double cabins, 1.5 million baht. 38', 4 double cabins, 480,000 baht. All in composite. Tel: 087-461 8089.

BAYLINER 245Hp (2009)

Like new. 300Hp Mercruiser includes air berth. Price: 2.7 million baht. For further details, see our website at: www.boatshedphuket.com

PANCA 18' (2009)

Yamaha 40Hp, only 60 hrs, use c/w trailer. Price: 325,000 baht. For further details, please see our website at www.boatshedphuket.com

LAST NEW SEADOO JETSKI 255

Special hot price, NEW 2008 Seadoo RXPx-RXTx 255Hp. 70mph+. Price: only 480,000 baht! Contact tel: 081-754 7599. Email: csutivas@hotmail.com

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SWAN 42 (1992)

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BENETEAU OCEANIS 351 (1995)

Great condition. Awlgrip paint job. Price: US\$ 89,950. For more information, please see our website: www.boatshedphuket.com

8M SAILING CATAMARAN

Open bridge, wood, epoxy, fiberglass composite. 15 HP Yamaha. All 2 years old, anti-fouling new in 2010. Good condition and ready to sail. Equipped to fishing with 6 rods holder. 2 cabins and storage place. Thai registered with book. Price: 440,000 baht. Tel: +49-33-22293 0210. Contact for more details at email: stier@net-print.de

BAYLINER 175 BOWRIDER (2005)

Like new! Now reduced to 595,000 baht! 135Hp inboard. Tel: 089-932 5175 (English & Thai). Email: wojdkowbengt@hotmail.com

BOAT FOR SALE



Seaworthy & strong 35ft. Island Runabout (Thai registration). Fish or fun. 115Hp Isuzu 4 stroke. Diesel twin-disk 2:1 marine trans. Includes Honda 6.5 winch, Furuno Fcl-600L color LCD sounder, Furuno VHP FM 3000 radio telephone, portable diesel transfer pump 12/24V, portable air pump 12V. Sell or trade for Isuzu/Toyota. 4-door pickup (equal value). Call for more information. Tel: 081-978 0860.

MAXIM 380 CATAMARAN

Tidy and well equipped. Just reduced to US\$ 179,950. For further details, please visit our website at: www.boatshedphuket.com

RODRIGUES RHS 70 HYDROFOIL

Up to 60 pax at 30 knots in comfort & safety. US\$120,000 or rent at 250,000 baht per month. For further details, please visit our website at: www.boatshedphuket.com

MOTORSAILOR



Neptunian 33. Bluewater cruiser. New paint and varnish, inside and outside. Sailed single-handed from UK. Tel: 081-968 1437 (English). Email: bobedward1@hotmail.com

NEW BOAT SUNNAV 18FT



for sale. Highest quality with trailer. Price: only 270,000 baht. No engine. Tel: 089-476 7443, 085-352 1940, 076-377577. Contact for more details, email sales@sunnava.com or visit: www.sunnava.com

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SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES

Crossword puzzle:

1	G	2	R	3	A	4	S	5	P	6	S	7	E	8	G	9	O	10	P	11	A	12	C	13	E
14	P	15	E	16	O	17	P	18	L	19	E	20	D	21	U	22	D	23	E	24	T	25	R	26	E
27	S	28	A	29	L	30	O	31	O	32	N	33	I	34	T	35	O	36	A	37	B	38	E	39	L
40	I	41	N	42	D	43	O	44	C	45	T	46	R	47	I	48	N	49	A	50	T	51	E	52	
53	S	54	K	55	U	56	L	57	K	58	S	59	T	60	Y	61	O	62	U	63	T	64	E	65	R
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131	A	132	R	133	S	134	I	135	S	136	G	137	A	138	I	139	P	140	I	141	N	142	T	143	S
144	T	145	O	146	O	147	T	148	H	149	A	150	N	151	D	152	N	153	A	154	I	155	L	156	
157	O	158	T	159	R	160	A	161	M	162	O	163	M	164	S	165	E	166	L	167	E	168	N	169	E
170	N	171	O	172	E	173	L	174	E	175	M	176	U	177	S	178	C	179	E	180	N	181	E	182	S
183	E	184	R	185	N	186	S	187	S	188	E	189	S	190	T	191	E	192	R	193	C	194	E	195	T

Word detective secret word: Spicy

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- Verbal and business writing in English; other languages is a plus

Candidates for the above positions should also possess the following:

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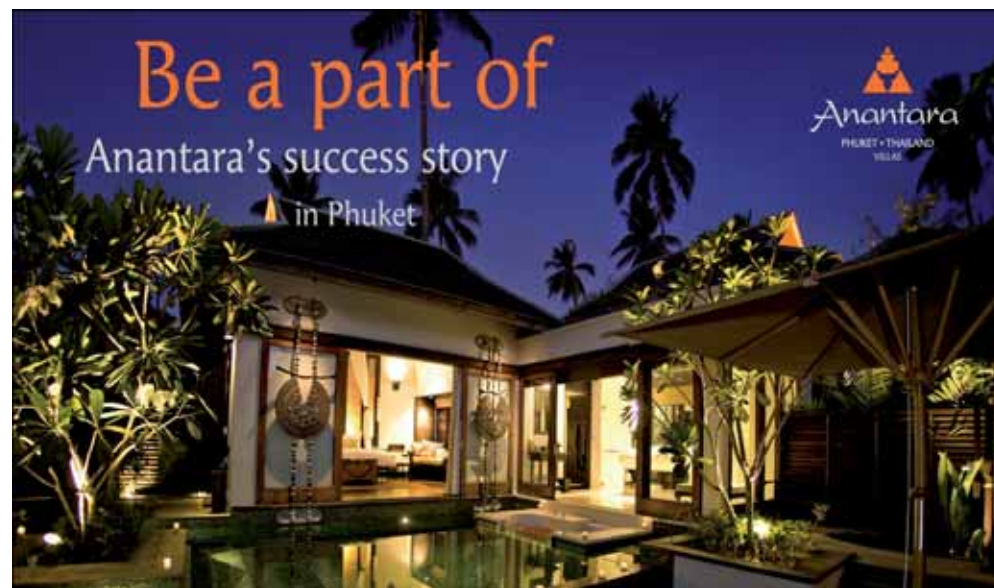
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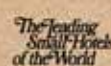
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Director of Sales & Marketing
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FAREWELL SCOTTIE



Long-time Phuket resident **Scott Daryl Whittaker** died in an automobile accident on June 10 in Idaho, USA. He was born October 7, 1952, in Midland, Michigan, to Donald and Bonnie Whittaker. He is survived by his wife, Jenny; daughters Amity Whittaker and Vanessa Addams; son Charlie; and three grandchildren: brothers Jeff, Tim and Paul sister Diane.

A Royal Thai Phuket Immigration Volunteer, Scott was an avid sailor and diver, volunteering with the many sailing regattas on Phuket and was a diver in the Patong Beach Clean-up. He will be missed.

Sport

FC Phuket defeated at home

By James Goyder

FC PHUKET were unlucky to be beaten 2-1 at home by Thai Premier League side Osotspa Saraburi in the opening round of the Toyota League Cup.

The first leg of the pairing, which took place at Surakul Stadium on August 29, was a big step up in opposition for FC Phuket, currently two divisions below their opponents.

It was Osotspa Saraburi who got the better of the opening exchanges, but with Diarra Ali an increasingly influential presence in midfield FC Phuket improved as the half wore on.

FC Phuket were growing in confidence and Nene Bi almost gave his side the lead on the stroke of half time when he got his head on the end of a long range free kick from Diarra Ali. The Ivory Coast defender was desperately unfortunate to see his header

across goal fly wide of the post.

Disaster struck two minutes into the second half for the home side when Phaitoon Tiepma was given time and space in the FC Phuket penalty area and, despite getting two hands on the ball, FC keeper Thamassaen was unable to keep his shot out.

Phuket FC's Poramat Krongburisut had a good chance for an equalizer after 57 minutes, but sliced his shot wide. It would prove to be a costly miss, as Osotspa Saraburi grabbed a second goal almost immediately after when Thai under-23 international Apipoo Suntornpanavej whipped in a free kick from the right that landed in the bottom right hand corner of the net.

It was harsh on FC Phuket, who had played on par with their high-ranking opponents.

To the team's credit they picked up the pace and were unfortunate not to be awarded a

penalty after 66 minutes. Kraisorn brilliantly weaved his way through the Osotspa Saraburi defense and was just about to pull the trigger when a defender slid straight through him.

The crowd rose as one in anticipation of a penalty, but the referee chose to waive away the furious FC Phuket protests and allow the game to continue.

A goal for FC Phuket finally arrived when Diarra Ali curled a brilliant free kick into the top right hand corner from 25 yards. It was a fine strike and no more than FC Phuket deserved.

Striker Chakrit Rawanprakon was thrown on as FC Phuket looked to grab an equalizer in injury time. The Osotspa Saraburi defense stood firm in the face of FC Phuket pressure and will take a commanding lead into the next leg.

The away goals rule means that FC Phuket must score twice in Saraburi.



BATTLING HARD: FC Phuket defender Nene Bi. Photo: Apinun Saithong

Amateur golf tourney

OVER 100 golfers will tee-off at Blue Canyon Gold Course on September 5, for the next leg of the Phuket Amateur Golf Open.

Players can still enter the qualifying heats which will see the top 25 players in order of merit rankings getting a place in the Masters Final in April. Qualifying heats have three handicap divisions: scratch to nine, 10-18 and 19-24. Maximum handicaps for players are 24 for men and 30 for ladies.

The next event, to be held on October 15 at Red Mountain Golf Club, promises to be the most exciting qualifying heat yet, with the winner receiving a wild card entry into the ProAm Asian Senior Masters Tour.

For more information, contact Neil Taylor or Khun Laong on T: 082-280-3486 (English) or T: 0878564426 (Thai) or register online at W: Phuket-Times.com.

Swinging with the good times

ROTARIAN golfers and friends teed off at the Laguna Phuket Golf Club on the morning of August 29 in support of needy children in Phang Nga province.

The Four-Ball Texas Scramble saw Jeremy Stokes, Mel Broitman, Mark Hemstedt and George McCall produce a whopping 17 under par round earning them the number one spot.

Miss Parichat Namchoo took the longest drive prize for the ladies and young Anukul Arno-Magee, 14, hit an amazing 291 yard drive to claim the longest drive for the men.

This charity golf tournament and fundraising dinner was organized by the Rotary Club of Patong Beach along with many local sponsors including the *Phuket Gazette*, in support of the Home and Life Foundation in Phang Nga.

Home and Life began after the tsunami and has become an official foundation currently looking after the welfare of 26 children.



HAVING A LAUGH: Andy Becker (left) with his team: Max Becker, Jason Deknata and Jeroen Deknatel. Photos: Wolfgang Man Kneisel.



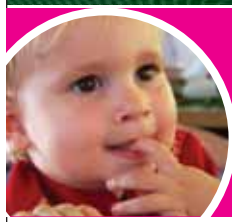
FORE: Julie Street (left) with Pimpan Surintaragoul, Parichat Namchoo and Sirada Panpetch.

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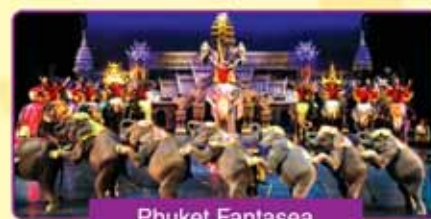
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