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Murky waters

Wastewater discharge at Karon Beach under scrutiny

By Janpen Upatising and Steven Layne

CLAIMS that untreated wastewater was being pumped into the sea by hotels at Karon and Kata Beaches have been dismissed by provincial authorities as a 'misunderstanding'.

The wastewater originated from a municipal facility instead, they said.

Allegations brought forth last month after the filming of a popular German TV show sparked an investigation headed by Vice Governor Weerawat Janpen.

Five resorts were implicated.

"The footage did not implicate any hotels directly. However, it claimed that wastewater dumping had come from hotels. Our team investigated the places shown in the footage," he said.

"The wastewater treatment facilities involved are located near hotels, but they are actually the responsibility of Karon Municipality," he said.

Karon Mayor Tawee Thongcham explained to the *Gazette* that the two locations shown in the footage were Karon Municipality's sewage collection facility near



A parent and child stand where treated wastewater flows from a canal into the sea at Karon Beach. Photo: Christian Mouchet

Kata Beach and the pumphouse that discharges treated wastewater further north, near the far northern end of Karon Beach.

"Wastewater is sent from many hotels in those areas to our wastewater collection station, where it continues to the main water treatment plant," he said.

"However, on the day the footage was filmed [March 18], there was a blackout at 5pm. It took

three to four hours for the Provincial Electricity Authority to fix it," he added.

"So, the water kept flowing from the hotels as usual while our [sewage] collection tanks were over capacity. The pumps were offline, causing the excess [sewage] to overflow to the beach," Mayor Tawee said.

Such blackouts happen once or twice a year, he added.

To prevent such incidents from recurring, Mayor Thawee petitioned Governor Tri Augkaradacha to install a generator at the site.

As for the pumphouse further north in Karon, where treated wastewater is released into a canal that ultimately empties into the ocean, he said, "Our April 23 tests of the water here show that the BOD [biochemical oxygen demand] was around 6, which means the water is safe.

"If the BOD is higher than 20, it is dangerous. I can guarantee that the sea water in both places is safe," he said.

The footage in question is expected to air in Germany this month, and possibly in Russia by next month.

German Honorary Consul Dirk Naumann told the *Gazette* that the footage – produced for *Wir Retten Ihren Urlaub* ("We Save Your Holiday") – had included live dumping of wastewater, as well as on-location tests revealing millions of harmful bacteria.

"They [the show's producers] had intentionally left the air date open because they are waiting for a reaction from the Thai government," he added.



Burmese register at Phuket Immigration, while many others remain uncounted on the island.

Census 2010: Phuket population 'only' 525,000

PRELIMINARY figures from the nationwide census conducted last year report 525,018 people living on Phuket: 409,137 Thai and 115,881 foreigners.

However, the figures have yet to be confirmed by the National Statistics Office in Bangkok, said Prapai Pukngarm, of the Statistical Techniques and Planning Branch at Phuket Provincial Statistical Office.

"When that is done, much more information will become available," she said.

Asked whether the Phuket Statistical Office thought the figures accurately indicated the actual number of people living on Phuket, she replied, "No. Of course, these numbers do not include every single person living in Phuket. The system is not perfect.

"Some people do not want to tell us about everyone staying in their house, and Burmese living in labor camps only give us details of the number legally registered Burmese workers living there," she said.

MoU touted to resolve Deep Sea Port blockades

By Atchaa Khamlo

A MEMORANDUM of Understanding (MoU) between taxi drivers and tour operators who use the Phuket Deep Sea Port will be drawn up in an attempt to resolve the dispute over access to tourists disembarking there.

The MoU, to be drafted by the Phuket Marine Office within one month, is expected to put in writing terms of a verbal agreement negotiated a month ago.

The verbal agreement was made during an emergency meeting at the port that fol-

lowed the April 6 blockade when the cruise liner *Silver Spirit* was in port.

Phuket Marine Office chief Phuripat Theerakulpisut told the meeting the MoU would generally allow taxi drivers access to half of the passengers disembarking at the port.

However, when passengers booked port-of-call tours before their arrival in Phuket, the split might be 70% to 30% in favor of the tour operators, he said.

He also assured there would be no more blockades at the port.

Many of the tour company representa-

tives at the meeting questioned the proposed MoU's validity from a consumer protection standpoint.

Kanin Vivataga, managing director of tour company South Services, said taxi drivers often failed to take passengers to their desired destinations, instead taking them to establishments where they can earn commissions, he said.

"Some passengers book specific types of vehicles they would like to travel in. They should have the right to make such choices. We have to find a compromise on all these issues if this is going to work," he said.

Orachorn Saiseethong of Sea Tour said the 50:50 split would work only for large groups of passengers without prior itineraries. "For groups of 200 to 500 passengers who have already booked tours from abroad, the deal will not work," she said.

Wichit Municipality deputy mayor Chairat Kumban said there are currently 92 taxis and 84 vans operating in the area. They are all local people just trying to keep their families clothed and fed, he said.

"We should try and understand them and not brand them as 'mafia' as some have done," he said.

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Cable TV wars run riot

By Steven Layne

FOLLOWING a spate of cable-cutting incidents over the past few months, local cable providers around the island are fed up.

Suspecting sabotage, Atsada-korn Sidokbuap of KPP Cable TV and Kampanat Thantiwat, managing director of PA Business Phuket, filed a formal request for action to Phuket Electricity Authority (PEA) chief Somchai Krueapat on Tuesday.

Mr Kampanat said he was acting on behalf of a consortium representing all cable TV providers on Phuket.

The request asked PEA to perform a thorough investigation of their transmission line towers to determine whether any unauthorized cabling was evident, and if so, to put an end to it.

The cable companies claimed their services have been constantly interrupted due to the cutting and unplugging of their cables.

Having found suspicious, unrecognized fiber-optic and coaxial wires at the towers where their own wires were tampered or removed, Mr Kampanat said he



TV and internet cables in Patong, and elsewhere in Phuket, are being cut.

believes private-sector competitors were responsible.

At least three incidents in April were reported among consortium members, Mr Kampanat said.

Cables were deliberately cut, unplugged and damaged at towers near Tesco Lotus and later around Makro – including 3BB cables – during early April, he added.

After inspecting the latest incident, which occurred in late April

in Koh Kaew, his associates gathered evidence including one of their own severed cables, a pair of wire cutters, and even claimed to have identified a suspect at the scene.

The alleged culprit, employed by a major national telecommunications provider, denied the allegations, said Mr Kampanat.

A police report was filed and was submitted along with the request for action to the PEA, he added.

Call for better work rates, conditions for Burmese

LABOR Day in Phuket was an active one for a group of local laborers demanding special attention from the government.

Vice Governor Weerawat Janphen last Sunday presided over a job fair themed "Phuket Laborers Unite for the Environment, against Drugs" at the Phuket HomeWorks Supercenter.

Many employers took part in the event, accepting applications for a reported 1,500 job vacancies.

Led by Phuket Federation of Hotel and Service Labor President Vichit Dasanta, laborers presented eight demands to the V/Gov Weerawat on stage.

Printed on a large poster was their prime request: An increase in the daily minimum wage rate to match the rising cost of living.

The current minimum wage in Phuket is 221 baht per day, the highest in Thailand.

The workers also called for pricing controls on household es-



Burmese laborers in the hot midday sun in Phuket Town.

entials, as well as strict enforcement of labor law and immediate expulsion of illegal immigrant workers from the country.

Furthermore, they asked the closing time of entertainment venues to be extended to 2am and, if possible, to consider establishing Phuket province as a special administrative area.

Such a move would be practical given Phuket's special status as a prime regional tourist destination, they said.

Lifeguards issue warning over rip tides

DESPITE no drownings being recorded at Phuket beaches over the past month, the president of the Phuket lifeguard organization this week warned tourists to beware of strong rip tides.

"Over the past few days, there have been big waves with strong underwater currents," said Prathaiyuth Chuayuan, president of the Phuket Lifeguard Service (PLS).

"Red flags have been posted in danger zones and the monsoon season is coming," he warned.

"Earlier this month, there have been days without large waves on the surface, but there have been underwater currents.

"So do not rush into the water. Ask a lifeguard where it is safe to swim," Mr Prathaiyuth advised.

The warning comes after the PLS completes its first month under its new annual contract to patrol Phuket beaches.

Just ask us: We're happy

A CLEAR majority of *Phuket Gazette* readers feel they are happy living in or visiting Phuket, results of a recent readers' poll reveal.

The *Gazette* asked online readers: "On a scale of 1-5 (1 = completely miserable; 5 = bliss), how would you rate your average emotional state living in, or when visiting, Phuket?"

Overall, 56.2% answered that they were happy (37.5%) or even blissful (18.7%).

By contrast, only 20.4% replied that they were unhappy (13.5%) or miserable (6.9%).

Almost one quarter of those taking part (23.3%) rated their emotional state with a "3", indicating they were neutral: Neither happy nor unhappy.

The poll was initiated by a nationwide ABAC survey that found Phuket residents rated their own happiness lower than residents of any other province in Thailand.

In a breakdown by demographic, tourists taking part in the *Gazette* poll were more likely to be happy (71%) than unhappy (14%). Almost a third (29%) said they felt "blissful" while in Phuket.

Thais were far less likely to report they were happy. Just under half (49%) reported feeling happy compared to 23% who said they were not. The rest were neutral.

Resident expats were in the middle, with 63% saying they were happy compared to 24% who said they were not. The remainder were neutral.



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Airport enjoy record arrivals

PHUKET is enjoying record numbers of foreign tourists in 2011, according to official statistics.

The number of international passengers arriving at Phuket Airport January through March totaled 654,009, up 25.1% over the same period in 2010, according to the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT).

This included a growth of 31.3% (228,768) in January, 24.3% (231,326) in February and 21.6% (193,915) in March.

From April 1 through 23 April, international passengers arriving at the airport totaled 123,934, up almost 31% over the same period last year.

Meanwhile, Airports of Thailand (AoT) has announced that the first phase of its expansion project at the airport is expected to be finished in September, just in time for the next tourism high season.

AoT Board of Directors chairman Tirapol Noparumpaet led a meeting of the AoT board at the Sea Pearl Villas Resort in Kathu following an inspection tour of the airport last week.

All of the improvements underway are geared at facilitating passenger movement through the airport.

Police face meth tests

By Atchaa Khamlo

EVERY police officer in Phuket is to be tested for *ya bah* (methamphetamine), the provincial police commander has announced.

"Every police station must urine test every officer under their command by May 1," said Maj Gen Pekad Tantipong last Thursday.

"The order was issued by Provincial Police Region 8 at the end of last month," he added.

The same testing was to be conducted in Surat Thani, Krabi, Phang Nga, Ranong, Nakhon Sri Thammarat and Chumphon.

"Any officer testing positive will be severely punished," said Maj Gen Pekad, adding that even commanding officers will be tested.

"I will receive all of the results and know how many officers in Phuket test positive. However, I have yet to receive any reports of officers testing positive," he said.

Under the scheme, police will be tested by workers from the Phuket Provincial Health Office using a "Meth Cassette" kit manufactured by the Government Pharmaceutical Organization.

Those whose urine turns purple after being mixed with the reagent



Officers take a close look at some urine samples. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

will have blood samples taken. These will be sent to a police testing facility in Trang for final confirmation in a procedure that takes about one week.

"We cannot test them all simultaneously as they work different

shifts and some need to travel out of the province as part of their duties. For this reason they will be tested in groups," he said.

"This is the third year Phuket City Police has drug tested its officers. So far none have tested

positive," said Phuket City Police Deputy Superintendent Chaiwat Auykham.

As police are sometimes ordered to conduct random drug tests on the general public, it is important that they prove they are not involved with drugs themselves, he said.

Phuket City Police arranged testing of 289 officers over a two-day period: 193 officers on April 28 and most of the remainder the next day.

About 30 officers currently outside the province will be tested later, Lt Col Chaiwat said.

"All Phuket City Police officers, almost 300 people, must undergo drug testing. The results will be submitted to our commander at the beginning of next month [May]," he added.

There are a total of 1,196 police officers stationed in Phuket.

A reliable source in at least one police station told the *Gazette* that officers were well aware that methamphetamine testing was imminent and that officers were "instructed to prepare" for it.

The detection period for methamphetamine in urine can range from anywhere from one to five days.

Police arrest three for killing of Thalang teen

POLICE arrested three young men who have confessed to the stabbing murder of Phuket teen Thawatchai "Ton" Maelanon, whose body was discovered in a rubber plantation in Thalang on March 26.

At a press conference at Phuket City Police Station last Friday, Provincial Police Commander Pekad Tantipong identified one of the three suspects as 23-year-old Apirak "Khao" Sae-eiw.

The other two youths, both 16, were presented to the media with their faces covered.

According to police, the three on March 19 lured the 15-year-old fellow gang member to a remote location off Thepkasattri Road with the intention of shooting him.

In their confession, the three said they had given the boy 5,000 baht for the purchase of *ya bah* (methamphetamine). They became furious when they learned he took some of the drugs by himself, sold the rest – and ignored repeated demands for repayment.

When they reached the site, a rubber plantation along the access road to Namuang Village, Apirak tried to shoot the boy, police quoted the boys as saying in their statement.

When the gun failed to discharge, one of two youths stabbed him once with a sharpened chisel. He then turned the weapon over to Apirak, who continued the assault, police said.

The three left the scene only after they were sure Thawatchai was dead.

Among the items of evidence presented were a homemade handgun and a mobile phone.

All three arrested were charged with conspiracy to commit murder and weapons charges.

– Yodsak Jarana



Confessed killer Apirak Sae-eiw

Tsunami fears spark ICEC redesign

CONCERNS over whether the Phuket International Convention and Exhibition Center (ICEC) would be able to withstand a tsunami have sparked a full review of the project design plans.

Wongsakorn Nunchukhan, from the Department of Public Works And Town & Country Planning office in Phuket last week told a progress-update meeting at Provincial Hall that the 141-rai coastal site in Mai Khao, at the north end of the island, is considered a tsunami-risk zone.

"The design and construction of the center and adjoining facilities should be 'tsunami safe' because tsunamis can strike at any time," he said.

Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosutthirak, who presided over the meeting, highlighted the delay the suggestion would trigger.

"This suggestion will [need to] be discussed further among relevant organizations, such as the Phuket Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation [DDPM], after which we will discuss it again before

proceeding," he explained.

The project is already under time pressure. Its originally-scheduled completion was May 2014, but funding under the government's *Thai Khem Kaeng* ("Strong Thailand") economic stimulus package require the project to be completed by November 2013.

Cabinet approved a budget of 2.6 billion baht for construction of the center, but funding for other projects to support the ICEC, such as highway upgrades and light rail projects, will have to be sourced from relevant departments including the Highways Office, Provincial Electricity Authority and the Provincial Waterworks Authority, the meeting was told.

"The architects [KAED 103] will draft a master plan for the whole project so the other offices will have have a clearer picture of what the project will look like," said V/Gov Somkiet.

See Editorial on page 8
– Atchaa Khamlo



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Police link Tesco meth 'delivery man' to Vitamilk ya bah mule

PHUKET City Police last week arrested a drug mule with 2,000 *ya bah* (methamphetamine) pills and 197.14 grams of *ya ice* (crystal meth), with a street value of about 1.1 million baht.

The bust followed the arrest of Jamnong Chumplub, from Nakhon Sri Thammarat, who was found in possession of 10 *ya bah* pills in an earlier raid.

During questioning, Jamnong told police he "ordered" the drugs through a man he identified only as "Phab", who is apparently serving a prison sentence in Nakhon Sri Thammarat, according to police.

Jamnong was waiting for a drug delivery when police arrested him.

Officers arranged for Jamnong to have another shipment delivered to a rendezvous point at Tesco Lotus at noon last Friday.

Police pounced on Aram "Paek" Or-Yam, 48, from Ranong, when he showed up with the drugs.

He now faces charges of pos-



Tianchai Chiewchan (center), 27, arrested for smuggling onto the island 2,000 *ya bah* pills hidden in Vitamilk cartons. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

session and intent to sell class 1 drugs.

At the media conference, Aram confessed that he had been hired many times to deliver drugs for Phab. He was paid 20,000 baht for each delivery.

Phuket Provincial Police Com-

mander Pekad Tantipong said police believe Aram was part of the same drug network that saw a man caught trying to smuggle 2,000 *ya bah* pills hidden in Vitamilk cartons onto the island two days earlier.

An informant tipped off Phuket

patrol police that Tianchai Chiewchan, 27, was carrying the pills from Surat Thani to Phuket in a van.

Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) Phuket officers took up position at Siam Commercial Bank on Thepkrasattri Road as the van carrying the suspect approached.

The officers identified Tianchai as he got out of the van based on a description provided by an informant and noted that he "was acting suspiciously".

As they approached the Surat Thani native, the DDPM officers identified themselves and searched his belongings.

On discovering his stash, the officers arrested him.

Tianchai confessed that he had been paid 5,000 baht by someone in Surat Thani to deliver the pills to "Ian", an unidentified Thai man in Rawai, police said.

Tianchai was charged with possession of illegal drugs.

— *Atchaa Khamlo and Pimwara Choksakulpan*

US dad gets 10 years for passport fraud

AN American father arrested in Phuket in June last year has been sentenced by a US federal court to 10 years in prison for forging documents needed to illegally bring his daughter to Thailand, according to a US media report.

Samuel Lee Horton, 38, was arrested by FBI agents in Phuket in June 2010 for violation of an outstanding child custody order.

During his stay in Phuket, he told his three-year-old daughter Zoi that her mother had died, reported MSNBC news affiliate WYFF4 at the time of his arrest.

Horton was given the maximum possible sentence of 10 years for passport fraud, followed by three years of probation, the WYFF4 report said.

Horton earlier pleaded guilty to charges of forging his ex-wife's signature on his daughter's passport application, a serious offense under US law.

Horton's ex-wife Cindy now has full custody of their daughter and son, and Horton has been stripped of his parental rights.

South African gets 7 days for holiday snap

A SOUTH African man was sentenced to seven days incarceration at Bang Jo correctional facility last week after being caught stealing from tourists at Nai Harn Beach.

Steven Stander, 27, was grabbed by lifeguards after a beach operator spotted him stealing a digital camera from a bag belonging to Australian tourists frolicking in the water.

"I saw him take a camera from the one of the ladies' bags and hide it under his shirt as he walked off, so I called out to the lifeguards to stop him.

"We all surrounded him to stop him walking away. As soon as he saw this, he raised his hands and gave himself up. He also handed the camera back to us," Mr Thairath said.

"My friend and I were swimming for about 20 minutes. While

I was facing out to sea, I heard someone blowing a whistle. I turned around and saw a couple of people waving to me and calling me back to the beach," said one of the Australian tourists, who asked to be named only as "Lisa", age 29.

"When I saw him, he confessed that he stole it and apologized to me," she said.

With her camera back, Lisa said she did not want to press charges.

"I just want to tell the beach vendor and lifeguards who helped me that I am very grateful for what they did.

"Otherwise, if the camera was stolen, I would never get those photos back again," she said.

After completing his week-long sentence, Mr Stander is to be handed over to Phuket Immigration, who are likely to deport him.

— *Janpen Upatising*

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Roads to get huge makeover

By Atchaa Khamlo

NEW road projects planned for Phuket and Phang Nga are budgeted at more than 140 million baht, the Highways Department has revealed.

The road to the airport, the road on the north side of the Sarasin Bridge and the bypass road are all scheduled for major upgrades.

Sathaporn Sornchana, deputy general manager of the regional Highways Department office, said work is already underway to repair a 5.5-kilometer stretch of Thepkrasattri Road southbound in Thalang, from the airport road turnoff to Wat Phra Thong.

"The road has been damaged by trucks carrying heavy loads into Phuket. The northbound lane is fine because it is used by empty trucks heading off-island," said Mr Sathaporn.

Hat Yai PSM Construction Co has been contracted to complete the project within 120 days, from February 10 to June 9, with a budget of 19,248,900 baht.

Six heavily damaged sections of the road are to be structurally repaired before the entire length is resurfaced.

Work stopped from April 8 to 17 for Songkran, but has since resumed, Mr Sathaporn said.

He is hopeful the work will be finished ahead of schedule.

"I would like to see construction finished before May 10," he added.

The project became a top priority after community action group *Khon Rak Phuket* (People who Love Phuket) filed complaints to offices in Bangkok, which led to Bangkok officials travelling to Phuket to inspect the condition of the road firsthand, said Mr Sathaporn.

"We are trying to solve the problem. We have installed a weigh station in Khok Kloy, on the north side of the Thepkrasattri Bridge. The weigh station was installed before New Year [Janu-



Work on improving 5.5km along Thepkrasattri Road in Thalang is already underway. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

ary 1] and was in use for three months before its official opening ceremony on April 1," he explained.

Now any trucks carrying over 25 tons are asked to reduce weight to that figure before crossing over to Phuket, he added.

For traffic heading off-island, 18mn baht has been allotted to upgrade the five kilometers of road from the new bridge under construction to Khok Kloy Bus Station in Phang Nga. "These roadworks are scheduled to finish the same time as the new Sarasin Bridge, so motorists will enjoy a smooth surface along the northern side," Mr Sathaporn said.

Next on the list is the 60mn-baht expansion of the airport road to four lanes from Thalang Technical College to the T-junction south of the airport, where traffic lights will be installed.

"This project has been approved by the Ministry of Land Transport. We are now waiting for the funds to become available," Mr Sathaporn said.

"Work will probably start around July. The construction company will be Haadyai Rueang Chai Construction Ltd Partnership," he added.

As part of the project a median strip will be installed to separate vehicles travelling in opposite directions. It is hoped the barrier will reduce the number of head-on collisions on the road, which has a reputation locally as a dangerous stretch.

"We will start work along the sections of road where accidents happen most often and continue the project if we get more funding in the next fiscal year [beginning October 1, 2011]," Mr Sathaporn explained.

Roads have limited lifespans, up to seven years at most. After that they need major improvements

krasattri Road from Kosit Wiharn Temple in Rassada to the Heroines' Monument.

"Upgrades to the northbound lanes will start around mid-July, as we expect to receive the budget for that first.

"The number of people rushing to the airport to catch flights has worn the road down and made it is slippery.

"While we are working on that, we will request the budget to repair southbound lanes damaged by trucks bearing heavy loads," Mr Sathaporn said.

Next is resurfacing the bypass road from the Bang Khu Intersection to the Premium Outlet Factory and from the Samkong (Tesco Lotus) Intersection to Darasamuth School (Central) Intersection.

Work is expected to start around March next year.

"People don't understand why we always have to do road construction. Roads have limited lifespans, up to seven years at most. After that they need major improvements," explained Mr Sathaporn.

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Executive Director for Plans and Policy William J Wesley

Navies discuss disaster relief, nuclear meltdown

THE third and final installment of the Western Pacific Naval Symposium's (WPNS) Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief workshop drew to a close last Friday.

The event was attended by major humanitarian aid agencies and 16 navies, covering half of the globe.

The focus last Friday was naval involvement in providing relief to disaster-stricken areas, including nuclear accident sites.

The workshop, themed "Seapower – A Unifying Force for Good", aimed to improve participating nations' understanding of what was required in providing disaster relief and to better coordinate delivery of relief to disaster areas.

"We're now looking at how to better disseminate the information required to alleviate the grave concerns and questions coming up so there is a better understanding of how to deal with those types of disasters," said William J Wesley, WPNS Executive Director for Plans and Policy.

Coral gets its groove back

By Steven Layne

RECENT shallow-water surveys conducted off Phuket have documented significant regrowth of coral, marine biologists say.

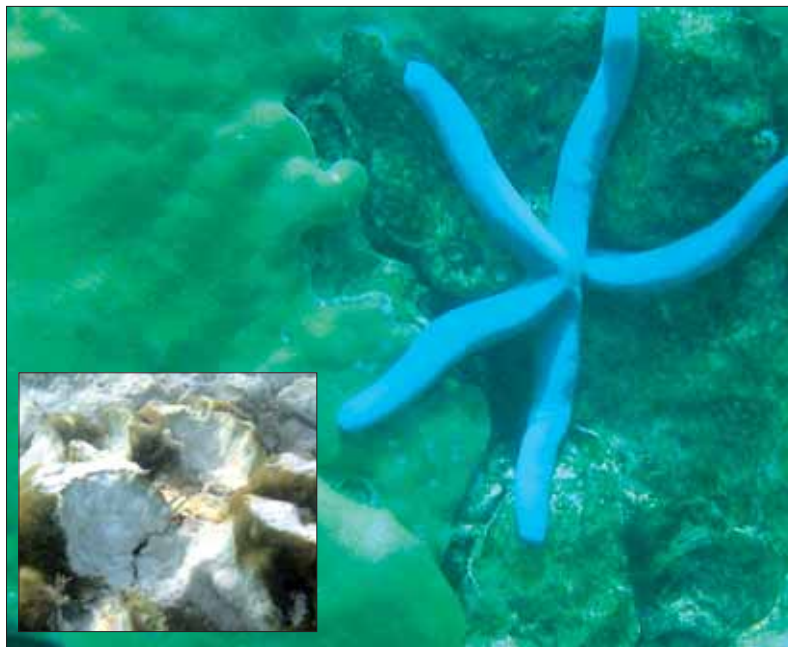
Researchers headed by divers from the Marine and Coastal Biology and Ecology Unit of Phuket Marine Biology Center (PMBC) reveal the island's coral reefs are starting to show signs of recovery from last year's devastating coral bleaching episode.

Initial post-bleaching damage assessments showed that coral loss ranged from 25% in some areas to 97% in more vulnerable sites, such as Siam Bay of Racha Yai island.

Diverse coral larvae growth was observed at sites all around the island's territorial waters.

Coral reefs in Phuket waters are estimated to cover an area of nearly 17 square kilometers, according to the PMBC researchers.

One PMBC report released last month assessed the health of an 80-meter-long reef located off the



Main photo: A blue starfish on regenerated coral. Inset: Coral off Koh Racha Yai damaged by bleaching last year. Photos: PMBC

small bay north of Karon Beach, near Le Meridian Phuket Beach Resort. In addition to the regrowth of no less than 30 coral species, a moderate number of fish and even blue sea stars (*Linckia*

laevigata) were spotted by divers.

The PMBC estimates the reef could recover to its original pre-bleached state in three to four years, under the right conditions.

The report cites human activi-

ties in the area as the primary obstacle. Sedimentation from runoff as well as algal blooms thriving on nutrient-rich wastewater were listed as the main hindrances to coral rehabilitation.

The survey also attributed sub-surface debris such as fishing tackle and plastic as another threat.

The researchers also called for resorts to better inform guests who dive and snorkel at nearby reefs about correct coral reef exploration techniques.

Reflecting on his first, uneventful dive in Thailand off the coast of Kalim bay last week, Pierre Yves Cousteau, son of legendary Jacques Yves, commented: "You don't want to shoot yourself in the foot, or saw off the branch you are sitting on by destroying the reason why people are coming."

Mr Cousteau visited Phuket last week in order to meet recreational dive industry representatives, prospecting potential partnerships for his non-profit marine conservation venture Cousteau Divers.

Tremors prompt house evacs

A 4.4-magnitude earthquake in the Andaman Sea last Saturday night did very little damage to anyone in Phuket, but it sparked fear in some neighborhoods.

Damaged tiles in a house south of Phuket Town prompted residents of the area to leave their homes.

"My wife received an SMS on her mobile phone about an earthquake.

"Then, about an hour later while I was in the living room with our son, I heard a sound like a rat running and hitting the door and table," said one resident in a street off Wirat Hongyok Road.



Rescue workers inspect the damage at the home.

"I grabbed a wooden stick and started looking for the rat, but I couldn't find it.

"Then the tiles on the floor started cracking and popping up from the floor. This went on for about 20 minutes.

"I called for everyone – there were six people in my house – to

leave the house immediately," he said.

Other residents left their homes to join his family on street. One household did so after a family member started to panic.

Worried about whether his house might collapse, another man called the Ruamjai Rescue Foundation.

Rescue workers arrived and after inspecting the home said the damage was likely from poor construction.

"After all the disaster movies I've seen, I thought something was going happen suddenly.

"It was better for us to be prepared, even though it turned out to be nothing," he said.

Asked for his name, the man declined, saying that people might "tease" him for being overly worried by the event.

– *Atchaa Khamlo*



Phuket girl Maria Consentino represented Thailand in the Miss Italia nel Mondo in 2009.

Phuket to host 'half-Thai' beauty contest

The inaugural Miss Euro Asia 2011 beauty contest will be held in Phuket in October.

Kritphanat Patwarasit, Managing Director of ND Productions, floated the idea to Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha last week.

The governor gave his vote of approval.

"It will attract people to visit Phuket during the low season and help keep Phuket 'alive' all year," he said.

"There are two major beauty contests held annually in Thailand, but none are for half-Thais only," Mr Kritphanat said.

The pageant in Phuket will be open only to half-Thai women 18 to 25 years old.

"With the mix of nationalities living here, Phuket is well-qualified to host such an event," Mr Kritphanat said.

A confirmed date for the event had yet to be set, he added.

The winner will represent Thailand in two international beauty pageants: Miss Italia nel Mondo, to be held in Italy; and the Miss International beauty contest in the USA.

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His Majesty recovering from surgery

HM KING Bhumibol Adulyadej is recovering well from an operation to remove cerebrospinal fluid from his brain, the Royal Household Bureau has said.

Excess fluid was preventing the revered monarch from being able to walk steadily. The condition is common in the elderly and the operation is a standard treatment, according to the bureau.

The 83-year-old – the world's longest-reigning monarch – was admitted to Siriraj Hospital in Bangkok in September 2009 with fever, fatigue and lung inflammation.

HM The King has stayed in the hospital ever since for physical therapy and nourishment to regain his strength, MCOT reported.

In an interview last month with TV host Wuttitorn Milintachinda, HRH Princess Chulabhorn Valayalakana said her father still worked every day from the hospital.

"His Majesty has never taken a day off work," she said.

The Stock Exchange of Thailand fell 2.12 per cent in a plunge some analysts attributed to fears over the procedure.

Report slams Govt, reds

AROUND THE nation

NEW York-based Human Rights Watch (HRW) has released a damning report on human rights abuses committed during last year's anti-government red shirt protests, noting that no government officials have faced charges over the violence.

The 139-page report, based on 94 interviews with victims, witnesses, protesters, academics, journalists and others, also detailed abuses by so-called "black shirts", armed elements associated with the protesters who "staged deadly attacks on police officers and soldiers".

"In plain view government forces shot protesters and armed militants shot soldiers, but no one has been held responsible," said Brad Adams, HRW Asia director.

"Those who were killed and wounded deserve better than this. The government should ensure



Red shirt activists took part in a rally in March to mark the one-year anniversary of the start of last year's deadly protests. Photo: AFP

that all those who committed violence and abuses, on both sides, are investigated and prosecuted."

The United Front for Democracy Against Dictatorship (UDD), better known as the "red shirts", staged weeks of protests in April and May last year.

Tens of thousands of protest-

ers barricaded themselves into Bangkok's central shopping district of Ratchaprasong, demanding the government immediately dissolve parliament to stage elections.

The protests were dispersed during an aggressive push by the military on May 19. A total of 90 people were killed during the pro-

tests, with around 2,000 injured.

The high death toll and injuries resulted in part from excessive and unnecessary lethal force on the part of security forces, HRW said.

To disperse the main protest at Ratchaprasong, the army deployed snipers to shoot those who breached "no-go" zones between the UDD protesters and army barricades or who threw rocks and other objects toward soldiers. At times, soldiers also shot into crowds of protesters, said HRW.

"UDD leaders have been charged with crimes, but despite promises by the government to also hold security forces accountable, no one in the army or police has been charged," Adams said. "This has fed the understandable belief among many Thais that the scales of justice are imbalanced."

UDD leaders also contributed to the violence with inflammatory speeches to demonstrators, urging supporters to carry out riots, arson attacks, and looting, the report said.

For months, UDD leaders had urged followers to turn Bangkok into "a sea of fire" if the army tried to disperse the protest camps.

Rights groups speak out on journo arrests

FREE speech advocacy groups have condemned the arrest last week of a prominent red shirt supporter and journalist on charges of insulting the monarchy.

Somyot Pruksakasemsuk, editor of the *Voice of Taksin* and *Red Power* magazines, was arrested by the Department of Special Investigation on April 30 while attempting to cross the border into Cambodia. A request for bail was rejected.

Mr Somyot said he was unaware he was wanted for Lese Majeste, a charge punishable by up to 15 years in jail, until Immigration officials checked his passport at Sa Kaew checkpoint.

Mr Somyot claimed he was leading a group of 30 tourists on a trip to Angkor Wat in Cambodia, a sideline he ran in addition to his political activities.

The arrest followed the release of a press freedom report by US-based Freedom House that ranked Thailand 138th in the world for press freedom. The rights body downgraded its rating of the country's media environment

from "partly free" to "not free".

"This arrest confirms that a crackdown on the opposition media is under way," a Reporters Without Borders spokesperson said.

"Once again it is a Lese Majeste charge that has been used to detain an opposition journalist and activist. This is not an isolated case, but one that targets all media that are close to or support the opposition. In less than a month, about 20 opposition figures have been accused of Lese Majeste."

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) also condemned Somyot's detention.

"We call on the relevant authorities to release Somyot Pruksakasemsuk and to stop using anti-royal charges to stifle partisan media," said Shawn Crispin, CPJ's senior Southeast Asia representative.

"Arresting and detaining partisan journalists is out of step with the democratic reconciliation Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva has proposed by holding early polls," he said.



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Tuk-tuk drivers: You gotta love em'

I intend to start a business extorting money from tourists and want to know if anyone can give me tips on blockading techniques, as this form of marketing seems to be a very effective business tool with a proven record of success in the land of smiles.

Quite frankly, I don't care what affect this has on tourism, as my short-term business plan is standard for Phuket.

I want to get rich quick, whatever the cost.

*B Lockade
Port of Phuket*

A metered approach to tuk-tuk pricing

Re: Gazette online, Phuket officials tackle taxi, tuk-tuk blockades, April 20

I have a suggestion for the officials in this dispute.

I have a lot more to say on this but here is a shortened version:

The problem as I see it is determining what a fair price is in taking a tuk-tuk from one location to another.

There has been a lot of talk about using meters.

So let's conduct a simple trial test with meters.

Take five tuk-tuks and put meters on each one.

But what fare do you charge? Start at 35 baht just like the other metered taxis.

I think this should be lowered for several reasons, but to start use 35 baht.

Pick the most common routes. Set start and stop locations.

ICEC plans face waves of challenge

Phuket Gazette

THE latest turn in the decades-old saga of Phuket's unrealized effort to build a world-class convention and exhibition center is not one for the positive. It recently came to the attention of the Department of Public Works and Town and Country Planning that the 140 rai of coastal land slated for the project lies in a "tsunami risk" zone, necessitating the need for a major redesign. [See page 3].

For years it remained debatable whether Phuket really needed such a facility at all. Most successful convention centers are located in major metropolitan areas, ensuring that tens of millions of potential visitors are within easy driving distance.

However, the relentless growth of Phuket over the past decade now makes the lack of such a facility a major drawback, especially as the Commerce Ministry has begun touting Phuket as the future "Tourism Hub of ASEAN" after measures of a regional free-trade agreement go into effect in 2015.

That Phuket can attract large-scale international gatherings is no longer a matter of dispute. The island hopes to host the postponed ASEAN summit meetings as soon as next month, following on the successful staging of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in July, 2009. Meanwhile the Laguna Phuket resort complex in Cherng Talay is already grappling with the logistics of hosting the Amway China incentives meet that will see some 8,000 sales reps from that company visit the island a year from now.

AirAsia's successful establishment of Phuket as

a regional air hub and reports that Australian carrier Strategic Air has similar plans, together with a record number of tourist arrivals in 2010, further highlight the island's emergence as a major international destination.

That the Abhisit government has approved 2.6 million baht in funding for the project under the *Thai Khem Khaeng* (Strong Thailand) fiscal stimulus package has brought the project as close to reality as it has ever been, yet observers who have tracked the heartbreaking history of the project know all-too-well that economic and political factors can set it back to square one at any time.

It also comes as a sad irony indeed that the latest design by project architects reached the computer graphics stage, with a "Sino-Portuguese/sea turtle" theme, before obvious concerns like tsunami preparedness ever entered the equation.

Whether or not the current plans for the center are ever realized will likely rest with the fortunes of the Democrat Party in the next elections, scheduled to take place by July. If Mr Abhisit cannot form a coalition after the poll, the future of the convention center will face far more uncertainty than anything the threat of another tsunami might engender.

should use a meter and create uniformity among all sources of transportation.

*Jerry Hess
Bangkok/Rawai*

Test their assets, not their urine

Re: Gazette online, Phuket poll: Is police drug testing effective?, May 4

Many police forces around the western world have random breath tests and drug tests for on duty police.

Some police forces also have annual asset tests.

If you earn 200,000 baht a year, how can it be that you own four houses, four motorbikes, two cars, a karaoke bar, a shop and one million baht cash in the bank?

I don't really care what their urine tests positive for, I would much rather they are asset tested.

*The Accountant
Gazette forum*

Leaving common sense behind

Re: Gazette online, Phuket beach thief behind bars, April 28

It is a fact that the more people that leave things unattended leads to more theft by more thieves. Clothes and such could be locked under a motorbike seat.

When I used to go [to the beach] alone, I left my belongings with the deck chair vendor.

I did not rent a deck chair, just bought water from them. I never had a problem.

Some people come on holiday and leave their common sense at home.

*Phuket Kop
Gazette forum*

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Issues & Answers...

Bang Tao dump an offal site

I live in Moo 5, Bang Tao Beach on Srisoonthorn Road in Cherng Talay, adjacent to Tesco-Lotus. There is a dump site nearby that is large and very unsightly.

There are resorts nearby and most days the smell from the dump is unbearable and wind blows some of the garbage to the entrance of our resort.

They burn the garbage daily and we have had an increase in the presence of rodents. Tourists often walk along this road to go to Tesco.

I have complained to the management of our resort but am told that they are powerless to do anything.

We are ready to sell our property and leave our beloved "paradise", which was to be our retirement home. The street is also littered and the local market is adding to the refuse.

I hope something can be done as I am embarrassed to say where

metered rate is, consider that some people want comfort and air conditioning and they will use a car or van charging a prescribed rate rather than take a tuk-tuk or open-air vehicle.

If they use an open-air mode, they should get a reduced fare.

So set the rates accordingly. Maybe all taxis, vans and buses

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

we live. Recently some guests from my country visited and they could not believe what they saw.

"And you said that Thailand was so beautiful. This is awful."

Not good for the tourism industry, I'd say.

*Erna Pieterse
Cherng Talay*

An officer at the Department of Local Administration Office in Phuket replies:

Please go to Cherng Talay Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) and ask for the public relations officer in the Public Health and Environmental section. Fill out a complaint form

and if you have any photos or documents concerned with this issue, please include them.

Please specify that it is a really serious problem.

I understand that the smell and the effect on the environment is terrible and if you specify that this is a serious problem, they will try to address it on the day you fill out the complaint form.

If, after filing the complaint, you wait more than seven days and no one solves this problem, please go to the Thalang District Office. The office is open from 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday except public holidays.

Beach bums or beach beers?

Do I need a liquor license to sell beer from a beer cart on beaches?

I ask because I am looking at starting a franchise in Thailand that may extend around the world.

*Graham
Phuket*

Youth games a 'baht-less' boon

FIRST PERSON

NEXT March, Phuket will host the 28th National Youth Games. About 20,000 people – youth athletes, families, spectators and media from around the country – will come to Phuket for the event.

I would like to ask everyone in Phuket to co-operate and give a warm welcome to these people.

We, Phuket residents, should not set goals to benefit economically or boost tourism with this event, but should aim to give back to society instead.

Why do I say that? It's because the games will be held in March, when Phuket is already crowded with tourists.

The 20,000 people expected for this event will have a minimal effect on the economy as most of them will be young athletes who don't have much money to spend.

In March, Phuket is the perfect place for tourists from around the world to spend their vacations.

These young athletes are talented and have a great opportunity to come to Phuket, since their transport fees will be paid for.

But, their daily allowance will be the same as it would be when the games are held in other provinces that have lower costs of living, about 200 baht a day.

That's not enough to cover expenses in Phuket, so I would like



Wiraphong Waithayawongsakun, 50, is the head of the Phuket Provincial Public Relations Office. Before his recent move to Phuket, he served as the head of Radio Thailand on Koh Samui from 2008 to 2010. Here he shares his ideas and asks for everyone to co-operate in welcoming youth athletes and supporters to Phuket for the National Youth Games next year.

everyone to welcome these kids with warmth and kindness – don't think of them as foreign tourists with a lot of money to spend. Make them feel at home.

This year's National Youth Games were held last month in Uttaradit province.

It was the first big event organized there and the people were very active.

They were united in offering products and services at normal prices – they didn't make too much profit from visitors.

We cannot ask the whole island to do this, but in specific areas it is possible.

We can set food courts and souvenir shops near accommodation for athletes and sell items at discount prices.

We can provide shuttle buses from Phuket Town to different beach areas such as Patong, Kata or Karon free-of-charge.

Also, private businesses should give special discounts to anyone involved with the games who will be easy to identify with their games passes hanging around their necks.

By doing this, Phuket could improve its reputation for civic responsibility.

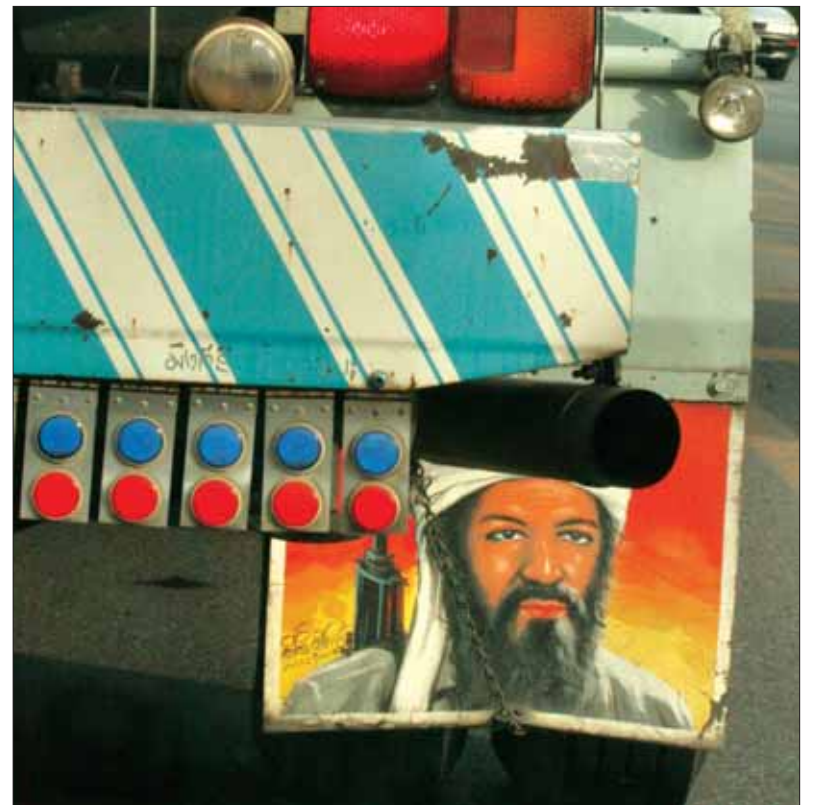
During this 11-day event, we will have a good chance to give back and help make some dreams come true.

We have just one year left to make this happen, so everyone please pitch in with your ideas to impress these visitors.

Phuket welcomes about 6 million foreign tourists a year.

It's not beyond our capacity to greet 20,000 Thai youth athletes and their supporters.

Please share any ideas you may have by contacting me at the Phuket Provincial Public Relations Office at 076-240496 or on my mobile phone at 081-8950493.



BIN LADEN SPOTTED: If you see this truck, ask the driver if he knows who is hitching a ride on his mud flap.

Bin Laden: a dirty mud flap?

Island View

By Blair Christopher

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

OSAMA bin Laden was on the run for 3,539 days, almost a decade after 9/11, before being gunned down by US special forces in Pakistan last Sunday.

So it may come as a surprise to Phuket readers to hear that bin Laden was spotted right here in Phuket the following morning, hitching a ride on the back of a cement truck bound for another hard day's labor at a local construction site.

As you can see from the above photograph, bin Laden seems to have at least one fan on the island.

Maybe the driver of the truck is a bin Laden fan or Al Qaeda sympathizer, but we doubt it.

A more likely assumption is that the driver simply thinks he has the Phuket in-fashion Serpico (Al Pacino) keeping the mud from splattering all over the rump of his truck.

But despite the driver's intentions, seeing bin Laden's image on this truck is a parody of how the media is treating the "World's (formerly) Most Wanted Man".

In the hours after US President Barack Obama declared "justice had been done", the world's media went to town on the demise of the Al Qaeda leader.

Newswires were firing on all cylinders, FOXNews anchors were practically dribbling while they made a series of reporting blunders, and George W was giddy as ever, spouting how bin Laden's death was a momentous achievement marking a victory for America.

Lurid scenes of jubilation from outside the White House and at Ground Zero in New York were beamed around the world – America had got their man.

A bevy of headlines, from "Bin Bagged" in Britain's *The Sun*, to "Rot in Hell" from the New York newspaper *Daily News*, to "Got

him! Vengeance at last! US nails the bastard", from the *New York Post*. It's kind of like the wicked witch is dead and everyone gets to hammer their own nail into the coffin.

Defeating Al Qaeda has been priority number one for US forces in Afghanistan, but will the death of bin Laden and subsequent treatment in the world's media put them in greater danger?

Every action has a reaction, and we can only hope that Al Qaeda lose strength and desire from their leader's demise. Who knows, the media will ponder this until the cows come home anyway.

Nevertheless, bin Laden has been spotted in Phuket and by the look of things, he ain't tearing himself away from his mud flap, however dirty he gets.

Despite being a seemingly innocent mistake from this writer's perspective, it would behoove the truck driver ferrying bin Laden around willy-nilly to think about other road users.

Each to their own as they say, but unless this truck driver wants the wrath of a group of American tourists unleashed upon him, he should remove his mud flap post haste.

And while we're on the subject, to the idiot who was spotted wearing a bin Laden mask along Soi Bangla earlier this week: You are an idiot. The world does not need another buffoon willing to prance around mocking the absurdity of bin Laden, that's why we have media.

Don't forget to avoid the TV this week if you are fed up with bin Laden-mania.

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

Tanongsak Booncleub, acting chief of the Phuket Provincial Excise Office, replies:

To sell beer or other alcoholic beverages using a cart is considered hawking.

Under Thai law, we cannot issue a license or allow anyone to sell alcoholic beverages in this manner [by hawking] since it is unfair to other alcoholic beverage vendors who have to pay extra expenses, such as rent and setting up their business.

Meena Panan, an officer at the Public Health and Environment Division of Patong Municipality, replies:

Anyone wanting to sell products or provide services in a public area must first obtain a permit from the local authority.

To apply for such a permit in Patong, or for more information, contact Patong Municipality's Public Health and Environment Division.

The products or services to be provided must not conflict with any laws. Under the Alcohol Beverage Control Act B.E. 2551



BUMMER: According to regulations, selling alcoholic beverages on Phuket beaches is not allowed.

(2008), the sale of alcoholic beverages is prohibited in public areas.

We do not allow any beach vendors to set up stalls selling alcoholic beverages. We only allow them to provide beach beds, umbrella services, and food and

drinks that are not alcoholic.

If you see anyone selling products or providing services in public areas without permission from the local authority, report it to the Patong Municipal police at 076-340843.

Razor clam trade rising

EVER since the devastating tsunami that hit Phuket on December 26, 2004, the residents of Saen Suk Beach have reaped an unexpected boon from their natural environment: razor clams.

Before the disaster, nobody had ever found this long, thin species of shellfish in the sands of Saen Suk, located on the island's east coast in Rassada sub-district.

But since then, their numbers have grown so quickly that some villagers are now making a living by digging the clams out of the sand and selling them to restaurants.

Now, the residents want to use their razor clam industry to promote their community as a tourist attraction showing how people can make money while living in harmony with nature.

Somsak Phakdiwanit, chairman of Saen Suk Beach Community, said the economy of the community had always revolved around fishing, but razor clams had never been a part of it.

But after the tsunami, villagers, who mostly live in houses just off the beach, started to find the shellfish in small numbers in the sand.

Initially, they ate them themselves, but about two years ago some villagers started to sell the clams.

Rather than pouring lime onto the sand, a method of catching the shellfish that kills the razor clams and other sea creatures the villagers wait until low tide and dig them out of the wet sand. It's a more environmentally friendly way of doing things.

In fact, the villagers have issued a regulation forbidding the use of lime to catch shellfish, which villagers fear could lead to the depletion of stocks of the precious shellfish.

As a result of the villagers' cautious approach, there are more and more razor clams on Saen Suk Beach, bringing more and more income into the community.

Today, residents are gathering 40-60 kilograms of the shellfish from the beach every day, selling them to Phuket's restaurants for 100 baht per kilo. In fact, demand from the island's eateries is now so strong that villagers can't meet the demand.

The community is proud it has been able to cultivate the trade without



CUTTING EDGE: A rising population of razor clams is helping some fishermen make a tidy profit. The boom in the bizarre looking shellfish is accredited to the 2004 tsunami. Photo: Fotoos Van Robin

driving the razor clams to extinction.

They consider the razor clam to be not just part of the economy, but a symbol of how communities can work together and look after the environment an example to other communities in Thailand.

Mr Somsak said the community wanted the authorities to designate and promote Saen Suk Beach and its razor clam trade as a tourism attraction for Phuket.

As a result, the community will hold its first ever razor clam digging competition in the near future. Mr Somsak said there had already been a lot of interest in the event.

He said the villagers were confident that with the right know-how, they can make Saen Suk Beach thrive through fishing, tourism, and the careful management of the burgeoning trade in razor clams.

— *Phuket Gazette*

NTC say 3G could take two more years

THE long-awaited 3G rollout is likely to be delayed by two years, a member of the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) has admitted.

A panel from the NTC was in Phuket expressly to answer questions from the press at a conference at the Centara Grand Resort in Karon on April 27.

"3G technology is already available in Thailand. The only problem is that the Thai court has currently disallowed private companies from providing the services," explained Assoc Prof Sudharma Yoonaidharma, one of the NTC's six commissioners.

"However, when the legal issues are resolved, large and densely populated cities in Thailand will

benefit most from 3G mobile technology. In this sense, Phuket will be at the forefront because there is a lot of user demand here, especially for temporary mobile services.

"A lot of telecom users in Phuket are tourists who demand temporarily mobile services from local mobile providers.

In Phuket, there are a lot of users that make up this group, making it a very lucrative market for mobile network operators," he added.

The commissioner openly criticized centralization of IT services, and their concentration in Bangkok, and urged local businesses to step up in regional markets.

"If the telecom industry is to advance to a more competitive



Sudharma Yoonaidharma

state, there needs to be more local participation. In the past, the industry has been too centralized and large firms were finding it difficult to provide custom services to meet the specific

needs of this region," he said.

Laws affecting this aspect of the industry will be changed to accommodate more foreign investment and allow smaller, localized firms to thrive, added the commissioner.

"Phuket has the potential to become a regional telecommunications hub, provided there is adequate investment in technology and infrastructure," Prof Sudharma said.

He pointed out that Phuket's local telecom businesses, located close to more developed regional hubs like Singapore and Malaysia, will need to prepare for tough competition when Thailand finally joins the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015.

"Phuket's potentials arise from the fact that it is a self sustained economy, with a good telecommunications infrastructure already in place and a large group of international users who demand next-generation telecom

services," Prof Sudharma said.

Advanced networking and telecom services can reduce operation costs for businesses, and the availability of next generation telecom services increases the value added to real estate products, further benefiting the real estate industry in Phuket, he said.

Prof Sudharma explained that certain changes to Thai laws had already revolutionized the Thai telecom and media industries.

"In future, the law will only allow the government to own a few television and radio channels in the country. The rest will have to be auctioned off and privatized.

"Following such liberalization in television and media, Phuket will become a very lucrative market where there will be extensive demand for quality international programming because of its large international audience," Prof Sudharma said.

— *Anand Singh*

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In brief...

Wealthy Arab tourists high on Phuket's agenda

THE Phuket governor is confident inbound tourism from the Middle Eastern market will continue to perform well after attending a tourism trade show there earlier this month.

Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha was part of the delegation representing Phuket at the 2011 Arabian Travel Market (ATM 2011) exhibition, held in Dubai from May 1 through 6.

Arrivals to Phuket from the Middle East reached 400,000 last year, about 20 per cent of the number of arrivals from Europe.

Increased tourist numbers reflect confidence in Phuket as a destination, he added.

Middle Easterners on holiday in Phuket have a relatively expenditures per capita, with many taking advantage of medical tourism services such as check-ups, surgery, post-surgical rest and recovery as well as spa treatments.

They are also interested in Phuket's unique history and local culture, he said.

Among the many resorts and attractions represented at ATM 2011 were Dusit Thani Laguna, Phuket FantaSea, Andara Resorts and Villas, Avista Phuket Resort & Spa, M evenpick Resort & Spa Karon, Impiana Hotels and La Flora Resort Patong.

Speaking of recent civil-unrest in the country, the Governor reiterated that there has been no negative affects carried over to the Phuket tourism industry.

— Steven Layne

UTCC raises its growth forecast to 4.4 per cent

THE University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce (UTCC) has revised its forecast for Thailand's economic growth for the better this year, thanks mainly to the extra spending during the general election.

Thailand's economic growth could reach 4.4 per cent this year, up from the previous projection of 4.2 per cent.

The growth will likely be supported by the more stable political situation, upcoming general election, global economic recovery and lessened impact from the Japan disaster.

Thanavath Phonvichai, director at the UTCC's Economic and Business Forecasting Centre, said that the national election would be a major factor to drive the Thai economic growth.

The center estimated that extra spending during the period would be about 40-50 billion baht this time.

— The Nation

Phuket touted as ASEAN tourism capital by 2015

By Steven Layne

THAILAND joining the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Economic Community in 2015 will open a window of opportunity for Phuket to become a key tourism hub for Southeast Asia, Deputy Commerce Minister Alongkorn Ponlaboot in Phuket announced last week.

Presiding over a seminar titled "How Phuketians will prepare [for] Asean Free Trade Area (AFTA) and [joining the] Asean Economic Community (AEC)" at The Metropole hotel in Phuket Town on April 28, Mr Alongkorn told Phuket to prepare to reap the economic benefits of AFTA, to come into effect in less than four years.

Thailand has much to benefit from its ASEAN partners, he said.

Trade among the ASEAN nations is projected to reach US\$ 1.7 trillion, with Thailand's estimated trade with the bloc valued at US\$ 200 billion. With such projections putting Thailand at the top of ASEAN's list, the government has made promoting trade among its ASEAN partners a priority, he said.

In light of this, Phuket should become the "Tourism Capital of ASEAN" by continuing to expand its tourism base and increase investments towards ASEAN tourism as a whole, Mr Alongkorn said.

However, the Commerce Deputy Minister said that Phuket must first develop a comprehensive, provincial level business development plan which clearly designates roles and time-lines.

The Deputy Minister explained that the ultimate aim should be to



ASEAN BOUND: Thailand joining the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Economic Community in 2015 is set to open a number of economic doors for this country. Photo: Gazette file

connect Phuket markets with those of the rest of the world via AEC.

By implementing more intensive marketing campaigns targeting neighboring Bay of Bengal nations — home to a quarter of the world's population — Phuket can become a gateway for ASEAN tourism, he explained.

With a current combined population of more than 600 million among 10 member states, Alongkorn emphasized the importance of local marketing campaigns to realize the significance of ASEAN trade and economy as a whole, and not just

focus on Phuket and Thailand as independent entities.

In accordance with the AEC blueprint, the Deputy Minister declared that by 2015 "Asean will be a unified body of nations — whether speaking of its markets, base for production of goods and services, investing, and many other aspects."

Commenting on recent border clashes between Thai and Cambodian troops, the Deputy Minister assured everyone that the conflict would likely not have a negative impact on other important trade

areas, citing that trade in the conflict zone amounted to about 5 per cent of all trade between the two countries.

The seminar, organized in conjunction with Phuket Rajabhat Institute, Department of Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Commerce and Phuket Provincial Commercial Office, attracted about 300 attendees.

The aim of the event was to establish a base of knowledge and readiness among the public, civil servants and public and private organizations.

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Those in the know 'tweet' breaking news

The tech world is changing fast and so is the face of news, with much of it breaking on Twitter

NEWS of Osama bin Laden's death came to international attention when, around 11:40pm Washington time on Sunday night, US President Barack Obama announced that American forces had entered bin Laden's compound and killed him.

But if you'd been following Twitter starting more than two hours earlier – from about 10:30am in Phuket – you would've already known the whole story.

Obama verified the news story at 11:35pm, but Keith Urbahn – the chief of staff for Donald Rumsfeld, who was Defense Secretary under Bush – broke the news at 10:25pm. His message: "So I'm told by a reputable person they have killed Osama Bin Laden. Hot damn."

While speculation was rife with all of the major news agencies that Obama would announce something much bigger than another shootout in Libya, and rumors were flying among reporters and writers and producers – aided and abetted by leaks from inside the White House itself – nobody in the major networks would get on the air and report a story that was about to unfold with the President at the center.

Instead, the Twitter universe lit up with the story, and had it nailed before the President stepped up to the microphone.

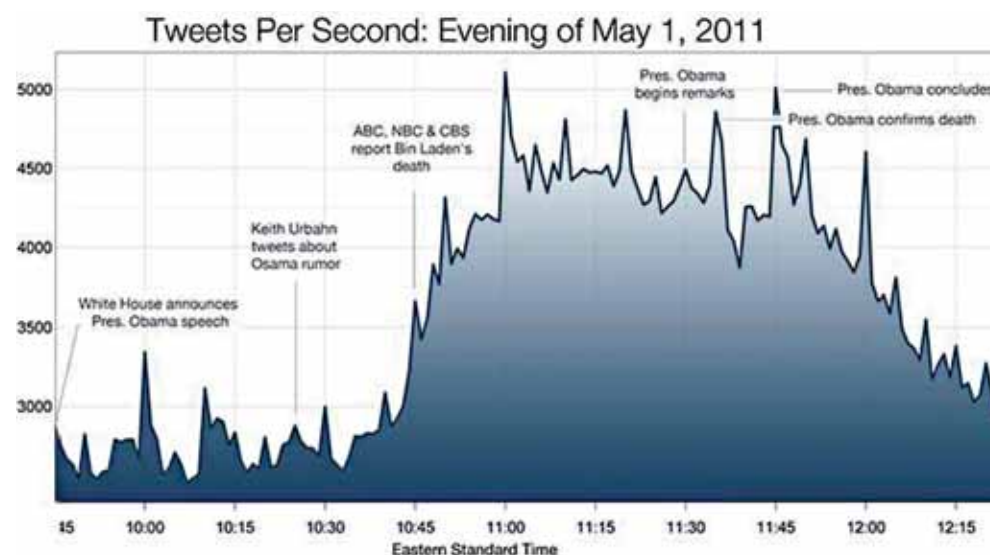
Don't get me wrong, 98 per cent of the stuff on Twitter is pure junk: teenage angst, rants and raves, useless garbage. But that other 2 per cent can be pure gold. And it's easier than you think to separate the wheat from the chaff.

The idea behind Twitter is pretty simple. You "follow" other people. Other people can "follow" you. Anybody can post a short

message, up to 140 characters, on Twitter. If you "follow" someone who posts a message, you'll see it when you log on to Twitter. (If you keep Twitter running on your PC, or on your phone, as I do, the message appears in your Twitter window.) If you post a message, the people who "follow" you can see it.

That's all there is to it. Twitter is a very simple one-to-many form of communication, kind of like SMSing all of the people who have agreed, in advance, that they want to receive your SMSs.

If you "follow" someone and you get tired of what they're "tweeting", you can



TWEETMANIA: Twitter hit its heavy use ever in the build-up to President Obama's speech – more than 5,000 messages per second. Typical volume is about 600 messages per second.



keithurbahn Keith Urbahn
Don't know if its true, but let's pray it is.
2 May



keithurbahn Keith Urbahn
So I'm told by a reputable person they have killed Osama Bin Laden.
Hot damn.

Twitter followers knew about the Bin Laden story an hour before the rest of the world.

"unfollow" them, no sweat, and you'll never see their tweets again. You're never forced to follow anybody. You can follow and unfollow at will.

I follow several news sources and a bunch of people in the computer industry. Twitter's turned into my major source of breaking news, in Thailand, in the computer industry, and in the world.

There's no magical tracking mechanism, no Big Tweet *Phu Yai Baan* in the Sky who keeps track of you – nothing like the iPhone tracking stuff. It's all anonymous, and very easy. Many people use Twitter on their phones, but you can also use it with a web browser, or on an iPad or Android tablet.

If you've never used Twitter, head over to www.twitter.com and sign up. You'll be overwhelmed at first; don't worry, everybody is. The trick lies in

finding the right people to follow.

If you want to follow me, click in the appropriate box and sign up to follow @PhuketPC. Leons Kovisars also tweets computer topics with a local slant @leonsk9.

The best source of Thailand-wide news that I've found is @georgebkk, the ThaiVisa.com guru. You'll be following people in no time.

I've been considering organizing a Twitter seminar. I'd particularly like to talk about my favorite Twitter appliance, Tweetdeck (www.tweetdeck.com). Let me know if you'd be interested in attending – Woody@KhunWoody.com.

To see what Woody's up to in the international press, and to keep on top of the latest patches and problems with Windows and Office, drop by AskWoody.com.

The right timeframe of investments

ONE of the biggest mistakes people often make in their finances is mismatching their investment horizons with the timeframe within which they will actually be using the money.

Many people presume that once they have retired, their entire nest egg should be treated equally.

The reality is that some of it will be spent within the first five years, some of it in five to 10 years, and the rest of after 10 years or more.

The first step is look at all the expenses expected to occur within the first five years of retirement, such as travel, ordinary living expenses, and any major purchases, such as a new car.

To this, add in an "emergency cushion". Exactly how much this should be is a matter of personal opinion, but it is generally better to err on the side of caution.

As five years is not long enough for investments with even a small amount of volatility to recover from a "hit", all of this reserve should be kept as cash in a fixed deposit at a bank, or an equivalent.

The main thing with this money is liquidity and avoiding any negative return whatsoever.

DOING FIVE TO TEN

Next, determine how much money is needed during the five to 10-

Retirement Years

By David Mayes

year period, given the current level of spending and any anticipated purchases during the period.

Here, a little movement in the wrong direction can be tolerated, but obviously nothing like a direct stock market investment, which may drop 50 per cent in one year and take a decade to recover.

This period is a bit short to consider real estate, although real estate can often be sold at a pretty gain within only a few years. The worst case scenario must be considered

when planning, and so I place real estate into a 10-year time frame just to be on the safe side.

THE LONG HAUL

The rest of the nest egg can be placed into just about anything that fits one's risk profile, as a decade or more is usually long enough for most asset classes to recover from any significant losses.

How much is reserved for this period is largely affected by how much of one's "liquid net worth" is eaten up by annual living expenses.

Liquid net worth basically means cash or investments that can be very quickly converted into cash. For most people liquid net worth is their total worth minus their real estate holdings.

If savings are very large in relation to living expenses, then people can obviously afford to take on much more risk, as poor investment performance will likely reduce only the amount left behind to loved ones.

If annual living expenses are large relative to savings, be very

careful to not lose any savings, as this will literally take food out of your mouth and cramp your lifestyle in your final years.

Since investments with a longer time horizon usually end up yielding larger returns, properly matching your actual needs should allow the highest overall return on your money without getting you into a pinch where you have to sell investments at a bad time to put food on the table.

Overall, it is better to have more money in the bank than less, since life tends to find an endless number of ways to force unforeseen expenses on us.

But keeping too much money in the bank can mean not gaining returns that could provide an extra holiday, a nicer car, a bigger inheritance for your loved ones, or whatever else it is that you could do with the extra cash.

David Mayes MBA lives in Phuket and provides wealth management services to expatriates throughout South East Asia, specializing in UK pension transfers. He can be reached at david.m@faramond.com

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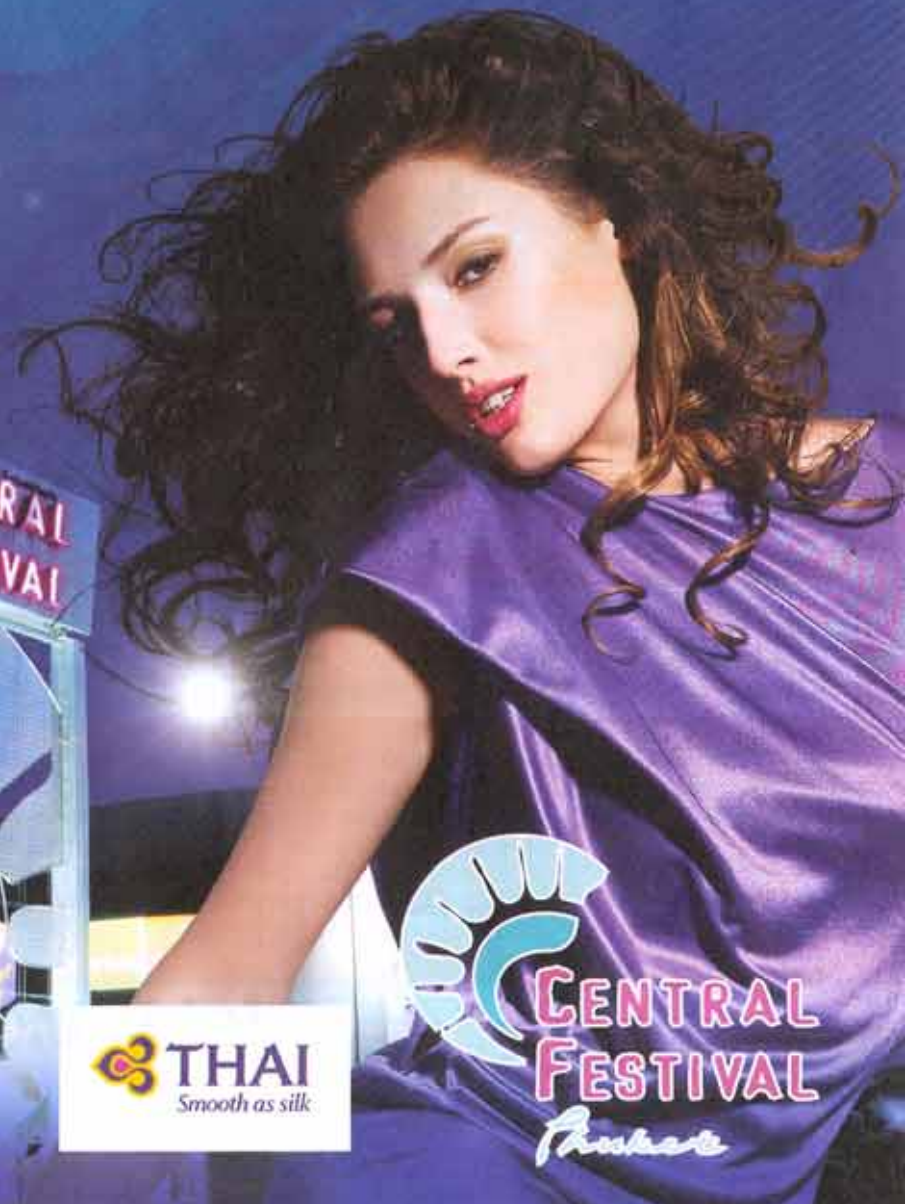
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Diabetes forum unites sufferers

Living with diabetes abroad can be challenging at times, but now one woman has made it easier for diabetics in Phuket to share information and support

By Neil Quail

DIABETICS and those living with diabetes on Phuket now have a support forum to help with all aspects of managing this chronic metabolic disease.

Fiona Smith is a Type 1 diabetic and established the group some time ago, but expansion only occurred after a meeting with Woody Leonhard, a *Phuket Gazette* contributor and Type 2 diabetic himself. Once the diabetes connection had been made, particular beneficial knowledge came to light.

"I'd been informed by my local pharmacist that I couldn't get my insulin here in Phuket, but

within five minutes of meeting Woody, I discovered that all I needed to do was go to Super Cheap," Fiona recalls.

Up to this point, the group had focused solely on those with Type 1 diabetes, but Fiona then broadened the group's scope to include not only people who had been diagnosed with the disease, but also those whose lives are directly affected, such as family members, friends and health professionals.

Rationale for the forum is simply to share information and offer support among its members for all aspects relating to living with diabetes on Phuket.

"Our members can tell each

other who to contact for certain things, where to get specific supplies and how to cope with different situations," Fiona said.

Currently the forum deals with expat experiences, but Fiona hopes that they will eventually attract Thai members, or that they might be inspired to set up their own Thai language group.

"To the best of my knowledge, Type 2 diabetes is a huge issue in Thailand. I would imagine that there is a real need for some support out there," Fiona suggests.

She's right. Diabetes is Thailand's fastest growing disease. According to Thailand's Ministry of Public Health, more than three



BRAVE: Living With Diabetes group co-founder Fiona Smith with her son.

million people in Thailand are diagnosed with diabetes. In 1995, global figures indicated 135 million had diabetes with a projected rise to 300 million by 2025, and economically developing countries such as Thailand will account for two thirds of this estimated number.

"Knowing where to get your medication and other paraphernalia is an issue here and they can be quite expensive. Back in our home countries, as it's a chronic disease, the government subsidizes everything you require in recognition of the fact that if you don't get it, you die, simple as that," Fiona said.

With these figures and facts in mind, it would seem the diabetes forum will be a necessary support network for many on Phuket.

Understanding the difference between Type 1 and 2 is an important aspect of living with the disease.

In simple terms, insulin is a hormone, or messenger between cells in the body, produced by the pancreas. This hormone is vital to the process of removing excess glucose, a simple sugar, from our blood which if allowed to build up, becomes toxic and potentially fatal. Build up of glucose is more commonly known as a high blood sugar level (HBSL).

Diabetes is the name given to the condition whereby the body loses the ability to produce insulin (Type 1) or becomes resistant to its own hormone (Type 2).

The cause of Type 1 is still unknown, but is believed to be a genetic immune system malfunction, while Type 2 is believed to be caused primarily by lifestyle.

"HBSLs increase the development of long-term complications, but you can bring down your HBSL with good lifestyle management. Low blood sugar levels however, can be very dangerous and lead to comas and even death. This has been my experience. I can only assume that the medical community don't like to overwhelm you when you are first diagnosed. I had no idea about seizures and didn't find out until I woke up with the paramedics beside me and surrounded by my family one Christmas morning," Fiona remembers.

Woody Leonhard recounts his own painful experience when he understood his daily life would change.

"I slipped on ice and broke my leg. It was a compound fracture and the bone became infected. Bone infections can be dangerous and persistent. Mine was both. The doctors watched my blood sugar, and it peaked just before I started showing signs of infection. The only solution was to bring down the sugar levels with insulin. I've been taking insulin daily ever since," he said.

Fiona and Woody are working hard to develop their online self-help group on Facebook.

They hope to increase awareness of diabetes and open lines of communication for all those living with the condition. Who knows, with your help, maybe solutions can be found.

For more information visit *Phuket Diabetes Forum* on Facebook or contact Fiona Smith T: 0862727480

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USS Ronald Reagan arrives in Phuket

Japan to Phuket, disaster to detox

By Nicholas Altstadt

THE moment a massive earthquake and tsunami struck Japan on March 11, a nuclear-powered floating city was en route to Pusan, Korea on a "routine western Pacific deployment" with more than 4,500 men and women on board.

On March 12, the floating city – the USS Ronald Reagan aircraft carrier – and its strike group made up of the USS Chancellorsville and USS Preble were re-directed to the eastern coast of Japan near Sendai, one of the areas hardest hit by the tsunami.

The "Reagan" was the first United States military craft on-station in what was named Operation Tomodachi (*friend* in Japanese), a US\$ 80 million US Armed Forces disaster relief effort for Japan, the ship's commanding officer Captain Thom Burke said after arriving in Ao Makham on Sunday.

The 1,092 foot-long super-carrier and accompanying vessels – carrying about 7,000 men and women – arrived in Phuket on Sunday morning for R&R and local community service after finishing the humanitarian mission in Japan.

"It was heartbreaking," Capt Burke told the *Gazette* of his experience in Japan.

"It was absolutely devastating. I mean, one picture does not do it – you had to see the whole panorama of destruction. It was just tragic, absolutely tragic. But the Japanese people were very stoic and very brave in dealing with this serious tragedy," he said.

"Our job was to give immediate assistance, to go find people who were stranded," he said.

Chief Petty Officer (CPO) Steven Harbour of the ship's Public Affairs Office told the *Gazette*, "The helicopters were dropping thousands of pounds a day of medical supplies, food, water and



PHUKET AHOY: About 7,000 US sailors came on shore in Phuket this week. Photos: Christian Mouchet

even pet food – there were a lot of stray pets," he said.

"It was a full-scale operation that took all 4,500 sailors on board to come together, and we came together as one big team. We really made a difference and it's something we're all proud of," he said.

According to the US Navy, the Reagan cost US\$ 4.5bn to build and US\$ 1mn "daily to fully operate".

Regarding the ship's involvement in Operation Tomodachi, CPO Harbour said, "When dealing with human life, I don't like putting a price tag on it – I mean there's no price tag on a human life."

The supercarrier's deployment in Japan was not without incident.

"During Operation Tomodachi, we did get within about 100 miles from the reactor plant that was having all those problems [Fukushima Dai-ichi] and one day got a little bit of what I call a 'dusting' of activity from that plant," Captain Burke said.

"We spent the next three weeks washing and cleaning, scrubbing the entire flight deck, the entire outside of the ship and cleaning the aircraft to get rid of it all.

"The dusting we got was very, very small and not a concern for the health of the crew, but some-

thing we needed to clean off and get rid of, which we have done," he said.

The Carrier Strike Group Seven left the area on April 5 and after a brief stopover in Sasebo Japan, set sail for Phuket.

"It's a great pleasure to be here in Thailand," Capt Burke said.

"My crew is very excited to be here. They've been working very hard and this is a chance for them to relax and see the tremendous culture here in Thailand.

"There are many tours planned, many events planned and we just can't wait to get off the ship and see this great country," he said aboard the Reagan on Sunday as hundreds of men and women queued to board ferries to Phuket's Deep Sea Port.

"I would really like to play golf



BURKE'S BREAK: Captain Thom Burke, commanding officer of the USS Ronald Reagan, said his crew was looking forward to 'a few days of real break'.

tomorrow in your wonderful country," Capt Burke added.

Most of the men and women aboard the Reagan told the *Gazette* that they simply wanted to check in to their hotels and relax.

"The first thing I'm going to do is go to a hotel and take a shower without wearing flip-flops. I'm going to get in the pool and just relax," CPO Harbour said.

Another option for the men and women in the Striker Group was to take part in Comserv (community

service) activities while in Phuket.

The Patong Rotary Club organized Comserv opportunities in several Phuket and Phan Nga schools, mosques and community service centers during their stay.

At the time of writing, the USS Ronald Reagan Strike Force Seven was scheduled to leave Phuket on May 5.

"This is our first really good break in this deployment and I don't know when our next stop will be. We never know, so we take what we've got," Capt Burke said.



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Soi Dog Phuket facing closure, B5mn needed

After eight years of rescuing and treating stray dogs, the Soi Dog foundation Phuket is under threat

By Alexandra Andersson

THE Soi Dog Foundation's future (SDF) on Phuket is uncertain.

Currently situated on 11.5 rai in Mai Khao, the foundation, which has been tackling Phuket's severe stray dog problem since 2003, purchased half of the site in 2009.

They are now facing pressure from the landowner to buy the other half, which SDF currently utilizes, by October for 10 million baht – something they simply do not have the funds to do.

"Many crucial facilities are on the unpurchased land. The land SDF owns outright is not big enough to accommodate all our facilities," SDF Director John Dalley explains.

SDF houses some 250 dogs at any given time, in shelters and dog runs, and there is also a hospital and staff accommodation on-site.

All this demands plenty of space. SDF has managed to raise 5mn baht worth of funds for the land, and needs to raise the rest in six months, or the land will be bought by one of two commercial organizations that have expressed interest in it.

The recent outbreak of canine distemper among Phuket's stray dogs increased SDF's operating costs enormously and unexpectedly.

The vaccination program has

cost them over a quarter of a million baht on top of the 1mn baht SDF routinely spend each month sterilizing and treating stray dogs.

To help raise the additional 5mn baht needed, a Sunday brunch event is being planned at Evason Phuket & Bon Island on May 22.

"If the money is not raised the future of SDF [as an organization] is not in danger, but its future on Phuket is," John says.

They may be forced to move to cheaper land north of Phuket, in Krabi or Khao Lak, he continues.

"We have been offered financial assistance to move there. Both local government and commercial businesses have seen what has been achieved on Phuket and want us to do the same there," he says.

But a Phuket without SDF would not be a pretty one, as

Mr Dalley points out:

"Expect to see a huge population explosion in stray dogs. Particularly as the number of puppies being brought onto the island from puppy farms for sale at weekend markets, for example, is growing rapidly.

"This is not only adding to population growth, but poses a serious rabies risk as these puppies are coming from areas where rabies is not under control," he says.



IN NEED: Stray dogs like these will be left to suffer on the streets without SDF.

the situation on Phuket would see a significant improvement.

"At present the population is stable and with our planned expansion, Phuket would see sterilizations increased to 10,000 animals per year, which would see a further marked decrease in the stray population over the next five years," he says.

The time is now for Phuket residents to show our appreciation and raise the necessary funds for this

extraordinary and invaluable charity that we have been lucky to host.

If you wish to donate please contact John Dalley on T:087-0508688 or E:john@soidog.org or at W:soidog.org

For tickets to the SDF brunch event, contact Cristy on T:084-0544367 or E:cristy@soidog.org. Tickets cost 2000 baht per person and include a buffet, free flow drinks and entertainment. There will also be a raffle and auction.

'Many crucial facilities are on the unpurchased land. The land SDF owns outright is not big enough to accommodate all our facilities.'



HOUND HERO: SDF director John Dalley at the Mai Khao site.



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Pencilling humor into peoples lives

Dutch artist Iskander Walen visits Phuket on his Asia tour promoting cartoons as a form of expression



ART FOR FUN: Student Tony Barrett

By Alexandra Andersson

THE provocative and amusing work of Dutch artist Iskander Walen is everywhere, even on Phuket.

His art has been exhibited in Paris and Singapore, featuring regularly in *Today* newspaper, *FHM* and *I-S* magazines to name a few, as well as being published in two best-selling books.

His popularity lies in the simplicity of his art. Whether it's a sculpture of a bomb with a woman's breast protruding from it, or a cartoon mocking society, Iskander's work appeals to the masses in its universality and humor.

Last weekend two workshops held at Phuket International Academy (PIA) gave 27 students, both



THE TEAM: Iskander with students at his second workshop at PIA



PUNCHLINE: One of the cartoons drawn by a student at the first workshop.

adults and children, the chance to tap into Iskander's contagious enthusiasm and passion for expression through illustration.

"Art should be for fun and enjoyment, not suffering and deep thinking. It has become a bit elitist and pretentious. This is

nonsense," Iskander explains.

For the past year Iskander has been teaching cartoon workshops around Asia in a bid to spread this message.

"All people, no matter how inexpressive, have world views and imagination to some degree.



FUNNYMAN: Iskander with budding cartoonist Tera Young.

"Cartooning helps them to present and communicate these ideas, which are key to human development," he says.

"My experience here [in Phuket] has confirmed what I already know. Cartoon drawing is not only for a certain group of people. The students here are all very qualified and it is not over their heads at all," he says.

At the PIA cartoon workshops, Iskander introduced his students to a number of techniques: developing a character, how to draw facial and bodily expressions, and where to place a speech bubble.

But Iskander says being a good cartoonist is not all about skill.

"The best cartoons are not the most beautifully drawn, they are the most interesting. Charlie Brown is really just a variation of a stick man," he says.

The work produced during the workshops showcased the students' individuality, with the cartoons expressing everything from slap-stick humor to social commentary.

"Cartooning is for everyone, it's less daunting than other art forms. It's second only to photography



Assistant Luxsana 'Nok' Charensri in terms of accessibility, but it is cheaper. All you need is a pencil," he says.

There are also developmental benefits to cartoon sketching, the artist says.

"It is also educational because it combines things you already know, like biology and physics, with topical, new information," he adds.

So get those pencils out and start scribbling.

If you want some inspiration the final products from the workshops will be on display in PIA's front entrance for two weeks.

Iskander's work and tips can be found at W:sgcartoons.com

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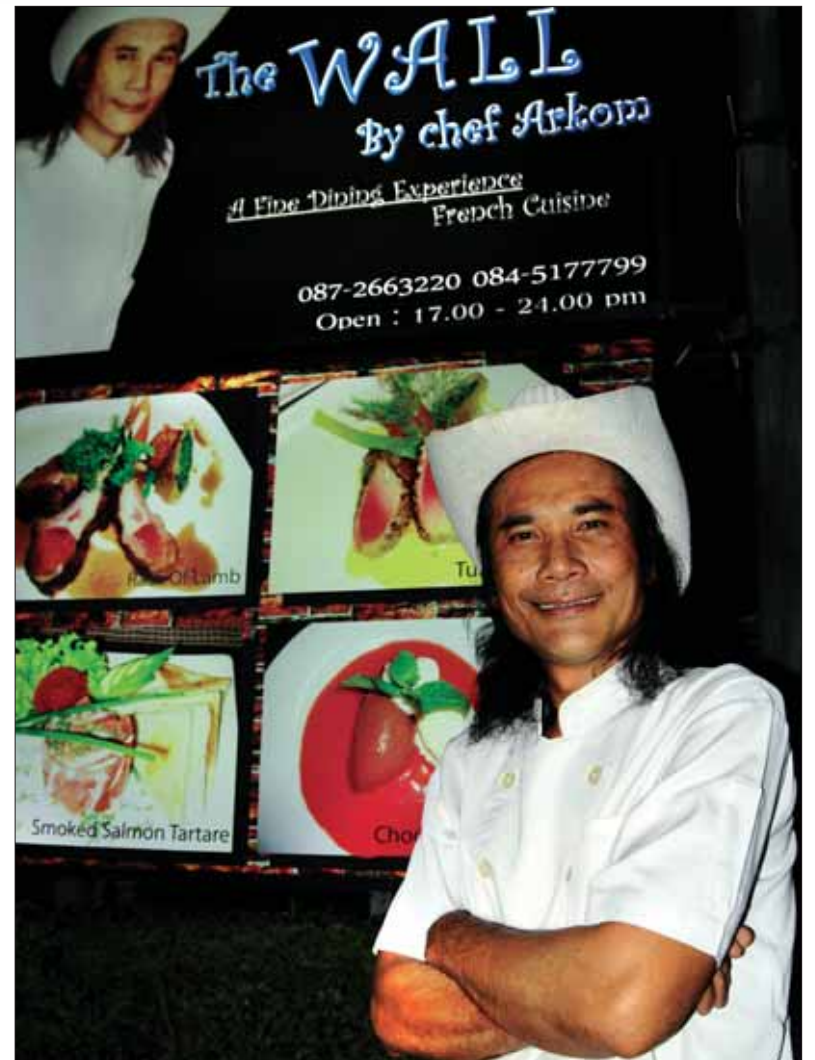
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Off the Wall

Venture down to Nai Harn to meet Chef Akorn and sample some of his simply sumptuous fare at The Wall



AT THE WALL: Diners enjoy good food, soft lighting and the pleasant atmosphere found at The Wall.



HATS OFF TO HIM: Chef Akorn wearing his trademark hat. Photos: Jim Welch

THE first thing people of a certain age will do who see the sign "The Wall", on the road leading down to Nai Harn Beach is sing "We don't need no eduukashuunn".

But this Wall hasn't got anything to do with the 1979 Pink Floyd oeuvre. The Wall (the restaurant, of course) is run by Chef Akorn from Roi-et whose reputation precedes him as being one of the hardest-working guys in a profession that's noted for its long hours and drudgery. And it's no wonder that he's appeared in the Dining Out section of the *Phuket Gazette* and other publications as frequently as other high-level chefs on the island. He has a way with herbs and spices that would make a Parisian parfumeur stamp his feet in envy; if you're skeptical of this accolade I'm sure that many of his regular clientele who keep him busy most nights will support him.

Chef Akorn set up shop in Nai Harn a few months ago, just in time to catch the high season in this end of the island and it's been something of an odyssey since he moved away some 10 years ago, with spells in Patong, Kamala and Patong again, but he's glad to be back: And so are we, to see his ultra-slim profile in The Wall's kitchen leaning over his meticulously prepared dishes.

We kick off with a creamy complimentary tomato soup accompanied by perfectly al dente garlic bread and baguette slices then launch into a tuna tartar (280 baht) accompanied by a robust avocado salsa (290 baht) along with pork spring rolls (220 baht).

On the Menu

By Sam Wilko

It's all so individually Wall-esque that memories start flooding back of the time when we first dined at the original Wall down the road some 10 years ago when Akorn's herb garden out back was the talk of the (then) small village.

Yup, he hasn't lost his chops and it's all deliciously individual. I'm a sucker for avocado and the light piquancy of his tuna tartar also makes it a recommended dish. We could have opted for a bottle from the wine list that takes in 12 labels from Chile to South Africa, but instead go for the house wine, an eminently decent Italian red (150 baht a glass) that more than does the business, happy-juice wise.

Considering the fact that he's in the middle of preparing a feast for a 12-member Swiss-German dining contingent and still manages to fit our table's order (and a couple of others) in, it's a small miracle that we've enjoyed the evening so much. Chef Akorn comes out and is amazed, "Is that all you want?" but it really is enough, considering his rich 'flavors'. (Followers of this celebrity chef's career will, no doubt, get the wordplay).

The Wall: Soi Sai Yuan (Nai Harn) next to M&M's restaurant. Open every day from 18:00. T: 087-2663220 M:084-5177799

For unusual French-Thai fusion dishes that are not over-the-top expensive in the south of the island try The Wall.



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Get ready for take off, it's Fun Fly 2011

By Janpen Upatising

PHUKET Fun Fly, the paragliding competition that captivated tourists and local residents alike in May last year, will return to the skies above Nai Harn Beach and Phromthep Cape from June 23 to 26.

Among the activities, to be held from 8am to 6pm each day, will be spot landing and fun fly competitions as well as activities on Nai Harn Beach.

The paragliding photo contest, which resulted in some of the most stunning photos of Phuket to date being published, will also return, this year branded the Canon Photo Contest 2011.

"The event is being held to promote paragliding and as preparation for the Asian Beach Games in November 2014, as paragliding is one of the competitive sports

in those games," said Narong Promjitta, managing director of event organizer BMS. Last year 52 paragliders took part in the competition.

"Currently, 40 paragliders have confirmed they will take part this year. I expect about 60 paragliders in total will join the event in June," said Dr Prasert Theplaong, president of the Phuket Paragliding Club.

Sky-high joyriders wanting to be taken for a "tandem ride" can register at a booth set up on Nai Harn Beach. The cost is 800 baht per flight.

The tandem rides take off near the wind turbines on Khao Daeng, just north of Phromthep Cape.

Each tandem flight will last five to 15 minutes and land on Nai Harn Beach, said Dr Prasert.



SUPER DOC: Dr Prasert Theplaong (left), president of Phuket Paragliding Club last year.



WHAT A SIGHT: A paraglider makes a spot landing as part of the Fun Fly festival last year, while 'no swimming' signs warned off people entering the heavy surf. Photo: Gazette file



START: Gliders took off from Laem Promthep.



FINISH: They then landed on Nai Harn Beach.

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Michael Massey

MICHAEL Massey is Director of the Atmanjai Wellness Center at Friendship Beach in Rawai. Atmanjai opened three years ago and swiftly earned a reputation as one of Thailand's most potent and effective centers for healing therapies, including detox and transformational healing.

Michael moved to Phuket at the end of 2003, ready for a change.

"Change has always stimulated me and by 2003 I was ready to make a shift in my life. I had visited Phuket twice and saw then, as now, that there was a lot of potential on the island."

After working on Phuket for a year with Bartercard, which promoted the exchange of services without the use of money, he decided to try a detox program at the Atsumi Retreat Healing Center.

"I was very impressed that simple processes over a seven day course could generate such physical, mental and emotional shifts. I decided to research wellness therapies, became involved in developing new programs and business models for Atsumi, and after completing that project was invited by Starr Farish to establish Atmanjai at Friendship Beach."

Before arriving on Phuket, Michael had an impressive history working in executive coaching with businesses needing assessment of operational problems. His skills are based on extensive training and



broad experience from working around the world.

He was born in Auckland, New Zealand and left school at an early age to take an apprenticeship in the printing industry.

"I knew immediately that I didn't want to become a printer, but I had committed to a seven-year apprenticeship. By taking every possible program and working lots of overtime, I finished the seven year term in three years. I then spent the next seven years traveling and working around the globe before settling in the tropical paradise of Vanuatu."

Michael worked in the service industry while living on the Pacific island. With his wife, he bought 80 acres of beachfront land and spent five years enjoying life on the tropical beach while working as Food and Beverage Director in a local casino, and later as a hotel General Manager.

"By 1995, I was ready again for a change and we moved to Australia where I developed my consulting business in organizational change. I met with clients and helped them assess their businesses. My goal was

always to make a business operate more profitably, with greater ease, and to ensure that it was more fun."

Michael also spent much of his time investigating therapies that allow both people and businesses to prosper. He is certified in a broad range of specialties, including neuro-linguistic programming (NLP) and hypnosis.

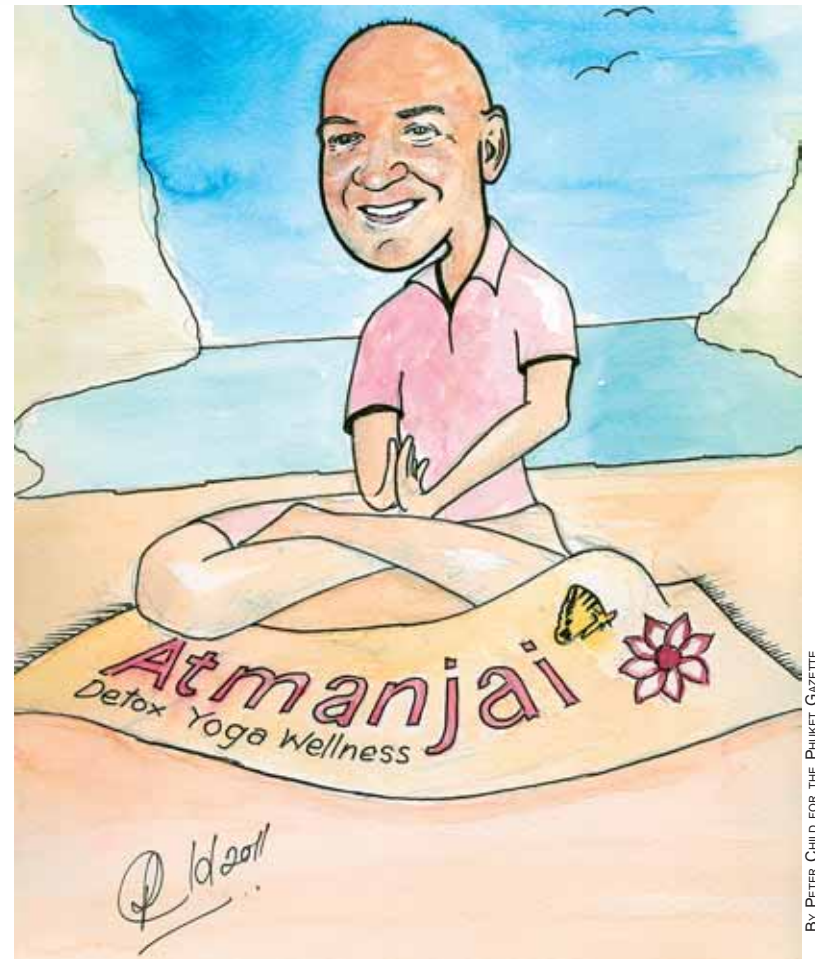
"I spent most of the late 1990s working in business and personal development. We were living in Queensland and when not away consulting with clients, I had a great time riding motorcycles in the bush, playing at the beach and raising my kids."

By 2003, it was time for another shift. When Michael arrived for a new life on Phuket, he immediately became actively involved in the Rotary Club of Patong Beach and the International Business Association of Phuket (IBAP).

"Both of these organizations provide an excellent path for a new resident to get involved in Phuket's community life. I have been particularly active with the Rotary as I joined in the year of the tsunami, which kept all of our members very busy. I was fortunate to serve as President for 2008/9 and currently serve as Chairman of the Membership Committee."

Michael's work at Atmanjai continues to expand.

"It's fulfilling to serve others. The more we can offer to other people, the more worthwhile our life can be."



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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Railroading Thailand

A look back to when railways came to Thailand in the 20th century, making travel all the more easy

HM KING Rama V's government ushered in an era of modernization that changed Siam for the better. By the end of his reign in the early 20th century, Siam had a functioning railway system that revolutionized travel in a country covered with thick tropical forest. HM King Rama V was also the first monarch to extensively tour his own kingdom, making him the first Thai king to ever visit Phuket Island.

By the end of HM King Rama V's reign, railway tracks had reached the south of the kingdom. In 1929, two years after he was crowned, HM King Rama VII visited the south of Thailand on a royal tour of the region. On that occasion he decided to visit Phuket as well.

During that period, Phuket Town had grown into an important trading center in the region. It was also the center of government for Monthon Phuket, a large administrative territory which included the provinces of Phuket, Ranong, Phang Nga, Krabi and Satun.

HM The King left Bangkok on January 24, 1929. The royal visit was planned to coincide with Chinese New Year, since the south had a sizeable Thai-Chinese population. According to government records, the 12 carriage royal train left Chitrladda Station in Bangkok with HM The King and Queen, and an entourage of 91 dignitaries and servants. The train arrived in Patthalung the

Looking Back

By Anand Singh

following day. The royal entourage stayed and toured the region for a few days, visiting Trang, Ranong and Phang Nga, before sailing to Phuket aboard a royal steam ship, the first *Maha Chakri*.

HM The King arrived in Phuket on the morning of January 31. The High Commissioner of Monthon Phuket, HSH Prince Sakdidet Chayakul, was on hand to greet their majesties.

HM The King and Queen Rampaipanne were later given a night tour of Phuket Town from their car. Their first night in Phuket

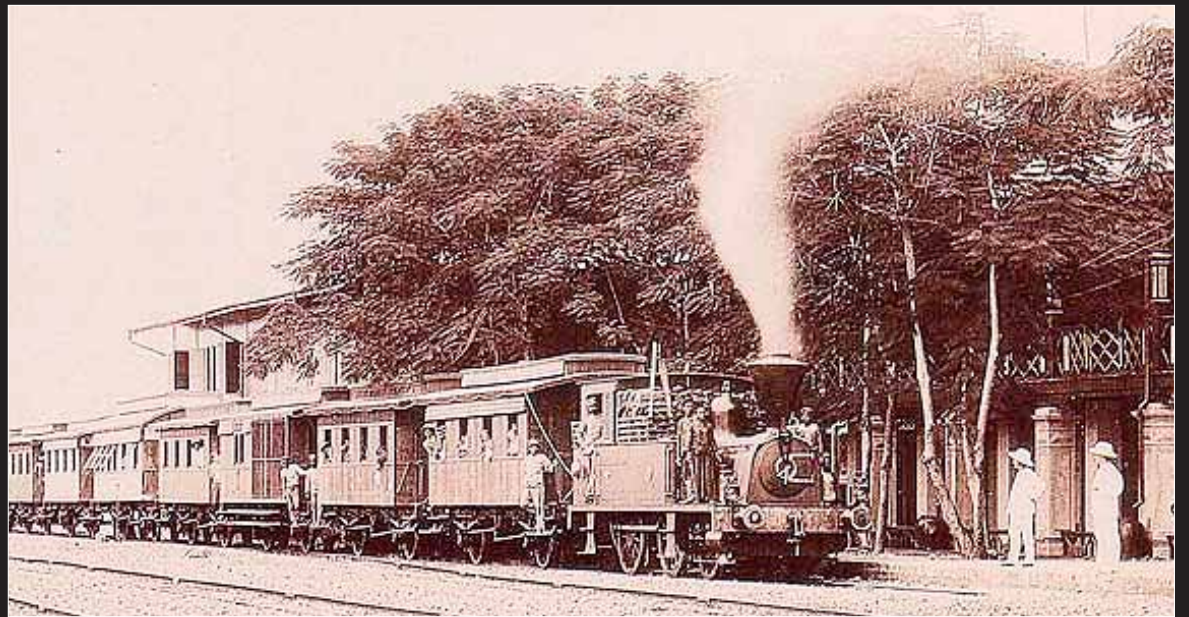
ended with a local performance that was prepared to welcome the royal couple.

It comes as no surprise that HM The King's royal tour of Thailand's south would include a visit to

Phuket Town since it was an important seat of government. However in his address at Phuket's government hall, HM The King told the audience why he was eager to visit Phuket.

"I feel it is important for me to personally see the geography of the town and observe the activities here first hand," HM The King said during his address.

"Secondly, it is important for me to be personally acquainted with the people of Monthon Phuket, including government officials, religious figures, teachers, merchants and citizens. From ancient times it has been traditional for Siamese rulers and his



ROLLING ON: The first diesel trains were imported into Thailand in 1928. In early 1929, King Rama VII toured southern Thailand in one. Above is a photograph of a Thai railway station taken at about the same time.

subjects to unite and work together in good and bad times. Therefore, if I can learn more from visiting this area, it will help me to rule and bring greater prosperity to my citizens," HM The King said on February 1, 1929.

Later that day HM The King and Queen visited Kosit Viharn Temple and also took a trip to Chalong Bay to observe an ore dredging vessel at work.

The Phuket that HM The King saw on his 1929 visit had changed significantly since his father HM King Rama V visited, decades earlier. Phuket Town was one of the most multicultural places in all of Siam, with people from many ethnic groups living and working together. Modern machinery had been imported and used extensively in tin mining, which meant that more tin was being mined and more income generated than ever before.

The Phuket City Hall, built in 1910 when Kor Sim Bee was High Commissioner, was the first building in Thailand to use

reinforced concrete. The island also got its first electricity plant during this period.

Due to flourishing international trade on the island, Standard Chartered, the first foreign bank in Thailand, also opened a branch in Phuket Town during this period, upon Kor Sim Bee's request. In addition, the town was well facilitated with parks, roads and even tennis lawns for the rich and upper class. It was a thriving and prosperous town that was the pride of southern Thailand.

On February 2, their majesties visited some of the schools in Phuket Town, including Songtek School and Hua-Bhun School. The Hua-Bhun School building that their majesties visited in 1929 now serves as the Phuket Thai-Hua Museum. Later that day HM The King also visited Vachira Hospital

and that evening, the royal couple visited Chalong Temple before returning to their royal pavilion in Rawai to spend the night.

HM The King spent his next few days touring the island's tin mines observing the different methods used in mining. He also visited the Thalang waterfall on February 4. On the afternoon of February 5, a group of foreign miners invited their majesties to attend a tennis tournament. HM The King and Queen honored their request and watched the tournament at the United Club in Phuket Town.

After seven days of touring and relaxing in Phuket, their majesties, along with their entourage departed Phuket for Trang railway station, where they boarded the royal train and returned to Bangkok.

The Phuket City Hall, built in 1910 when Kor Sim Bee was High Commissioner, was the first building in Thailand to use reinforced concrete.

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Surviving World War II

Hillenbrand pens the story of a true hero...

LAURA Hillenbrand wrote a book about her equine hero *Seabiscuit*. Her book, *Seabiscuit: An American Legend* came out in 2003 and was made into a fabulously successful movie. She then spent the next seven years writing about a human hero.

Louis Zamperini was an Olympic runner, a World War II bombardier, survived a 47-day life raft ordeal in the Pacific and endured over two years of brutal Japanese captivity. In her acknowledgments at the end of her book, the author recalls that Louis told her, "I'll be an easier subject than *Seabiscuit* because I can talk".

And talk he did, over the course of 75 interviews. The result is *Unbroken* (Fourth Estate, London, 2011, 473pp), subtitled "An Extraordinary True Story of Courage and Endurance".

Louie Zamperini did not seem destined for greatness. Born in 1917 in a small Californian town of Torrance, Louie mostly distinguished himself by petty thievery. Pushed by his elder brother, Louie turned to track and field and made it to the 1936 Olympics in Berlin.

Just short of graduation from the University of California, he joined the Army Air Force, trained as a bombardier aboard a B-24 Liberator and was sent to Hawaii.

Stationed to a tiny speck of an island

named Funafuti, the crew was badly shot up in a raid over the phosphorous-rich island of Nauru.

Afterward, they counted 594 holes in the planes fuselage. In vengeance, the Japanese bombed Funafuti.

Hillenbrand describes the action vividly as the bombs stomp closer like giant steps to the native hut where Louie and his pilot Allen Philips (Phil), are huddling in terror.

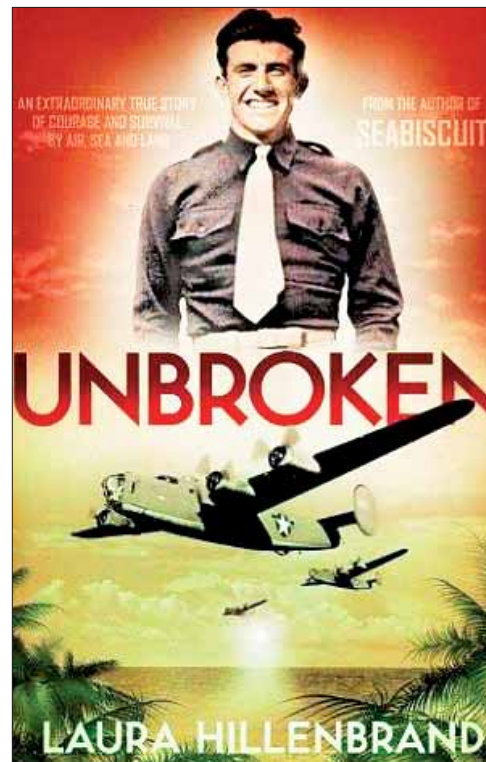
"An instant later, everything was scalding whiteness and splintering noise. The ground heaved, and the air whooshed around, carrying an acrid smell.

Trees blew apart. "A bomb struck the tent in which Louie and Phil had been sleeping a minute before. Another burst beside a pile of men in a ditch, and something speared into the back of the man on top.

He said, "This feels like it, boys," and passed out. A bomb hit the ordnance truck, sending it into the air in thousands of pieces."

Sent on an air rescue mission in a faulty plane, Louie and Phil are forced to crash land in the South Pacific. They are the only survivors, except for the tailgunner who later dies. They drift westward for 3,000 miles, tormented by hunger and thirst and exposure to the relentless sun.

They fight off sharks, and miraculously



This is one story of extraordinary survival that readers won't want to miss.

escape strafing by a Japanese bomber. They survive on rainwater and the occasional fish and seabird.

They are then picked up by a Japanese warship. After initial kind treatment in a hospital, they are launched into the horrors of a Japanese prison camp. He describes his first prison experience on the atoll of Kwajalein.

"When the guards weren't venting their fury at the captives, they entertained themselves by humiliating them. Every day, at gunpoint, Louie was forced to stand up and dance, staggering through the Charleston while his guards roared with laughter.

"The guards made Louis whistle and sing, pelted him with fistfuls of gravel, taunted him as he crawled around his cell to pick up bits of rice, and slid long sticks through the door window so they could stab and swat him, finding his helpless condition hilarious".

Louie was sent to three prison camps in Japan. Besides the privation and heavy labor, he was the victim of sadistic guards, especially one known as "the Bird", whom had a particular hatred for the famous Louis Zamperini.

He beat him constantly with fists, clubs and belt buckles. On a list of war criminals at the end of the war, "the Bird" was ranked number seven.

When he returned to the US, Louie was tormented by post traumatic stress and nightmares about "the Bird". Hatred consumed him and turned him to drink.

"During the war, 'the Bird' had been unwilling to let go of Louie; after the war, Louie was unable to let go of the Bird," Hillenbrand observes.

The story of Louie's ultimate redemption can only be called inspiring. He's now still alive and skateboarding, at the ripe old age of 94.

Dealing with promiscuity

THE non-fiction *Wife, Interrupted* is one of those books you can't help but burn through, but would probably rather not be seen out and about with.

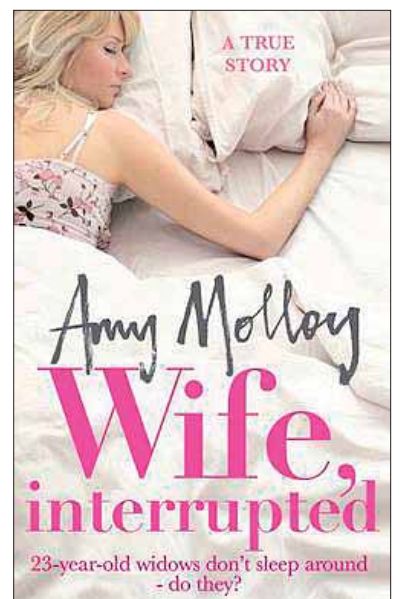
At just 200-odd pages, and with the spacing and font a 10-year-old could manage, it has all the tell-tale signs of a trashy, guilty-pleasure book.

Throw in the constant barrage of romance, raunch and emotional turmoil the book delivers and you've got yourself a recipe for a script handed down from Danielle Steel herself.

The only thing that sets this book apart is that Amy Molloy has lived her story. The book chops between her whirlwind romance and wedding to a rugged Irishman, being widowed by cancer, and her post-traumatic promiscuity – all of which she experienced in two years before her 23rd birthday.

She is frank about all the ups and downs of the past two years, detailing everything from the wounds sustained from yet another one night stand, to cleaning up her husband's vomit at his bedside.

She is also, however, frank about the fact that she is a struggling journalist who is



Getting between the sheets with a true story by Amy Molloy.

unashamedly grateful about the fact her experiences have given her something worth writing about.

You won't like her, but you also won't judge her, as she leads you through this emotionally charged period in her life. And it is a page turner, there is no doubt about that.

– Alexandra Andersson



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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

May 7. Into the Big Blue

Into the Big Blue gala dinner will be held at the Sheraton Grande Laguna. For a donation of just 3,500 baht, guests will enjoy free-flow bar, canapes, four-course gala dinner, fabulous entertainment and music they just have to dance to. Thanks to generous sponsors, all money raised will go to the Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation, who are improving the lives of children in Phuket. Contact Chantal Fernandes at T:089-874 2942, E:chantal.fernandes@gmail.com or visit W:phukethasbeengoodtous.org.

May 7. 'intuitiOn' opens at Nakonnai Art Museum

John Underwood, Phuket's world-class sculptor and designer, has joined with Thai sculptor Amnat Boonsanit and painter Kamon Chookham to present "intuitiOn", a show of new work at the Nakonnai Art Museum, located opposite the entrance to the Golden Tulip Mangosteen Resort & Spa. The gallery will present original sculptures combining wood, metal and glass in surprising forms with interesting concepts. T:081-7192944 E:john@underwood-phuket.com or visit W:underwood-phuket.com

May 7, 14 and 21. Saturday brunch @ Two Chefs

Every Saturday Two Chefs

Cowboy Night at the Two Chefs coming on May 12

You are welcome to join The Cowboy Party at Two Chefs Kata Beach. A big buffet will be served with everything from corncobs to hickory flavored pork ribs, tacos and apple crumble pie, and of course, a lot more. The music is presented by MJ & Megan. All this for only 495 baht, and just 250 baht for children.

Contact Two Chefs at T: 076-284155
E:kata@twochefs.com or visit W: twochefs.com for more information.



proudly presents their Saturday brunch with a Scandinavian touch from noon to 3pm. Eat all you can for only 395 baht. Add only another 300 baht and you can drink as much as you want from our wide choice of free-flowing beverages. During each brunch, MJ & Megan provide the entertainment with their lovely voices. For more information contact the Two Chefs at T:076-330065, E:katacenter@twochefs.com or visit W:twochefs.com.

May 10. Antinori Wine Dinner at Mare Restaurant Phuket

The Antinori family has been making wine for over 600 years. You are invited for an exclusive wine dinner headlined by the leading Italian producers of quality wines of the Antinori winery, presented by Jacopo Pandolfini on May 10, from 7 to 11 pm, at Mare restaurant at the Centara Grand Beach Resort, Phuket. The exclusive menu is created by Fabrizio Crocetta, our Italian Chef. 1,900++ baht per person. Contact Cherry at T:076-201234 ext 1400. E:asstprcpbr@chr.co.th or visit W:centarahotelsresorts.com

May 13. Curry Fridays

Come on down to Curry Fridays on alternate Fridays, from 7pm to 11:30pm, at the Navrang Mahal, Karon Sea Sands Resort & Spa. Here is your chance to enjoy an authentic and lavish Indian curry buffet. Selections include all-time favorites chicken tikka masala, very hot mutton vindaloo, juicy kebabs, Goan fish curry, chickpea curry and more served with nan bread and basmati rice. All you can eat for only 449 baht nett. Draught beer by the glass, 50 baht nett. Special discount on beverages. Contact: Seemant Raju at T:076-286464 ext 4 or 081-6295063

May 13. Royal Ploughing Ceremony Day – public holiday

This auspicious occasion, which predates even the birth of the Lord Buddha, marks the beginning of the rice-planting season. The Ploughing Lord – appointed by HM the King – performs ancient rites and attempts to forecast the rainfall for the coming months, to predict whether the rice seedlings about to be planted will provide a bountiful crop this year.

E:sm@karonseasand.com or visit W:karonseasand.com.

May 17. Visakha Bucha Day – Public Holiday

Visakha Bucha Day is observed on the day of the full moon during the 6th lunar month, which usually falls in either May or early June. It is a day to commemorate three important incidents: the birth, the enlightenment and the passing away of the Buddha. Miraculously, these events fell in the same month and on the same date in the Buddhist era.

May 22. Mai Khao Turtle Mini Marathon 2011

JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa with the Mai Khao Marine Turtle Foundation will hold the 7th Mai Khao Turtle Mini Marathon on May 22 at Pru Jeh Sun Lake, Mai Khao Beach, to raise funds for its annual contribution to the Phuket Marine Biological Centre's Marine Animal Stranding Rescue Project. Registrations start at 4:30am and the race starts at 6am. Race fees are 250 baht for the 10.5km run and 200 baht for the 3.5km run. Fees include a T-shirt and a chance to win trophies, medals and lucky draw prizes. Contact Aim at T:086-6892230 E:info@maikhaoturtlefoundation.com or visit W:maikhaoturtlefoundation.com

May 22. BIS Tennis Plus Doubles Tennis Tournament

Social Tennis Tournament. Ladies' and Men's Doubles at 900 baht per team, lunch included. All teams will get at least two matches. Trophy presentation at conclusion of the matches. Entries close on May 15 at 5pm. Contact Dianne Browning at T:089-4698100. E:didee51@yahoo.com.au

Free Computer Clinics

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

May 8, June 12 – Laguna,
May 15 – Chalong
June 5 – Patong

Starts at 10am

For more info contact Woody at T:076-290468

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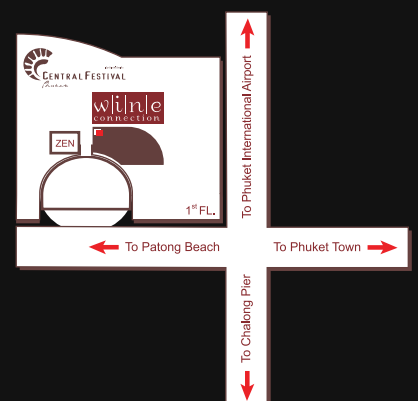
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All aboard USS Reagan

THE nuclear-powered US Navy aircraft carrier *USS Ronald Reagan* dropped anchor in Ao Makham last Sunday, with 7,000 US Navy servicemen taking shore leave on Phuket.

Accompanying the 332-meter supercarrier were the guided-missile cruiser *USS Chancellorsville* and the destroyer *USS Preble*, altogether designated as the USS Ronald Reagan Strike Group Seven.

On board the massive *USS Ronald Reagan* a whopping

15,000 meals are served and 250 gallons of milk consumed daily. There is even a weekly ship newspaper and television and photography studios.

Rear Admiral Bob Girrier (pictured bottom left), commander of the strike group, along with his crew met the *Phuket Gazette's* lensmen Christian Mouchet and Nicholas Altstadt as they took part in a media tour of the *USS Ronald Reagan* last Sunday. Here's a glimpse of what went on...



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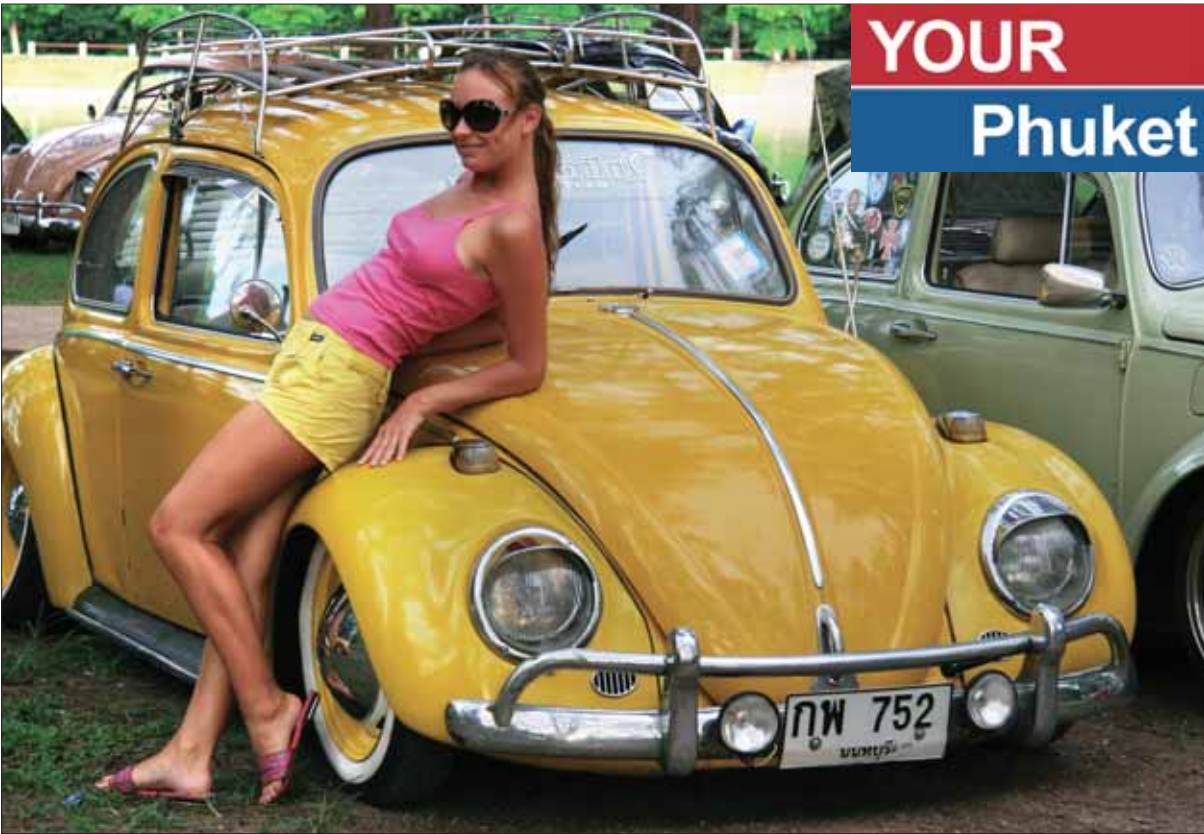
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E-mail: info@villaroyalephuket.com www.villaroyalephuket.com



MUSIC FOR JAPAN: Narong Pattamasaevi, Director of Trisara, invited the students of Dr Nopanand Chanorathaikul, to perform for a fundraising recital last Saturday for victims of the Japan tsunami. A Steinway grand piano was flown to Trisara from Bangkok for the event which featured a varied selection of classical music. Pictured from second left, Narong Pattamasaevi and far right, Dr Nopanand Chanorathaikul with performing pianists.



INDIAN DELIGHT: Billy Chima (center), owner of Khanasutra in Phuket Town, celebrated the restaurant's 8th birthday last Saturday. Photo: Neil Quail



NAI HARN'S GOT HERBIES: An eclectic mix of travellers gathered at Nai Harn Lake last Sunday for the Volkswagen on the Beach Party 2011. VW enthusiasts from as far as Indonesia and Malaysia joined the caravan of VW love on its way through more than 40 provinces in Thailand showing off their classic cars, vans and beetles.

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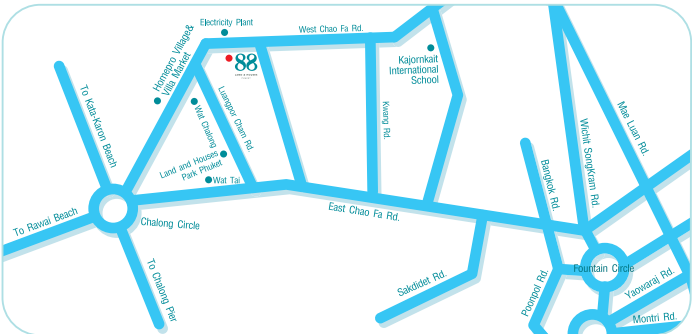
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Photo of actual house with simulated environment

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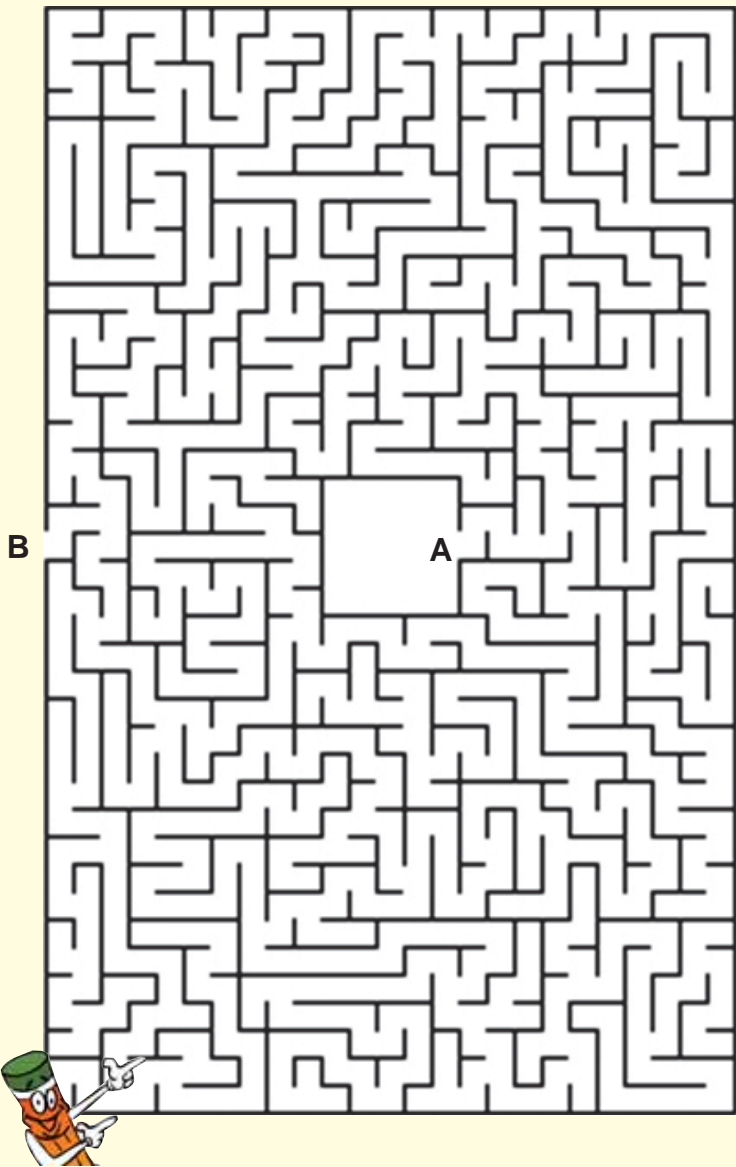
TROPICAL SERENITY



Project Owner : L.H.Muang Mai Co.,Ltd. Managing Director : Khun Pitaya Tantipiriyakij Registered Capital : 900 Million Baht (Fully Paid) 88 Land and Houses Phuket, Location : West Chao fa Rd. Chalong sub-district, Ampher Muang. Phuket, Title Deed No : 3901 Project Area 14 Rai, Financial Institution : Siam Commercial Bank Public Co., Ltd. Construction Start : January 2010 Expected Completion : 2013. Operation License No.19/2010 dated 2 December 2010. After full payment is completed transference is made within 7 days.



A *Gazette* staff member completed this maze in 30 seconds. Can you beat their time? Make your way out of the maze.

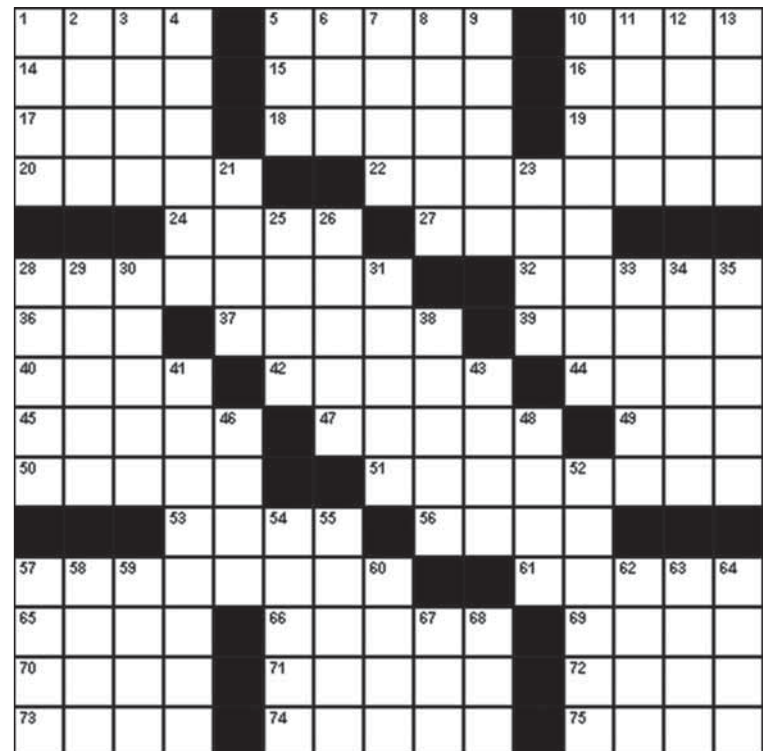


Across

1. Backwards falo
5. Old sailors
10. Calculus calculation
14. First name in country
15. Chirp
16. Lady of Spain
17. Always
18. Get hitched quick
19. Oops!
20. Pale purple
22. Unnecessary
24. He loved Lucy
27. East of Eden director Kazan
28. A little verse
32. Bert's buddy
36. From _ _ _ Z
37. Singer Cleo
39. Cheers waitress
40. Nope
42. Duplicity
44. Asian sea
45. Cessation
47. Island in the East China Sea
49. Female sheep
50. Pay for
51. Person who writes music
53. Torn clothing
56. Revivalists
57. Light axe
61. Simpleton
65. Opposite of sans
66. Singes
69. Contest, ethnicity
70. Interlock
71. Merits
72. Lendl of tennis
73. Gaelic language of Ireland or Scotland
74. Brown ermine
75. Mariners can sail on seven of these

Down

1. Hurler Hershiser
2. First name in jeans
3. Explorer Tasman
4. Capacitance units
5. Sault _ _ _ Marie
6. Hole maker



7. Rock band Kings of _ _ _
8. Conical native American tent
9. Alloy of iron and carbon
10. Moonstone
11. Architect Mies van der _ _ _
12. First chimpanzee launched into Earth orbit
13. Exclamations of relief
21. Overlay with wood
23. Conked out
25. Slang for heroin
26. Hipbone
28. Chamber
29. Early anesthetic

30. Path
 31. Early computer
 33. Nostrils
 34. Floored
 35. Conger catcher
 38. Singer John
 41. Mexican sandal
 43. Salinger girl
 46. Egyptian deity
 48. Atop
 52. Egyptian god
 54. Tenuous substances
 55. Perspire
 57. Domesticated
 58. Above
 59. Teenage bedroom
 60. Corn syrup brand
 62. Church center
 63. Final Four org
 64. Cravings
 67. Genetic material
 68. Concorde, eg
- Provided by BestCrosswords.com.
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Puzzle solutions on page 39

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):



A fire sign is forecast to offer an olive branch this week which will please those Taureans who have been upset by a falling out. Your outlook this week is peaceful and the stars suggest that your calmer demeanor will encourage others to approach you more easily. Those celebrating a birthday in the coming days should find it easier to create their own good luck in the year ahead.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



Those born under the sign of Gemini who took some risks in business last month will be relieved to see positive results this week. However, the stars suggest that you should not push your luck too far during the rest of May. In the realm of romance, a fire sign partner is forecast to be under extra stress and you should avoid letting the sun set on arguments this weekend.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):



Cancerians who can't make up their minds whether to pursue a job offer should receive motivation early next week. Another water sign has some worthwhile information to offer which will lay your

doubts to rest. Wednesday is the most auspicious day to schedule interviews for. On a personal level, your readiness for romance with an air sign has been noted and appreciated.

LEO (July 24-August 22):



The stars indicate that many Leos will be asking themselves some important questions this week. Honesty is the best policy and moving onto a more fruitful path should be the result of your soul-searching. Take a leaf out of an earth sign friend's book to find a better balance between work and leisure. Your romantic outlook improves with the help of sparkling astral vibrations this weekend. Lucky days for finances are Sunday and Monday.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23):



Virgoans who have been experiencing difficulties with certain work colleagues recently could consider bringing a more objective third party to the table this week. An air sign with diplomatic skills can help to solve your dilemma. Where personal relationships are concerned, your need to control the purse strings could rock the boat this weekend. Wednesday is the most auspicious



day to have a serious conversation about personal finances.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23):



Having too many eggs in the same basket becomes an issue for Librans during the second week of May. If this situation relates to finances, the stars suggest taking professional advice to avoid repeating past mistakes. On a personal level, you could be shocked when an earth sign tells you something in confidence this weekend. Romance with another air sign is well-starred, but meeting an earth sign halfway requires patience.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22):



Attention to detail is important as there are signs that vital information could escape your attention this week. Those who are not enjoying a new job should allow more time to settle in – another water sign is forecast to make the transition smoother as May progresses. Where romance is concerned, see-

ing is believing for sceptical Scorpios this weekend.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21):



Your life is set to become more organized this week which will allow Sagittarians better prospects of success. An air sign colleague or friend has some practical tips on how to expand your work or business interests. Those who are single and glad to be may have to make this clear to well-meaning friends who are determined to arrange a blind date.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20):



What goes around should come around for Capricorns this week. A goodwill gesture you made in April is forecast to be repaid. Where work is concerned, you have the power to overcome obstacles and this trend will continue until the end of May. A new romantic partner could find your intensity overwhelming play it cool until more trust has been established.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19):



Aquarians who expected an action-packed week could be disappointed by others' lack of motivation. A water sign is pre-

dicted to let you down again mid-week, but this should confirm that you cannot rely on this person. Thursday is the most auspicious day for business related meetings. Where romance is concerned, you could be confused when a fire sign reveals their true nature.

PISCES (February 20-March 20):



In the business world, overdue rewards are highlighted for Pisceans this week. As the month of May progresses, your luck in most areas is strong, but personal finances are subject to cloudy conditions. This is not an auspicious time to lend money. Pisceans who have been trying to make a romantic impression on an air sign will have to make more effort.

ARIES (March 21-April 20):



There are signs that Arians could waste energy sweating the small stuff this week. Allow yourself some quality time to relax this weekend and start the working week with your priorities in order. Where work is concerned, Monday is an auspicious day to meet with influential people. The stars advise giving more support to a romantic partner as it appears you have been too wrapped up in your own life lately.

PROPERTY Gazette

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

Experts bullish on property

By Nicholas Altstadt

WHAT is the "sweet spot" in today's real-estate marketplace?

That was the question posed at the American Chamber of Commerce Thailand's Greater Phuket Chapter and *Property Report South East Asia*'s resort markets seminar on April 29.

David Simister, Chairman of CBRE Thailand, Antony Picon of Colliers International Thailand, Duangjai Kraus, Managing Director of Engel & Völkers Thailand and Andrew Langdon, Senior Vice President of Jones Lang LaSalle Hotels were on-hand to share their expertise at the Holiday Inn, Patong.

The answer to the question posed at the seminar is, rest assured, still "Phuket". However, there is competition out there.

The Phuket market continues

to do well, especially on the West Coast, with more property transactions taking place in the first quarter of 2011 than the same period last year, Mr Simister of CBRE Thailand said.

The profile of typical buyers is changing. However, with more Russian and Indian investors entering the market, he said.

"Quality still sells," Mr Simister said. Finding a good location with an impressive view is key, he added. "Phuket's maturing and I think that's good."

Investment in the Bali property market, often touted as a competitor to Phuket, is only about half of current investment in Phuket, he said. Cambodia, which has the best foreign ownership structure in the region, may be the next sweet spot, he said.

"If you're new [to property in-



BANK ON PHUKET: The four leading property experts gave presentations and chaired a question and answer session with more than 60 people attending the event. Photo: Nicholas Altstadt

vestment], buy in Cambodia in the next 10 years," Mr Simister said.

Antony Picon of Colliers International Thailand spoke about the upcoming Pattaya market.

"Pattaya is not what you thought it was. It's becoming an international city," he said.

The arrival of Central Festival shopping mall has attracted a new type of tourist, including many domestic tourists. He expects Pattaya to further develop as a shopping destination, he said.

Duangjai Kraus of Engel & Völkers spoke of market invest-

ment in Hua Hin, which she said was restricted due to high costs. The limited amount of beachfront area and entertainment were factors in the higher price tags for premium properties, she said.

Andrew Langdon of Jones Lang LaSalle spoke about the hotel market in Thailand.

His company has been behind the sale of several major hotels in Phuket including the Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket and the Laguna Beach Resort Phuket.

Phuket and Bangkok are driving the Thai hotel market and Chiang

Mai is no longer a player, he said.

Thailand bottomed out in terms of hotel transaction volume in 2009, but is bouncing back strongly with 2011 volumes already greater than all of 2010.

Asian investors were responsible for virtually all new hotel investments in Asia in 2010 and were also emerging as major players in the international market.

"Well located resorts in Thailand in established resort destinations such as Phuket and Koh Samui continue to attract serious investor interest," he said.

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PROPERTY



AS FAR back as I can recall in the dark and blurred place of my childhood memory I remember time spent in our family's front yard.

Growing up in suburban Los Angeles with long summer days and the Santa Ana winds howling beneath palm trees there was little shelter from the blistering heat.

My mother taught me to throw a baseball in the front yard (dad was working). We camped out in a small tent some nights and played pickup games of football, soccer and volleyball with kids from the block on the crab grass turf.

Even now I can almost smell the grass or feel its touch beneath my feet like some sort of magic carpet. As in real life, a downside lurked, with chores being the kill-joy, from mowing the lawn to raking leaves and trimming my mom's prize rose bushes. Blood was spilled on those thorny creatures which I grew to despise.

In later days I drank my first beer from a brown paper bag in that yard, and once after bringing home a six-pack some weeks later I woke up face down at the foot of those same rose bushes. Ironic, isn't it?

Our neighborhood was our kingdom and we roamed the collective yards of our friends from the time school let out up to the time darkness cast a blanket over the city and the call for dinner came through the wind.

Going back to California from time to time and driving along those familiar streets with ghosts and goblins of days past, I have rarely seen people in the front yards of their homes. Even Jehovah's Witnesses seemed to be missing.



HANGING OUT: The front yard as a 'must have' home feature is no more. Photo: Alexandra Andersson

Some may explain it away as a societal shift from front yards to backyards – with safety, prosperity and the golden age of swimming pools, Jacuzzis and built-in barbecues that resemble industrial kitchens. It is harder to be hit by a stray bullet from a drive-by or to be kidnapped from the comfy environs of one's own walled-up personal reserve.

Jump into a time machine – or else the nearest microwave oven – and program in 2011 with the intended destination as Phuket.

Welcome to "Villa Ville". Pool villas, townhouses, even pent-house condos with private water features – they're all here. Of course in water world we have lagoons and klongs as well.

For most of these "amazing"

architectural feats, the front yard has been subtly removed and a focus shifted to the Western-favored backyard.

Getting down to generalizing, or as some call "broad reference points", the usual suspects have arrived for the party: infinity pools, koi ponds, water features with giant Buddha heads that have been hacked off at the neck, whirlpools and remarkably smallish barbecues.

Perhaps this is an indication that general island preferences tilt toward more drinking than dining. Ah, but there I go again, making blanket criticism.

Let's not get started on salas. This is not a topic I intend to visit, sort of like my lifelong mission of avoiding Bangladesh.

There are wood planks, sandwash, terrazzo, stones, marble inlays and every manner of rock hard finishes together with all-too-predictable landscaping.

I can't help but wonder though:

Where is the rest of the yard? Those wide open spaces for your eyes to wander over.

Sadly, yards have been downsized just like my bank account after having two kids, three dogs and all the accoutrements that come with them.

Perhaps we need to call Scotland Yard onto the case (okay, that was cheap humor at its lowest). But seriously, I am saddened by the vast disappearance of yards, be they front, back or in-between.

Chalk another one up for the endangered-species list.

No doubt the downfall of our entire quasi-civilized society can be traced back to the slow and steady decline of open spaces in our homes.

Blame progress or the high cost of land, but I miss the vast pasture-like yards of my early years.

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

In brief...

Maldives tapping into Phuket

LUXURY-branded villas, having originated over 15 years ago, are now ingrained in Phuket's property scene.

High-profile resort destination the Maldives is now looking to cash in on this hotel-managed real estate market.

One recent launch of note is the 12 Blues Resort and Spa which is developing 33 villas in the Maldives.

Pricing points fall under the US\$ 2 million marker and rental returns are expected to be substantial given the high level of average room rates in the market.

New real estate certification to set higher standards

WHILE Thailand's property industry continues to climb up the evolutionary ladder, one nearby Asian country is implementing new standards.

Singapore's recent adoption of an estate agents' bill requires all sales staff to pass comprehensive examinations.

The government has set up a statutory authority which will oversee the process along with a uniform registration.

Meanwhile Thailand's property industry still retains an informal methodology for addressing what are best practices in many other developed markets.

M evenpick no 2

FOR island hotel watchers, expect an announcement soon on a second M evenpick branded resort in a northwest location.

A new wave of international hotels are appearing on the horizon with Hong Kong's New World hospitality group moving forward on their South Patong Emerald Bay Resort. It's understood the property will be operated under a new luxury brand that has yet to be unveiled.

Phuket's east coast looks set to play home to a new Park Hyatt with an iconic world class designer, awaiting a formal launch.

On the southern tip, Jones Lang LaSalle Hotels bidding process for the Evason Phuket is wrapping up and the buyer is expected to be announced shortly.

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

LAGUNA

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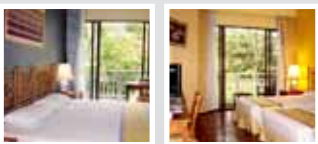
Properties for sale within Laguna Phuket

1 Allamanda 2-Bedroom Suite THB 7.9 M



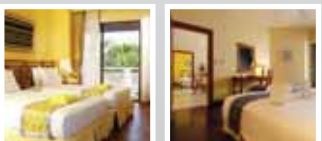
- 2 beds 2 baths Apartment
- garden view • golf membership
- fully furnished • freehold

2 Allamanda 2-Bedroom Suite THB 7.9 M



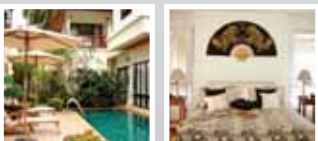
- 2 beds 2 baths Apartment
- golf view • golf membership
- fully furnished • freehold

3 Allamanda 2-Bedroom Suite THB 7.9 M



- 2 beds 2 baths Apartment
- golf view • golf membership
- fully furnished • leasehold

4 Laguna Fairway THB 19.5 M



- 2-storey 3 beds Townhome
- golf view • maid's quarters
- fully furnished • private pool

5 Sheraton Island Villa THB 19.9 M



- 2 beds 3 baths Villa
- lagoon view • golf membership
- fully furnished • leasehold

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Knowing the lay of the land on leases

DUE TO legal restrictions applying to foreign property buyers in Thailand, leases have become a popular and widely used option to legally acquire interest in land or property.

Typically, developers offer their buyers residential lease arrangements comprising an initial lease period of 30 years and, in addition, two lease extensions, each 30 years. This provides for a total term of 90 years.

Having a look at the Thai Civil and Commercial Code (CCC) may help you to understand why this structure, consisting of a relatively short initial lease term plus renewal options of the same duration, is common. Section 540 of the CCC stipulates that the maximum lease period for an immovable property is 30 years. Section 540 of the CCC further states that this period may be renewed, but it must not exceed 30 years from the time of renewal.

Although the CCC allows residential leases of immovable property for a term of 30 years and renewal of such lease, a buyer should be aware that a number of potential issues exist in connection with the renewal of a lease.

Property Legal By International Law Office

First of all any renewal clause being part of a lease agreement should include as a minimum requirement its term and a consideration. The consideration should be a reasonable rental fee payable for the extension of the lease.

A buyer should further understand that there is no lease in perpetuity which puts a buyer in a legal position which is equivalent to ownership. However, it shall be mentioned that some developers have implemented sophisticated corporate structures where the power to renew the lease shall be vested with the lessee.

Also a lease of immovable property which is longer than three years is only enforceable if it is made in writing and registered with the competent land office. This applies not only to the initial lease but also to any renewal thereof, thus requiring both landlord and tenant or their proxies to co-operate and attend at the com-

petent land office to affect the registration of the initial lease agreement, and upon its expiry, the registration of a new lease agreement. This means that there is no such thing providing for an automatic renewal of a lease; upon expiry of each 30-year lease term, execution of a new lease agreement and registration by the parties or their proxies at the competent land office is required.

Another important point to understand is that there might be issues when it comes to enforcement of a lease renewal against third parties. For instance in a case where a lease assignment or transfer of a lease from the original to a new lessee has taken place, a landlord may argue that he is not bound to renew the lease in favor of the new lessee upon expiry of the initial lease term. Also where the owner of a leased land or property sells or transfers such to a third party, the buyer of the land or property, may raise the objection that he is not obligated to renew the lease upon its expiry.

In the light of the above and in order to strengthen the competitiveness of Thailand's property market, it would certainly help if



LEASE LOW-DOWN: When scouring the island for property, make sure you are well versed in matters relating to lease renewals. Photo: Gazette file

the relevant laws would change and provide for reasonably longer lease terms making lease renewals redundant.

In the meantime, there is nothing else for it but to diligently investigate what safeguards for the protection of a lease, particularly its renewals, are potentially

available and to verify whether a developer is able and prepared to provide such for the peace of mind of his buyers.

This article was written by the International Law Office Patong Beach Co Ltd. E:Michael Greth, Consultant at michael@ilophuket.



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Nurturing plant nursery growth

Healthy potassium, phosphorus and nitrogen levels in the soil are as important to plants as vitamins are to babies

A FEW weeks ago we took a look at the pH levels in local soil – with the aid of an excellent American testing kit.

This kit also enables you to test for three key ingredients present in any fertile soil – potassium (sometimes referred to as potash), phosphorus, and nitrogen.

Put crudely, their relationship with plants is a bit like that between vitamins/minerals, and people. As long as we get our necessary daily intake, we should feel ok, be better able to function, maintain our immune systems, and resist disease. That's the theory anyway.

This is the same with plants. While they can't complain in so



Gardening
By Patrick Campbell

many words, they can let the gardener know in other ways.

Take potassium. In general, there are adequate supplies of this chemical in Phuket soil, partly because its clayish composition means that plenty of naturally occurring potash is usually present, and is not leached out by torrential rain of the kind we have recently experienced.

Testing my own garden soil produced a mid-brown or medium reading. Sandy soils are more likely to be deficient in potash.

Overly acidic or peaty ones usually are as well.

It's a good idea to check plants in containers where the mix may have been weakened by constant watering.

Since it is the only essential plant nutrient not naturally present in plants, potassium is *the key* nutrient in helping to combat stress caused by, for instance, extremes of hot or cold, drought conditions, or the depredations of pests.

Without trying to get too technical, it ensures that regular supplies of water are absorbed by the root system, and thence into the tubes or xylem which transport water to the plant's visible parts by a process known as osmosis or osmo-regulation.

The tell-tale sign of potash starvation is a yellowing (*chlorosis*) of the older foliage, curling of leaf blades and burning at the edges.

Left unattended, the plant will die back and may succumb.

You probably won't have to worry about that happening here, it is much more likely to affect cooler-climate veggies such as tomatoes, potatoes, gooseberries and red or black currants.

Phosphorus is another of those key elements necessary for sound plant growth. It needs to be mixed with water before your garden can absorb it properly.

As with potassium, it occurs



Checking soil level in the nursery is not child's play. Photo: Linda Aslund

naturally in the ground, but its concentration levels may be lowered by factors such as persistent

over-watering, or by soils which are either too alkaline or too acidic.

If you do have a pH level above 7.3, you will probably need to add something such as sulphur, compost, peat moss, or even sawdust

to lower the alkaline content and improve potash intake. If it is below 5 (very unlikely in Phuket), then you may consider adding lime.

Personally, my view is that you are better off adding a fertilizer that contains plenty of phosphorus.

For the record, tests in my garden recorded the presence of phosphorus at acceptable levels.

Proprietary inorganic fertilizers usually come with equal concen-

trations of potassium, phosphorus and nitrogen expressed numerically – for example 15/15/15 – but some will have higher levels of phosphorus, and if you have a problem, you may decide to go with one of these. Or use plenty of manure.

Crucially, phosphorus helps in converting the sun's energy into usable food. Without adequate supplies, plants will produce poor root systems and stunted flowers and fruit.

Foliage may turn bluish-green. But be warned; do not, as many commercial growers do, use inorganic phosphorus too liberally.

In the rainy season, this practice will lead to run-off of the excess chemicals, and they may find their way into the water table, and finally into streams and rivers.

The result is excessive algal growth, a consequent lack of oxygen, pollution of the water, and death to fish and other creatures.

Still banging on about the environment? You bet...

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

Tip of the week

Spice up your patch

AS mentioned last week, if basil is the first herb to put in your garden, then chili is the first spice.

Capsicum annum is almost as adaptable as basil, and is available in many guises – from bell peppers to the common, finger-length longam, or the tiny bird's eye chili.

The berries, which contain the fiery hot capsaicin, are essential to many Southeast Asian dishes, and form the base for Thailand's renowned *nam prik chili paste*.

Chilies will take from seed,

but may require three weeks to germinate.

Plant in small pots and water often.

Transplanted into the garden, they will develop into a sizable bush on which the tiny flowers should be followed by green, orange and red pods.

They can be picked unripe (less spicy to eat), red or left to dry to an ocher hue.

Once established, the bushes will fruit almost continuously and are decorative additions to any tropical garden.



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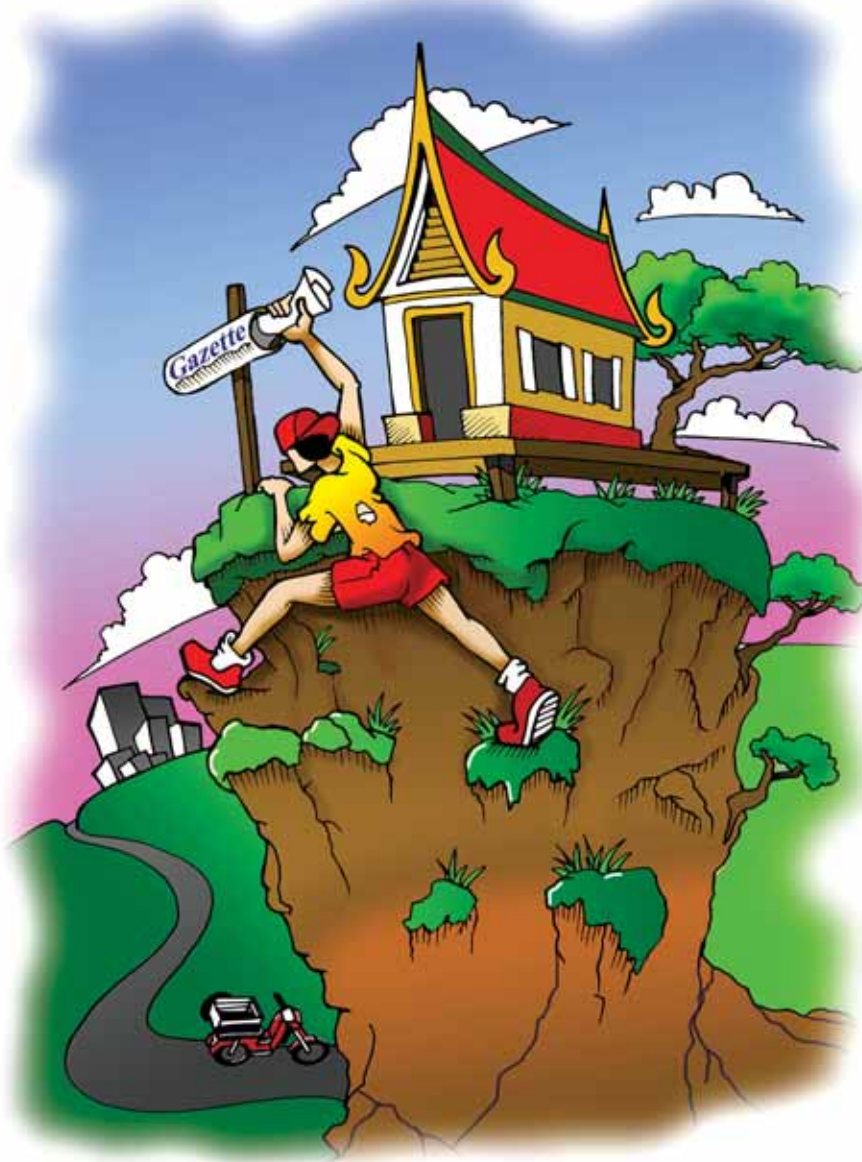



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Modern, 1-bedroom 70sqm condo, refitted and furnished. Price: 4.95 million baht. Tel: 081-088 8099.

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LAND FOR SALE



In Cherng Talay. 15 rai. Price: 10 million baht per rai. Contact K. Sunit. Tel: 081-787 9021.

2 RAI OF LAND NEAR LAGUNA



Just over 2 rai of land for sale near Laguna/Tinlay Place. Ready to build. Peaceful area but good choice of bars, restaurants and golf nearby. Direct sale from owner. Price: Around 5 million baht per rai. Tel: 087-278 1393 (English), 081-968 3707. Email: rawai2004@yahoo.co.uk

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Near Supalai Resort on the east coast of Phuket slope. A 3-rai plot with road and electricity access. Price: 3.6 million baht per rai. No agents please. Tel: 080-520 2989. Email: pakaporns@yahoo.com

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BRAND NEW CONDO



Mid Town, Royal Place Project, 2nd floor, 37sqm. Studio condo, fully furnished, reasonable price. Tel: 086-476 9612.

TOWNHOUSE IN KATHU

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, car park. Price: 1.8 million baht. Tel: 076-319073, 084-189 5594.

LAND 9 RAI FOR SALE

Seaview land for all the main road to Promthep Cape. With Chanote title. 15 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-693 9571.

BEACHFRONT CONDO

2 bedrooms on top floor. Freehold. North Patong. Price: 9.7 million baht. Also available for rent. Tel: 086-276 5117. For photos please email jihsand@gmail.com

12 RAI AT NAI HARN BEACH

For sale with hotel project. 1km from the beach. Price: 12 million baht per rai. Tel: 080-528 8578.

HOT PROPERTIES AT BARGAIN PRICES



This lovely, 3 bedroom, private pool villa is located in a very quiet area, with a lot of privacy. The third bedroom is a stand-alone en-suite bedroom, which is perfect for any guest visits. It is just 5 minutes from the pristine Nai Harn Beach. Easy access to many delicious international and Thai restaurants. This villa must be seen...!! Former asking price was 12,000,000 baht. The villa is fully furnished, all included!

New price: 9,900,000 baht



Nice 1 bedroom condominium in Karon, situated on the hill side by Karon Beach. The property has one of the most spectacular views in Phuket and is only 200 meters from the Karon Beach. Next to your doorstep you have 2 big common swimming pools. There is also a very nice common fitness center with an amazing sea view! All furniture is included!

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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.

30 RAI IN TOWN

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

NICE AND SPACIOUS HOUSE



In Heritage project, Kathu. 2 floors, fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 1 maid room. 234sq wah. 18 million baht. Tel: 081-892 0190 (Warit), 089-646 4823 (Rattana). Email: prayoon_jp@hotmail.com

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THAI-STYLE VILLA IN CHALONG



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**RAWAI 1 RAI
SEAVIEW LAND**

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Pool Villa. Spacious 530sqm home on 2,016sqm of land. Tucked away on a quiet soi near Chalong Circle. 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, living room, dining room, kitchen, 6m x 12m pool. Furnished. Many extras. Must see. Sale by owner. Price: 20 million baht. Tel: 086-638 9143.

**FRONT SEAVIEW
FOR SALE**

Mountain view at the back. 288sqm of land in Nor Sor 3 Gor, Ao Por Marina. Price: 2.3 million baht. Tel: 081-979 1761.

3-BEDROOM HOUSE

Chuan Chuen Lagoon Soi 3 at Koh Kaew. 2 bedrooms, 3 aircons, fully furnished. Price: 3.95 million baht. Negotiable. Contact Scott. Tel: 081-866 8716.

**PA KHLOK HOUSE
FOR SALE**

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 70sq wah. Community pool, 2 aircons, fully furnished, Western kitchen. Price: 2.5 million baht. Tel: 080-265 0211. Email: jywan@hotmail.com

NICE PLOT

Urgent sale. Behind Layan Hill Estate (Manik-Bangjo Area). 1,364sqm. Original price: 7.2 million baht. Now: 6.9 million baht. Tel: 080-520 2989.

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Mail: AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net

Property Wanted

HOUSE OR APARTMENT

Three-bed house or apartment wanted at Laguna. Prefer golf frontage but will consider all others in or near Laguna. Email: Texasselah@hotmail.com

POOL VILLA WANTED

We are looking for investors from Sweden for pool villas with 2-3 bedrooms in Rawai. Price: from 5 to 10 million baht. For further details, please send email to offers. Email: sales@chokechaipropertry.com

HOUSE IN RAWAI / NAI HARN

Looking for a house/villa in this area on plot of 400+ sqm, ideally 600. Paying up to 7.5 million baht. If it needs renovation, that is okay, depending on size and location. Needs to be close to a concrete road. Email: patrick@mancity.net

50-100 RAI, 50 YEAR LEASE

For horse business, Phuket, Krabi, Phang Nga. Qualifies under the new zoning restrictions as recreation and/or agriculture. Bi-annual payment ONLY. Commercial 50-year lease. Developers: Add incentive with first-class horse riding facility. Tel: 084-842 4581. Or send email: christyKSweet@gmail.com

RENTAL VILLA WANTED

Family looking for a long term, fully furnished, modern villa to rent, within 15 mins of PIA School in Thalang. Must be child friendly as we have 3 young ones and 2 small poodles. Needed by June 1. Tel: 084-877 3566. Email: sherin.peace@gmail.com

Accommodation Available

THE HEIGHTS KATA BEACH

Great rent for great tenant. 5-star luxury living. Panoramic ocean view. Massive deck. Amazing pool. Gym. 2 bedrooms, 170sqm. May 10 - Aug 15. Price: 65,000 baht/month. Dates negotiable. Contact Lillian. Tel: 083-833 6863 (English). Email: lilliancornell8@hotmail.com

2-BEDROOM HOUSE FOR RENT

Aircon, 80 channels, 2 baths, furnished, laundry. 12,000 baht per month, from May to 1 September. Tel: 087-280 1721. Email: jessicaphuket@gmail.com

PATONG LUXURY

At a very quiet place. 60sqm apartment with jacuzzi. Daily rent from 2,500 baht. Monthly rent: 35,000 baht. 4 minutes' walk to beach, 2 minutes to entertainment venues. Tel: 081-894 8446. Email: sfrkata@hotmail.com See: www.banglasuites.com

1-BED APT AT SURIN BEACH

15,000 baht per month only, plus electricity. 50 sqm. Fully furnished, satellite TV, intern, pool. Great restaurant. Tel: 083-280 9100 (English), 086-746 4012 (Thai). Email: johanhultner@me.com For further details, please see our website at www.suringate.com

LUXURY APARTMENT IN PATONG

Fully furnished with swimming pool and daily maid service. Tel: 081-894 4730 (English & Thai), 081-892 5983 (Thai). Fax: 076-292149. Email: mori@phuket.ksc.co.th For further details, please see our website at www.nanaivilla.com

RENT EXEC 1BR CONDO PATONG



Swimming pool, Patong Beach, Phuket Villa 1 bed. 10,000 baht per week, 25,000 per month. Security deposit required. Tel: 076-344405, 087-173 1773 (English). Email: seanthepliot@hotmail.com www.seabluephuket.com/condo_rentals

HOUSE WITH POOL ONLY 13,000

New, fully furnished with aircon, free cable TV & WiFi. Ready to move in now. Tel: 089-475 1200 (English & Thai). Email: info@welcomeinn.com

RAWAI HOUSE

Two floors, two bedrooms, one aircon. Good condition in a friendly area. 9,000 baht per month. Must see. Tel: 089-592 8905 (English & Thai). Email: wbramley2000@yahoo.co.uk

POOL HOUSE NAI HARN

Three bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 aircon units, furniture, TV and parking space. April - November low season price: 20,000 baht per month, including the garden, pool and internet. Please contact Frank for more information. You can also phone the home number abroad: 0049 7119141325. Tel: 085-478 8010 (English). Email: c9000@gmx.de

PATONG SEA VIEW

With kitchen and DVD/cable. Rent: 800 baht per day, or 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-532 7708.

3-BEDROOM HOUSE WITH POOL



Beautiful, fully furnished 3-bedroom house with a private pool. Located in a secluded area which is quiet and safe. Includes a car port, dining area, aircon in all rooms. It is a great family home for excellent value. Long-term rentals are preferred. Price: 50,000 baht per month. Contact Khun Gai as above for more information. Tel: 081-734 4324. Email: ian.taylor.woodward@hotmail.com

BRIGHT APTS CHALONG

Serviced studio apartments now available. Rates from 9,000 baht/month. Includes maid services, internet, TV, full furnishings and a rooftop pool. Great location near Big Buddha. For more information, please contact. Tel: 086-282 6221. Email: info@chalongapartment.com Website: www.chalongapartment.com

LARGE BEAUTIFUL APARTMENTS

Large beautiful apartments for 3-4 people, available for short and long-term rentals with low prices. Tel: 076-342800, 081-810 4900 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-342800 or email to: lucianofash@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.evergreenlodge.com

PATONG TOWNHOUSE

Nanai Road Soi 9 hillside. 2 bedrooms fully furnished with WiFi and cable TV. Price: 20,000 baht/month long term. Tel: 081-270 5374 (English & Thai). Email: alex@alexmalcolm.com

LOFT STYLE KATHU

Large, secure, quiet and central. Price: 12,000 baht/month, long term only. Tel: 086-664 5575 (English). Email: hkmsn@yahoo.com

HOUSE NEAR CHALONG

Fully furnished house with 2-bed, 2 bath. Long-term rent (min 1 year): 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-026 1362. Email: cjitsomboon@hotmail.com

NANAI PATONG APARTMENTS

Nanai 2 and Nanai 9. Two-bed townhouse, 20,000 baht per month. One-bed apartment, 12,000 baht per month. Fully furnished, WiFi, TV. Tel: 081-270 5374. Email: orcella@orcella.com

Accommodation Wanted

NEED HOUSE WITH POOL

We are looking to rent a house for one year starting June 15. If you have a house that is not available until July or August, we would still consider. Please email pictures and details. Email: wj7891@gmail.com

LONG-TERM WANTED

Seeking long-term. 1-bedroom rental in Kata-Karon area. For mature resident. Photos and description would be most appreciated. Email: ethanbenjamini@yahoo.com

VILLA IN PHUKET AUGUST

Looking for accommodation in Phuket for 2 weeks from around August 9 (4 adults and 3 children - 4 bedrooms). Ideally a villa with pool. Email with info, photos and prices. Thanks. Email: lallenthai@yahoo.co.uk

HOUSE FOR RENT

Single person with small pet looking to rent furnished private house. 10,000-15,000 baht per month. For more information. Please send email: strawberryfields747@gmail.com

2-BED HOUSE NEAR PATONG

with an enclosed garden. Within a half-hour walk of Patong, preferably in a quiet area for under 8,000 baht. Must allow pets. Email: laurataylor83@hotmail.com

ACCOMMODATION IN PATONG

I am looking for either a 1-bedroom apartment, villa or condo in Patong for the months of August and September 2011. This is low season so we are looking for the best price. Email: dianz_p@hotmail.com

Household Items

SOUL OF ASIA SALE

ALL FURNITURE INCL. BEAUTIFUL OLD PIECES

50% DISCOUNT

THE PLAZA, SURIN
TEL: 076 271 629, 076 270 055
WWW.SOULOOFASIA.COM

CHEAP NEW FURNITURE SET

– Lamp: 3,000 baht
– Coffee table: 3,000 baht
– Sofa bed: 3,500 baht

Or buy all 3 items together for just 8,000 baht. Tel: 087-881 8075. Email: harrison@windownslive.com

Household Services

MAINTENANCE SERVICE

We repair water pipes, swimming pools, gardening tools, electrical systems and appliances. Tel: 080-691 2428.

READY TO BUILT

Construction, renovation, electrics, awning, shop fitting. Tel: 089-068 9902.

DWF HOME SERVICES

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

Classified Advertisements

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

_____ (heading)

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

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

Deadline for Property Gazette page: Friday 3 pm.

Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.

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in these pages are

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Please visit our website for more listings

- Seahorse 52 (2002)
 - Twin Isuzu shaft drive engines
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 - Watermaker
 - Air Conditioning
 - Radar
 - Excellent condition
 - Auto Pilot
 - Generator

\$425,000 AUD

- S&S 53 Deck Saloon (1987)
 - \$295,000 USD
- Kanter 54 (1994)
 - \$498,000 USD
- Searay Sundeck 200 (2007)
 - 1,400,000 THB
- Riviera 47 (2004)
 - \$590,000 USD

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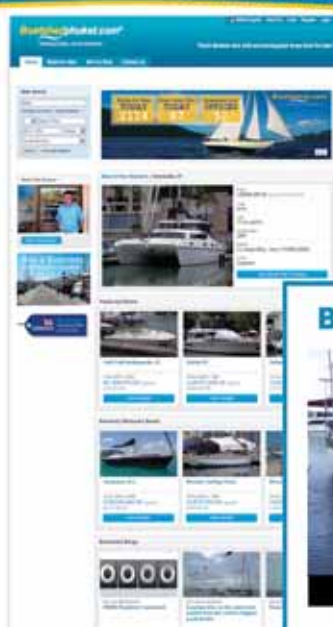
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Contact: Martin Holmes
Tel: 076 238 803
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Contact: Andrew de Bruin / Marcus Overman
Mobile: 081 894 1530 / 081 968 1437
Tel/Fax: 076 239 729
Email: andrew@leemarine.com

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


Pattaya Office: Ocean Marina Jomtien Beach
Contact: Mark Heath
Mobile: 081 787 9408
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SELLING YOUR BOAT?
We can meet you on board, take up to 80 photos and full details. We will accompany all viewings and provide non exclusive brokerage on a "no sale, no fee" basis.

Boat of the moment




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Standfast 40 (1973)
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MOTORSAILER



33' Ketch. 2 Cabins + Saloon. Sailed single-handed from UK. New paint and varnish. Radar, VHF, Depth, GPS, Autohelm. Economical 95hp diesel. New batteries and electrics. Many new parts. Bluewater cruiser. Price 1.7 million baht (negotiable). Tel: 081-968 1437. Email: bobedward1@hotmail.com

YAMAHA JET SKI
Cruiser VX. Safe and new, with only 14 months of use. Has warranty. In excellent condition: only owner has used it. 90 hours reels. Price: 350,000 baht. Tel: 089-819 9650. Email: pierrekojfer@yahoo.fr

GENTLEMAN'S DINGHY 4.5M
Formerly sailing boat and yacht tender. Glass over ply bottom with tongue and groove redwood top. Suzuki 5Hp 4-stroke. Spruce mast, boom and rudder. 3 sails. Price: 150,000 baht + 20,000 for trailer. Tel: 074-442170, 089-466 1130 (English & Thai), 081-896 9319 (English). Email: pygmyspermwhale@yahoo.com

PETERSON DYNAMIC 77 SAILBOAT
Swedish built 1980. 7.7 meters long. Sturdy boat on sturdy trailer. Needs some work but basics to sail are there. Thai registered. Price: 210,000 baht as is. Tel: 087-273 1647 (English). Email: cindyshaw7@gmail.com

55-FOOT CATAMARAN
6 double cabins, 105sqm. Sails. Built 2010 in composite. Price: 1.4 million baht o.n.o. Tel: 087-461 8089.

YACHT TENDER / NOVURANIA
Yacht Tender/Novurania 430DL, 50hp Tohatsu, full options plus trailer. 299,000 baht or trade. Tel: 081-003 6902. Email: contact@purist.biz

NEW BAYLINER 255 CRUISER
2011 Bayliner Cruiser for sale from an authorized dealer. Only one unit. Price only 3.9 million baht. Tel: 081-754 7599. Email: csutivas@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website: www.mfjetski.com

VAN DE STADT 38' YACHT
Ashore at Langkawi Port, due for inspection in March. Photos and spec on request. Price: US\$45,000. Tel: +60-125-531 4030 (English). Email: brianralphgoodwin@yahoo.com

PERCEPTION KAYAK
Touring sea kayak. Original owner, USA import. 17' long, 63 pounds. Good for beginners or advanced. Two available. Tel: 089-999 7597. Email: doc@russbo.com For further details, please see my website at http://classifieds.russbo.com

URGENT SALE 2 MILLION BAHT



2010 Speedboat for sale. 35ft, fiberglass, 2x250, with Suzuki 4-stroke engine, all navigation systems, VHS, fully equipped for diving and fishing. Tel: 083-636 1758.

16M KETCH SAILING YACHT
Cutter Ketch rigged, center cockpit, fully equipped VanderStad sailing yacht for sale. Tel: 081-842 3961, 087-276 7997. Email: gj.bijlsma@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at: www.phuketbutler.com/node/1238

ANGLER 2,600CC SPORTFISHING
Nice 26ft American sport fishing boat 2x225 4-stroke outboards. Tel: 085-691 1837 (English). Email: mangeolsson@hotmail.com

46FT OFFSHORE CRUISER-RACER
for sale. Please contact to Khun Gerit for more information. Tel: 081-842 3961, 087-276 7997. Email: gj.bijlsma@gmail.com Website at: www.phuketbutler.com/node/1544

LIVEABOARD
Liveaboard 6x20 meter. 8 private cabins. Renovated October 2010. Price: 2.8 million baht. Email: info@aidcdive.com Website at: www.aidcdive.com


BAYLINER FROM 1.1M NOW 595,000



18.5ft, 130Hp, in/outboard. New price: 1.1 million baht. Now: 595,000 baht. Tel: 081-788 8280. Email: maurice.phuket@gmail.com

15HP YAMAHA OUTBOARD
Old, not used for the past 2 years, was running before that. Price: 9,500 baht. Tel: 083-388 3145 (English). Email: sy.tombatu@gmail.com

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SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES

Crossword puzzle:



COFFEE break

URGENT: BOAT FOR SALE



American speedboat. Year: 2005. Donzi-38-ZSF (Florida-Miami), 3 Verado 275CV. Slightly used. Maximum speed: 50 knots. Full options. TUNA power. Better than the original, lots of improvement made by owner. Ready to navigate. Available at Ao Po Grand Marina, berth no. S13. Free tackles. Original price on arrival in Phuket: more than US\$400,000. Special price now: \$198,000 or 5.99 million baht. Sold directly by owner. Call Alain. Tel: 081-8935270 (French), 089-970 2121 (English & Thai). Email: mrdupouy@yahoo.fr

Phuket Gazette

As part of its continued expansion, the Phuket Gazette seeks two advertising sales representatives.

Advertising Sales

- ▶ Thai, age at least 26, with an outgoing personality
- ▶ Bachelor's degree in marketing or related fields
- ▶ Experience in sales and marketing
- ▶ Good command of spoken and written English
- ▶ Must have own transportation and driver's license
- ▶ Alert, self motivated and goal driven

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

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



www.lagunaphuket.com

Laguna Service Co., Ltd. (LSC) is a non-profit, joint-venture company established in April 1991 to provide essential services to Laguna Phuket, the largest hotels and resorts group in Phuket. LSC provides services such as laundry, water supply, inter-resort transportation, landscaping, common area maintenance, marquee facilities, a gas station, central car park, staff transportation and centralized destination marketing. LSC is currently seeking qualified candidates to fill the following positions:

- HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER
- PURCHASING MANAGER

Qualification

Thai Nationality with at least 5 years experience in advertised position. Fluent English preferred.

Applicants are invited to apply in person at Laguna Service office, or send your detailed English resume stating current and expected salary together with a current photo to:

Laguna Service Company Limited

57 Moo 4, Srisoonthorn Road., Chermgtalay, Thalang, Phuket 83110 Thailand
Tel: (66 76) 305 639-42 Ext. 1501-1504, Fax: (66 76) 305 643
E-mail: anaratt@lagunaphuket.com

LIMITLESS DISCOVERY AWAITS

Le Méridien Phuket Beach Resort, part of Starwood Hotels and Resorts, invites candidates for the following positions:

- Assistant Laundry Manager
- Sous Chef (Cold Kitchen)
- Chef de Partie (European Cuisine)
- 1st Commis (Italian/Cold/Main/European Kitchen)
- Cook Helper (Butchery)
- Sales Executive
- Events Coordinator
- Guest Relations Manager (Thai)
- Guest Service Agent
- Guest Relations Officer (Female)
- Accounting Officer
- Storekeeper
- English Teacher (Thai)

An exciting career awaits creative professionals along with a competitive benefit package.

Send resume with recent photo to:
hr.phuketbeach@lemeridien.com

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WEST SANDS VACATION CLUB
Mai Khao Beach, Phuket

Be a part of something fantastic!
West Sands Vacation Club is seeking additional outgoing, motivated individuals to join our growing, fun-filled family. Competitive salaries and benefits.

Assistant Line Manager	1 Position
Cold Line Reps	3 Positions
Receptionist	1 Position

Send resume or CV with recent photo to mark@west-sands.com

PATTERN MAKER/ TAILOR

Experienced clever pattern maker. Part time or consulting for simple designs. Tel: 076-383681, 087-380 0525 (English & Thai). Email: boxergirl@boxergirl.net

SALES MANGER

A reputable tourist magazine is looking for an advertising manager.

- 28-40 years old. Male or female

- Good personality

Applicants should have relevant experience and be able to speak English. Send resume to ajapply@yahoo.com

RUSSIAN SPEAKER WANTED

Food supply company is looking for a Thai national with good Russian language skills to be manager. Tel: 089-054 4176.

HOUSE MANAGER

for single businessman living at RPM. Good English required. Tel: 089-054 4354.

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER NEEDED

Female teacher needed to teach 3-5 year olds. Native speakers only. Love for children and dedication is a must. Tel: 076-521550, 084-847 0732. Email: intlicense@yahoo.com

HEADSTART INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

We are seeking qualified, dedicated and caring teachers to fill the following positions by August 1: Foundation, Primary, PE, English, ICT, Business Studies, French and Thai. Tel: 076-612876. Fax: 076-612877. Email: school@headstartphuket.com

TEACHER WANTED

QSI Phuket has a vacancy for the position of teacher. For child 5-6 years old. Requirements: native English speaker with BA in education, proper certification and experience. This is not an ESL position. Write to alan-siporin@qsi.org and lbfhaber@aol.com

MAID AND GARDENER (THAI)

Wanted, with hotel experience for farang-owned house in Rawai. Tel: 081-797 7898.

50,000 BAHT PER MONTH

For low season we need English-speaking marketing personal. Work permit and visas are provided. Tel: 081-607 3434. Email for more info: marcjunker_69@hotmail.com

DETOX WELLNESS MANAGER

Seeked by Samui detox resort. Tel: 088-491 1462 (English). Please send CV via email: fasthealing@yahoo.com

YACHT SALES EXECUTIVE

Requirements: Experience as luxury motoryacht sales executive of over 3 years, fluent in English, and any other languages, excellent computer and communication skills, knowledge about luxury motoryachts, engineering, maintenance, etc. Tel: 081-979 9911. Email: vrit@boatlagoonyachting.co.th For further details, please see our website at www.boatlagoonyachting.co.th

www.AbsoluteWorld.net

Absolute
WORLD
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With the expansion of the Absolute Group of Companies, we are recruiting for

HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES – THAILAND

Based in the Thailand Head Office in Patong, Phuket, we are looking for a self-starter, someone who is extremely well organised, focused and energetic with excellent communication skills in both written and spoken English and with Thai mother tongue to form part of the senior management team.

Qualifications

- A successful record of consistent achievement as a senior HR specialist, ideally a mix of hotel or timeshare background
- Degree level, and management qualification [MBA] desirable
- Professional HRD qualifications, preferably internationally recognised desirable
- Accustomed to working at a senior level and as part of a wider team who is used to managing a demanding workload
- Excellent communication skills (written and oral) and possessing a coaching qualification would also be beneficial
- Demonstration of strong leadership and the application of good commercial skills and prepared to challenge and question at all levels
- Proven track record in the effective leadership of staff – inspiring, motivating, performance managing and developing

Responsibilities

To deliver a proactive and customer focussed HR service across Thailand with particular emphasis on creating a centre of excellence through the development and implementation of HR strategy, policy and practices to support the delivery of Absolute's strategic aims and objectives incorporating:

- Identifying, developing, engaging, deploying and retaining talented employees and quality succession planning
- Yearly implementation of the performance management system
- Effective HR data management systems through liaison with IT and any external providers
- HR/Payroll to prepare annual staff costs budgets/forecasts; review salary structures, manage and administer salaries and benefits
- Provide leadership and direction to the HR team in developing, delivering and reviewing Absolute's comprehensive HR service.

For the right candidate we offer an excellent salary and benefits for this challenging and exciting role. Please apply quoting "Head of HR", with your Resume to:

Absolute Sales Corporation Co., Ltd. HR Department, 42/11 Taveewong Road, Patong Beach, Kathu, Phuket, 83150 Thailand

Tel: +66 76 341 427 Fax: +66 76 341 425 Email: hr@clubabsolute.com

DETOX / YOGA CONSULTANT

Atsumi healing are looking for a Thai National to work full time in our detox department and teach yoga. Must have excellent verbal and written English skills. Degree and yoga certification an advantage. Tel: 084-051 7455, 086-905 2947 (Thai). Email resume to shell@atsumihealing.com

BOAT TECHNICIAN WANTED

for new catamaran. Responsible for all maintenance. Must be able to sail, swim, dive and drive dinghy. Will be a long time out of Thailand. English necessary. Starting September. Email: sh@vetliner.com

COOK / CHEF WANTED

Cook wanted for a private house in Surin. Must have good spoken English and a driving license. Good salary and benefits. Please contact Chitchamon for more information. Tel: 086-282 9449 (English & Thai). Send email: ct.trakarn@gmail.com

OFFICE SECRETARY

Real estate agency requires an office secretary. Experience is a plus. Tel: 076-384664, 087-898 8647 (English). Fax: 076-384665. Email: mundo@ayudhya.net

TEACHER WANTED

QSI Phuket has a vacancy for an experienced and qualified PE teacher/sports coach. Schedule: 9am - 5.15pm and occasional weekends. Requirements: native English teacher with BA, certification, experience and demonstrable abilities to motivate students and work with other schools in Phuket. Write to alan-siporin@qsi.org and lbfhaber@aol.com

OFFICE ASSISTANT & PROPERTY RENTALS

Wanted. Outgoing and polite, with excellent work ethics and good English. Full training provided for real estate activities. Experience in Office systems, filing and emailing is a must. Own transport required with driving license. Office outside Laguna. Good benefits and work environment. Email: info@phuketrealty.net

BARISTA & CHEF PASTRY

in cafe bar. Wanted in Phuket Town

- Good salary
 - Must have at least 2 years' experience
 - Aged between 20 and 45
 - Start immediately
- Tel: 089-866 6003, 081-979 7811. Email: tanya_eyu@hotmail.com

Looking for a job?
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Asia's Leading Yacht Dealership and Brokerage since 1984

Sales Executive – Luxury Boats

Simpson Marine is the leading boat brokerage company in Asia, based in Hong Kong. Currently operating in 6 countries, the business has experienced significant growth over the past 2-3 years, and now has 60+ staff throughout the Asia region.

Our Phuket office is looking for a Sales Executive to boost the sales team. Selling both new and used, power and sailing boats, you will work within a small sales team. We require someone who is highly motivated, customer oriented and results driven. You will have either previous marine sales experience, or strong sales results from another industry – perhaps even selling luxury products.

You will be based in Phuket and will be paid a base salary, uncapped commission, as well as paid annual leave and medical insurance.

Candidate Requirements

- An interest in, or current strong knowledge, of the marine industry.
- More than 3 years of direct sales experience, with the ability to close sales.
- Good negotiator.
- Computer literate.
- Very well organized, able to work in a fast pace environment and multi task.
- Ability to work without supervision or guidance.

Interested candidates should email their resume (English) in MSWord format/PDF to hr@simpsonmarine.com.

Only short-listed candidates will be notified. Applicants not invited for an interview within 2 weeks, should consider their applications unsuccessful.

All information received will be kept in strictly confidential and only for employment-related purposes.



VACANCY POSITION



Zeavola 5 star Resort and Spa

A member of the SLH Hotels and Resort invites candidates to apply for the following positions:

- Human Resources Manager
- Chief Engineer
- Front Office Manager

Profile:

- ▶ At least vocational certificate to bachelor degree level
- ▶ At least 3-5 years' experience in the field
- ▶ Strong result oriented, people management, and leadership skills
- ▶ Strong in English communication skills, and computer literate
- ▶ Strong in analytical, problem solving skills, and execution of work

Fringe Benefits:

- ▶ Good Salary + Sharing Service Charge
- ▶ Group Insurance, Social Security, Workmen Compensation
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Sport

FC Phuket climb to fourth

PHUKET FC demolished Thai Honda 6-1 at Surakul Stadium last Sunday in a commanding performance that propelled the team to fourth place in Thai Division 1 with two games in hand.

But the victory was bitter-sweet for the Southern Sea Kirin with the news that forward Thawin Butsombat's season is probably over after he sustained a broken ankle.

Phuket opened the flood-gates early with Nene Bi Tra Sylvestre netting a header from close range in the third minute.

Thai Honda responded with some sustained pressure, and Chaiphon Wangnukun's attempted strike from 22 yards glided just over the crossbar.

The Kirin had a chance to make it 2-0 in the 11th minute when Thawin Butsombat made a run down the left wing, supplying an unmarked Kone Adama in the penalty area, whose strike deflected off defender Henri Walter, into the side netting.

From there, Phuket managed to constrain the visitors in midfield, with the superb Thawin continuing to pile on the pressure.

The forward's efforts were to be rewarded just before half-time, when he struck the ball home from inside the penalty area after Niran



IN FORM: FC Phuket striker Kone Adama (green) was on fire during last Sunday's home match. Photo: Apinun Saithong

Phanthong's effort was deflected into his path.

Unfortunately, a desperate lunge from Henri Walter attempting to prevent Thawin's strike, connected with the FC Phuket player's foot and left him writhing in agony.

Thawin was stretchered off and taken to Bangkok Hospital, where it was revealed that his ankle was broken in two places. A doctor said the recovery could

take six months, with Thawin unlikely to make another appearance for the Kirin this season.

The second half saw a ferocious onslaught from the Kirin, even with a Thai Honda consolation goal doing little to halt the momentum.

Seven minutes in, Ivory Coast midfielder Abdol Coulibaly put FC Phuket up 3-0 after breaking from the Thai Honda defense to nod in a corner from Sarat Yuyen.

In the 62nd minute, a run by

Adama down the left wing ended with a pass into the box which found Korean midfielder Choi Jaewon, who sneaked past a sleeping Thai Honda defense to slot the ball home from the penalty spot, bringing the scoreline to 4-0.

It wasn't to go entirely Phuket's way. Six minutes later, a Thai Honda free kick from just off the right corner spot found the head of Isidon Lomtuakok, glancing onto the crossbar.

Thai Honda's Nana Yaw Asamoah was first to react to the rebound and his header beat FC Phuket keeper Thirawat Pinpradap, to put the score at 4-1.

That was the last of it for Thai Honda, however, as Man of the Match Adama ended the game with a brace in the closing stages.

The first came at the 79th minute, after midfielder Nithirot Sokuma's shot from well outside the box was parried by Thai Honda keeper Jirasak. Adama hit the loose ball home to hoist FC Phuket's tally to five.

With one more goal, the match ended shortly after with a deserved scoreline of 6-1 for FC Phuket.

FC Phuket now sit in fourth place in Division 1 with 17 points and two games in hand. The result of previous week's abandoned match against Bangkok FC is still awaiting a decision by the Thai Premier League.

The Kirin are two points behind Raj Pracha, who are eight points behind leaders Buriram FC and BCCU, both on 27 points.

On Sunday FC Phuket play 14th-placed Customs United away, with a chance to move into third place if Raj Pracha lose away to eighth-placed Songkhla on Saturday.

— Phuket Gazette



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Thailand football legends gear up for mighty clash

By Neil Quail and
Samaporn Janyanon

THE clash of legends on Phuket is but six weeks away. In mid-June, a team of former Thailand internationals hope to turn back the clock and take the game to a potent force of illustrious former Liverpool FC players.

One of the most celebrated strikers ever to wear a 'war elephants' shirt is Piyapong Pue On. A national hero, he has represented Thailand on 129 occasions between 1981 and 1999. With an astonishing 103 goals, he still holds the record as this country's most prolific scorer.

Piyapong has been given the task of managing the Thailand team which will challenge Liverpool FC for the Prime Minister's Cup on June 13 in Bangkok and on June 18 in Phuket.

Proceeds from the charity matches will go to support the Youth Football Home foundation in Thalang.

"I was asked to be player/manager about three months ago and it is a great honor to have this responsibility," said Piyapong.

"The games are for a great cause, but I relish the opportunity to play against this great team and the players, I know, are very much looking forward to the challenge," he said.

Piyapong, an active officer in the Royal Thai Air Force, played for their football team from 1977 to 1984, then served as their manager from 1997 to 2008.

Scouted by South Korean K-League team Lucky-Goldstar Hwangso [now FC Seoul] in 1984, Piyapong was such an inspiration the club was crowned champions in his first season. He scored 12



THE MAN: Thai football legend Kiatisak Senamuang. Photo: Kom Chad Luek

goals in 21 games, which also won him the accolade of the league's top scorer – the first time a foreign player had ever done so and a feat unrepeatable until 1999.

"I come from a generation of amateur players. We played with much more spirit than those in the modern game. Nowadays the players are professional athletes. They can analyze and compare games and playing techniques, which greatly improves performance. It's a different motivation when you play for big salaries, as opposed to playing just for the love of the game," Piyapong said.

The day after Piyapong's Thailand team face Liverpool, the full national squad were due to play Bahrain with hopes of qualifying

for the 2012 London Olympics, but have now been eliminated due to fielding an allegedly illegal player.

"This is unfortunate. They had a good chance to go forward in the competition. But we are moving in the right direction and if the team's results and fortunes improve, we should see a big impact in about four years," he said.

"Right now I want to focus on the Liverpool games. We are helping a worthy cause so I won't put too much pressure on my players, but I expect a great game and look forward to socializing with players and supporters," Piyapong said.

Kiatisak Senamuang, named as player-coach for the two-game rubber, is as much a household name in Thailand as Piyapong.

Nicknamed "Zico", he has been

One of the most celebrated strikers ever to wear a 'war elephants' shirt is Piyapong Pue On. A national hero, he has represented Thailand on 129 occasions between 1981 and 1999.



NATIONAL PLAYMAKER: Piyapong Pue On played for Thailand 129 times.

capped 130 times for Thailand, but his goal tally ranges from 63 to 100 due to a conflict with FIFA over international appearances.

He currently manages Big Bang Chulalongkorn University FC, currently second place in Division 1 of the Thai League, two places above FC Phuket.

Kiatisak's playing career began with Krung Thai Bank. From there he had spells in Singapore and Vietnam and one season in England with Huddersfield Town FC under Steve Bruce.

"This not my first time facing Liverpool. We drew 1-1 in 2009 and I exchanged my shirt with Sami Hyypia after the game," he recalls.

"I hope many Thai people come to the game. It would be a great help to our team to have lots of support when we play these world-class players," Kiatisak said.

"Obviously we don't have the same abilities as when we were younger, but given the chance I'll

certainly try a few volley's at goal and we're not short of a few tricks either," he said.

Asked for his response to the Olympic qualifying debacle, Kiatisak reflected the Thai players disappointment.

"This is a big mistake, but we're not sure where the problem stems from. The Asian Football Confederation have placed the blame on Thailand, but they must look at their responsibility in the matter. The team is very upset, but are willing to get involved to clear the issue," Kiatisak said.

"In the end, the Legends game is for charity and we hope to provide entertainment for football fans and raise awareness for this cause," Kiatisak added.

The Legends game kicks off on June 18 at 6.30pm in aid of Phuket's Youth Football Home.

Ticket prices and availability will be announced as soon as the information becomes available.

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Young swimming sensations

By Neil Quail

THANYAPURA Sports & Leisure Club (TSLC) hosted their first invitational swim meet last weekend which attracted more than 500 spectators and participants.

Their Olympic-size pool was the arena last Saturday and Sunday for 300 young swimmers to display their abilities, ranging from swimming disciplines to distances.

As one of the featured events scheduled to coincide with the 2011 opening of the TSLC, the inaugural swim meet for ages 6 to 18 high-lighted Phuket as a global destination for international athletics.

Competing for their schools and clubs, swimmers cut swathes down eight lanes of the 50 meter pool, while friends and family cheered them on from the 600-seat shaded grandstand.

Boys 11-12:

1st – Raymond Windsor (BIS)
2nd – Sam Gartner (BIS)
3rd – Brodie McFarland (Silverfinz)

Girls 13-14 :

1st – Teesuda Sirichai
2nd – Alysa Marinas (BIS)
3rd – Anna Herbst (BIS)

Boys 13-14:

1st – Andrew Heinz (BIS)
2nd – Harry O'Brien (BIS)
3rd – Arkayeh Prange (BIS)

Girls 15 and Over:

1st – Jaruwan Boonworachot
2nd – Jirada Sinoo
3rd – Ploy Kaewkuea

Boys 15 and Over:

1st – Wongsakorn Thonglim
2nd – Wannapon Deelert
3rd – Chadatarn Noonkongkaew

Overall team results:

1st – British International School
2nd – Silverfinz
3rd – Phuket Swim Club

Girls 8 and Under:

1st – Mia O'Leary (Silverfinz)
2nd – Kunatorn Klaykul
3rd – Nitisuda Limsakul

Boys 8 and Under:

1st – Jeremy Kemp- Silverfinz
2nd – Patcharapon Chattai
3rd – Luca Jumabhoy (Silverfinz)



READY, SET, SPLASH: Competitors take the plunge at the TSLC swim meet.

Girls 9-10:

1st – Atitya Ramchai
2nd – Preeyaphon Singhabamrung
3rd – Tanylle Ashenden (Silverfinz)

9-10 Boys:

1st – Joo Yeob Kim (BIS)

2nd – Benjamin Farrow (BIS)

3rd – Tim Schwab (BIS)

Girls 11-12:

1st – Zoe Jumabhoy (Silverfinz)
2nd – Syakirah Frost
3rd – Chloe Findlay (Silverfinz)



The girls get ready to swim.

War Elephants out of Olympics

THE Football Association of Thailand (FAT) are appealing Monday's disqualification of their national team from the Asian Football Confederation's Pre-Olympic Tournament.

The AFC's Disciplinary Committee cited the inclusion and fielding of defender Sucharit Chanthakul in Thailand's game against Palestine on February 23 at Suphachalasai Stadium in Bangkok as the reason for elimination.

According to the AFC, Sucharit has not served a ban from a red card received against Uzbekistan during the 2008 Under-19 AFC Championship in Saudi Arabia.

FAT believe their appeal carries weight based on two arguments.

Sucharit was in Thailand's national squad in last year's Asian Games but was not capped. Not

playing in the tournament will be submitted as application of Sucharit's suspension.

Liability for the mistake may rest with the AFC, according to FAT. Match Commissioners should be aware of eligible and ineligible players. Verification of all players and management names is the responsibility of the commissioner. Secretary-general of FAT, Ong-art Korsinkha said Sucharit's name was not offered as ineligible in the meeting prior to the game.

Thailand were due to play against Bahrain in Bangkok on June 19, following the Liverpool Legends match against Thailand Legends in Phuket on June 18.

Bahrain have already replaced Thailand on official fixture lists for the AFC tournament.

– Neil Quail

Phuket dart league calls for new teams

AS HEMINGWAY'S lifted the Patong Darts League (PDL) trophy for a second successive time on Tuesday night, organizers of the league were calling for more teams to join the decade-long on-going tournament.

The league is down to just five teams after Mangmoom (Spider Web) Bar dropped out following a difficult first season.

One more team is needed to round out the field to six in the

next season of play, tentatively scheduled to begin on May 10.

Without a sixth team, teams will have to periodically suffer through a "bye week" due to the odd number of sides.

Entry to the league costs 2,000 baht per team, with proceeds going toward the season-end league party.

To enter, contact Shaun E:shaun634@hotmail.com, T:085-79610020 or visit W:sites.google.com/site/patongdarts/latest-news.

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Tickets to watch Legends on sale

By Neil Quail

TICKETS for one of the island's most eagerly awaited sporting events went on sale earlier this week.

On June 18, a select team of ex-professional Liverpool football players will go head-to-head against a team of Thai Legends.

As this newspaper went to print the final location for the match had yet to be finalized.

An official announcement on the final venue is expected to be announced this week.

Activities for the Legends Tour in Phuket will include the Liverpool Legends against the Legends of Thailand match, broadcast live by TrueVisions, and a community football clinic on June 19 giving the opportunity for children from Phuket to meet the Legends of Liverpool and enjoy a football training clinic.

The visiting team includes stars such as Robbie Fowler, Phil Neal, Bruce Grobbelaar who will be

matched against stars from Thailand such Piyapong Pue On and Kiattisak "Zico" Senamuang.

The tour objectives are to raise funds for the Phuket Youth Football Home Foundation, a charity that provides for disadvantaged youth from around Thailand. YFH is supported by international footballers including Alan Kennedy who is a patron of the foundation.

"Many from this group of players from Liverpool Football Club have won more championships and trophies than any other team before or since for Liverpool," said Alan Kennedy, Manager for the Liverpool Football Club Past Players Association and organizer for the tour.

Tickets for the Phuket match will be on sale from May 10. See W:totalreservation.com, or for more information on tour activities, players, prize programs and football clinics see W:footballlegendstour.com-5 Fax

Navy seals win



A SELECT football team of Phuket Tourist Police suffered a 3-1 demolition at the hands of US Navy personnel last Monday at the Phuket Soccer Arena.

The recently constructed astroturf facility near Wat Saensuk on Ong Sim Phai Road in Phuket Town was the host venue for this friendly game, which was organized to strengthen relations with the US Navy, said Lt Col Ekachai Pramanakul, who led the Tourist Police team.

Personnel from the USS Ronald Reagan were in Phuket for five days on shore leave, and took part in a number of similar public relations activities on the island.

– Neil Quail

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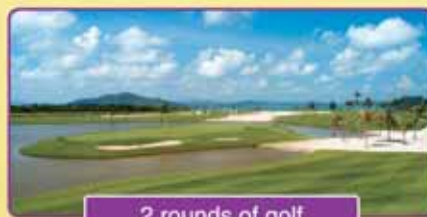
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