

Phuket Gazette

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Patong land under probe

65 rai in question on sale at Bt 4 billion

THE Public Sector Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) conducted a survey of land on Phuket's west coast to investigate two chanote title deeds covering a total of 65 rai that were placed on the market at 4 billion baht.

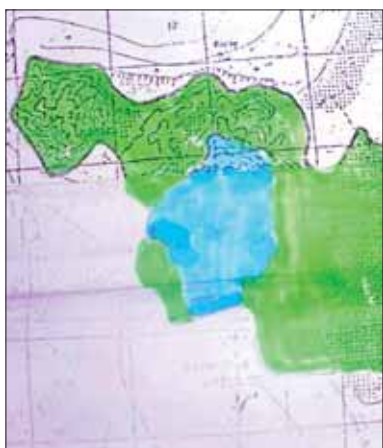
The investigation team visited the land plots overlooking Freedom Bay in Patong on June 24.

Secretary-General Amphol Wongsiri, who led the team, said consultation with officials from the Royal Forest Department revealed that the title deeds were issued illegally as the land lies in a national forest reserve.

"The first step is to investigate all officials who had any authority in approving these documents," Mr Amphol added.

Evidence showed that involvement goes as high up as former high-ranking government officials, Mr Amphol explained.

"Surveyors and officials from the



A map provided by the investigation team showing the land in question (marked in blue), surrounded by protected national forest.

Phuket Provincial Land Office and the Forest Resource Management Office 12, based in Krabi, also took part in the approval of these illegal land documents," Mr Amphol said in a statement issued through the PACC.

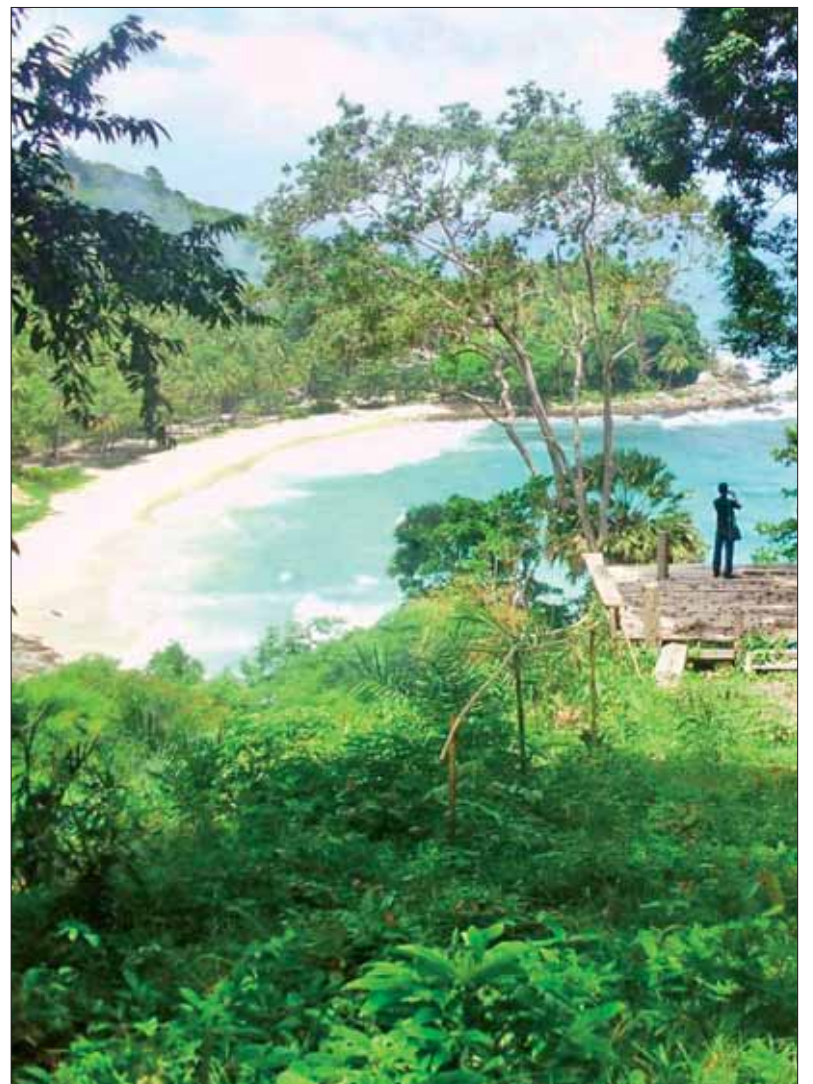
The statement says that Somchai Piensathaporn, director-general at the Royal Forest Department, sent a document issued on September 22, 2010 to a then-senior government official explaining that the two plots were located in a national reserve and that therefore title deeds could not be lawfully issued.

The official approved the chanotes later that month, "but in his rush he forgot to place an official stamp on the documents," Mr Amphol said.

The PACC investigation has revealed that 200 million baht was paid to officials for approval of the illegal deeds, he said.

Additional evidence is being collected to send to the Bangkok-based National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC).

Secretary-General Amphol and his team also investigated two other illegal title deed cases while they were in the region.



The investigation team enjoys the view from the land under scrutiny, overlooking Freedom Bay, on the headland to the south of Patong Beach.

One involved the unlawful eviction of villagers from a 25 rai plot behind Suan Luang Park in Phuket Town, he said.

The other was related to a 76-rai plot of public forest land and an Is-

lamic graveyard in Koh Yao Yai in Phang Nga province.

Mr Amphol's investigation into the land plots was televised nationwide on Channel 7's nightly news program *Pradended*.

Body of missing Aussie tourist found offshore at Karon

By Atchaa Khamlo

THE body recovered a kilometer offshore from Karon Beach on Thursday morning has been confirmed as that of missing Australian tourist Jennifer Laidley.

Ms Laidley, 44, disappeared while swimming further south on Karon Beach just after sunset on Monday.

"Ms Laidley and her friend arrived at the beach at about 7:15pm, after the lifeguards closed the beach and went home," said Uten Singsom, head of the Phuket Lifeguard Club contingent assigned to patrol Karon Beach.

Mr Uten explained that Ms Laidley went for a swim while her friend went for a walk along the beach for about 15 minutes.

"When her friend came back to where Ms Laidley's clothes were lying on the beach at about 7:30pm, she couldn't see Ms Laidley anywhere. So she asked taxi drivers nearby for help and the drivers suggested she report it to officers at the Karon Police Box," he said.

On receiving the report that Ms Laidley was missing, rescue agencies launched an immediate search that continued late into Monday night.

The search resumed the next day, with

lifeguards joining the effort by using their jet-skis to comb the waters of Karon Bay, said Mr Uten.

Karon lifeguard Phachoke Jamjareonjan finally found Ms Laidley's body floating about a kilometer offshore from the Nong Harn Lagoon at the northern end of Karon Beach at about 8:15am on Thursday.

Ms Laidley's companion Lisa Cosland confirmed the identity before her flight home to Australia Thursday afternoon.

Ms Cosland thanked the Karon Municipality Tourist Rescue service and all the other organizations who took part in the search for her friend.



A red flag on Phuket's Karon Beach, where Australian Jennifer Laidley was last seen.

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This Week

Democrats list top issues

Phuket Democrat MPs elect, Anchalee and Raywat, identify their top issues to tackle. **Pages 4-5**

Politics



Pheu Thai's election promises. Will the party deliver? **Page 11**

In Focus



Fraser Morton gets his head checked by Tim Robbins. **Page 14**

Food



I need a snack. Hop to it and make it snappy. **Page 18**

Property



If you build it they will come. A new field of dreams. **Page 25**

Sport



The Best Regatta in Asia welcomes the world's best racers. **Page 42**

Saturday



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Car thief finds 'God', surrenders to police

OVERWHELMED by a guilty conscience, a woman with 14 outstanding arrest warrants for car theft surrendered herself on Monday to Phuket Police.

Cherry Piwsa-ard ("Cherry Clean-skin") told officers at Patong Police Station last night that "God" had appeared to her in a dream and ordered her to surrender herself to authorities.

Police Duty Officer Rattaket Manmuang say Miss Cherry told officers she was a native of Ayutthaya province who formerly enjoyed a life of luxury as the wife of a well-to-do foreigner.

"I had invested in a business with friends and spent millions of my husband's money, but I was cheated by my friends. So he broke up with me. That was my fault," he quoted Miss Cherry, 32, as saying.

Mired in personal debt, Miss Cherry became involved with an acquaintance who ran a racket stealing cars and selling them in the southern border provinces.

Her first theft was of a Honda Jazz that she rented out for a few days at 1,000 baht per day, then sold for 60,000 baht, she said.

Her string of thefts continued



Cherry Piwsa-ard surrenders at Patong Police Station. She received up to 100,000 baht for each Toyota Fortuner stolen.

until she had stolen 13 more cars.

She was paid 60,000 baht for a typical compact car, and up to 100,000 baht for a Toyota Fortuner, she said.

Part of the money was used to pay off debt because she was afraid of her creditors, she explained.

"I have been unable to sleep well lately because I have done

wrong to so many people. Then God visited me in my dreams last night," police quoted her as saying.

"If I could somehow pay back the owners of the cars I stole, I would do it," she said.

Miss Cherry had 14 outstanding arrest warrants for auto theft when she turned herself in, police said.

Jealous cop murders wife, self

A POLICEMAN shot his wife point-blank then turned the gun on himself in the latest murder-suicide in Phuket.

Patong Police identified the victim as 25-year-old Suchapha Saman-iam, wife of Snr Sgt Maj Boonsuk Saman-iam, 39.

According to eyewitness accounts, the shooting took place at about 8pm at the couple's home on Nanai Road, where they operated the Yaris Design woman's fashion tailor shop.

Witnesses, including Miss Suchapha's mother, said officer Boonsuk was convinced his wife was having an affair with another man, as he had heard rumors and his wife never picked up his phone calls.

Officer Boonsuk was on duty all day July 3 providing security for the general election, during



Rescue workers recover the bodies of Snr Sgt Maj Boonsuk and his wife Miss Suchapha.

which time he tried to call her many times, to no avail.

He returned home after delivering ballot boxes to Phuket Rajabhat University, where the votes were counted.

When Mrs Suchapha returned home, she told him she had been with friends at the Phuket Variety weekend market on the outskirts of Phuket Town.

He did not believe this and a violent argument ensued. It ended with officer Boonsuk, still in uniform, drawing his 9mm service revolver and shooting his wife in the head from point blank range at the back of the boutique.

After that he turned the gun to his own skull and fired.

The two bodies, lying face-up and foot-to-foot, were taken to the hospital for examination and storage until they are claimed by relatives.

The couple had been married four years and leave behind one child, a girl.

— Yodsak Jarana

Korean charged over drunk driving death

A KOREAN man is facing a manslaughter charge after a head-on collision resulted in the death of Rik Johannes de Jong, 51, from the Netherlands.

Mr De Jong was well known among foreign expats as the restaurateur of The Secret Cove restaurant at Ao Yon.

He had operated the restaurant with his Thai wife since 2009.

Mr De Jong was riding his motorcycle along Pattana Thongthin Road in Wichit at about 4:30am on June 25 when he was struck by a pickup driven by a Korean man, said Phuket

City Police Duty Officer Ekkasit Pinkaew.

Mr De Jong was dead at the scene, he said.

"At first the Korean man did not allow me to breathalyze him. He was slurring and could only speak Korean, we had to wait until we brought him back to the police station to test him," said Lt Col Ekkasit.

He declined to name the Korean man charged.

Mr De Jong's body was taken to Chalong Temple, where it was cremated last Saturday.

— Pimwara Choksakulpan



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HOLIDAY INN PHUKET MAI KHAO BEACH RESORT

Marine chief launches coral smuggling crackdown

THE Director of the Marine and Coastal Resources Conservation Office (MCRC) in Phuket has warned coral smugglers against the practice, after investigations showed continuing illegal activity.

"Despite ongoing publicity on this matter, smuggling and illegal sale of coral continues. The latest case was on July 3, when volunteers in Cherg Talay informed MCRC staff that there was a market vendor selling bracelets made from coral," office director Pitul Panchaiyaphum said.

Further investigation led authorities to the Surat Thani home of Komon Patchan, who was arrested for dealing in bracelets made from pieces of dead coral. Collected at the scene were 120 bracelets and 20 pieces of coral.

Thailand's Wildlife Preservation and Protection Act 1992 prohibits the trade of protected wildlife, the remains of protected wildlife or products made from their remains.

Coral of all types are categorized as protected species

Land holdings under fire

90% of prime Phuket land controlled by foreigners, claims Land Dept

PHUKET leads all of Thailand in the amount of land held by foreigners, with up to 90 per cent of prime beachfront land being illegally held through Thai nominees, claims one of the country's top land officials.

Speaking at a recent seminar on legal issues relating to land ownership, Land Inspector Sriracha Charoenpanit said Thailand's positive characteristics, that include friendly people and hospitality, made it an attractive place for foreigners to seek a home, work and acquire land.

The cumulative effect of this had been a growing problem of land ownership though Thai "nominees", he was quoted as saying in a Thai-language report on the state-run MCOT website.

Thailand was one of many countries experiencing this problem, he said.

"Thailand must rectify these problems by tightening up existing laws and adding stricter conditions regarding land ownership by foreigners. This must include penalizing violators, in-



Land Dept Inspector Sriracha Charoenpanit says Phuket's attractive qualities are luring more foreigners to invest in land.

cluding the nominees," he said.

In response to the problem, new legislation is currently being drafted and expected to be made law in August. The new legislation will make it easier to prosecute violators, the head of the Land Department said.

Mr Sriracha explained that the law being drafted will be similar in principle to the anti-money

laundering laws.

The law would also expand legal measures, better define what constitutes a violation and specify penalties, he said.

Penalties for Thai nominees could rise to as much as double the existing punishments, while foreigners found guilty will have their land seized before being deported, he said.

Mr Sriracha said foreigners had already acquired about one-third of all land within the country, about one billion rai.

The land grab was most prominent in resort destinations such as Phuket, Koh Samui and Koh Chang, where foreigners currently hold land to run resorts or have second homes, he said in his speech.

Failure to stop the problem would put Thais at a competitive disadvantage, restricting their access to land and putting the national food supply in jeopardy, he said.

The bill should be ready in August. If passed into law, inspections would follow, he said.

After the speech Mr Sriracha confirmed in an interview that initial surveys by land inspectors found Phuket had more land controlled by foreigners than any other province, with the figure reaching to 90 per cent in beachfront areas.

Similar situations existed in Pattaya, Cha-am, Hua Hin and parts of Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai, he said.

CCTV puts rape allegation in doubt

IMAGES captured on CCTV and other evidence have cast doubt over a British woman's claim that she was raped at knifepoint by a Patong tuk-tuk driver, police say.

The 21-year-old woman reported the alleged assault to Cherg Talay Police last Tuesday.

The woman said she hired a tuk-tuk in Patong to take her back to her room at a resort in Cherg Talay, but was instead taken by the driver and his companion to Tri Trang Beach at the south of Patong Bay, where she was robbed and raped, she said.

The case has been transferred to Patong Police, where Superintendent Arayapan Pukbuakao said CCTV images recorded that evening showed the woman leaving central Patong on a motorbike with a Caucasian man.

If a rape did take place it was probably not perpetrated by a tuk-tuk driver, he said.

The tuk-tuk driver who returned the woman to the resort, initially questioned by Cherg Talay Police, has denied any involvement.

A Cherg Talay Police investigator who asked his name to be withheld told the *Gazette*, "Our investigation started with the hotel security guard who records vehicles entering and leaving the resort. We found out that a tuk-tuk driver sent her back to the hotel at around 5am."

The woman had abrasions and other wounds to her thighs and legs, he confirmed.

"We suspected the tuk-tuk



Seduction disco on Bangla Road.

driver until we checked CCTV footage and found that he lived in Phuket Town," he said.

"He said he didn't do anything to her. He found her in the Tri Trang Beach area, then brought her to the Patong Police box on the beach road, across from Soi Bangla. Patong Police tried to question her at that time, but she was unintelligible so police advised her to get some rest then come back for questioning later," he said.

"Our investigation revealed that she and a [female] friend went to Seduction [nightclub] and then separated, each going with a different foreign [Caucasian] man," he said.

Patong Police have not yet identified the foreigner, he said.

"At that time she was drunk, so it is not sure whether she remembered the event or not. Her body had some scratches, probably sustained when running away from something," said the officer.

The victim was taken to Thalang Hospital for examination, but it will take a month for the results to confirm whether or not she was raped, he said.

Paiboon presses Pheu Thai for progress

PHUKET Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) President Paiboon Upatising has wasted no time in appealing to Yingluck Shinawatra's new Government, now taking shape, to tackle the problems from the rising cost of living as soon as possible.

"I would like to ask the new Cabinet to continue supporting infrastructure improvements on the island, including construction of the International Convention and Exhibition Center [ICEC] and improved security across Phuket," he told the media on Tuesday.

The ICEC, set to be built on 140 rai of Treasury Department land on the island's northern tip



Paiboon Upatising

in Mai Khao, received the Abhisit government's approval of 2.6 billion baht in funding under the *Thai Khem Khaeng* ("Strong Thailand") fiscal stimulus package.

It seemed as close as ever to becoming a reality, even after the

revelation last May that the site was located in a tsunami hazard zone would need to be redesigned.

Both of Phuket's recently-elected Democrat Party MPs have assured that the project will continue to move forward under Pheu Thai, but political changes at the national level have a long history of derailing Phuket's decades-old dream of having a world-class convention center.

Mr Paiboon was more curious about the future of the project, saying it would now be up to the new government to push the project through. He encouraged them to do so, citing Phuket's need for such a facility and promising coordination and support from the *OrBorJor*.

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No election violence: Police

THE police crackdown in Phuket in the run-up to the July 3 election landed a bumper haul of guns, drugs and arrests – but resulted in no arrests for violence related to the election.

A total of 45 factory-made and homemade guns were seized and 350 people were arrested for drugs since May 12, according to statistics issued last Monday by Phuket Provincial Police.

More than 5,000 *ya bah* (methamphetamine) pills and 350 grams of *ya Ice* (crystal methamphetamine) were seized in raids and at road checkpoints across the island, along with more than 35 grams of marijuana and more than 20 kilograms of *kratom*, an indigenous plant ingested as a stimulant.

The crackdown was played out in four separate periods.

From May 12 to 26, officers seized 12 guns and arrested 12 people for possession of unlicensed firearms, while 142 people were arrested for drugs.

Two people were arrested for assault in incidents not related to the election.

From May 30 to June 12, police seized 16 guns and arrested 18 people on firearms charges,



An unsuspecting culprit (left) is caught with an illegal air rifle.

and arrested 97 people for drugs. Three cases of assault were reported resulting in two arrests.

From June 16-30, the crackdown netted 15 more illegal guns with 17 related arrests being made, and a further 102 people being arrested for drugs. Five cases of assault during the period resulted in four arrests.

Lending a hand, Muang District officers on June 22 arrested two men in possession of two unlicensed BB guns – one rifle and

one pistol. The men were caught passing through a checkpoint in front of the Phuket Shooting Range near Chalong Circle.

Muang District officers also arrested two men with 30 *ya bah* pills on June 25 with drug-sniffing dog Bebe the beagle's first bust at Suan Luang Park in Phuket Town.

The only election-related incidents during this period were two business operators – one in Muang District and the other in Tung Tong, Kathu – being charged with selling alcohol during prohibited hours for the absentee voting on June 26, and Tah Chat Chai Police arresting one person for destroying election campaign posters.

The last period of the campaign began last Friday and continued through Thursday this week.

At the time of going to press, police had made seven arrests for drugs and charged one shop owner in Muang District for selling alcohol during election hours during the period.

Tah Chat Chai police had also made another arrest: one person was caught burning election campaign boards.

Democrats

By Pimwara Choksakulpan
and Janpen Upatising

PHUKET's two Democrat MP-elects assured the media that domestic progress will continue unhindered, despite the rival Phue Thai party forming a new government and taking the helm of national affairs.

The assurances were formally announced at a press conference held at the Phuket Merlin Hotel on July 4, the day after the democratic candidates unofficially won the province's two parliamentary seats.

Anchalee Vanich Thepabutr, the Phuket 1 constituency MP-elect, made it clear to those gathered on Monday that Pheu Thai winning the election would not affect approved projects in Phuket, specifically referencing the Phuket International Convention and Exhibition Center (ICEC) and the expansion of the airport.

"These projects have already received approval from the [former] Cabinet and newly elected parties usually follow etiquette and do not cancel, delay or transfer the budgets of such projects," Mrs Anchalee said.

"Our national economy is not in crisis, so the new government should understand the expectations of the people and allow processes to continue," she added.

Also speaking to the press conference, fellow Democrat Phuket MP-elect, Raywat Areerob identified traffic, crime and drugs as the three most pressing issues raised by voters.

"While I was campaigning,



people told me that these [three issues] are the most urgent issues that need to be solved," Mr Raywat said.

The incumbent for Phuket 2 constituency told the *Gazette* on June 30 that he also intends to solve the issue of illegal Burmese migrants giving birth to children in Phuket.

"No one ever spoke of this issue before. I will ensure these Burmese children are sent back to their home [country]. Otherwise, who will take responsibility for them when they grow up?" he asked.

During the same pre-election interview, the *Gazette* also asked him whether a new government would affect the development of

'If the ICEC does not get built [due to a lack of support from the new government], tens of thousands of Phuket residents would surely march upon Bangkok to demand their rights.'

– Raywat Areerob, MP-elect Phuket constituency two

the ICEC and other projects such as the airport expansion and light rail proposal. A confident Raywat responded with a smile.

"[If the ICEC does not get built due to the lack of support from a new government]... tens of thousands of Phuket residents would surely march upon Bangkok to de-

mand their rights.

"The architectural plan for the ICEC is done. We are in the process of selecting a construction company and contractor [for the project]. Moreover, the project's budget has already been ap-

Ex-politician cleared

FIVE days after it was seized, over half a million baht has been returned to a former Phuket politician cleared of vote-buying allegations.

Prasong Trairat, a former president of the Thepkrasattri Tambon Council, today went to Cherno Talay Police Station to collect 542,000 baht in assets taken from his home in Thepkrasattri by a provincial police anti-vote-buying task force.

Officers with a search warrant on the night of June 26 seized the money from Mr Prasong's home, but never filed charges against him.

Mr Prasong pled his case before the local media, saying the money was from a family business.

The seizure caused him a great deal of personal damage and he intends to file charges against the state officials involved, he said.

Meanwhile, Pa Khlok Village 4 headman Jaran Thorthip has denied police allegations of electoral fraud after officers raided his Thalang home last Thursday.

Officers arrived and served a search warrant at his home at 6:30am. They found a box containing 70,000 baht, a list of 157 names and campaign brochures promoting Jirayus Songyos, the Bhumjaithai Party candidate who contested Phuket 2 constituency.

Mr Jaran denied allegations that he was involved in vote buying. He explained that his detached home in Baan Para was not surrounded by a fence and thus

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Phuket 1 constituency



Anchalee Vanich Thepabutr
Democrat

52,921 votes



Wisit Jai-arj
Pheu Thai

16,573 votes



Weerasak Woranetiwong
Thaeen Khun Phaendin

281 votes



Jatupong Lertsiljirada
Chart Pattana Puea Pandin

276 votes

Phuket 2 constituency



Raywat Areerob
Democrat

52,585 votes



Jirayus Songyos
Bhumjaithai

28,252 votes



Saman Kebsap
Pheu Thai

8,260 votes

Results sent by Phuket Election Commission to the Election Commission in Bangkok for ratification.



Phuket Election Commission chairman Kitipong breaks down the numbers immediately after counting the ballots. Photo: Janpen Upatising

Phuket leads nation in 'no vote' balloting

PHUKET had the highest percentage of "No Vote" ballots cast in the country, according to the latest unofficial results that accounted for 98 per cent of votes counted.

In total, 15,996 of Phuket voters (8.66%) on Sunday put an X in the appropriate boxes, denoting they did not wish to cast a ballot for any of the candidates or parties listed.

In the same category, Ranong province was the runner up with 7.78%, followed by Chumphon (6.82%), Nakhon Pathom (6.82%) and Phetchaburi (6.62%).

According to statistics, 2.74 % of voters nationwide cast "no votes" for the party list ballot, while 4.04% did the same for the constituency candidate ballot.

Out of about 47 million eligible voters in Thailand, 34.8 million (about 74 %) cast votes at 94,216 polling stations across the country's 77 provinces and the special administrative zone of Bangkok.

The top five provinces in terms of voter turnout were: Lamphun



One of the 'Vote No' posters.

(86.64%), Trang (81.97%), Chiang Mai (81.27%), Satun (80.74%) and Ratchaburi (80.73%).

Overall turnout in Phuket was 75.60%.

The top five provinces with the highest percentage of spoiled ballots were: Mae Hong Son (10.90%), Tak (10.52%), Yala, (10.24%), Phattalung (9.84%) and Pattani (9.12%).

In Phuket, 5% of the constituency votes were spoiled and 3% of the party list were spoiled.

— **Steven Layne**
and **Krunghthep Thurakij**

proved," he said.

"Construction of the ICEC should start in no less more than three to four months," he added.

Leading up to the election, rumors began to circulate in Phuket that a growing rift was dividing Democrat Party leadership. The two MPs shunned the rumors as politically motivated.

"Both Khun Anchalee and I will work as a team in addressing Phuket's issues," Raywat said.

"Thank you to those who chose us as their representatives and for choosing the Democrat Party," Anchalee added.

Vote now to voice your most pressing issue at PhuketGazette.net

GAZETTE POLL

Which of the following issues affecting Phuket do you feel needs the most urgent attention by the new Government?

- ☐ Traffic congestion
- ☐ Crime
- ☐ Drug abuse
- ☐ Corruption
- ☐ Public transport
- ☐ Environmental protection

Submit

in vote-buying case



Maj Gen Pekad said officers conducting the raid were only doing their duty.

would have been easy for anyone to enter the premises and plant the evidence there.

Provincial Police Commander Pekad Tantipong said the officers

who conducted the search were only doing their duty after the court issued the order based on information supplied by the Phuket Election Commission.



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EVASON PHUKET
& BON ISLAND

Culture carrier returns

By Janpen Upatising

SIX years since their last visit aboard MV *Doulos*, the crew aboard MV *Logos Hope* will be returning to Phuket, bringing with them more than 5,000 books as part of their "global mission to serve humanity".

The *Logos Hope* is twice as large as any previous vessel operated by German-based charity GBA Ships, including the *Doulos*, which visited Phuket in 2006.

The *Doulos*, at the time the world's oldest passenger liner, was built two years after the *Titanic*. She was sold to a Singaporean interest in 2009.

The 132-meter *Logos Hope* will drop anchor at Phuket Deep Sea Port at Ao Makham on August 17.

"The ship will be open to visitors from 10am to 9pm from Tuesday to Saturday. On Sunday and Monday, the ship will be open from 2pm to 9pm," said Brazilian Heverton Muniz, project manager of *Logos Hope*.

On board the goodwill ship are 400 volunteers from 45 different countries.

"We stop over in each country for two weeks. All aboard are volunteers. We do not receive any money to work, but we receive training and are provided facilities to learn about different cultures," Mr Muniz said.

While in port the volunteers perform a variety of community projects to help locals in the host country.

"We have doctors on board, so during our visit in Liberia, Africa, for example, we provided dental care to local people," he said.

In addition to maintaining the huge library of books, the volunteers stage cultural events to educate and entertain visitors on



In addition to carrying world's largest floating library, the 400 volunteers on *Logos Hope* perform cultural shows to celebrate each unique culture represented on board. Photo: Logos Hope



The 132-meter *Logos Hope* arrives in port in Phuket on August 17.

board.

At the opening of the ship's book fair in Galle, Sri Lanka on July 1, the crew held a Parade of Nations to showcase national cos-

tumes from a variety of cultures around the world.

"We have yet to set the entrance fee, but six years ago the fee was only 10 baht. So, we

would like to invite everyone to visit our ship," she said.

Volunteer Nissie Attalaavnan- goon was on board the *Doulos* when it visited Phuket six years ago.

"The reception last time was fantastic. Thousands of school students visited our ship, giving our crew the chance to learn more about Phuket.

"Our goal is not to sell books. We want to learn about the cultures of each country we visit," she said.

However, a nominal fee will be charged to come aboard.

The *Logos Hope* will set sail on August 28 to the Malaysian island of Penang, where she will remain from August 29 to September 27.

Officials 'slash and burn' pirate goods

COUNTERFEIT goods worth more than 58 million baht were destroyed at the incinerator in Phuket Town last week as part of the nationwide crackdown on copyright infringement.

Before the serious destruction began, high-ranking officials and guests used box cutters to slash fake Louis Vuitton bags and Ralph Lauren shirts, while others smashed pirated DVDs with oversized sledgehammers.

"This is the first destruction of confiscated pirated products of the year. There are 95,038 items, of which 27,677 were seized by Phuket Provincial Police in copyright raids," said Pajchima Thanasanti, Director-General of the Department of Intellectual Property.

Among the 25 tons of illegal goods to be destroyed were 63,236 items seized by Customs officers in Phuket and their counterparts stationed at border crossings at Kantang, Sadao and Pedang Besar in Southern Thailand.

Topping off the pile were 4,125 items seized by officers from the Department of Special Investigations.

Of the 7.9 million baht in counterfeit goods seized in Phuket, garments were the most common, contributing 23,408 items to the pile.

— Chutharat Plerin



Some of the pirate goods seized.

Mother's plea for help in finding missing son

A SWEDISH mother has appealed for help in finding her son, who has not been in contact since arriving in Thailand two months ago.

Writing from Sweden, Lise-Lott Carlberg informed the Gazette she had not heard from her 24-year-old son Michael since he landed in Bangkok on May 5.

"We know that he has been located in Bangkok, so I pray to you that you will help me to find my son. We have been in contact with the police, who advised us to get in contact with the media in Bangkok," she said.

Ms Carlberg described her son as 183cm tall, with blue eyes and of average weight.

"He has a scar right under his chin from a fall when he was a little boy," she added.

"All I can do is hope and pray that you will take this most seriously," said Ms Carlberg.

Par Kageby, Senior Consular



MISSING: Michael Carlberg.

Officer at the Swedish embassy in Bangkok, today confirmed with police that Mr Carlberg completed two visa runs last month.

"He is still in the country. He most recently completed a visa run to Cambodia on June 18. He did a similar visa run to Cambodia on June 4," Mr Kageby told the *Phuket Gazette*.



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It's Yingluck

YINGLUCK Shinawatra is set to become Thailand's first female prime minister after the Pheu Thai Party romped home to victory in last week's general election.

Abhisit Vejjajiva resigned as leader of the Democrat Party to take responsibility for the result, which saw his party win just 159 seats against Pheu Thai's 265.

In her first speech after results showed her party on course for a sweeping victory, Mrs Yingluck thanked voters for their support.

"It is not the victory of the party, but a chance to serve the people," said the 44-year-old businesswoman who was a political novice just two months ago.

"We will implement every policy we promised during our election campaigns. We will not disappoint our people," she said.

The question most analysts were asking was when the party

AROUND THE nation

would try to bring Mrs Yingluck's elder brother Thaksin back to Thailand.

Mr Thaksin, who lives in self-imposed exile in Dubai to escape a jail sentence for abuse of power, had previously said he wanted to return to the country in December for his daughter's wedding.

But a proposed amnesty that would whitewash Mr Thaksin's conviction and allow him to return would be highly controversial and likely to meet fierce resistance.

Andrew Stotz, a Bangkok-based strategist at Kim Eng Securities (Thailand), told

Bloomberg, "The biggest risk is that they move aggressively, that they say 'We have a mandate and will use that to roll back what's happened since the 2006 coup'. If he goes too fast and aggressive, the protests will start."

Pheu Thai will form the next government as part of a five-party coalition.

It will be joined by Chart Thai Pattana, Chart Pattana Peua Pandin, Phalong Chon and Mahachon, which will give the coalition 299 MPs in the 500-seat House of Representatives.

Some reports say the party is understood to be negotiating for defections from the Bhumjaithai Party to push the number of MPs in the ruling coalition to over 300.

At the time of writing, negotiations were underway over Cabinet portfolios. Pheu Thai's coalition partners will attempt to secure



Yingluck Shinawatra, Thailand's first woman prime minister. Photo: The Nation

ministerial positions in lucrative ministries, though the party is likely to take the Defense, Interior and Foreign Ministry portfolios itself – crucial to securing Mr Thaksin's return.

A party source said that red-shirt leaders elected on Pheu

Thai's party list would not be given Cabinet positions.

"The image of this new Cabinet must be very good because there are high public expectations. We have grown a tree and should not let anything destroy it," the source said.

Cambodia welcomes new government

CAMBODIA has welcomed the Pheu Thai Party's election victory, while the party has said mending relations with neighboring countries is a "top priority".

"We are delighted with the victory of the Pheu Thai Party. We hope the new government formed by the Pheu Thai Party will resolve border issues with Cambodia more positively than the previous government," Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Namhong was quoted by Xinhua as saying.

"Cambodia wants a fair and peaceful solution on border conflict, based on international laws, good neighborhood and friendship between Cambodian and Thai peoples, and the judgment of the International Court of Justice in 1962."

Speaking after a meeting with coalition partners, prime-minister-in-waiting Yingluck Shinawatra said it was now an urgent task for her government to restore bilateral relations with neighboring countries.

Ties with Cambodia soured



Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Namhong (left). Photo: UN

under the outgoing Abhisit Vejjajiva government due to boundary conflicts over the area adjacent to the temple at Preah Vihear.

Cambodia and observers in the border provinces expect to see a policy shift.

Mrs Yingluck's brother Thaksin has close relations with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, and formerly served as economic adviser to the country.

Sex king wins seats

CHUWIT Kamolvisit, a former kingpin of the Bangkok sex trade, won four seats in Parliament in an election showing that has surprised observers.

Mr Chuwit, 49, has promised to serve in opposition to fight corruption, despite his own history in Bangkok's underworld when he ran an empire of massage parlors.

Mr Chuwit said the political campaign of his "Rak Prathet Thai" ("Love Thailand") party had succeeded because most voters were bored with the two main parties and wanted him to investigate and monitor corruption.

"People have sent a big signal to the two main parties that they are bored with the failure of previous governments' policies and want me to scrutinize them," he said.

Mr Chuwit is not unfamiliar with corruption.



Massage parlor tycoon Chuwit Kamolvisit vows to fight corruption. His 'Love Thailand' Party won six seats in the election. Photo: The Nation

As head of Bangkok's largest sex franchise, he admitted to paying hundreds of thousands of

dollars in kickbacks to corrupt officials every month to keep his establishments open.

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Focus needed on the big picture

THE landslide election win by the Pheu Thai Party last weekend may strike fear in the hearts of some Phuket residents, but the new coalition government that forms should be given a chance to establish itself and make good on its promises to bring about national reconciliation and prosperity.

Things to look out for in the short term are the number of red-shirt leaders who are rewarded with prominent positions and how long it will take before amnesty proceedings begin to bring back Thaksin Shinawatra.

Even more interesting will be the extent to which the attractive-but-inexperienced Mrs Yingluck is allowed to guide policy on her own. Shortly after her win was announced, her brother-in-exile was giving interviews on state-run television from Dubai.

Although unintentional, the Orwellian images of Big Brother's talking head towering above the TV anchorman was sure to give some viewers a feeling of déjà vu, conjuring up memories of chilling periods in recent history, like the daily assassinations that marked the early stages of the War on Drugs in 2003.

There are reasons for optimism, however. News of the Pheu Thai election win was met with an immediate surge in the SET index that is thought to reflect confidence by foreign investors.

Here in Phuket, with its all-important tourism industry, it is better to have a stable political situation in Bangkok than a government catering to our needs in the midst of street protests and turmoil in the capital.

A look at the two-and-a-half years of achievements of the Democrat-led coalition government highlights this fact.

In some ways this was a period when Phuket had unprecedented representation at the highest levels of power, with three sitting MPs including party list representative Chalermklak Kebsup, Anchalee Vanich Thepabutr serving as secretary to Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva and Thanyarat Achariyachai heading the senate committee on tourism.

We also enjoyed the services of two dynamic governors committed to provincial development.

But despite what would appear to have been a golden opportunity, apart from the airport expansion project, little has been done to improve the local tourism industry's infrastructure or sustainability. Important regulations affecting the industry that should have been dealt with by legislators, like the harmful alcohol control laws and pub closing times put in place under Thaksin, remain in place.

We would like to remind our newly-elected MPs as they enter the opposition that their job description is to help form legislation and national government policy, not only fight the drug problem in Pa Khlok or solve local traffic congestion issues.

— The Editor



Feeding Phuket's roads

I'm very glad to read that traffic is one of the first things on the newly elected democrats' agendas here in Phuket. Let us hope that they keep to their word on this because although it is a well discussed topic, issues like this too often remain a talking point until a tipping point is reached.

Can you imagine what the island will be like when it reaches that stage? It will be a very deep hole to dig out of. Real estate development will still continue at pace, adding to the congestion that is already spilling over.

Time for action
Kalim

Letters to the Editor

Rolling stones bring some sense with them

Re: Gazette online, Rolling boulders crash into Phuket resort, July 1

Well, I take my hat off to Mr O-pal and Mr Thanachart. After 10 years in Thailand, that's the very first time I have heard of someone taking responsibility for their actions when things went wrong.

Wasn't Me
Gazette forum

Go with the flow

Re: Gazette online, Election Thailand: Democrats win Phuket, July 4

Hopefully the transition will be smooth. No riots. No protests. With the margin so large, there is no reason to have all sorts of fraud allegations.

A smooth transition would be terrific for Thailand's global image, economy and tourism industry. We could have a terrific high season for a change.

Now, take down the campaign signs, please!

Vegas Bigfoot
Gazette forum

Too good a time

Re: Gazette online, Mother's Phuket plea for help in finding son Michael Carlberg, July 4

I lived in Phuket for one year, the first month after arrival I did not contact anyone at home.

When I did call, my father, who feared I was dead, was relieved to hear from me.

Robert
Gazette forum

Value for money

Re: Gazette online, Reward offered for help in recovery of missing Phuket rental car, July 30

Well, it is refreshing to see that someone in this country is willing to admit, on the record, that paying the police more than the offered reward is the way to get things done here.

James Bond
Gazette forum

Is that all, Dems?

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Democrats line up parliamentary agenda, July 4

We never had a clear message from Dem Khun Anchalee about what she plans to do about corruption, the tuk-tuk cartel and public land transport, protection of natural assets...

The list goes on.

Whistle-Blower
Gazette forum

Look out, Sai Yuan

Re: Gazette online, Phuket restaurants race against coastal erosion, June 30

Most worrying is the extent of damage is getting dangerously close to the [Rawai] beach front road. The loss of this major transport artery would be a serious issue as most of the tourist buses going to Promthep Cape pass along this route.

Imagine if they are forced to take the back roads – a disastrous situation!

Logic
Gazette forum

Read and learn

Re: Gazette online, World's largest floating book fair heading back to Phuket, July 2

We went to the last one with our son who was three years old. It was a pleasant experience although a bit crowded.

We will go again for sure, but this time we will wait until later in the day and hope the crowds are gone.

glenn
Gazette forum

All bark and no bite

Though it is unlikely to reach the people in question, I must express my confusion with these modified-scooter riders.

Their modifications are all for show. If anything, those loud pipes probably make their bikes less powerful.

I suppose it's a good thing they can't go any faster, but it still perplexes me to no end.

No Compendo
Patong

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Westerner's patience earns Thai citizenship

FIRST PERSON

MANY people have asked me why I want to become a Thai citizen. I've lived in Thailand for more than half of my life and like many foreigners, have always been treated differently than the local Thai citizens. I have not been able to have a household registration or to own a business, much less be able to vote.

Foreigners have to continually deal with visa regulations and work permit guidelines in order to make a living. As a non-resident of Thailand and as a non-resident of England, where I was born, I felt like I lived in some sort of limbo, that I do not truly belong anywhere.

I like the idea that I am a fully participating citizen in the place that I choose to live, and becoming a citizen of Thailand has made me feel like this is my country where I can live my life without prejudice or discrimination because I am now Thai. Now I can be the director or shareholder of a company and can own more than 49 per cent of any business if I want.

It's a rather intimidating process becoming a Thai citizen. It took me over nine years dealing with the paperwork and the bureaucracy. My application stayed in the police department for eight years primarily because I could not figure out how to get through the



Angela Prajantabut recently became a Thai citizen. She was hoping to vote in the recent elections, but discovered she faces a five-year waiting period before she will be allowed. Angela is a busy mother of two and manages her business, Phuket Consult, with her Thai husband, Lek. Here she explains why she became a Thai citizen.



Nine years of red tape and Mrs Prajantabut can get one of these.

system. Eventually I was advised how to get my application approved. I also had to navigate through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the final signature.

When it came time for my interview for citizenship, I faced a panel of seven high-ranking officials including a Vice Governor of Phuket, the head of the Tax

Department and senior police officers. There were early morning visits to my home to verify that I was really married to a Thai man and when I was required to have my fingerprints taken, I was put in line with criminals at the Chalong Police Station.

There was a check with Interpol to confirm there were no outstanding international arrest warrants and I had to sing the Thai National Anthem in Thai. I surprised the panel when I showed my ability to do that in both the Central and Southern dialects.

And now I am Thai. I have a Thai ID card which gives me access to signing legal documents and my name can now be put on my household registration. Moreover, I will qualify to get a pension some day.

I wanted to vote in last week's election, but there is a five-year waiting period for new citizens before they can vote. I feel privileged to be a more integrated member of the community. I am proud to be a Thai citizen.



Pheu Thai and Preah Vihear: Critical issue or pandering to voter heartland?

Southern comfort

Island View

By Damian Evans

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

NOW that Phieu Thai was won a "landslide" election, we should expect Thailand's border dispute with Cambodia over the Preah Vihear Temple territory to be resolved imminently.

As Thaksin Shinawatra, who is "allegedly" pulling the strings of Phieu Thai, is also a former special economic adviser to Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, he should have the right relationship to come to a peaceful agreement quickly on the matter.

However, the importance placed on the ongoing border dispute does highlight a sad reality of Thai politics.

Phieu Thai won the election by winning the North and the Northeast alone.

The party failed to win a single seat in the South.

Consequently, there is no pressing need for Phieu Thai to redress the serious issues plaguing the Deep South, namely the ongoing conflict in the three southern border provinces, a conflict recently reported in the West as taking more lives in the past seven years than The Troubles over Northern Ire-

land claimed in its 30 years.

On an optimistic note, let's hope PM Yingluck keeps the promise she made last week to "propose" having the southern border provinces made into a special economic zone – as she said, "just like Bangkok and Pattaya" – with the right to vote for their own governor.

This would be a great leap forward compared to her brother's handling of the Tak Bai and Krue Se Mosque fiascos.

But the road forward looks rocky. Phieu Thai will need to coordinate efforts with their nemesis: the Royal Thai Army.

Also, Mr Thaksin was the man who ordered the disbanding of the Southern Border Peace Keeping Council in the first place, the only administrative mechanism that local leaders in the Deep South had to voice their grievances.

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

Do private investors need work permits?

I am a foreigner living in Thailand with my Thai wife and our children. I have a non-immigrant "O" visa.

I hear horrible stories about work permits, the different interpretations of "work" and the consequences of not having a permit. These stories include being blacklisted regardless of your family ties and investments in Thailand.

I don't want to work here illegally. I love Thailand, its culture and the locals. I want to abide by the country's laws. I am a private online investor in stocks, commodities and currencies in foreign markets. I work from my home here in Thailand.

Setting up a Thai company is not an option. I want to avoid any misinterpretation by labor departments and/or immigration authorities and also any danger to my family by not abiding by local laws.

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuKetGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

I've searched the web and asked various lawyers, but I still have not received a comprehensive answer.

All my investment accounts, stock exchanges and brokers are located outside of Thailand. Is my work legal? Do I need to apply for any type of work permit?

Worried private investor, Thailand

Phuket Provincial Employment Office chief Noppadol Ployudee replies:

Stock investment is not lawfully defined as work. As long as you are not working, you do not need to apply for a work permit.

For example. If you are a share-



Dabbling in stocks does not require a work permit. Photo: Katrina Tuliao

holder or an executive of a company, but you do not sign documents related to the daily functions of that company, you do not need a work permit.

However, you must pay income tax if you receive stock dividends.

The only documentation that we are authorized to issue to foreigners working here is a work permit.

If you do not work, there is no official documentation that can be issued to you.

Registering a trailer

How do I register a boat trailer? My boat trailer was made in the USA and came with the boat.

I have a utility trailer, made locally in Pattaya. I can't get blueprint drawings for either trailer.

*Ian Gilks
Rayong Province*

The registrar at the Department of Land Transport, Phuket branch, replies:

If the boat trailer is already in Thailand, you have to bring to the Department of Land Transport the trailer and all the documents that you got from the Customs checkpoint where you entered Thailand.

If you don't have blueprints for the trailers, it won't be a problem because we have our own engineering department. You can bring your trailers to the department and get the engineering drawings later. The first step is to bring all the Customs documents to the department for us to review.

Green balls to fix dirty water

By Anand Singh

IMPLEMENTING effective micro-organism (EM) balls to dilute wastewater before discharging it is practical, cost effective and could save Phuket hotels and resorts millions of baht.

Spearheading the eco-friendly initiative, is Kata-Karon Municipality by stepping up its campaign for hotels not hooked up to its wastewater mains to use EM balls. The move follows the publicity fallout of the German TV documentary crew which filmed untreated wastewater at Karon and Kata beaches in May.

"A hospital in Chainat province reportedly saved over 300,000 baht a year in wastewater treatment. On the other hand, the overall cost of producing EM balls was roughly a few thousand baht

a year," said Karon Deputy Mayor Itthiporn Sangkaew.

"Phuket businesses can benefit a great deal from this technique. The first time I observed it in action was in Saraburi province, where the technique was developed. Since then, many hospitals and schools in that region have been using EM balls to treat wastewater," he added.

According to information provided by the municipality, EM balls can be made at home using only bio-waste from fruits and vegetables and a certain mixture of "good" bacteria that has the ability to neutralize or kill bacteria harmful to the environment.

The micro-organisms are added to the mixture of bio-waste and left to ferment. During this time the good bacteria multiplies inside the bio-waste mixture. Given time,

the resulting mixture contains enough good bacteria to effectively treat dirty water.

Initially, a few hotels in Karon showed interest in the project, but now more hotels are seeing the cost-saving benefits and are following suit, said Mr Ittipong.

"Karon hotels alone produce more than 10 tons of bio-waste each day. The waste, which would otherwise end up as garbage, can be used to make EM balls in order to fight other environmental problems," said the deputy mayor.

"There are many ways in which hotel and business operators can use EM balls. For example, simply placing them in urinals, toilets and along wastewater canals can greatly help reduce harmful bacteria," he said.

"As a result, the wastewater hotels discharge will be safer and safer for the environment. After treat-



TRIED AND TESTED: Workers prepare EM solution that was sprayed into the badly polluted Khlong Pakbang in 2009. Photo: Gazette file

ment, the wastewater is often good enough for watering plants and gardens and hence can be recycled for this purpose. In this respect, hotels can reduce water usage and save on costs," he added.

Karon Municipality is leading the initiative by collecting bio-

waste and turning it into EM balls, which will be widely distributed.

Simply throwing these bio-waste balls into ponds, canals and waterways can make a huge difference in improving the quality of water that flows into the sea, the deputy mayor said.

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Third Big C now under construction off Thepkrasattri



WATCH THIS SPACE: The site for the new Big C. Photo: Michael DesPortes

CONSTRUCTION of a third retail outlet by Big C is now underway on Thepkrasattri Road in Phuket, the *Gazette* has learned.

Staff at the Sinsuk Thani project office in Thalung told the *Gazette* last week the company rented out a large plot of land in Rassada to the retailer and that construction was already underway.

The new Big C will be Phuket's third, following the firm's takeover over of the Carrefour store in the Jungceylon shopping complex in Patong.

The store, to be in a smaller for-

mat than the Big C hypermarket on the Bypass Road, will be located just north of the Rajabhat University Junction, on Thepkrasattri Road southbound in Rassada.

Sinsuk Thani will retain part of the land located behind the project for future development after the new store in complete, the staff member said.

With its takeover of Carrefour's stores in Thailand, Big C has over 110 locations nationwide and is now the country's second largest chain of retail outlets.

— Stephen Fein

PHEU THAI ELECTION WIN

Business as usual?

PHEU Thai's landslide victory in the general election last Sunday gives the party the right to form the new government. Leading up to the election, the party's campaign platform was rich in policies which promised to bring prosperity to the Thai economy. The following list includes some of the promises.

ROADS

DESPITE Pheu Thai's relatively low popularity in the southern region – having failed to win a single seat in any of the 14 provinces – the party has pushed forth its Southern Economic Bridge promise to develop a "land bridge" or "gateway", which would be a super-highway linking deep-sea ports on the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea.

If carried out, the project would incorporate Nakhon Sri Thammarat, Surat Thani, Phan Nga, Krabi and Phuket provinces – opening a strategic shipping channel between the Indian and Pacific Oceans that would allow ship cargo to bypass the traditional sea passage via the Strait of Malacca. This proposal has received less resistance than the previous one, which involved digging a canal through the Isthmus of Kra. Like many infrastructure mega-projects being considered for more than a decade, the highway proposal has yet to materialize due to the lack of funding.

Another promise echoed in Pheu Thai's southern election campaign was to expand Highway four (Phet Kasem Road) from two to four lanes. The sections poised for an upgrade run through Chumphon, Ranong, Phang Nga and Krabi provinces.

TAXES & WAGES

Pheu Thai also said it will raise the nationwide minimum daily wage rate to 300 baht. Since its election victory, the party announced that the change will take effect from January 2012. Currently, the minimum daily wage rate varies in each province. The lowest daily rate is 151 baht in Pichit, Payao and Mae Hong Son provinces, while the highest rate of 226 baht per day is in Phuket.

The party promised it will also raise the minimum salary for Bachelor's Degree holders up to 15,000 baht. The salary boost will first be applied to civil servant positions, followed by positions in the private sector. Currently, the

minimum monthly salary for government entry level jobs is just under 9,000 baht-a-month for Bachelor's Degree holders 12,000 baht for Masters' Degree holders.

FUEL

There has also been a promise to issue an "energy credit card" to taxi, tuk-tuk, van and motorcycle drivers, to allow them a petrol or gas credit limit equal to 80 per cent of their estimated monthly energy expenses. For example, a taxi driver who normally spends 10,000 baht a month on petrol, could rack up a debt of 8,000 baht each month on his energy credit card.

RAIL

The party promised a high-speed rail link between Chiang Mai and Rayong via Korat. This may be good news for northerners, but it will not necessarily guarantee that a strategic link to China would ensue, as was popularly touted in the Democrat's proposal of a rail link to Nong Kai, rather than Chiang Mai.

Pheu Thai has also promised to extend the Airport Link from



Photo: The Nation

BUSINESS TIME: Thailand's economic future is now in Yingluck's hands.

Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok to Chachoengsao, Chonburi and Pattaya. This is in addition to adding 10 more Bangkok Transit System routes in the Bangkok metro area and setting a flat fare rate of 20 baht per trip.

LAND

The party promises to make Bangkok and its vicinity flood-proof by building off-shore flood gates and reclaiming more than 300 square kilometers of damaged shorelines, as well as developing the central and eastern seaboard regions into financial, IT, fishery and tourism hubs of Asia.

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

To demonstrate just how high the Pheu Thai is aiming, one of the promises highlighted on the policy

page of the party's website is to invite foreign investors to construct the world's tallest building as a landmark for Thailand. As of yet, there have been no plans, studies or budgets announced regarding the proposed project. The one assurance the party did give is that it would not borrow capital to build it or any of its other mega-projects.

Currently, the world's tallest building is the Burj Khalifa tower in Dubai. Standing at 828 meters high, it cost US\$1.5 billion and took nearly six years to complete. In Kuwait, the Burj Mubarak al Kabir project has already received approval from the Kuwaiti government and could be completed by 2016. It is expected to reach over 1km in height and cost more than US\$7 billion to build. So the stakes are high – financially and literally.

– Steven Layne

Harbor expansion on hold

PLANS by Seatran Travel to build a shipyard adjacent to the Rassada Harbor are on hold, awaiting government approval.

Tanan Tanbhaibul, managing director of Seatran, said layout plans for the shipyard on four rai of land north of Rassada Harbor have been completed and the company has already applied with the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) to use the site.

Seatran Travel operates the Rassada Harbor under a 30-year contract with the *OrBorJor* that began five years ago. The port, on the south bank of Khlong Tah Cheen in Rassada, is the main departure point for tourists heading to Koh Phi Phi in Krabi by ferry.

If approved, the project will include a shipyard and slipway, as well as adding about 60 meters of additional berthing facilities to the existing harbor.

"This project can handle the growing numbers of boats consistent with the number of domestic and foreign tourists travelling to Phuket and nearby provinces. The facility will be focused on integrating rapid, high-quality services. These will range from dry-docking bottom cleaning, high water pressure bottom washing, painting, hull repair, custom fabrication and power system overhaul," said Mr Tanan, who is also president of the Phuket Real Estate Association.

The project would also include boat construction and floating repair facilities, he said.

In addition to the land use request, Seatran is also awaiting approval from the Marine Department, Mr Tanan added.

– Stephen Fein

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Get your browsers right

IF YOU have a pirate copy of Windows XP and you've never updated your web browser, chances are very good you're still running Internet Explorer 6 (IE 6), and – forgive me for saying – chances are also very good that your system's been infected.

If you have a pirate version of Windows, and you're running IE 6, even if you're using a good antivirus program I'd guess there's at least a 50-50 chance that

you're infected with a rootkit right now. A more realistic figure is 80 per cent or more. Which means everything you're typing into your PC, and much of what's stored on your PC, has already been sent to somebody, somewhere, without your knowledge or approval.

Of course it's important that you get a legal copy of Windows. I've written about that before; if you need details, drop by one of our Sunday morning Computer Clinics and I'll step you through the process. Once you have a legal copy of Windows, it's also vitally important that you install and update a good antivirus program. My personal preference is Microsoft Security Essentials, which is free, unobtrusive, very capable, and easy to use.

But it's also important that you get your browsers updated. Internet Explorer 6, which ships with Windows XP, has been

the source – the vector – for more infections than any other piece of software, ever. To see what version of Internet Explorer (IE) you're using, start IE, hold down the Ctrl key and press H, to bring up the Help menu, then click on About Internet Explorer.

If you have Windows XP, the latest version is Internet Explorer 8. For Vista or Windows 7, the latest version is IE 9. You should upgrade to the latest version. IE 8 and 9 can both be downloaded

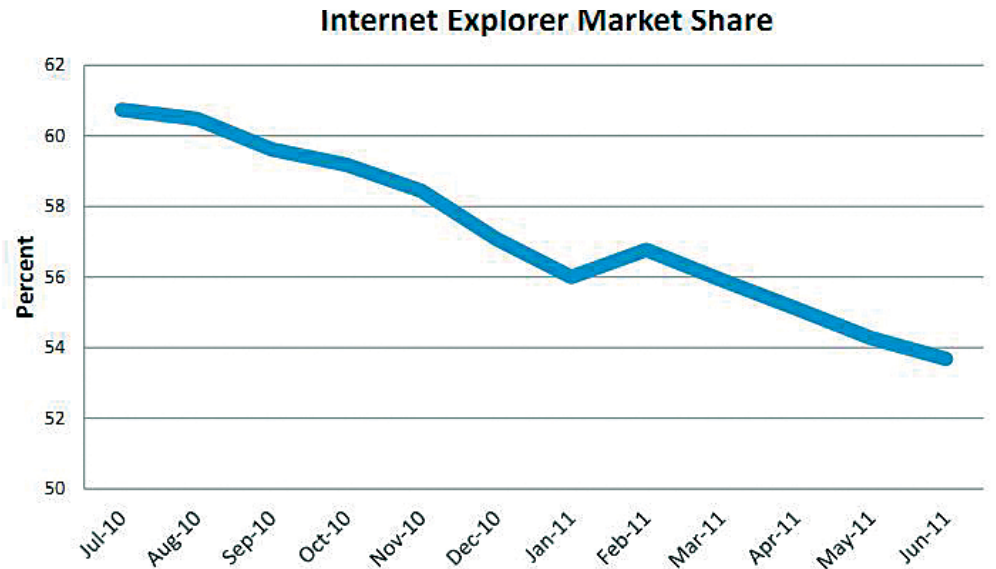
on Microsoft's web site, specifically at is.gd/Y4WXq5 and is.gd/dBMDM0.

If you've never tried Firefox (version 5, getfirefox.com) or Google's Chrome (version 12, google.com/chrome), give one or the other a try. They're both excellent browsers that you can install with a couple of clicks and run side-by-side with Internet Explorer, with no problematic interactions at all. Personally, I use Chrome most of the time, but you should give them all a try (even IE!) and pick the one you like the most.

Even if you use Firefox or Chrome, keep Internet Explorer updated so you don't get broadsided by a security hole.

Answers available in Thai

Microsoft has launched Thai-language forums on answers.microsoft.com. I've been using the Answers forum for years to get answers to questions about Microsoft prod-



Internet Explorer's market share is almost at 50 per cent – which was previously unthinkable.

ucts. In the past few weeks, they've launched Thai language support via the forums, answers.microsoft.com/th-th.

The format appears to me to be the same as with their English-language forums, which are extensive. Basically it's free support, from Microsoft employees and MVPs, for all sorts of questions, from absolute beginners to very advanced users. The people who answer questions on the forum have access to the development and support teams, so they can frequently get very accurate answers to complicated questions.

It's a real big deal. Tell your Windows-victimized Thai friends.

Live Wire is Phuket Gazette columnist Woody Leonhard's weekly snapshot of all things internet in Phuket. Follow him on Twitter: @PhuketPC or visit his free computer clinics at Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.

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.

If there's no pain, then there's no gain

LET'S face it, Greece is bust. With regards to this, one of the best quotes of recent times rings truer than ever: "Thank goodness it is companies listed on stock exchanges, not countries, as most would now be de-listed and in chapter 11."

When an individual or company has borrowed too much, has unstable assets and has lived beyond its means for too long, the people who have lent that individual or company money, liquidate and write off the portion of the debt that is not recoverable. This begs the question, why do politicians continue to paper over the cracks and avoid the inevitable?

The best result for risk assets

is an acknowledgment of the truth in Europe, take the pain and then we can all move on from a lower base that is sustainable. Most European Banks would have taken pain for longer term gain.

The Lehman Brothers scandal was a terrible event, but as a result of that, today no-one in the US gets sub-prime mortgages at 110 per cent of house value which is then securitized out to by greed-driven investment bankers. The pain was taken and the gains will be seen through realistic house prices and better lending policies into the future. When investment firm Bear Sterns caused alarm bells to go off before the Lehman



Island Investor
By Graham Macdonald

Brothers scandal, the cracks were papered over and it was hoped the problem would go away.

With hindsight, it would have probably have been less painful to have taken a smaller pain in Bear Sterns than wait to do that when the bigger Lehman brothers mess happened. It appears nothing has been learned, as now Greece is being handled the same way as Bear Sterns was.

Research house Capital Economics recently said that we continue to think the markets are complacent about the potential implications of the crisis in Greece both for the rest of the eurozone and the global economy as a whole. But Greece still has the scope to be the next Lehman, or at least the next Bear Stearns.

There is a widely held view that the fall-out from a Greek default would be limited and easily contained. After all, Greece is a small country and the bulk of Greek government debt is now owned either by Greek banks or by other eurozone governments, the ECB and the IMF. Nor would a Greek default be a major surprise.

While global markets may possibly ride out a Greek default without much difficulty, there are four reasons why markets may be too sanguine.

First, there's a lot of uncertainty about ripple effects throughout the global financial system.



Greece's debt crisis needs to be dealt with to minimize ripple effects.

Second, a Greek default would crystallize and deepen the worries about the dire state of the public finances in many countries.

Third, a Greek default would inevitably increase the pressure on other weaker members of the monetary union, notably Portugal, Ireland and perhaps Spain and Italy.

Finally, and perhaps most important of all, a Greek default would be another step on the road to an eventual break-up of the eurozone. At the very least, a Greek default would be a fatal blow to the credibility of those European policymakers who have resisted it at every stage.

The result is that Greece certainly has the potential to become the sovereign equivalent to the Lehman Brothers. Policymakers might therefore conclude from the Lehman episode that Greece cannot be abandoned. But the German public in particular is taking some convincing and the Greek people themselves may decide that the price of interna-

tional support is simply too high.

What's more, even if Greece is rescued, the appetite and resources for another bail-out would surely be limited. Greece might therefore end up as the next Bear Stearns – the last to be bailed out before patience runs out.

Overall, the argument that Greece is too small to matter and a default is somehow fully priced in does not seem to be widely accepted.

The euro still looks vulnerable to growing uncertainty about the future of the single currency, while there are more upsides for safe havens like US Treasuries and gold.

These are tough times to be a global asset allocator indeed. But in the meantime, multi-asset, multi-manager funds are the way to go whilst, above all, remaining liquid.

Graham Macdonald, MD of MBMG Group. E: graham@mbmginternational.com. MBMG Group will not accept any liability for errors or omissions in above article.

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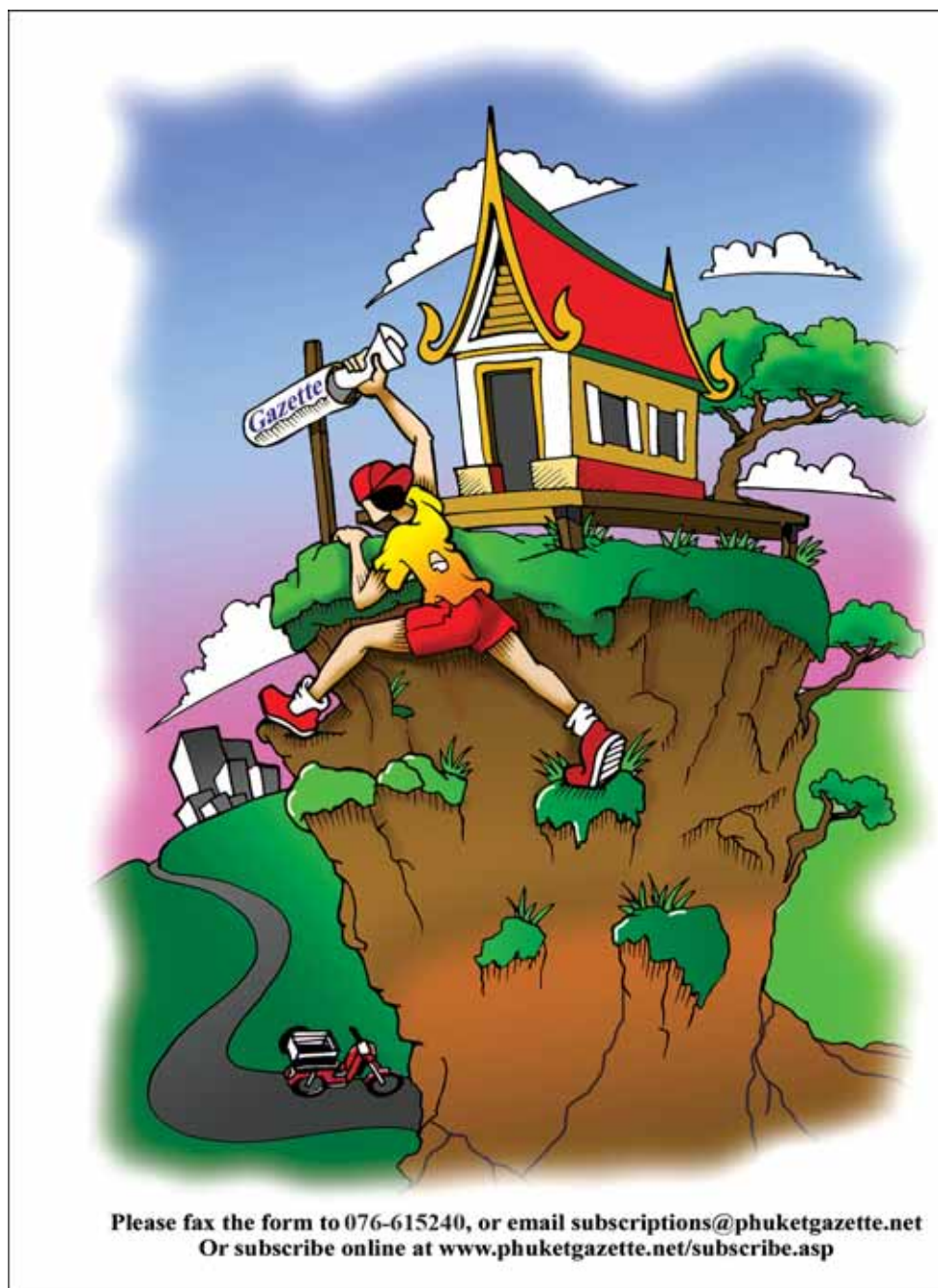


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With fear it's fight or flight

A hands-on approach to therapy giving hope to people battling fear, trauma and phobias in Phuket

By Fraser Morton

IT WAS the late Friedrich Nietzsche who once said, "I assess the power of a will by how much resistance, pain, torture it endures and knows how to turn to its advantage."

Although Nietzsche's words were uttered more than a century ago, the German philosopher's remark casts a long shadow on mankind's quest to conquer our emotions.

Fight or flight with our past is the conundrum mankind is entrenched in. Do we face our inner demons or flee to avert them? How do we live a life free of trauma?

Today across the globe, soldiers return from battlefields bearing horrific physical and mental scars, and victims of rape or child abuse live tight-lipped in fear of confronting their pasts. There are those who carry the death of a loved one on their shoulders, or those who harbor phobias that overrun their lives, but don't seek help.

We are the victims of our self-protective tendencies. We are locked in our reasoning, controlled by our logic. We know that to confront fear and trauma is to relieve it – so we don't.

All those suffering in silence will be glad to know that Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT), a form of psychotherapy capturing the imagination of health professionals around the world, is now here in Phuket.

FINDING SALVATION

Phuket's Tim Robins is used to hearing people's most intimate secrets, their hopes, fears and their traumas.

He is used to people crying. He is their shoulder, and in many cases their salvation.

But the 34-year-old from Warwick, England, doesn't claim to be a healer.

Despite helping more than 500 people through 1,600 sessions of EFT and also NLP (Neuro Linguistic Programming), Tim is adamant

that breaking free from trauma is achieved through people's acceptance of their own emotions.

The only EFT therapist in Phuket, Tim suspects he may be the only one in the whole country.

He explains that EFT is based on the idea that energy flows around the body on meridian lines, which can become blocked by negative emotions.

Or as American Gary Craig, who founded EFT in the early 1990s, says: "The cause of all negative emotions is a disruption in the body's energy system."

EFT tapping follows the same principles as acupuncture to release energy, but without needles.

Craig's EFT derives from the earlier meridian-tapping technique of Thought Field Therapy (TFT) of the 1980s, morphed from Kinesiology.

Both fields are evolutions of ancient Eastern "meridian energy" techniques, dating back to 1000BC.

"Our unresolved negative emotions are major contributors to most physical pains and diseases," Craig said.

Even Albert Einstein proclaimed in the 1920s that everything, including our bodies, is composed of energy – this would include our emotions.

This is what Tim and other EFT therapists around the globe deal with: disturbing emotional blockages which can cause physical pain, anxiety, depression or even phobias.

During an EFT session, Tim will tap on meridian points all over a person's body with his fingertips while discussing a trauma with the person in an effort to unblock the trapped emotions.

Tim has worked with people on Phuket who have all manner of emotional blockages that affect their physical behavior.

A woman with a fear of cockroaches, a war veteran plagued by guilt, a woman addicted to chocolate, a man trying to deal with the death of his brother: Tim has helped them all with EFT.



TAPPING OUR EMOTIONS: Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT) therapist Tim Robins demonstrates EFT tapping.

But these examples only scratch the surface of what EFT is being used for on a global scale.

FREUD WAS WRONG

Many practitioners of EFT, including Tim, view the Sigmund Freud model of "talk therapy" as lackluster in helping with trauma.

And Tim, who studied psychology at Bournemouth University, believes that his intensive study in the field taught him little about how to actually help people overcome their problems.

"I wanted to know the answers to questions like 'who we are as people?', but what I found was the diagnostic approach to the human condition."

"Physiological analysis is all about 'why?' Why did your father treat you that way? Why are you crying? Why do you feel bad? The only thing you can get from a why is a story," said Tim.

"Even if you get the reason, the right story, it doesn't stop the feeling, it just let's you know it's there."

Talking therapies fail to help trauma as it involves a part of the brain inaccessible through language.

EFT practitioners believe traumatic memories are stored in a part of the brain that controls emotions. Traumatic memories are not stored in our brains the way normal memories are, they persist and can feel as if they just happened. This is why trauma stays with us.

The tapping releases the traumatic experience from the emotional part of the brain.

"I'm interested in smashing the hell out of destructive memories that don't take us to a good place," said Tim.

But Tim says stigma still prevents many people from showing more interest in energy therapies.

"People think that they have a problem and that they cannot change who they are. The, 'I am who I am', type attitude.

"Many people with blockages are in general pretty balanced people. But I don't tend to meet many people like that. I meet many people who have hit a wall – the



end of the line type people."

"But this is for everyone. It is for any problem, no matter how small."

Although better known in America, health boards in the United Kingdom now use EFT to help trauma patients. The EFT movement is slowly ebbing into the minds of people around the world.

EFT'S INDELIBLE WORLD MARK

A quick search on the Internet will uncover thousands of testimonials for EFT.

On YouTube alone there are 4,700 videos dedicated to EFT – from self-teaching methods and step-by-step courses, to amazing stories of people conquering ailments and adversities.

In one such video, American Pat Mason claims she was cured of her 80 allergies through EFT.

Then there's fellow American Hank Hadley's story.

Hank fell 25 feet down a hay chute when he was 10 years old.

He landed in a sitting position on concrete, compressing his spine. He had his first back operation in 1971. Others followed in 1972, 1979, 1984, 1992 and 2002.

"With each surgery the pain got worse...I lived in pain my entire life. I took Tylenol and Codine like candy.



EFT uses tapping on meridian points on the body to release energy. Photos: Christian Mouchet

Eventually diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, Hank was confined to a wheelchair for five years.

After discovering EFT, he embarked in regular sessions.

"EFT brought me out of the wheelchair and into arm crutches, then I gave up disability benefits and returned to work," he said.

"The multiple sclerosis is now non-existent in my body. I am 54 and I'm doing jumping jacks," he added.

There are hundreds of similar testimonials online from people all over the world, who claim the remarkable power of EFT.

These people are realizing that they are only the sum of their pasts. That the weight of their emotions make up their physical well-being.

These people chose fight instead of flight, and they seem happier for it.

But if there is any doubt in the skewed relationship between our thought and feelings, we should turn once more to the words of Nietzsche...

"Thoughts are the shadows of our feelings – always darker, emptier and simpler".

To learn more about EFT on Phuket, contact Tim through his website at W:timrobins.net

Workings of the little black box

THE recovery of an Air France black box last month deep in the Atlantic Ocean draws into focus the role of this guaranteed air crash "sole-survivor".

Two years had passed since an Airbus 330 mysteriously dropped off the radar, an incident that left many questioning whether new Internet technology could be employed to send information *before* an accident and prevent it happening.

Before considering alternatives, the 51-year-old-technology of the black box must first be examined and understood.

Painted in heat-resistant orange paint for high visibility, its official name is "flight data recorder". Mounted in the tail section, where it is more likely to survive a severe crash, it is made of a thin layer of aluminum.

This encases a stack of memory cards, a dry-silica material 2.54cm thick for high temperature insulation. The shell around this, made of stainless steel or titanium, is 0.64cm thick.

Inside the black box are recording devices, either solid state or the more reliable magnetic tape recorder.

The magnetic recorders stack a number of memory chips. This means they don't have moving parts and consequently

have fewer maintenance issues, also decreasing the chance of something breaking during a crash.

The black box was invented in 1957 by Dr David Warren, an Australian scientist, following a number of Comet jet crashes in the 1950s for which the causes were never found.

In 1960, Australia became the first country to make it mandatory for all aircraft to carry a flight recorder. The rest of the world soon followed.

The fact that investigators found the black box of Air France Flight 447 – which went into a 10,000 feet per minute dive into the Atlantic Ocean off Brazil – intact and working after two years underlines the black box's technological excellence and importance in helping to solve the reasons for air crashes.

But why such reliance on a concept developed in the 1950s in today's highly technological world?

Why not implement technology that supplies information before a crash to prevent it from happening?

Such technology exists, though is not yet widely used. The automated flight information reporting system (AFIRS), or a "blue box", uses sensors to detect abnormal situa-



Aviation

By Alastair Carthew



Air France flight 447 safety investigators with the recovered black box. Photo: AFP

tions. It then transmits the information through telemetry technology to the airline operator, maintenance, the aircraft or engine manufacturer and others within 15 seconds.

AFIRS is a satellite communication system which operates through Iridium, a global satellite telephone system.

No human intervention is required to initiate a report, routine or otherwise.

Routine reports are typically sent every five minutes to include updated position reports, fuel on board and status summaries of the aircraft.

Iridium provides full global coverage for the Internet address.

The reason this system has not taken off is the start-up cost, which is about US\$ 50,000.

There is also an ongoing cost of a few dollars per flight hour, but this is insignificant compared to the consequences and cost of an accident.

Improvements in black box technology are also being developed.

The next stage will enable it to include video images and audio recordings of the last few seconds, or most probably the last 30 minutes, of flight.

General Motors in the United States has also been using black box technology in its cars for a decade, thus helping police with accident investigations.

In the meantime, though, the 51-year-old black box will remain the mainstream means of recording flight data.

THAI launches a direct connection with Scandinavia



Thai Airways will fly from Copenhagen to Phuket. Photo: Karl Baron

THAI Airways has announced the launch of direct flights from Copenhagen to Phuket as well as additional flights from Bangkok to Copenhagen. The Copenhagen-Phuket flights will operate three times per week, using the Boeing 747-400 aircraft, with service starting on November 11. Flights can be reserved immediately.

Pandit Chanapai, Executive Vice President of THAI's commercial department, said, "THAI is pleased to offer the first-ever direct flights from Copenhagen to Phuket giving passengers more choices and making it easier to travel from Scandinavia straight into Phuket."

THAI's flight TG953 is a 10-hour, 35-minute flight, departing

Copenhagen 8:45pm on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays and arriving in Phuket at 1:20pm the following day.

On the return, passengers can take any of THAI's daily flights from Phuket to Bangkok and connect with flights to Copenhagen.

THAI will operate three additional flights per week on the Bangkok to Copenhagen route, with new service for flight TG952 departing Bangkok 1pm on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays, arriving in Copenhagen on the same day at 6:45pm. THAI already operates daily flights on the Bangkok-Copenhagen route aboard the Boeing 747-400 and also offers several flights per day on the Bangkok-Phuket route.



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Phuket has bags full of personality

By Abby McMillin

SEARCHING through the contents of someone's bag is like reading their palm and diary at the same time.

This allows for a rare sneak peak into the intricacies of the busy and exciting lives people lead in Phuket.

Part two of exploring the inside of residents' packs reveals two more interesting islanders.



The Party Animal: Bruno Figueiredo, teacher and animal enthusiast

This dog-lover prides himself on being prepared for every part of his day, even if that day entails looking up a wild berry or two. From day to night, Bruno has no trouble transitioning from nightlife to wildlife. Not many people in Phuket would be caught toting the *Comprehensive Guide to Wilderness and Travel Medicine* around, but Bruno says being ready for anything is the name of the game.

"Better to have it and not need it than to need it and not have it!" As a long-time camping and hiking devotee, he admits that he would love more time between work and a busy social life to hit the trails. With his newly appointed sidekick Mia, a half-chiwawa, half-pug puppy, he has to expect the unexpected.

Bruno's secret to a happy canine is always carrying a small dog bone in his bag. Never knowing where his path will lead him encourages him to be equipped for anything. A four-piece screwdriver set allows him to make small repairs on the go. He's even fashioned a protective cap for the tools from a wine cork popped at his grandmother's 75th birthday bash.

Never one to miss a moment or memory, this life-of-the-party guy doesn't leave his beachside retreat without his mobile phone or Canon IXUS 130 packed away in his Camelbak. The fact that Bruno's one of Phuket's party pioneers is obvious even from his bag, which currently sports stickers from Jammin' bar in Phuket City.

Whether venturing out on the town or into the wild, he's definitely one to have by your side as he's sure to be ready for any twist or shake life may throw at you.



The Health Nut: Laura Chapman, swim instructor, fitness fanatic

She may be hitting the pavement for a 6am run or swimming laps at sunset, either way this ball of energy never forgets to pack a smile.

When a workout demands a bit more than just a positive approach, Laura always has the essentials at her disposal.

The most important item in her workout bag is a full bottle of water.

She boasts drinking close to three liters a day, never wanting to be dehydrated during a workout.

Being an exercise enthusiast, it's surprising to hear that she has never belonged to a gym in

her year-and-a-half in Phuket.

But don't underestimate this one; in terms of calories burnt, she'll almost always top the charts.

Her at-home necessities include resistance bands and a jump rope to tone her already sculpted muscles and keep her heart rate up between personalized workout sets.

When swimming laps, she sports her own cap and goggles, always slathers on the sunscreen and can't forget her towel and a few toiletries for after she hits the showers.

Laura says her motivation comes from wanting to feel fit and be in shape. "I just feel better about life when I know I'm healthy and active."



Image courtesy of Singapore Tourism Board.

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Taking terrible to a new level



NO SURPRISES: Robots fight each other – for almost three hours.

IT'S BAD enough that the third installment in the Transformers series lacks a coherent plot, any decent heroes or bad guys, or any focused conflict, but it is unforgivable that it stretches out a showcase of obnoxious, sensory-overload explosions and CGI for nearly three hours.

This is unfortunate, because the Transformers franchise started off with a wildly entertaining first installment in 2007. It was witty, original and full of charming characters, and it tied in all these

elements with great special effects and intense action. In short, it had the balance that a blockbuster needs.

Dark of the Moon, on the other hand, is like a three-hour demo for nerds that work in the special effects and pyrotechnics industries. With no storyline, the filmmakers seem hellbent on trying to redefine what makes a movie. Through *Dark of the Moon* they suggest screenplay is a redundant tool and all you really need is direction on how many meters to stand back from explosions of C-4.

Film
By Scott Phillips

**Transformers:
Dark of the Moon**

Director: Michael Bay
Starring: Shia LaBeouf, Rosie Huntington-Whiteley, Patrick Dempsey, Frances McDormand
Genre: Action
Gazette Rating: 1/5

But I digress, there is a minuscule plot, though it's as simple as can be. The first moon landing of 1969 was actually a top-secret mission to investigate a crash landing that, 50 years later, would unleash an army of robots on the human race.

Sam Witwicky (LaBeouf) and his no-way-he-could-pull-that-in-real-life-girlfriend, Carly (Huntington-Whiteley) fight alongside robots that are as exciting as bingo with my grandmother. And she's dead.



IMPENDING DOOM: With virtually no storyline, *Transformers 3* is doomed.

Robots fight, and the movie ends. It would be unjust to say the film isn't an impressive achievement in special effects, but they are so fast and so big that director Michael Bay jumps to slow-motion in just about every scene. Rest assured, if a Decepticon (an evil robot) lunges towards an autobot (a good robot), it's going to be in slow-mo.

And for reasons unknown, when a human is shown on screen, Bay seems to have insisted that the sun be over his or her shoulder,

sparkling into the camera. Once was pretty, twice was getting old, thrice was, "what's going on?"

Michael Bay has had a career full of memorable movies. He doesn't shoot for critical acclaim, but aims to thrill the masses of the general movie-going public. His films, which include *The Rock*, *Bad Boys*, and *Armageddon*, are typically enjoyed by audiences because they're loud and fun. I enjoyed those films. *Dark of the Moon* is not like them. It's terrible.

Has the 3D fad run its course?

WITH *Transformers: Dark of the Moon* now in theaters, the most recent addition to the 3D revolution comes in the form of robot body fluids. That's right, director Michael Bay made robots so angry they spit when they talk, then rendered that spit into 3D so that it can literally fly in the faces of his audiences worldwide.

Somewhere in the midst of being virtually showered with robot spit, this writer stopped and asked himself, "Is this really what audiences want?"

A lot of moviegoers are wondering the same thing, recent data shows. According to the showbiz website Movie City News, *Pirates of the Caribbean 4: On Stranger Tides* – the highest-grossing international film debut in history – had 66 per cent of its opening screens in 3D. Those screens, however, only accounted for 48 per cent of the film's revenue.

What does this mean? Audiences crammed into 2D theaters – which offered fewer showtimes – to avoid the "3D experience".

When the report was issued, Twitter went viral with comments on the issue. Parents vented on hearing their kids complain about having to wear the bulky glasses for two hours. Moviegoers ranted on how images on 3D screens can be up to 50 per cent darker than their 2D counterparts.

Of course, charging an average of 25 per cent more per ticket because it comes with a pair of 3D glasses (which cost next to



3D BORED: Trends show that cinemagoers are snubbing 3D.

nothing to make), was the most common complaint.

Though Hollywood executives have proclaimed that 3D is here to stay, audiences are issuing a clear rebuttal: keep the saliva on screen.

– Scott Phillips

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Kathu wild thing, I think I love you

By Alexandra Andersson

CROCODILE, frog, snake and warthog aren't the first things that spring to mind when a Westerner thinks "bar snack".

But in Thailand, these delicacies belong to the food group known as *Gup Gam* (snack food to be devoured with alcohol).

And where better to sample these outlandish delights than in the jungle on the outskirts of Kathu waterfall, where there's an open-air Thai-style restaurant called Kruew Phai Lin.

You can't get much closer to nature than this. Large trees with roots the size of human legs twist around the path in the restaurant.

All seating is alfresco and there are three options: right, left and center stage. There's a smattering of heavy-set stone tables and chairs on three tiers of dusty earth, forming a semicircular arena around the beating heart of this culinary-jungle amphitheater – the kitchen.

More than 30 people are already sat and eating, impressive, considering it's just gone midday on a Thursday.

We opt for a middle table as an extended family of chickens cluck around our ankles approvingly.

As we eye the menu, the waitress tells us that all frogs used in the restaurant's dishes are sourced locally – very locally – from the jungle around you.

Wisps of eye-singeing chili smoke tease the nostrils and make us splutter as sizzling and clanging goes on in the corrugated-tin-roof kitchen nearby.

Our food order arrives: spicy stir-fried crocodile (180 baht), fried frog with garlic and pepper (120 baht), fried deer with ginger (180 baht) and spicy stir-fried wild boar (190 baht).



BANK PARTY: Siam Commercial Bank employees enjoy their lunch.

We order another stiff drink as we mull over whether we're going to eat what is front of us.

We take the plunge and each dip into a dish, and as we snack and sip our way through them, our initial apprehension fades.

Even though there are springy little legs that look poised to leap from the plate of fried frog, and crocodile meat that has an almost serrated outer-skin, it all tastes deliciously familiar.

The wild boar was, surprisingly, a bit chewier and fattier than regular pork and had thicker skin.

The venison dish was the spiciest, and tasted a lot like beef. The crocodile had the most distinctive and unusual taste and texture of the meal, but was our group's most popular dish.

The frog was crunchy and had a few bones, but at the risk of sounding predictable, tasted a lot like fried chicken.

Despite their popularity as a bar snack in the Kingdom, frogs are seen by some virtuous Thais as passive animals and eating them is believed to bring about bad karma.

So if you're superstitiously inclined perhaps opt for the



Chickens are table guests here too.

crocodile instead – it's aggressive and tasty.

But Kruew Phai Lin serves regular Thai dishes as well, also exceptionally flavorful.

All ingredients are bought market fresh each day by restaurant owner Suwanna "Bheung" Sateon, 36, originally from Phang Nga.

It's the quality ingredients and menu variety that has kept the 60-or-so daily stream of customers coming for the past 17 years, she says.



AMPHIBIAN DELIGHT: Samaporn Janyanon samples the frog.



BUSY IN THE KITCHEN: Owner Suwanna Sateon is a talented chef.

She also says the natural surroundings and atmosphere of the restaurant is a draw for customers.

But we suspect the restaurant's popularity may also have something to do with Bheung's skill and passion.

She's cooking away furiously as she speaks, adding meat and vegetables into the steaming, sizzling wok, spinning it around and reaching for pinches of the huge variety of spices and herbs on the rack in front of her. Her move-

ments in the kitchen are effortless, natural, at one with her surroundings – just like her restaurant.

And the reason she serves such bizarre dishes?

She just likes to give her customers something different to enjoy.

"I think a large part of people's happiness and wellbeing comes from eating, and I enjoy giving people the opportunity to feel good about themselves through serving them great tasting food," she adds.

I heard it through the grapevine

GRAPES and Grazing is an event that will see four resorts along Mai Khao Beach play host to four nights of wine tasting and delicious food from July 13 to 16.

From 6:30pm until 10pm each night winemakers from New Zealand, Australia and Italy will tell you the history of their vineyard and wine varieties, while you sample them alongside four-course dinners prepared by the high-caliber resort chefs.

Resorts involved include Renaissance, Sala, Anantara and JW

Marriot. This fine line-up of wines and creative cuisine will start off at Takieng Restaurant at the Renaissance. Peter Kelly will showcase wines from Peter Lehmann, Australia, and the accompanying food menu will include seared scallops, rock lobster ravioli, slow braised beef rib and mango centered coconut mousse.

Other winemakers and owners which will feature during the four-night event include: Erika Ribaldi from Marchesi di Frescobaldi, Italy; Peter Lynn

from Majella, Australia and Kathy-Lee Bird from Spy Valley, New Zealand.

Four-course dinners with wine pairing is 2,200 baht nett per person. Tickets are available at each resort at Mai Khao Beach. All four dinners can be attended at a reduced price of 8,500 baht.

– *Phuket Gazette*

For reservations, call T:076-363999, E:events@northphuket.com or visit W:northphuketresort.testproject.com.

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Claire Cookson

CLAIRE Cookson is the smiling, welcoming face at Pepper's Bar and Restaurant at Tinlay Place near the entrance to Laguna Phuket. She bought the popular pub in 2004, and when she's not traveling around the world she runs the weekly quizzes which fill the place.

"We've had our weekly quizzes for years and our clients never seem to tire of them. We have seven categories, with one always a musical round where we play a song for 10 seconds and the contestants try to guess the name of it, or the artist."

The ongoing success of Pepper's has a lot to do with Claire's inviting personality. She makes her guests feel like they are coming to her home when they walk through the open facade.

She has not always been a publican. She was born near Newcastle and grew up outside Liverpool. After finishing school, she enrolled in a three year program to obtain a degree in Human Resources from a management school in Wigan.

She then joined her father's business, Flotec, which was a supplier of pneumatic and hydraulic products to industry.

Claire started when the company was small, with just five staff, including her mother who was the accountant. By the time she left in 2004, there were 160 employees.

"I was doing the HR in the business, but then it grew so large that I

EXPAT gallery

By Bruce Stanley

eventually became Operations Manager in charge of the warehouse and distribution operations. My dad, who made the company such a success, suddenly passed away in 2004 and the family decided to sell. That's when I came to Phuket for the first time."

With enough capital to retire, Claire saw a future of adventure travel. But the opportunity to take over Pepper's from her brother who had an interest in the pub was also attractive. She decided to buy out the partners and operate on her own.

"I spent the first couple years managing the bar myself. It took awhile to learn to work within a very different culture, but by 2006 I was able to get away and started luxury traveling around Southeast Asia, staying in such places as Raffles hotels.

"But I regularly return and take over management duties at Pepper's as required."

Claire is in a position to live where she wants. She bought a house in Portugal a few years ago and has made trips to Argentina and Peru. She's been able to travel more now as she's taken a busi-

ness partner, Pete Glover, who helps with operations at Pepper's.

While Claire plans another adventure abroad, she also thinks about expanding her business on Phuket. When the Kargo restaurant closed last year, she negotiated a lease and began renovations, and by March of this year opened Tapastree, a somewhat more upscale restaurant.

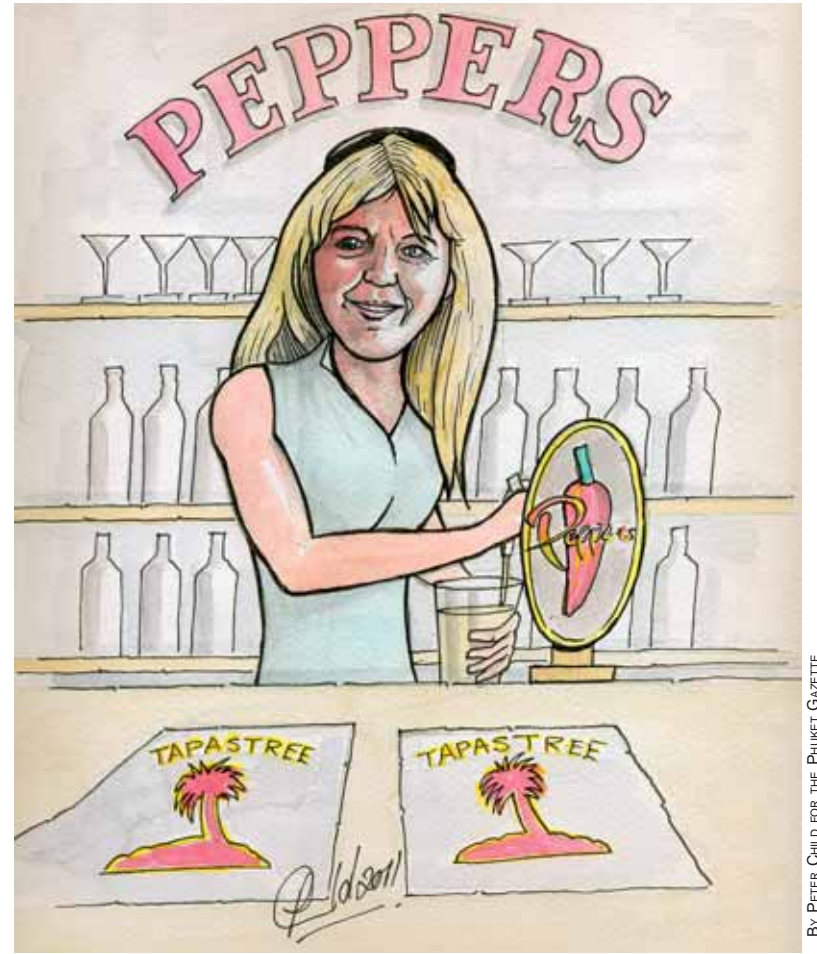
"My intention was to open a place for women to bring their partners for dancing. There really is not much for Western women to do on the island so I decided to open a type of club where a woman can dress up and have a civilized evening of entertainment."

As the name implies, Tapastree offers a full menu of tasty tapas as well as steaks from Australia and a DJ on the weekends.

Claire can be found most days moving between her two restaurants. She opens Pepper's at 8:30 every morning with the offer of a full English breakfast. And she closes her bars at around 1am. It all makes for a very full day for this dynamic woman.

"I'm lucky to get such a good response from tourists who return each year. In the high season, I have a 50/50 balance of tourists and residents."

Claire bought a home at Laguna Phuket in 2005 and has learned to play golf with Martin Platt, of the Golf Guru. When she has free time, she enjoys reading and discovering new adventures on the internet.



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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- ◆ Submissions will be accepted from June 1, 2011 until August 15, 2011
- ◆ The names of the winners will be announced at the Awards Presentation Ceremony on September 1 in Phuket and the authors will be asked to read their submission

*Write your name/surname in Thai and English, age, school name, class, e-mail address and contact number at the top of your entry

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- 2 The Overall National Winner will receive 50,000 baht in cash.

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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

July 3-30. Sports & Adventure Summer Camp at BIS

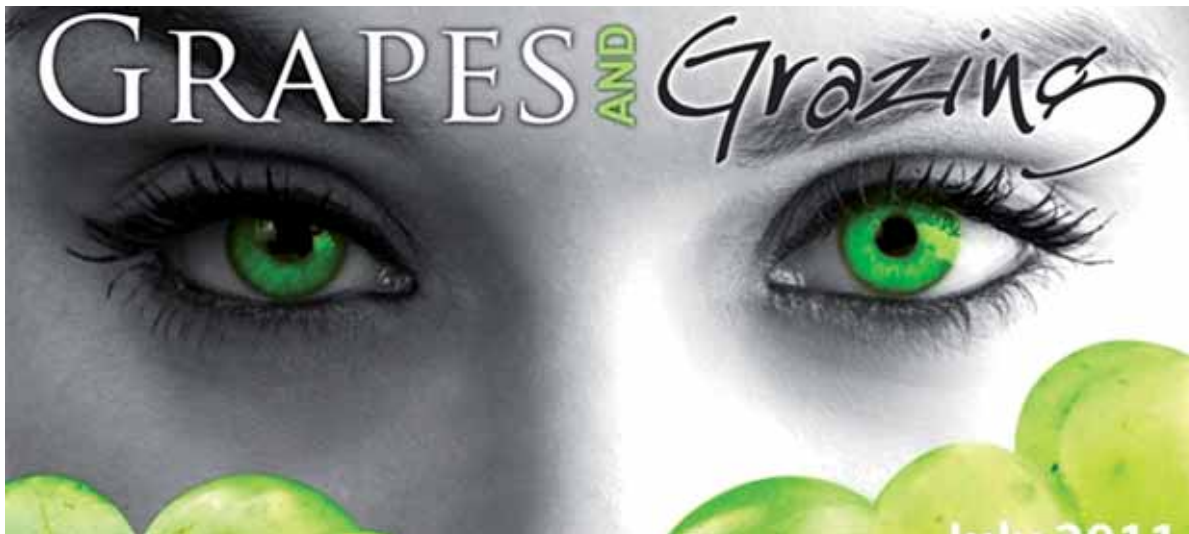
From 7:30am to 10pm, join BIS Phuket's fantastic Sports & Adventure Camp and see for yourself why it has been one of the most popular in South East Asia for the past five years. Over 70 young people from over 16 different countries are joined every year by a core of dedicated BIS camp staff who all enjoy the unique, multi-cultural and friendly atmosphere! Don't get bored this summer – join us for sports, adventure, exciting three-day trips, and much more. It's the experience of a lifetime! For ages 8-16, in July. Weekly rates available. Contact Chris at T:076-238711-20 E:summer@bisphuket.ac.th or visit W:bisphuket.ac.th.

July 3-30. English Summer School at BIS

From 7.30am to 10pm, join BIS Phuket's renowned English Summer Camp this July and improve your English like never before. Small class sizes and different ability groups with experienced ESL teachers guarantee appropriate English tuition for any level. This will run simultaneously with the very popular Sports & Adventure Camp in July. The camp is for all who want to have fun, learn English and get a feel for life at BIS Phuket. For ages 8-16. Weekly rates and Day Camp options available. Contact Chris at T:076-238711 E:summer@bisphuket.ac.th or visit W:bisphuket.ac.th.

July 8 -1 0. Exhibition honoring His Majesty the King

Central Festival Phuket and the



July 1 3-1 6. Grapes and Grazing

From 6:30pm to 1 0pm. Four nights, four winemakers, four luxurious resorts. Winemakers from New Zealand, Australia and Italy will converge on Mai Khao Beach's sophisticated resorts from July 1 3-1 6. Enjoy great food paired with exquisite wines, while each winemaker personally tells you the history of their vineyard and their wine varieties. This is an opportunity to taste wines from four distinguished vineyards, paired with the cuisine of the north of Phuket's most creative chefs. Four-course dinners with wine pairing is 2,200 baht nett per person. Tickets are available at each resort at Mai Khao Beach. A dinner reception begins each evening at 6:30pm. Reservations at T:07 6-363999, E:events@northphuket.com or visit W:northphuket-resort.testproject.com.

Royal Thai Army invite everyone to show loyalty to His Majesty The King from 10:30am to 8pm, in the Grand Hall on the 1st Floor of Central Festival Phuket. There will be a special exhibition called The Tree of Love about HM the King and the greatness of his love for the Thai people as seen through the thousands of Royal projects across the country. Contact Sirimane at T:076-291111, E:kosiromanee@central.co.th or visit W:centralfestivalphuket.com.

July 1 0. Boathouse Auction
The Boathouse and Oasis are closed until September 30 for a grand renovation. There will be an auction of diverse furniture, furnishings and kitchenware of the hotel and restaurants on July 10.

Viewing of the auction items will be held in a warehouse near Wat Tai on Chao Fa East Road from July 8 to 9, from 10am to 2pm and July 10, from 10am to 11am. The auction will start on July 10 at 11am. Buyers can pick up their purchases on July 11 between 9am and noon, cash & carry only. Contact Napassaya at T:081-8085242 E:napassaya@trisara.com to register in advance, or visit W:boathousephuket.com. Auction inventory list and directions will be sent by email one week before the auction.

July 9, 1 6 and 23. Saturday brunch at Two Chefs

From 12pm to 3pm, every Saturday Two Chefs proudly presents our big brunch buffet with a Scandinavian touch. You can eat all you want for only 395 baht, and if you add an extra 300 baht drink as much as you like from the wide choice of free-flow beverages. The lovely voices of MJ & Megan will also feature at the brunch. Reserve at T:076-330065 E:katacenter@twochefs.com or visit W:twochefs.com.

July 9. FREE Phuket Apple Clinic – iPhone and iPad update
From 10am to 12, join Sitthichai "Mr X" Laoveerakul for a wide-ranging discussion of iOS 5, the next version of iPhone and iPad

software. Apple promises you'll be able to install iOS 5 on your iPhone 4 or iPad 2. Do you want it? What will it do? Should you wait to buy an iPhone 5 or iPad 3, just for the software? Mr X will hold this free seminar, in English, on July 9, at the Sandwich Shoppe Laguna. Reserve with Sitthichai at T:076-290468, E:sitthichai@exbiz.com or visit W:PhuketSchool.com.

July 9. Nok Air Smile Concert

From 4pm to 9pm. Central Festival Phuket invites you to join Nok Air's free concert: "Nok Air Smile Concert, come smile with us." at the 1st floor of drop-off area. The show will feature Gam the Star, Joe-Kong, Jjetrin, Zeal, Boy Peachmaker, and Lipta. Get free tickets at all Quick-silver stores or at the Nok Air ticket counter at Phuket International Airport. Contact Siromanee at T: 076-291111 E:kosiromanee@central.co.th.

July 1 1 -1 5. Lifeguard Surf

Lifesaving Training From 8am to 6pm, Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort hosts a five-day basic Lifeguard Surf Lifesaving Training. Training sessions are conducted and supervised by David Field, a renowned water safety expert from Australia. He has more than 20 years' experience in lifesaving and is an assessor for Surf Life Saving Australia. This is coupled with 11 years' experience training Thai lifeguards to Australian standards in Thai conditions. The fee is 5,000 baht per participant. An Advanced Programme and re-certification for previously certified Bronze and Gold medallion holders is also being offered. Contact Ms Benyathip Pattaraworawisit at T:076-370100, E:Benyathip.Pattaraworawisit@lemeridien.com or visit W:lemeridien.com/phuketbeachresort.

July 1 1 -1 7. Slim Up Center's 3rd anniversary

From 10.30 am to 10pm, in the Grand Hall at Central Festival Phuket. Slim Up Center invites you to join their 3rd anniversary. Special offers from the Slim Up Center are up for grabs, including a free health examination. There will also be a carnival show and lucky draw game. Contact Siromanee at T:076-291111, E:kosiromanee@central.co.th or visit W:centralfestivalphuket.com.

July 1 1, 1 8 and 25. Cowboy Night at Two Chefs Phuket!

From 6pm to 2am. Cowboy night is the night when we set the buffet table with food with a big influence from the Old West, at Two Chef Kata Beach. So come on in and enjoy an evening with great food and drinks. There is going to be a large buffet and it's only 495 baht. Ollie & Francis will be on hand to delight with their music. Reserve at T:076-284155 E:kata@twochefs.com or visit W:twochefs.com.

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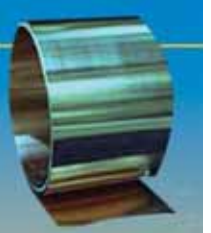
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HEADING OUT: After six years at Phuket's British International School, Dr George Hickman is off to pastures new.

The school held a farewell presentation for Dr Hickman recently, with parents, teachers, students and friends showering him with gifts and kind words.

Dr Hickman also joined in the end-of-year staff party at the Cape Sienna Resort in Kamala to say goodbye to the teaching faculty.

Pictured is year 12 student Kriangsak Changsungnoen, presenting a leaving gift to Dr Hickman.

MAN IN MOTION: PGTV Cameraman Poochit "Tong" Sansuk (gray shirt) has left the *Phuket Gazette* after three years of hard work capturing some of Phuket's most infamous news stories.

Always the life of the party, Tong held a farewell dinner earlier this week with a handful of *Gazette* staffers and friends.

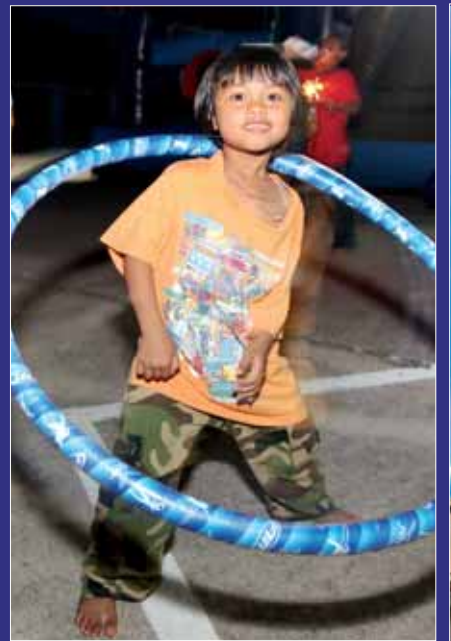
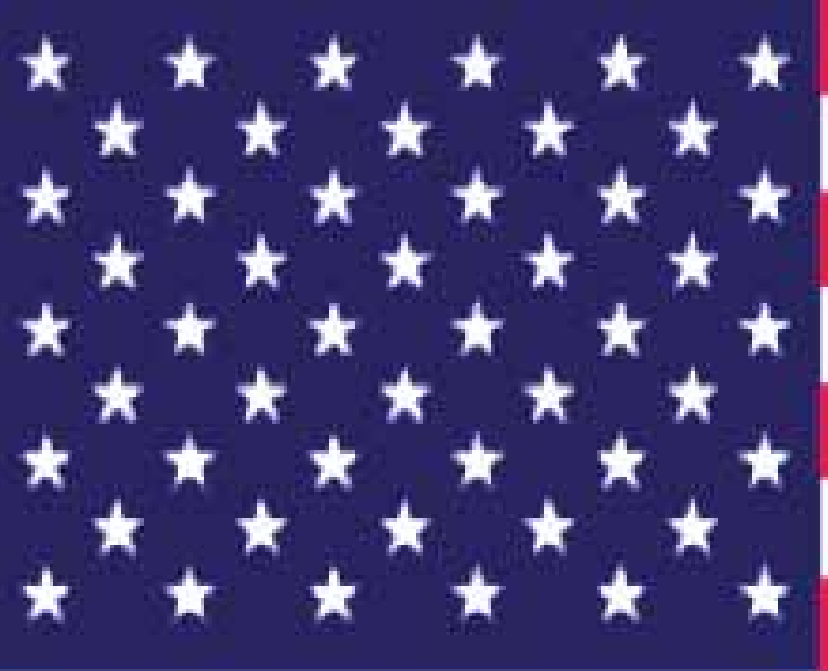
Photo: Polite and patient waitress



BOOK BASH: Asia Books, a leading distributor of international best-sellers with over 70 stores nationwide, has just added one more to its library of outlets.

The company held a grand opening ceremony for its latest venture on the ground floor at Jungceylon shopping center in Patong.

Pictured from left is Kriangsak Thammayuttikarn, Asia Books' Sales Director; Nuntawan Suwandej, Asia Books' Assistant Managing Director for Sales and Marketing; Paul Rochelle, Jungceylon General Manager and Seri Souvanna Phouma, Asia Books' Sales Director



TEAM AMERICA: Independence Day celebrations made it to the island a few days early on July 2 at HeadStart International School Phuket.

Sponsored by the Navy League of Phuket, the colorful festivities drew large crowds of costume-wearing adults and children for a full day of American-themed games, food, and activities.

Photos: Dan Miles

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HeadStart International School

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General Knowledge

1. What type of bank keeps its deposits at minus 196 degrees centigrade?
2. How many feathers feature in the Prince of Wales coat of arms?
3. Which soccer club began as Newton Heath?
4. What is the chemical formula for Adams ale?
5. How many events are there in a decathlon?
6. What children's television show featured the characters of George, Zippy and Bungle?
7. In Greek legend, who turned everything he touched into gold?
8. When spoken by a police officer, what do the letters RTA stand for?
9. In which film did Roy Scheider play a sheriff, and Richard Dreyfus a marine biologist?
10. With which football club would you associate the Toon Army?
11. Who is the animated star of the computer game Tomb Raider?
12. What was Sarah, the Duchess of York's, maiden name?
13. What word is used to describe a group of ants?

Quiz answers on page 39

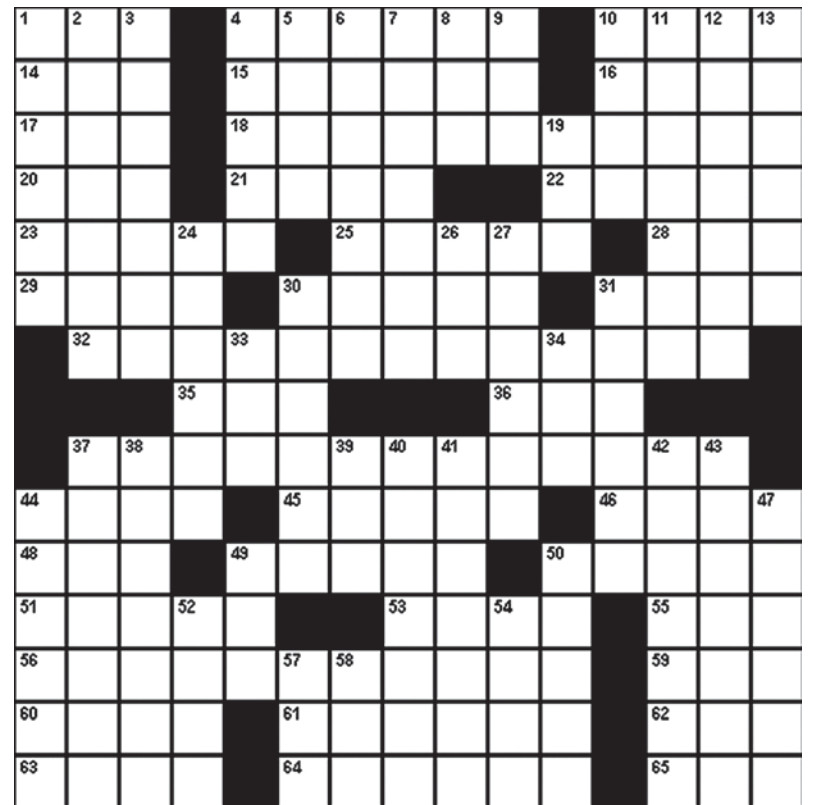
Across

1. Do something
4. Entertained
10. Cairo cobras
14. Ingot
15. Moneyer
16. Boot bottom
17. Former Bush spokesman
Fleischer
18. Dyspepsia
20. Involuntary muscular contraction
21. Side
22. Old sailors
23. Black-wooded tree
25. Teacher
28. Salt Lake City athlete
29. Achy
30. Conger catcher
31. Ancient Athens's Temple of

32. Absolute
35. Krazy---
36. Drunkard
37. Headache and pain reliever
44. Lump of earth
45. Norwegian dramatist
46. Some Ivy Leaguers
48. Illustrative craft
49. Fright
50. Minotaur's homeland
51. Disreputable
53. Dynamic beginning
55. PC monitor
56. Either of ()
59. Make lace
60. Score after deuce
61. Survivor
62. Hot time in Paris
63. Deli breads
64. Comes up
65. Actress Ruby

Down

1. Lets up
2. Reindeer of North America
3. Three-cornered
4. Friendship
5. Pit
6. Dateless
7. Incentives



8. Hospital readout
9. Dr of rap
10. Dog star
11. Stain
12. Schemed
13. Faculties
19. Georgia, once: Abbr.
24. Made out
26. Asian holiday
27. Prayer
30. Involve
31. Part of a stamen
33. Bran source
34. Alley---

37. Now
38. Clique
39. Exec's degree
40. Sharon, eg
41. Agent of retribution
42. Voted into a seat
43. Chilean natural resource
44. One of the three Magi
47. Small sofa
49. Author Rand
50. Prices paid
52. Studies
54. Receiver Jerry
57. Song syllable
58. That girl

Provided by BestCrosswords.com
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Puzzle solutions on page 39

CANCER (June 22-July 23)



The spotlight this week falls on recovering what was lost. Whether it concerns material items or something more abstract, Cancerians will be relieved to leave this matter behind. In the realm of romance, a relationship with an earth sign becomes sweeter, but an air sign wants commitment too quickly. Those celebrating a birthday in the week ahead should see their priorities changing for the good in the coming year.

LEO (July 24-August 22)



The stars advise Leos to ignore a water sign colleague with petty grievances early next week. Responding to this person could open a can of worms. Family commitments could mean that you will have to adjust goals set for July – expect an air sign relative to announce news this weekend. Romance becomes better starred after Tuesday, but until then it will be tricky to get on the same wavelength as a partner.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23)



Pressure could be put on Virgoans to reveal a secret. A determined fire sign will need firm handling, but you should resist pass-

ing on sensitive information. Friends are forecast to be helpful this week – take advantage of these benevolent astral conditions to call in a few favors. Where romance is concerned, a relationship with a water sign blossoms.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23)



Financial affairs are foremost this week for those born under the sign of Libra. The stars suggest that your attitude towards money could radically change. Those with a partner who has spendthrift tendencies could soon be giving ultimatums. On a positive note, there are signs that a work project will turn out to be more lucrative than anticipated. Romance is hot this weekend, with emphasis on a connection with an earth sign.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22)



Scorpios' talents for sweet-talking themselves out of sticky situations should come in useful early next week. The stars suggest that this is likely to relate to property matters and you are advised to delay commitments until the second half of July. Cupid is poised to help you make meaningful contact with a fire sign, but romance with another



water sign is not well-starred. Wear the color charcoal to encourage a more practical outlook.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21)



Sagittarians are advised to do their research properly before promising to help friends this week. The stars indicate that you may be somewhat slow on the uptake and this could lead to a bigger commitment than you will want to give. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, trying to get an earth sign to see things from your perspective will be a waste of time this weekend.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20)



Capricorns with a lot on their minds are advised to take care when communicating with bureaucracy this week. The stars hint that Tuesday and Wednesday are days when you should make extra effort to be tactful. Where friendships are concerned, you will realize that there

is no smoke without fire this weekend. Lucky days for romance are Sunday and Monday.

AQUARIUS (January 21 -February 19)



Hope is on the horizon for those Aquarians who have been feeling the financial pinch lately. The stars indicate that a payment made this week should lighten your load. At work your enthusiasm knows no bounds, but you should remember that others also have valid opinions. Romance is lucky this weekend – those who are single will be cheered to encounter someone they lost contact with.

PISCES (February 20-March 20)



A bee in your bonnet could be irritating to those close to you this week. Pisceans who can't get an issue out of their minds are advised to keep it to themselves. The stars advise that this matter can be laid to rest when you realize that it has become out of proportion. Where love affairs are concerned, an earth sign is forecast to say the words you've been waiting to hear this weekend.

ARIES (March 21 -April 20)



Arians are forecast to develop respect for a water sign who they

previously didn't see eye to eye with. Events this week should show you that being on better terms with this person can increase your chances in the world of work. Your vibrant energy carries others forward as well until the middle of July. A close fire sign friend will be grateful for your advice this weekend.

TAURUS (April 21 -May 21)



Your altruistic tendencies should be curbed this week. Taureans who are easily tempted to lend a helping hand could find out that it's sometimes better to sit back and allow others to take care of their own problems. Where work is concerned, it could be hard to get going with a new project – a fire sign is forecast to cause delays on Monday or Tuesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)



Geminis could be running out of excuses this week. The stars suggest that you have been putting more energy in trying to get out of a commitment than what would be necessary to see it through. If you really can't face up to this situation, it would be best to cancel your involvement. Wednesday is the most auspicious day to back down gracefully.

PROPERTY Gazette

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

For cricket's sake: A field of dreams

Cricketers get a vision of their new pitch

By Neil Quail

MEMBERS of the Phuket Cricket Group (PCG) sub-committee met on June 27 for a groundbreaking ceremony as development of the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG) got underway.

Situated in the lakes area of Baan Liphon, the 10-rai site will be Phuket's first dedicated cricket facility and house a 250-square-meter, two-storey club house.

The land is owned by Alan Cooke MBE who donated the plot to develop a facility to lift the profile of cricket on the island. The ground will also be used to host other sports and major events.

Tropical Landscaping International (TLI) has been selected for construction of the pitch. This process will involve laying a concrete wicket and then a synthetic

playing surface. Turfing the outfield of the ground is also part of TLI's remit.

"I am excited to be part of this project. TLI is carrying out the work as a service to the community and as our Managing Director, Alec Pettigrew, and I are keen cricketers," said Ben Davis, head consultant for TLI Asia Pacific.

Modern Zen Architecture, managed by Anthony Van Blerk, is responsible for the pavilion-style club house design which on the lower level includes: men's and women's changing rooms, showers and toilets.

On the upper level, there is a bar and dining area as well as a balcony for spectators.

Last week, the facility received a one million baht boost from an anonymous donor.

A press release from the PCG



CRICKET CONCEPT: A computer generated image of the finished ground courtesy of Modern Zen Architecture.

indicated that 500,000 baht would be directly invested to ensure a quality finish for the clubhouse.

The remaining 500,000 baht will be put towards other facility improvements including a separate umpires' and scorers' room, nets training area and boundary fencing.

"I think most cricketers have a mental image of their ideal ground. The PCG sub-committee are all working to fulfill this vision, now shared by our donor," said Mr Cooke.

The contract for construction of the clubhouse has yet to be awarded, but an announcement is expected later this month and construction should start at the beginning of August.

See PhuketGazette.Net for updates as they become available.



PITCHING IN: PCG members with Mr Alan Cooke at the groundbreaking.

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PROPERTY

It's all about the journey



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

THE intriguing twists and turns that led Mark Edleson from a career in the international financial services sector to that of green knight heading luxury hotel brand Alila is one well worth retelling.

Reinvention is something that somehow suits the tropical climate in Asia, or in some ironic sense mimics an old US Army recruitment slogan: "Be all that you can be".

Somerset Maugham hit the nail on the head in his epic *The Razor's Edge* with the words, "It's a toss-up when you decide to leave the beaten track. Many are called, but few are chosen."

Mark's journey without maps went from corporate boardrooms at Citibank to becoming a founding partner of the respected GHM Indonesia and champion of a Chedi brand vision.

He later moved on with a wellness start-up, Mandara Spa Asia, which in time would be a leading global player and innovation pioneer.

With a taste of the hospitality business still fresh in his mind, he brought his combined experiences together with the purpose of developing a leading upscale boutique hotel and resort group that is now known as Alila.

Walking in someone's shoes is never easy; little thought is given to fit or terrain. A long trip can be as harsh as any moment in one's life. Such is the life of a hotel management start-up.



LUXURIOUS DESTINATION: Alila Villas in Uluwatu Bali is one of Asia's best designed resorts.

Having been involved in a start-up in Hong Kong in the early 1990s that did succeed, I am intimately aware how soul destroying it is being the new kid on the block and having to compete with legacy chains and multinational behemoths. That vague look in people's eyes and piercing looks that scream out, "Who are you, again?"

But at the other end of the spectrum, all that rejection makes you hard, and somehow you get past the pain. People who have lived in Phuket for more than a few years might remember the pre-tsunami project on a Kamala hillside called Acqua, which was to be an Alila. Most people know it today as Allan Zeman's Andara.

In the hotel management game, sometimes you win, sometimes you lose. It happens to every brand, big or small.

Making a few trips down to Bali

in recent months, I have had the opportunity to visit Mark's properties in Ubud, Soori, Manngis and the latest in Uluwatu.

Alila Villas, set above a cliff overlooking a world-class vista, is perhaps one of Asia's best designed and conceived resorts.

Awards have been flowing in, from *Forbes* inclusion in its "Coolest Pools of the World" list to *Condé Nast*'s "Best Hotels", and many others.

Perhaps more important is the focus on sustainability and social consciousness. The resort has garnered "Silver" certification from EarthCheck, plus a GreenGlobe design and building accolade.

An ongoing partnership with a nearby orphanage has linked into training programs, recycling and community-based activism, which is touching the lives of locals.

Despite some recent setbacks

in the Maldives, Thailand and Laos, Alila's pipeline is robust with a recent opening in the UNESCO destination of Siem Reap. More developments on the horizon in Vietnam and India are poised to take the brand further afield.

I always love attending hotel conferences in Asia when Mark is present, as we are often the only two not wearing ties. His sense of casual style and becoming comfortable in his own shoes make him a strong champion of Alila's lifestyle and commitment to quality.

Hopefully, one of these days Phuket will be lucky enough to host one of the brand's resorts.

If the Bali properties are any benchmark, the bar has been pushed high into the sky.

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

In brief...

Six Senses Sri Lanka launching branded villas

A SIGN of the continuing surge of interest in Sri Lanka's property market is the Six Senses Ahungalla, which will launch 14 oceanfront multi-million dollar residences for sale by the fourth quarter of this year.

The project is part of the redevelopment of the Heritage hotel located north of Galle. The two-bedroom pool villas will be operated by the hotel but aimed at investment and lifestyle purchasers, who will receive rental yields plus an added benefit of complimentary room nights.

Six Senses and an affiliate of leading Sri Lankan firm Aitkin and Spence are partners in the development. It's expected that the resort will open its doors in 2012.

A fond farewell to Sheraton Grande Laguna

ONE of the most successful resort hotels in the region, the 419-room Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket has closed its doors after 19 years.

Opened in 1992, the property had what was then considered innovative internal lagoon-type swimming pools featuring direct access to many of the rooms and picture perfect postcard villas by the water.

In 1993, a new resort real-estate concept was pioneered with 52 Island Villas sold to individual buyers in what would later grow into a full-fledged industry on the island – branded hotel units for sale.

Over the years, leading global political figures from around the world have stayed at the resort and big events have been staged in the resort's expansive grounds and facilities.

Brand Sheraton and Brand Laguna both prospered from the long-term business relationship.

With a reported US\$15 million renovation underway, and a new operator set to re-open the doors later this year under the Banyan Tree-affiliated Angsana moniker, all eyes are looking to the future.

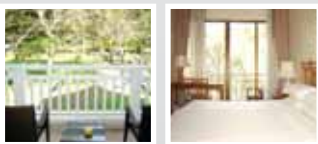
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laguna

PROPERTY RESALE

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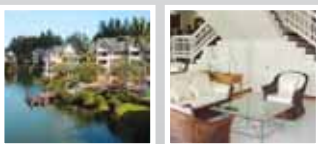
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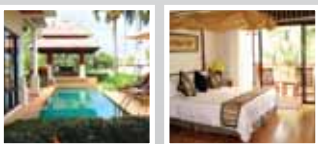
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3 Allamanda Duplex THB 12 M



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Hillside home a lofty landmark



Each bedroom has direct access to a private pool.



Teak and Makha wood finishes add style to the home.



VANTAGE POINT: The sala is a perfect place to relax at sunset.

By Michael DesPortes

VILLA 7 of the Ayara Kamala development, and its 160-million-baht price tag, recently hit Phuket's luxury home market. The house sits on the cliffs between Nakalay viewpoint and Kamala Beach – a 2.7 kilometer drive down the Layi-Nakalay Road.

The house has five bedrooms and six bathrooms spread throughout two storeys. Wood was used extensively in its construction which began in 2001 and was gradually completed over eight years. Teak is

used to beautiful effect as part of the structure and Makha wood was used for the furniture.

The upper floor features a large living room with a high ceiling and an attached kitchen. It is flanked on either side by two detached bedrooms and all three rooms have access to the expansive terrace, which includes a sala and an infinity pool that ends in a spectacular view of the Andaman Sea.

Moving downstairs reveals three additional bedrooms and a well furnished TV room, all connected by an open-air walkway.

LUXURY
living

Each bedroom boasts its own balcony, swimming pool, interior sitting areas, televisions and spacious bathrooms – allowing for a unique level of privacy that the current owners are quick to highlight.

Rough stone has been used as tiling on much of the vertical outdoor surfaces, a style that extends to the interior of the TV room.

Most of the villa was built as designed, but the owners did request alterations to the sloped garden that is found at the property's northern tip. Stone steps and a footpath lead to a small sala with chairs set among large boulders. It is their favorite place to take in sunsets.

Veerasak Sirivangsanti, Managing Director of Ayara Kamala Resort & Spa, explained that the residential villas – 12 in total – and the resort's 10 three-bedroom bungalows were built simultaneously to limit dust and noise pollution for residents and guests.

"A contemporary design was used for the interior and we approached the exterior with some Thai influence to make the houses comfortable from a Western perspective...We were confident in our product and its appeal, so to help make the construction process smooth, we didn't open for sales until after each unit was finished," Mr Veerasak said.

"This helped limit outside influence until the houses were done, but it was also expensive. In the end we were able to do it," he added.

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Goodness gracious great buds of fire

Blooming 'flame trees' have Phuket ablaze with scarlet flowers all over the island, particularly at this time of year



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

TREES, like flowers, often remain unnoticed until they burst into bloom. The seasonal rains have stimulated a number of trees into showing off their wares. The flame trees, for example, are aflame with their brilliant scarlet flowers everywhere right now.

Less dramatic, but sporting flowers of a similar hue, is the geiger tree (*cordia sebestena*). In Thailand it is known as *khaw diaa*.

It is a great tree to have in your garden for many reasons. For a start, although it blooms mainly during Phuket's rainy season, the geiger tree will bud its orange flowers for most of the year.

It is also remarkably unfussy about conditions. It will not only grow in poor soil with little care and attention, but it will also endure the salt-laden winds that harry Phuket's coastline.

As if to illustrate this, there are a couple in bloom within spitting distance of Rawai Beach, and further up the Wichit Road one is happily displaying its wares on a piece of waste ground.

The geiger tree does, how-

Although it blooms mainly during Phuket's rainy season, the geiger tree will bud its orange flowers for most of the year.



BURST OF COLOR: The geiger tree's striking flowers. Photo: Jayesh Patil

ever, like plenty of sun.

Although the geiger is a native of the Americas, it has been introduced to South East Asia, and has quickly acclimatized and naturalized in this habitat. You can buy it in a few nurseries here, but it will take very easily from hardwood cuttings or, since the fruit is a drupe, from its stone.

The fruits, which resemble a small whitish-green lemon, are edible, though there is little flesh on them and the taste is sour.

The geiger is distinctive in a number of ways. The dark, evergreen

leaves are rough to the touch and have sometimes been used as a substitute for sandpaper.

Moreover, the wood is extremely durable and can be used as timber.

The tree is normally grown as an ornamental for its brilliant orange flowers. These are tubular-shaped and appear in clusters of six to 10 paper-thin flowers that are attractive to bees and butterflies.

It is a sensible choice as a patio or yard tree, since it has a neat habit and should require little or no pruning. The trunk is also relatively slim and the tree is unlikely to outgrow its surroundings.

Because it is wider than it is tall upon reaching maturity, the space beneath its branches makes it a



SCARLET ERUPTION: The American tree flourishes in Phuket.

good shade tree for the garden.

The cultivar (*boissiere*) with its larger creamy-white flowers is another option.

If you are uncertain which small tree or large shrub to choose, then consider *cordia sebestena* if you want a neat, long-flowering, low-maintenance tree. If you prefer something more showy, then go for yellow bells (*tecoma stans*), the yellow oleander (*thevetia peruviana*) or the peacock flower (*dwarf poinciana*).

All are similar in dimensions, all flower more-or-less continuously and will tolerate a range of soil conditions.

But the geiger tree is the most forgiving of them all, and because of its bushy form, is the most

useful as a shade-giver for lesser brethren in your garden.

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

Tip of the week

Garden furniture

ATTRACTIVE outdoor furniture will definitely enhance the overall appearance of your garden.

Moreover, since this blissful climate allows us to spend so much time in the open air, these furnishings assume an added importance.

A few provisos. If you decide to use wood, say for a table and chairs, ensure that the wood is properly treated.

Cheap surface varnish will soon peel off, so go for furniture that has been properly stained and looks robust.

Of course, the best wood of all is teak. It will last longer, look better and will never suffer from the depredations of termites.

This is especially true if you are thinking of a sala, summer house or pavilion.

But teak is expensive and, if you believe in environmental issues, you should hesitate about using it, since most comes from illegal sources.

Bamboo is an inexpensive, cheap and decorative alternative, but it will need to be replaced after a few years.

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Price: Price: 16.5 million baht



This brand new villa features high quality design and finishes. At over 50sqm the open-plan living, dining and kitchen area is spacious. Big glass doors lead right out on to the pool area allowing for plenty of light to pour in and a cool breeze. Both bedrooms have en-suite bathrooms and walk in wardrobes. The master bedroom overlooks the pool, with a dramatic four poster bed.

Price: 7.5 million baht

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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

Live in Chong Talay?

Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at
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Simply write out your ad, pay for it and leave it with
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Properties For Rent

HOUSE WITH POOL AO POR



House with pool for rent near Ao Por. 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Furnished, with aircon, big pool, garden. Private. Rent: 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-531 0697.

POOL VILLA FOR RENT
1,2,4 bedrooms with large pool. Fully furnished, in nice area. Rent: 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 085-674 6786.

ROYAL PLACE CONDO
1 bedroom on the 7th floor. Cable TV, fax, refrigerator, washing machine, living room, internet, car parking space. Rent: 15,000 baht/month. Tel: 081-893 9493 (Thai), 081-891 2333 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-223237. Email: anusara@phuket.biz

PATONG TOWER CONDO

Luxury sea view condo. Low price. Tel: 081-0888 099. See our website at: www.selectphuket.com

POOL VILLA FOR RENT
Fully furnished, with 3 bedrooms near Lotus Rawai, in quiet and secure area. Tel: 089-4729 870. Email: d_chaiabut@yahoo.com

HOUSE IN CHALONG

Near Palai Beach for long-term rent. 3 bedrooms, aircons, fully furnished, with cable TV and car park. Tel: 089-728 8311.

THE GREENHOUSE POOL BUNGALOWS



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

PHUKET VILLA DOWROONG



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

CONDO IN PATONG

for rent or sale. 87sqm unit on the 5th floor with seaview at Patong Loft. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Fully furnished. Please call 081-432 6587. Email: kook_kui@yahoo.com

THAI VILLA AND POOL NAI HARN

Soi Naya, Nai Harn, low season rent: 37,500 baht per month. Contact for more information. Tel: 081-270 5126. Email: mervyn.crocker@yahoo.com

2 BED BUNGALOW RAWAI

Quiet, well furnished with WiFi, cable, aircon and kitchen. Rent: 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-279 0837.

ORCHID KATHU HEIGHTS

Stylish serviced apartments. Studio, 1 bedroom, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Rooftop pool, Free WiFi. Also beachfront condo available. Tel: 081-892 0038. For further details, please see our website at www.orchidkathuheights-phuket.com

NAI YANG HOUSE

Quiet, fully furnished 3 bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms and aircon. 500 meters from Nai Yang Beach, 2km from airport 11,000 baht/month long term only. Tel: 081-837 5774. Email: slarti@onthenet.com.au

BRAND-NEW VILLA

A luxury 3-bedroom pool villa for rent, 4km from Layan Beach. Quiet and secure area. Tel: 081-891 1826 (English), 081-891 2926 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-238940. Email: keving@loxinfo.co.th For further details, please see our website at www.baanboosakorn.com

COZY HOUSE NEAR NAI HARN



High-grade house, furnished and conveniently located. Minutes from Rawai and Nai Harn Beaches. 2 spacious bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms. 1 guest toilet. Aircons. Large living-dining room. Telephone line with ADSL. Free water supply and garbage removal service. Rent: 20,000 baht per month. Contact K. Nui. Tel: 087-383 0936. Email: hunt17@hotmail.com

PATONG TOWER CONDO - A BEAUTY



Beautiful Patong Tower Beach Condo with stunning 280-degree panoramic views of the ocean, mountains and town. Large outdoor patio and wrap around balcony. Completely renovated, Internet and washing machine. Tel: (86) 1381634 4147. Email: PatongTowerRental@yahoo.com. For further details, please see our website at www.PatongTowerRental.com

STYLISH PHUKET TOWNHOUSE

Teak-furnished, modern-style townhouse with 2-floors and 2 bedrooms, a large kitchen, flat-screen TV, 1.5 bathrooms and a garden in a quiet neighborhood in the heart of Samkong, the food capital of Phuket. Rent: 14,000 baht per month. Contact Nicholas. Tel: 081-892 5335 (English & Thai), 084-494 5725 (English). Email: arutsu@gmail.com

PROPERTY TO LET

Condo in Kamala. 160sqm, 2 bedrooms en suite, seaview, pool, fitness. Tel: 084-842 1687. Email: hmatthes@hotmail.com

BREATHTAKING SEAVIEWS

Private house in rolling countryside, offering the finest mountain and ocean views. Located in Cape Yamu. The villa is close to BIS, PIA schools. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathroom, pool, garden etc. Viewing recommended. Price: 60,000 baht/month. Tel: 086-279 6283.

LUXURY POOL VILLA



For rent or sale in Loch Palm. Only 5 minutes from British International School. Fully fitted European kitchen, including Siemens appliances. Large pool 12m X 4m. 3 double bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms. Views overlooking Loch Palm Golf Course 14th & 15th fairways. Fully airconditioned, fully furnished. Available from August 1. Rent: 65,000 baht per calendar month. Rental includes management fees, pool maintenance & garden service. This villa is also priced to sell at 14 million baht. Baan Suan Loch Palm 29/33, Moo 5, Kathu District, Phuket 83120. Tel: 076-323699, 087-1245706 (English & Thai).

CHALONG HOME

2-bedroom home with Cable TV, aircon and ADSL. Tel: 089-652 1473 (English). Email: anandaestates@yahoo.com

PATONG STUDIO 28SQM

Aircon, kitchen, TV, DVD player & ADSL. Rent: 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-971 5664. Email: ronny2507@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR RENT KAMALA

House for rent in Kamala. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, with TV and computer. Includes large pool. Tel: 086-971 9776. Email: Natacha_phuket@hotmail.com

TOWNHOUSE RENT/SALE

Townhouse at Soi Nam Tok Kathu, very quiet, 2 bedrooms, long-term rent only. Tel: 084-186 4882 (English & Thai). Email: egebtsiewert@hotmail.com

PHUKET VILLA 5

Detached house, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen and carpark. In the center of the village. 4 aircons, comes fully furnished, telephone line. Only 5 mins to Central Festival. For long-term rent: 16,000 baht per month. Call for visit. Tel: 087-270 9093.

KATA WESTERN APARTMENT



1- & 2-bedroom western-style apartments. 115sqm inside, with 50-plus sqm covered terrace. Fully furnished, with a fully-fitted teak kitchen and bathroom. Includes granite top, seaview, parking, ADSL and cable. Long-term lease starts at 18,000 baht per month. Will consider short-term lease for very quiet renters. Tel: 084-840 1262. Email: north8east98@yahoo.com

CONTEMPORARY HOUSE



Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathroom, 3 aircons, western-style kitchen. In Talang-area, with local market and 2 Lotus Express outlets nearby, close to PIA International School. 10 minutes to beach. Rent: 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-795 6363. Email: sara_supertik@yahoo.co.th

HOUSE NEAR BIS



House for rent near BIS. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, recently redecorated. Rent: 16,000 baht per month. Contact John Griffin. Tel: 086-940 4267. Email: griffin2009@hotmail.com

100,000 BAHT (US\$3,350)



per year. Rawai Beach studio, furnished, WiFi, cable TV. 200 meters from beach. 30 year lease. Selling for 1 million baht. Paid over 10 years. Monthly rent 5,000 baht (US\$170) per month. Tel: 080-328 9986. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com

per year. Rawai Beach studio, furnished, WiFi, cable TV. 200 meters from beach. 30 year lease. Selling for 1 million baht. Paid over 10 years. Monthly rent 5,000 baht (US\$170) per month. Tel: 080-328 9986. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com

POOL VILLA 4 BEDROOMS

Rawai. Fully furnished, with full aircon and private pool. Rent: 3,000 baht per day. Tel: 087-893 8747.

CHALONG BEACHFRONT HOUSE

Furnished. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, quiet, with Internet, cable TV, pool. Rent: 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-470 6104.

NAI YANG HOUSE

Quiet, fully furnished, 2 bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms, aircon, sat TV, 500 meters from Nai Yang Beach and 2 kilometers from the airport. 11,000 baht per month, long term rent only. Tel: 081-837 5774 (English). Email: slarti@onthenet.com.au

3-7 BEDS POOL VILLA NAI HARN



5 minutes to Nai Harn beach. Living rooms, sala, pool bar, 5x12m swimming pool, hot water. 2 rai huge garden. Tel: 089-289 8483 (English & Thai), 086-689 6680 (Thai). Email: songsrivl@hotmail.com

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See more classified ads at www.phuketgazette.net

Island Job Mart



Club Mangosteen, Rawai Beach. Phukets newest and most exciting vacation club is now seeking experienced, outgoing and energetic timeshare professionals to join our team.

- Sales Managers
- Marketing Manager
- Reservations Manager
- In-house Sales Representatives
- Telemarketer

Please submit your resume or CV to david@clubmangosteenphuket.com

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

GRAPHIC DESIGNER REQUIRED

Fast-growing Internet-based company is looking to hire a full time graphic designer to do the following tasks: website mock ups, logo design, book cover design and banner advertising design. We require that you speak basic English. Contact for more info. Tel: 087-387 4771 (English & Thai). Email: dada@phuket-tours.org

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER

ELT is looking for a qualified, enthusiastic and experienced kindergarten teacher to start at Ban Maireab school ASAP. We offer 38,000-40,000 baht per month plus benefits. Email: amydavies13@hotmail.com

NEED ASSISTANT MANAGER

Looking for assistant manager (female) for international restaurant in Jungceylon, Patong. Good experience in F&B needed. Please contact Alain 084-758 7468 (English). Email: alain@cafe101.co.th

LOOKING FOR NANNY 8,000 BAHT

Young couple with an 11-month-old baby boy is looking for a live out nanny in Kathu, Phuket. Nanny should be Thai, between 20 and 40 years old and with previous experience in taking care of young children. Some English skills would be great but not necessary. Working hours are 6 days a week from 8am to 5pm. Main work is to take care of our baby boy. Only some light house cleaning work. Salary is 8,000 baht. Please call Khun Nadia. Tel: 087-474 1037 (English & Thai). Email: bernd42@hotmail.com

ENGINEER SUPERVISOR

Engineer - salary 11,000 - 12,000 baht per month plus service charge - available now - shift 8am to 7pm - work 6 day shifts - skilled in electrical & plumbing systems, wood work and swimming pool - Thai national, fluent in English. Tel: 076-333222, 086-604 1333 (English). Email: sales@ccblosseshotel.com

ARCHITECT WANTED

Must speak English. To work on a new mixed use development in Phuket. Tel: 076-384731, 081-693 9372. Please send CV to Daniel via email: mainstreetdevelopment@hotmail.com



In the frame of rapid growth, we are looking for the following candidates

F&B Operation Manager Phuket

- Thai Nationality
- Minimum 5 years relevant F&B senior operational and management experience
- Proven team leadership, result-oriented, hands-on and able to delegate and provide guidance

Please send the resume to assisthrmgrphuket@wineconnection.co.th or call 076-282411#13 for further information



GENERAL MANAGER

Needed for 33-room guesthouse in the center of Patong. Must be fluent in English, have a good level of experience and charisma. Please send CV to us. Email: dtlimited@gmail.com

ACCOUNTANT

For long established trading company in Kamala. We are looking for an accountant (1 person) also responsible for everyday office operations. Salary starts at 20,000 baht per month. Requires good English and office experience. Tel: 076-385221, 086-773 4538 (English). Fax: 076-279340. Email: skgf@skgf.asia

MAID

Maid to work mainly in Kamala. Need own motorbike. Tel: 083-634 5772. Email: info@husiphuket.se

HOTEL STAFF REQUIRED

Thai nationals required in a Patong condominium project for the following positions: Reception, bookings & electrician. Email: solitude001@aol.com

NEED STAFF

Need Thai sales person for a shop in Bang Tao area - the shopping Plaza near the Dalar Resort. Good conditions. Tel: 080-717 1900 (English). Email: iriyad@mail.ru

MAID AND GARDENER WANTED

for pool maintainance with previous hotel experience. Rawai area. Tel: 081-797 7897.

RECEP, HANDYMAN, NIGHT MANAGER

New hotel seeks experienced staff. Call for interview. Tel: 085-159 7400 (English), 086-902 8566 (Thai). Email: dshumny@yahoo.com

ACCOUNTANT AND ASSISTANT

IntercallService Co Ltd is seeking an accountant and assistant. Successful candidates must have a good command of spoken and written English, be independent and conduct specific tasks that involve contact with the government. They need to be qualified, fast learning, reliable and have good interpersonal skills. Interested persons send your CV to IntercallService. Tel: 084-842 6202 (English & Thai). Email: bee@intercallservice.com

PRIVATE VILLA ATTENDANT

Mom Tri's Villa Royale is set atop the headland of Kata Bay between two of the most beautiful sandy beaches on Phuket: Kata Noi and Kata Yai. We are currently seeking energetic and dynamic people to join our team. Three villa attendants required for the 'ocean wing' of our private 5-bedroom villa. Candidates should preferably be young, male & dynamic. Apply in writing with full CV stating present and expected salaries, enclosed with a recent photo. Tel: 076-333568. Fax: 076-333001. Email: hr@villaroyalephuket.com For further details, please see our website at www.villaroyalephuket.com

Personal Assistant/Secretary

A small group of villas is looking for a PA/Secretary who is pro-active, highly-organized, meticulous and able to adapt to a fast-paced and challenging environment.

She must have strong communication and interpersonal skills to professionally handle frequent interactions with staff of all levels.

She must be able to multi task and willing to take any ad hoc duties as and when required.

Qualification:

- Asian female preferably Western educated.
- Well-groomed, independent and with a positive attitude.
- Proficient in all MS Office Applications.

Contact person: **Khun Myra Rodolfo**
Email: myr@shangdumail.com

MAID WANTED

Good pay for Thai woman to give daily massage to 70-year-old American and take care of house in Chalong. Please email information about yourself. Email: ltmesneq@aol.com

NATIVE ENGLISH TEACHERS

Brainy House is a private English-language institute. We are looking for female native English teachers to start ASAP. For children 6-8 years old. We offer excellent compensation. Contact Sasi. Tel: 080-907 7466. Please send a cover letter and cv. Email: info@brainy-house.com

URGENTLY REQUIRED

Starting immediately. Smart, presentable, attractive off-site marketing personnel for representation positions in a busy Patong shopping mall. Successful applicant must have a good command of English. Excellent performance-related remuneration package and conditions. For further details. Tel: 084-445 9595.

STAFF AND SALES REPS NEEDED

1. Thai staff member needed. Ability to speak English is a must. Basic salary + commission.
2. Sales staffers needed. English skills are required. Basic salary + commission. Tel: 081-270 1370.

EXPERIENCED PROGRAMMER

Bachelor's Degree or similar in computer science, experience in web development, at least 2 years of PHP development, experience with Linux servers, high level of spoken and written English, Thai nationals only. Email: jobphuket@globekey.com

HOTEL FRONTDESK STAFF

Thai national needed for long-term condo rentals in Patong. Good English & book-keeping skills required. Tel: 080-052 8082. Email: solitude001@aol.com

ARCHITECTURE - MECHANICS

Design. Thai national wanted. Ability to use AutoCAD, Sketch-Up and 3D-Max is a must. Contact: sec@phuketawnings.com

HOTEL RESIDENT HANDYMAN

Experienced in all trades for daily chores and projects. Call fax for more information. Tel: 085-159 7400 (English), 086-902 8566 (Thai). Fax: +65-67-228667. Email: dshumny@yahoo.com

PART TIME FOREIGNER

Part time, computer literate, native English language speaker sought for hotel in Patong. Email: patonghotel@yahoo.com

TIMESHARE SALES & MARKETING

Our new project is opening in Patong very soon. It's a well-funded, secure, and great product with a great location. We're looking for admin, sales and marketing people who want to work in a positive, progressive and professional work culture. If you have experience that's a plus, but not a pre-requisite. This is an amazing opportunity to join a world-class team. Tel: 083-105 5001 (English). Email: pypconnect@gmail.com

Looking for a job?
Looking for a better candidate?
Find more Recruitment Classifieds at www.PhuketGazette.Net!

PR, OPC AND SALES POSITIONS

PR, OPC and sales people wanted. Must speak English. Very good pay. Tel: 076-325195, 080-1452854 (English). Email: opc_simon@yahoo.com

HOUSE MAID RAWAI

To look after pool villas. For more details. Tel: 083-641 9327. Email: RawaiPoolVillas@hotmail.com

LOOKING FOR LAWYER

Paralegal and accountant work. Requirements: fluent in English, both written and spoken; good attitude; ability to work well under pressure. Tel: 081-893 3212. Email: Rodriguez.I@scp-law assistance.com

Chief Accountant (1 position)

for Restaurant Group (4 venues), based in Kathu, Phuket

Duties and responsibilities

- Manage day-to-day accounting, bookkeeping
- Manage intercompany transactions (4 restaurants)
- Maintain fixed assets registration and depreciation
- All taxes, VAT, withholding tax, social security, etc...
- General ledger, P&L, Balance Sheet
- HR tasks for employees, company

Skills & background

- Accounting bachelor's degree or MBA
- Minimum 5 years experience as senior accountant
- Computer literate and fluent English is necessary
- Positive thinking and flexible attitude

Position available immediately.
Please email resume and application letter to
jean@willsee.com

italasia

Italasia Groups the leading importer in Thailand of Italian F&B products is inviting candidates for the following positions:

- Sales Executive illy Coffee and Gruppo illy products
- Sales Executive imported food products
- Sales Executive Wines & Spirits

Qualifications:

Age 28-45 years, resident in Phuket.
Minimum 3 years of relevant working experience in sale of F&B goods.
EXCELLENT command of English (Written, Spoken and Translation).
Proven experience in food and beverage and passion for imported food and beverage products.
Self motivated, independent and organized to handle presentations, tastings with key F&B clients.
Own car.

Job Description:

Sales and marketing of top FOOD PRODUCTS, COFFEE, WINE AND SPIRITS imported brands to new potential clients in Phuket, Krabi, Khao Lak areas.

If you want to be part of Italasia Group submit your resume with cover letter in English and photo to: italasiaphuket@me.com

HOTEL GROUP IN PHUKET WHICH HAS TWO FOUR STAR RESORTS, ONE IN PATONG AND ONE IN KARON HAS THE FOLLOWING VACANCIES:**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO CEO / GENERAL MANAGER**

- Prior experience and good English language skills essential
- Salary 30,000 to 40,000 baht ** Plus service charge

ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO CEO / GENERAL MANAGER

- Good English language skills essential
- Salary 20,000 to 30,000 baht ** Plus service charge

SALES MANAGER (THAILAND)

- Prior experience and good English language skill essential
- Salary 30,000 to 40,000 baht ** Plus service charge

ASSISTANT SALES MANAGER (THAILAND)

- Prior experience and good English language skills essential
- Salary 20,000 to 30,000 baht ** Plus service charge

REVENUE MANAGER

- Prior experience and good English language skills essential
- Salary negotiable based on experience

Single accommodation will be provided for suitable candidate.

***If you are confident, please send your full details with recent photograph to
Email: jps@loxinfo.co.th

**Anantara Si Kao Resort & Spa, Trang**

If you enjoy being the best, delivering the highest of standards and are a technical expert in your area then you may want to come and be part of the Anantara Story.....We are looking for the following professionals to join us.

Front Office

- Assistant FO Manager
- Guest Relations Supervisor
- Senior GRA / Shift Leader x 2
- Guest Relations Attendant x 2
- Bell Man

Food & Beverage

- Beverage/Bar Manager
- F&B Supervisor x 2
- Bar Supervisor x 3
- Bartender x 3
- F&B Service Attendant x 5

Kitchen

- Sous Chef (Western)
- Chef De Partie (Western)
- Chef De Partie (Bakery)
- Commis II x 7
- Commis III (Western) x 3
- Commis III (Thai Kitchen) x 4
- Steward x 7

We enjoy a 5.5 day work week (average 44 hours per week), free Accommodation and free van to Trang Town 2 times a week.

As part of our recruitment process you will be assessed on your level of English – this is a key skill for all of our team.

Please email your CV with covering letter stating the position you are applying to
recruit_sikao@anantara.com

Contact Human Resources Department, Anantara Si Kao Resort & Spa
Phone + 66 (0) 75 205888 | Fax + 66 (0) 75 205899

Good Luck with your application!

**SALES EXECUTIVE
PMI CONSULTANT****PHUKET BRANCH****Key Responsibilities:**

- To agree individual and team sales targets with Southern Regional Manager.
- Follow up leads from telemarketing and in house leads.
- To convert leads to sale in accordance with Thai insurance sales legislation and in accordance with the company's rules.
- Ensure that all-sales activity and sales are recorded on the prospect database.
- Liaise with Assistant Branch Manager about the process with the policy administration, underwriting and accounts departments to ensure that all applications and payments are processed correctly before the policy is issued.
- Produce daily and weekly team sales reports.
- To carry out any other duties which may be required from time to time.

Key Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree with at least 3 years experience on sales.
- Able to use Microsoft office and databases.
- On-track behavior and Can Do attitude.
- Well organized and good interpersonal skills.
- Passionate about people, customer and result.
- Good command of English.

The Human Resources Manager,
Bupa Health Insurance (Thailand) Ltd.
38 Q House Convent Building, 9th Floor,
Convent road, Silom, Bangrak, Bangkok 10500
Tel: 02-234 7755 Ext. 508, 715
www.bupa.co.th, Email: hr@bupa.co.th

**EVENT MANAGER**

Part-time PR and event organizer required for a well-established event held in Phuket every December. Excellent English skills and a desire to learn are required. Email: gordon@asia-pacific-superyachts.com

ASSISTANT REQUIRED

Fast-growing Internet-based company is looking to hire a full time staff member to do all general online marketing tasks. We require that you speak basic English. Tel: 087-387 4771. Email: dada@phuket-tours.org

OFFICE MANAGER

Thai national. Excellent written and spoken English, smart appearance, good organizational skills. Experience in property rentals. Please contact. Tel: 080-052 8082. Email: solitude001@aol.com

TEACHERS NEEDED

Earth Language Training Centre requires native English speakers with teaching experience. Tel: 076-232398. Email: siripanyaschool@yahoo.co.uk

**Employment
Wanted****GERMAN REAL ESTATE**

Secretary, sale professional looking for a new challenge. 46 years old with long work experience, fluent in written and spoken English. Good knowledge of Phuket, with own car. Living in Chalong. Looking for part-time employment or freelance job at real estate agency close to Chalong. Tel: 082-282 9280.

Articles For Sale

SWEDISH CANDY SALE LAST DAY

Stock clearance. Gott & Blandat, Bilar, Djungelvrål, Snoren, etc. Tel: 076-246427, 087-2746602 (English), 085-885 6798. Fax: 076-246180. Email: info@scansnax.nu For further details, please see our website at www.scansnax.nu

MOVING SALE

Last few items! 5-piece Root furniture set, canoes, bed frame, TV stand, washing machine, speakers, flower pots, Penn reel w/ rod. Tel: 087-282 5008. Email: katafrog@hotmail.com

MOVING SALE

CAT CDMA Internet Device - 1500 baht, Oven (H: 32cm / W: 53cm / D: 32cm) - 1,000 baht, Office Chair - 800 baht, Shelves - 600 baht each or 1,000 baht for both. Tel: 084-629 3471 (English). Email: daoulasc@gmail.com

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE 2

30 glass shelves, brackets, scrub, bed, cashier table, nail table, 2 massage chairs, auto machine, electric paraffin machine, many other items for massage and beauty parlor. Tel: 086-281 8883.

IPAD1 WIFI 32GB

Good condition. Only 10,000 baht. Tel: 087-026 1362. Email: chumapkt@gmail.com

JACUZZI FOR SALE

Mobile spa in good condition, used only for 1 year. Price: 70,000 baht. Tel: 081-667 1637 (English & Thai).

MOVING! ITEMS FOR SALE

- Electrolux coffee machine, auto-drip coffee (includes filters): 500 baht
- Hanabashi electric stovetop cooker: 500 baht
- Royal Phuket Marina Health Club one month membership: 6,000 baht value, open to any offers!

Tel: 082-804 5506. Email: brettssouth@gmail.com

PEPPER SPRAY

Large (60g) 600 baht. Lipstick size 400 baht. Tel: 089-896 5600. Email: enquiry@saenyim.com

SKIPPERS PUB QUIZ

At Royal Phuket Marina. Last Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm. Happy hour and prizes. Tel: 076-360890-3.

Bar & Restaurant Equipment

CAFE SHOP ITEMS

For sale. Tables, chairs, counter, meat slicer machine, Thai cooking gas stove, working table, glasses. Contact for details. Email: maxi-phuket@hotmail.com

Bulletins

SPONSOR A CHILD

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

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

For Phuket info (English) call 081-8912895, 081-8954763 or email: phuketaa@yahoo.com

English Speaking Meetings
Mission Hospital - Phuket City
Wed and Sun 7 PM

Bangkok Hospital - Phuket City
Fri 7 PM

Patong Hospital - Patong
Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun 17 PM

Green Man Restaurant - Chalong
Tue 1 PM

Stereo Lab Restaurant - Surin Beachfront
Mon and Thur 9:30 AM

Scandinavian Meeting - Karon
Tue and Sat 7 PM (Nov-April)
Tel: 086-9440460 Sae, 085-4647450 Sae

For info on other Thailand AA meetings inquire @ 02-23118300 (for Thai language press 3)
www.aathailand.org or email: info@aathailand.org

Business Opportunities

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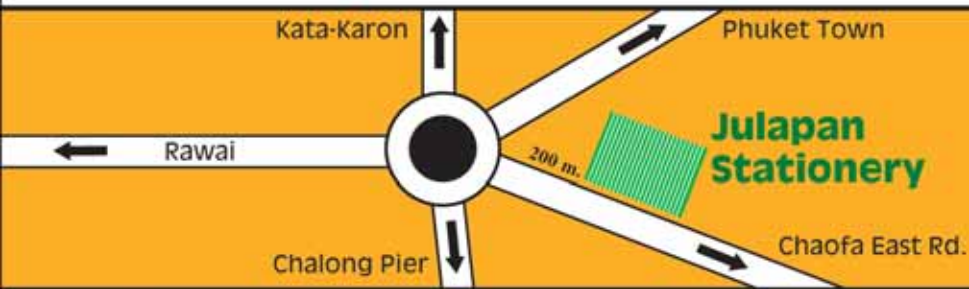
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FC Phuket in last 16 of Toyota Cup

By Neil Quail and Michael DesPortes

FORTUNES at FC Phuket this season just aren't going to plan.

Before celebrations of their Toyota League Cup victory had subsided, news of defection, dismissal and injury sent shock waves through the club.

Phuket were drawn at home to Big Bang Culalongkorn University (BBCU) in the Toyota League Cup second round on June 29.

A win against their league rivals would have been a true test of Phuket's progress under new coach Somporn Wattana. BBCU still harbor hopes of reaching the play-offs when the league resumes later this month.

More than 6,000 fans descended on Surakul Stadium for the match, but it was the home fans who were on their feet first when Phuket hit the back of the net just after 15 minutes.

Excellent build-up play from the back between Niran Phanthong and Nitirote Sukuma eventually found Kone Adama who had a

tap-in for the opening goal.

The score remained 1-0 for the next 55 minutes of the match, but BBCU started to dominate possession.

On 70 minutes BBCU equalized, to the delight of about 200 BBCU supporters in the stands.

With the teams at deadlock at full time, BBCU went into extra time with 10 men.

Late in the second period of extra time, the BBCU goalkeeper handled the ball from a defender's back pass. An indirect free kick was awarded inside the penalty area only yards from the goal line.

BBCU players jammed the goal mouth, but the ensuing shot came off a defender's arm according to the referee who signaled for a penalty, to the furious remonstrations of BBCU players and officials.

Nene Bi Tre Sylvestre converted the penalty which put Phuket into the last 16 of the Toyota League Cup.

At the end of the match, security had to escort the referee and his assistants off the pitch.



SKILLS ON TAP: Kone Adama scored Phuket's opener. Photos: Apinun Saithong

Nene Bi Tre Sylvestre was once again named "man-of-the-match" for his performance, while the match also marked the arrival of French goalkeeper Jonathan Mathijas, who gave a solid performance in his first outing for Phuket.

BACKROOM BREAKDOWN

Brazilian sacked for being 'bad', Korean AWOL and injuries rife

UNFORTUNATELY for Phuket, Suphat Anthong suffered a broken ankle during the cup win which will require surgery.

The player is expected to miss at least three months before considering a return to training.

In his place Phuket has inked a six-month loan deal with Piyawat "Kapi" Thongman of Thai Premiere League team, Sisaket FC.

A few days after the cup game, Phuket coach Nareubate Ayuphong announced that Brazilian player Paulo Renato will leave the club, citing the player's behavior as reason for the departure.

"Our club has a clearly specified set of rules. Renato is a player who has had the most issues and the club has given him warnings on many occasions. He has not adjusted his behavior accordingly and as he is unable to follow the standards and rules of our club... We have decided to terminate his contract," said Nareubate.



BACK TO BRAZIL: Paulo Renato has been sent home to Brazil.

"The club also reiterated its intention to not give any further compensation to Renato as he did not fulfill the clauses in his contract," he added.

Another player who is out of favor with Phuket is South Korean Choi Jai Won.

Choi left the club in May claiming he wished to visit his wife after she had suffered a miscarriage.

However, the club learned that Choi has in fact had trials for league rivals Saraburi FC and stated he was unhappy playing for Phuket.

Nareubate has demanded that the player return as he is still under contract with Phuket.

"If other clubs are interested in him they should contact the team and work out a deal according to league rules rather than surreptitiously trying to acquire his services," he said.

— Neil Quail

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Sport

Sense of Pryde

By Neil Quail

A RECORD year is in store for the Best Asian Regatta 2011 with over 40 yachts expected for the eighth Six Senses Phuket Raceweek on July 21.

The event takes place on the waters off the Evason Phuket & Bon Island in Rawai and is the first race of Asia's Yachting Grand Prix circuit. This is also an opportunity for serious contenders to earn early points in the competition.

Neil Pryde is one of Asia's top racing sailors and will compete at Phuket Raceweek for the second time. Surprisingly, the Hong Kong based yachtsman has chartered the TP52 *Premier Composites*, which he raced against in Koh Samui in May this year, instead of his own yacht *HiFi*.

The battle for Racing Class will also involve David Ross on his new Ker 40 pure racing machine, *KukuKERChu*, while local skippers Mark Mizner on *Babe*, Ben Copley on *Katsu* and Scott Duncanson on *Quantum Fusion M*, will hope to challenge their visiting rivals.

Multihull Class should provide exciting racing with Andaman Cabriolet *Da Vinci*, in her second Phuket Raceweek. *Da Vinci* finished 3rd in the King's Cup Regatta, where just two points separated her and the overall winner.

Paul Larsen is taking a break from his current attempt on the outright World Sailing Speed Record in Namibia to skipper *Da Vinci* which will be sporting a brand new set of Quantum racing sails, the lack of which probably cost her the King's Cup crown in 2010.

Round-the-world yachtswoman and record-holder, Dee Caffari, takes the responsibility of Yachting Ambassador for the event



MULTIHULLS: *Nina* and *Da Vinci* preparing for this year's Six Senses Regatta.

and will also will race with Grenville Fordham on the Andaman Cabriolet, *Nina*, which won the regatta on its first outing in 2009.

In addition to the competition on the water, co-sponsor Franke is hosting the Franke Yacht Chef's Cooking Competition, in which seven culinary experts who normally prepare their feasts on the water will cook against the clock. Their furiously prepared fare will be judged by the celebrity chef duo of Chef Fang and Chef Faifoo from Channel 5's *Krua INDY* fame.

"Yacht owners are famously slow to

sign up and we usually get a handful of entries during the last week before the regatta starts," said Grenville Fordham, managing director of organizers and rights owners, Image Asia. He noted that 38 yachts had already confirmed and paid up by mid-June.

The 2010 regatta had 39 entries in total. Registration deadline is 4pm on July 20.

For more information visit W:phuketraceweek.com or E:raceweek@image-asia.com

Blowing cats and dinghys



HIKING OUT: Cartoon Juladej

THE Beach Cat and Dinghy Regatta received an unexpected lift on July 3 when a calm forecast gave way to a good 15 knot breeze.

Fifteen sailors and 10 boats took part in the event which saw exhilarating sailing and great racing.

With full rigs, the sailors were a little overpowered and had to hike out hard. Those who were not quick enough ended up in the water.

"It was a successful event over the last two weekends. Some of the children from the Phuket Youth Sailing Squadron (PYSS) were crewing on these boats which also helps to make up much needed crew for the owners," said Paul Firmin of PYSS.

RESULTS

Catamaran Class

1st Simon Gibson and Akapoj Kankeaw
2nd Roger Kingdon and Teerapong Tohratoak
3rd Liz Schoch and Philip Clark

Topaz Class

1st Sukanya Sainam and Salawutt Kullnatt
2nd Tanawat Sangkam and Chalip Payatup
3rd Arunsak Wanasook

Topper Class

1st Nattapol Yuangngam
2nd Tanapom Budgrim
3rd Japupakorn Saeton

Sambo wrestlers aiming for world's top 10

PHUKET'S Sambo coach Chone Changkol said last week that he is preparing a team to compete in the fourth ranking stage of the sport's 2011 World Cup to be held this December in Moscow.

The Sambo team recently took part in the second ranking tournament held in Russia from June 10 to 13 and the third stage is scheduled for Kazakhstan in August.

"I do not think we will attend the third stage of the tournament to be held in Kazakhstan. We are

not ready purely for language reasons. Our sponsor (Pegas Touristik) is better equipped to help with transportation, language and accommodation when competitions are held in Russia," Coach Chone said.

"Once the fourth stage has ended, points from each of the world cup ranking tournaments will be tallied and the national team with the highest score will be crowned World Sambo Champions," he added.



A Sambo move being demonstrated.

"I believe if we perform to our potential at the last stage in Moscow, we could achieve a top 10 world ranking," Mr Chone said.

Following the Phuket team's efforts in Vladivostok, the athletes received much praise from established Sambists and have been offered the chance to train with coaches from Russia.

"President of the Sambo Federation of Russia told us that he would like to send coaches from Russia to help in training our athletes," Mr Chone said.

Thailand is Sambo's new kid on the block while the strongest Asian representation comes from South Korea and Mongolia.

"Thailand is very new to Sambo when compared to other competing countries. The



MOSCOW MOVERS: From left are wrestlers Teerasak Phothongkhamphan, Tharadon Singthongyam and Trong Jirakamolstutthikul with Pegas Touristik manager Ender Turkiymaz, president of Phuket Judo Club Phuritak Jorjvechvanich and coach Chone Changkol.

Bangkok Metropolitan Region has only recently begun a Sambo program, whereas Phuket introduced the sport over two years ago. Phuket is certainly one of the first areas in Thailand to offer Sambo," he said.

"As the first athlete from Thailand to take part in the Sambo World Cup (Russia, 2009), I am very proud that my experiences have inspired others to take up the sport and compete in the tournaments, just like I did two years ago," coach Chone said.

Thailand's Sambo team is being assisted by one of the largest tour operators in Russia and they

back a range of international sporting activities, including Sambo.

"We want to support the Phuket team because Sambo is one of Russia's main sports," said Nikorn Yatinunt, Director of Administration of Pegas Hospitality (Thailand) Co Ltd.

"Pegas Groups have always supported local organizations and local activities," said Ender Turkiymaz, contracting manager of Pegas Touristik.

The Sambo athletes train daily at the gymnasium of HeadStart International School on Wichit Songkram Rd in Wichit.

— Janpen Upatising

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Saphan Hin and Surakul refurbbs

By Samaporn Janyanon

THE outdoor public swimming pool at Sapan Hin is a popular facility for both Thai and foreign patrons due to its size and reasonable entry fee.

Each year, the Phuket Provincial Administration Office (*OrBorJor*) closes the pool for essential maintenance from February until mid-April. This year, however, the pool has still not re-opened, raising questions and concern from the pool's return users.

Mr Ruesit Suttantaporn, who works for the Ministry of Tourism and Sports explained the delay.

"May I first apologize for any inconvenience experienced by people who use the pool. A number of systems are severely damaged and we are in the process of having these problems identified by expert technicians,"



FACELIFT: PPAO Sports Club

Mr Ruesit told the *Phuket Gazette*.

"We closed the pool at the end of January and have conducted a number of engineering surveys. Our engineering division will propose a renovation and maintenance plan before July 15, and then we will carry out all the necessary repairs," he added.

Mr Ruesit advised that overhauling the damaged pool systems would take approximately three months and the facility would re-open in October. However, smaller

renovations will continue until January 2012.

The swimming pool was established in 2003 and operated under the Sports Authority of Thailand before administration responsibilities were transferred to the *OrBorJor* in 2005.

"We are investing 2.8 million baht in this renovation. Nearly 80 per cent of the facility will be affected. Water pumps, filters, drains, hygiene and heating systems, and a system control room will be completely new. In addition to the systems we will also refurbish the shower rooms, the roof and re-paint the entire structure," Mr Ruesit said.

Mr Reusit also said that prices would not be affected by the upgrades.

"We still have the same price structure. Adults can enjoy a



SPLASHING OUT: Nearly 3 million baht will be spent to upgrade the pool.

swim session for 20 baht per person and children under 18 years old will pay just 10 baht per person," Mr Reusit said.

OrBorJor President Paiboon Upatising said the running track at Surakul Stadium is also undergoing renovation work and is closed for use.

"The running track at Surakul Stadium is being prepared for the

28th National Youth Games to be held here in Phuket next March. The construction contract runs from March 21 to August 15," Mr Paiboon said.

"The Sports Authority of Thailand have set aside a budget of 18,897,000 baht for the renovation and the surface will be synthetic, as it was prior to reconstruction," he added.



MAGNIFICENT SEVENS: Phuket Lomas Under 17s rugby team enjoyed success at the regional sevens tournament.

National rugby finals beckoning for Lomas

WHILE Phuket Lomas Under 13 rugby team was proving itself on the international stage in England, a depleted Under 17 squad travelled to Krabi for the National 7's regional play-offs on June 25.

Played at Krabi's home pitch in Ao Luk, the Lomas faced their regional rivals Krabi RFC and Surat Thani RFC to decide who would progress to the National Championship, which will be held in Bangkok this September.

Krabi were favorites to advance mainly because of the Lomas not being able to field their full team,

but the Phuket team defied the odds and ran in two unconverted tries either side of half time to win 10-0.

Resistance from Surat Thani was limited and the Lomas easily dispatched them with a score of 24-0 to set up a deciding game against Krabi once more.

Lomas were first to strike with a converted try, but Krabi replied just before the half ended with a score of their own that was not converted to send the teams into the break with Phuket holding a 7-5 lead.

Krabi hit the ground running after the restart and a converted try put them ahead 12-7. Krabi kept the pressure on, and with only minutes remaining, the Lomas turned over possession near their own line. The ball was released to Lek in the center who found a gap in the Krabi line and sprinted the entire length of the pitch for the winning try.

A score of 14-12 gave the Lomas the Regional rugby 7's title and an opportunity to challenge for the U-17 National Championship later this year.

- Neil Quail

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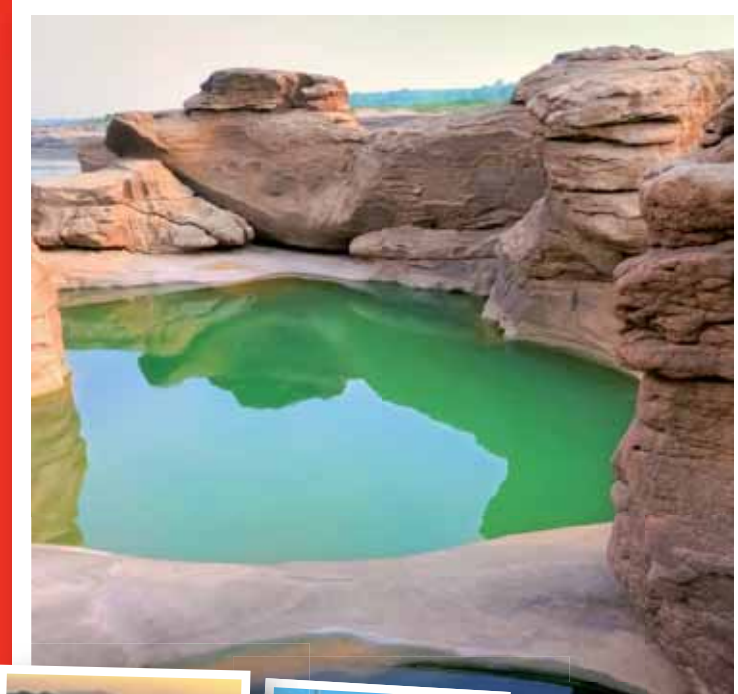
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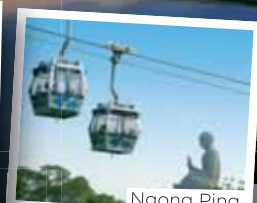
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