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UK Home Secretary Theresa May

Aldhouse extradition handed to UK Home Secretary

THE decision whether or not to extradite British national Lee Aldhouse from the UK to face murder charges in Thailand will be handed to Home Secretary Theresa May.

The decision could take up to two months, says the *Birmingham Mail*.

Aldhouse was arrested at London's Heathrow Airport on August 18 last year on an outstanding warrant in the UK.

His arrest came amid an extensive police manhunt for him in connection with the stabbing murder of American Deshawn Longfellow in Phuket days earlier, on August 14.

Mr Longfellow's sister, Sabre Anderson, believes Aldhouse will be extradited to Thailand to face charges.

"We have been told that he (Aldhouse) will now be sent back to Thailand," she said.

ISOC to report land issues to PM

By Janpen Upatising

ENCROACHMENT on protected forest land and illegal land ownership were the top two issues identified by a panel of specialists during a fact-finding tour of Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi last week.

The panel of five from the National Coordinating Center for Special Security reports to the Internal Security Operations Command (ISOC), which will report its findings directly to the Prime Minister's Office.

"We have identified the problems regarding encroachment on forest land and illegal land ownership and we will report these problems to – and coordinate with – the relevant agencies," Lt Gen Akanant Ratanasopar, the center's director, said on Wednesday.

"We will also report the problems for acknowledgement by the Prime Minister so we can then discuss possible solutions," Lt Gen Akanant added.

On the fact-finding team was Phoppol Sirilugsanapong, who is



Buildings rise on the headland at the southern end of Patong Beach, where developments are mushrooming alongside national forest land.

the head of the Natural Resources Division at the Phuket Natural Resource and Environment Office.

Mr Phoppol identified the lack of consistent policy as one of the main issues hindering enforcement of land rights.

Degraded forest land permitted to be used for other purposes was another problem. "We should be allowed to specify the location and amount of land to be reserved as a forest area. They [policymakers] should not change their minds and

allow forest land to be used for other purposes," he said.

Chaloemkiat Sudsakorn, a specialist at the Forestry Department, said encroachment was widespread in Phuket, with both local residents and "influential people" engaging in the activity.

The team discovered most cases of encroachment fell into two categories: illegal issuance of land deeds; and using land for purposes not permitted under a legally issued deed.

SorPorKor and *NorSor 3* are the most commonly misused type of deed. "Local authorities must enforce proper use of land. For example, if a title permits only agricultural use of hillside land, the holder should not be allowed to build a resort on it," he said.

Mr Chaloemkiat warned that those who construct on land where it is not permitted will face "problems" in the future.

"For those who have title deeds that were issued illegally, it is our job to investigate and reclaim that land," he said plainly.

Phuket Airport 'portal of choice' for drug mules

A SPECIAL task force of drug enforcement officers from Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok will be stationed at Phuket International Airport to combat the rising incidence of drug trafficking.

Maj Gen Puttachart Ekkachan, Commander of the Narcotics Control Board's Region 4 detachment, told Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha the news at a meeting at Provincial Hall last week.

The meeting was held to specifically discuss strategies to combat drug trafficking on the island.

The senior narcotics officer explained that the move was to counter Phuket be-

coming the portal of choice among drug mules.

"Phuket International Airport is the new target of drug smuggling into Thailand, instead of Suvarnabhumi Airport," he said.

Maj Gen Puttachart added that drugs were increasingly being brought onto the island by road as well.

"Drug statistics are up this year, and they are now smuggling drugs through the Tah Chat Chai checkpoint.

"We need to have an x-ray machine at the checkpoint, which we do not have at the moment," he added.

A dedicated drug squad being assigned

to Phuket Airport follows the seizure of six kilograms of cocaine in two separate arrests in early May.

Swiss national Peter Balmer was arrested on May 9 for attempting to smuggle in four kilograms of "black cocaine", the first seizure of its kind at the airport.

The next day Thai national Pimpisa "Ja" Piangyotha, 39, was nabbed by officers with two kilos of pure cocaine in her luggage when she arrived for a Bangkok-bound flight.

Both were charged with smuggling of Category 2 narcotics, which under Thai law carries a maximum penalty of death.



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This Week

Live Wire



3G wars need a Woody Leonhard intervention.
Page 12

Books



A study of lechery and sodomy in *Pirates of Barbary*.
Page 15

A day in the life



Blood, sweat and tears: ER nursing in Vachira hospital.
Page 18

Pets



Know your needs then choose your canine breed.
Page 20

Property



Hybrid-Chinois style luxury residences at Laguna.
Page 27

Sport



Olympic and World Championship medal contenders in Phuket.
Page 41

Saturday



33 - 24

Sunday



34 - 23

Monday



34 - 23

Tuesday



34 - 23

Wednesday



34 - 23

Thursday



34 - 25

Hitman's 11 years on the run ends in Phuket

AFTER more than a decade in hiding, the gunman wanted for the shooting murder of Petchaburi journalist Sanan Wannapuk 11 years ago has been arrested in Phuket.

Thanin "Dum" Kaewsakul, 46, was listed as the 18th most wanted gunman in Thailand before his arrest by a special operations unit from Police Region 7.

At the time of going to press, the exact time of his arrest in Thung Thong, Kathu, was not included in the breaking report by state-run MCOT news.

Thanin was arrested on an outstanding warrant for the murder of Mr Sanan, a crime reporter for the local Petchaburi newspaper *Petchaphum* and a regular contributor to several national daily newspapers.

Mr Sanan was also president of the Western Region Crime Reporters' Club when he was gunned down in front of a large crowd of



Thanin Kaewsakul shows his ranking on the police 'Most Wanted' list.

people at a shopping complex in Petchaburi on August 21, 2000.

Mr Sanan was mowed down by 26 bullets as he was leaving a restaurant.

Thanin confessed that he was the gunman and that he fled to Phuket after the killing and remar-

ried, said the report.

Upon arrest, Thanin said he and two other men were hired to carry out the hit by three influential local politicians in Petchaburi, whose names were not divulged.

The other two men allegedly involved are already in custody.

Alcohol ban for Buddhist holiday

THE Phuket Provincial Police have requested that all nightlife entertainment venues refrain from selling alcohol this weekend out of respect for Asarnha Bucha Day on Friday and the start of Buddhist Lent (Khao Phansa) on Saturday.

Such venues are not legally obliged to close, but are being asked not to sell alcoholic beverages on both days to show respect for two of the holiest days in the Buddhist calendar, said Capt Thapakorn Hanumard.

The last of the five precepts that form the basis of Buddhist morality is to avoid alcohol and other intoxicating substances.

The request has been well adhered to by local publicans in years past.

However, this year's two-day *de facto* ban will hit venue owners particularly hard.

It not only falls on a weekend, but comes just two weeks after the alcohol-free general election



Bars on tourist-popular Bangla Road are asked to respect the Buddhist holidays. Many bars are facing their third weekend in four without being allowed to sell alcohol.

and the early voting that preceded it on June 26.

This will be the third weekend out of four that alcohol sales will have been either legally banned or advised against by authorities.

Kickboxer loses foot in crash

AN AUSTRALIAN man studying Thai kickboxing in Phuket lost his foot when the motorbike he was riding collided with a car in Chalong last Sunday night.

At about 9pm, 30-year-old Mark Anthony Schreiber's motorbike collided with a Toyota Fortuner at the entrance to Soi Thanuthep, off Chao Fa West Road, rescue officers said.

Completely sheared off, Mr Schreiber's foot became stuck in the bumper of the much larger vehicle.

Chalong Police have thus far not revealed who was at fault or what charges will be filed in the case.

The driver of the Fortuner did not flee the scene, as is common in Thailand in collisions involving motorbikes and trucks.

The *Gazette* was told that Mr Schreiber's leg was amputated below the left knee.

— *Phuket Gazette*

ACYC to hold memorial evening for Joanne Cooney

THE Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) will hold a memorial evening in honor of Joanne Cooney on July 19, starting at 6pm.

Ms Cooney was an active member of the Phuket sailing community. She passed away on the Gold Coast in Queensland, Australia, on June 28.

Attendees will have the opportunity to relay stories and share memories of Ms Cooney with other friends at the event.

There will also be a slide show. Anyone who has photos and memories they would like to share are asked to email them to webmaster@acyc-phuket.com



Joanne Cooney

A service to scatter Ms Cooney's ashes at Nai Harn Beach is expected to be held in October.

All her family as well as other relatives and friends from Australia and Phuket are expected to join.



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HOLIDAY INN PHUKET MAI KHAO BEACH RESORT

Airport unwraps new flight control center

NEW technologies are set to be introduced at air traffic control centers in Phuket and across Thailand to help lift Thai standards to equal those of Europe and America.

Somchai Thean-Anant, president of Aeronautical Radio of Thailand Ltd (AEROTHAI), said that work putting the new systems in place began at the beginning of the year.

He expects the 4 billion baht project to be complete around the end of 2014.

"We will introduce these technologies at the 38 airports in Thailand that we are responsible for. The government has allowed us to proceed with a budget of 4.46 billion baht," Mr Somchai said.

"These new systems will allow air trans-

port in Thailand to reach safety standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)," he said.

In 2009, Phuket was the first location in Thailand that had new technology allowing for safer aircraft landings installed.

"Since 2009, we have installed the same system in Samui, Krabi and Haad Yai. It will be added at Don Muang and Suvarnabhumi airports later this year," Mr Somchai said.

Other improvements that were made in Phuket before the latest project got underway include an ATC Center, built to support the additional workforce required to handle increasing activity at the airport.

An administration, engineering and semi-

nar building with cafeteria was built on 2,420 square meters of land under a budget of 78 million baht, said Somporn Petprasit, Phuket ATC Center director.

Although still unoccupied, the building was officially opened with a ceremony on Tuesday.

"A new surveillance radar system was installed on Bang Duk Hill. Its radius is 250 nautical miles, compared with the 35 miles covered by the old one. The system link Phuket, Surat Thani and Bangkok at all times, so we can follow aircraft movement for every flight over the region," he said.

Phuket Airport had seen an average of 166 flights per day over the past year.

— Janpen Upatising



The airport radar facility atop Bang Duk Hill.

Lesbian lover no longer suspect in 'odd suicide'

POLICE say suicide was the likely cause of death of a woman whose body was discovered in her rented home in Chalong last Saturday.

Although initial investigation suggested murder, subsequent questioning of family members indicates that 41-year-old Chamaiporn Chuaykham probably took her own life, police said.

Chalong Police duty officer Chianchai Duangsuan said the late Ms Chamaiporn's younger brother Nattipong, who discovered the body, told police he found a book detailing various suicide methods inside the home where her body was found.

Although her body was badly decomposed, medical examination revealed no signs of trauma, said Capt Chianchai.

Mr Nattipong earlier said his sister had gone through "some big problems" in her life and had recently returned from a retreat at a temple in her home province of Trang.

After her return, she asked him to come and keep her company, but later asked him to leave, Capt Chianchai quoted Mr Nattipong as saying.

This would have been consistent with her wanting to take her own life, he added.

However, a *Phuket Gazette* reporter at the scene soon after the recovery of the body stood by the initial report.

There were extensive bloodstains on the wall, trauma to the skull and a pillow covered the face of the body, the reporter said.

Probe into claims of police pandering alien prostitutes

PHUKET authorities are investigating a formal complaint that police officers are pandering illegal alien prostitutes to foreign tourists in the basement shop area of an upscale shopping mall in Patong.

The investigation follows a recent complaint lodged with the Damrongtham Center at Phuket Provincial Hall by a person identified only as "a Patong Person".

The complaint alleges that members of the Patong Police, some on plainclothes duty, are trafficking women from Burma, Cambodia and Laos to work in the local sex trade.

The complaint alleges that the racket is being carried out in the basement "That's Siam" section of the upscale Jungceylon shopping plaza.

Phuket Vice Governor Somkiat Sangkaosuttirak last week chaired a meeting at Patong City Hall to discuss the issue together with representatives of the Phuket Provincial Police, Phuket Employment Office, Kathu District Office, Phuket Immigration, Patong Municipality and other agencies.

According to the complaint, one particular officer is paid 3,000 baht to 5,000 baht for each woman procured, allegedly with the tacit approval of some higher-ranking officers.

The officer in question sets up meetings between prostitutes and potential clients at a variety of locations, such as restaurants and massage parlors, all over Patong, the meeting was told.



THAT'S SIAM: A yuk ('giant') guards the doors to That's Siam, the basement shopping area at Jungceylon. The allegation claims that some police officers are using the complex as a venue to arrange 'meetings'.

One of the establishments allegedly used for meetings was less than 100 meters from Patong Police Station, V/Gov Somkiat said.

Prapan Kanprasang, head of the Damrongtham Center, said a task force had been assigned to investigate the accusation.

He said anyone with informa-

tion or complaints can lodge them with the Damrongtham hotline (Tel: 1111) or through its website: www.1111.go.th

"After we receive a complaint, we must appoint authorized officials from relevant agencies to ensure fairness to both sides," he said.

V/Gov Somkiat said, "We don't intend to take sides. In fact I like hanging out at Jungceylon. For now, we will instruct Jungceylon to inform its shop owners to check the status of all their migrant workers."

"We will give them 15 days to act. After that we will have an authorized team check compliance," he said.

V/Gov Somkiat said he understood that Jungceylon rented out retail space to many tenants.

"That's why we have to inform them first because they know which shops have migrant workers," he said.

Governor Tri Augkaradacha would be kept informed of developments in the investigation, he said.



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Abhisit-loving granny kills self

DEDICATED supporters of the Democrat Party across Thailand have taken Yingluck Shinawatra's sweeping victory over Abhisit Vejjajiva in the July 3 general elections hard, but none more so than Lamian Yusuk, an 80-year-old grandmother from Rayong.

Mrs Lamian killed herself by drinking weedkiller six days after her Mr Abhisit's defeat.

Nantha Lap-insi, 59, said her mother was a fanatical Democrat Party supporter who had voted for the party in every general election.

She was particularly fond of Mr Abhisit, the Oxford-educated prime minister who recently resigned as leader of the Democrats to take responsibility for their crushing defeat at the hands of the Pheu Thai Party.

Mrs Nantha said her mother suffered from high blood pressure and was very frail.

On July 3, Mrs Nantha drove her mother to a polling station, where she voted for the local Democrat Party candidate as well as choosing the party in the proportional representation party list vote.

QUEER news

"When we got home, we watched TV and saw that Democrat candidates won in every district of Rayong," Mrs Nantha said.

"My mother was very pleased, but when we knew that Mr Abhisit had lost to Mrs Yingluck, she became very upset," she added.

Her children tried to comfort her, telling her not to take politics to heart too much or she would make herself ill.

On July 5, Mrs Lamian was left alone in the house.

"My mother grabbed some weedkiller and drank it. We rushed her to Klaeng Hospital, but she later died," Mrs Nantha explained.

The family brought Mrs Lamian's body to Huay Yang Temple for funeral services.

— *Kom Chad Luek*

Officials crack down on sidecar passengers

RIDERS of motorcycles with sidecars (*salaeng*) will be prosecuted if they use the attachment to carry passengers, the chief of the Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO) has announced.

Drivers who use *salaeng* for passenger transport do so illegally and present a danger to passengers and other road users, PLTO Chief Teerayout Prasertphol said.

Legally-registered *salaeng* can only be used to transport goods, he added.

Passenger transport by *salaeng* is prohibited under Section 14 of the Motor Vehicle Act of 1979 and violators are subject to a maximum fine of 2,000 baht under Section 60 of the same act, said Mr Teerayout.

In order to prevent road accidents caused by *salaeng* and to protect the rights of operators of legally-registered vehicles, the PLTO is also asking motorbike owners not to illegally affix sidecars to vehicles, he said.



PIG DEAL: While transporting 'goods' in a legally registered *salaeng* is permitted, doing so with humans is not, officials said. Photo: Gazette reader

Kata 'panty bandit' snatch caught on film

A PANTY snatcher was caught on CCTV stealing underwear from outside a woman's apartment last month near Wat Kittisangkaram (Kata Temple).

The CCTV footage taken on June 21 at about 5am shows a man believed to be from 25 to 30 years old, wearing trousers and a light-colored jacket, lingering near a laundry rack outside the apartment.

The man glanced in several directions as he shuffled closer to the rack before recoiling as another man approached in the narrow passageway.

The other man, who had been in a neighboring apartment, came outside to check on the loiterer as he hadn't seen him before and he looked suspicious, a police source told the *Phuket Gazette*.

The man in the jacket awkwardly pulled out his mobile phone



STICKY FINGERS: The 'panty bandit' in the heat of the snatch.

to "check it" as the suspicious resident appeared to exchange words with him.

The suspect then walked off, out of the camera's range while the other man slowly entered his apartment, looking in the direction in which the suspect had walked.

Within seconds of the resident entering his apartment, the man in the jacket reappeared, casually walked up to the laundry rack, snatched the panties and walked off.

The owner of the room, whose identity was undisclosed, reported the incident to her landlord when she noticed that her panties were missing.

The landlord checked the CCTV footage and handed it over to Chalong Police who are investigating the incident.

— *Atchaa Khamlo*

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Overload stalls child ID plan

By Samaporn Janyanon

THE online national identification database crashed after officials began issuing ID cards to children in Phuket on Monday, though it was up and running the next day.

Effective last Sunday, the National ID Act (2011) requires all Thai nationals aged seven to 14 to obtain an ID card. Previously only nationals 15 to 70 years of age were required to have an ID card.

Under the new law, parents have one year to comply.

"We are coordinating with schools to make appointments and set

dates that will be the most convenient to avoid overwhelming our systems and resources," said Muang District Chief Supachai Pochnukul.

"We are also planning to offer ID card services through mobile units, such as from vans and will extend service hours on Saturdays."

Despite planning by local officials, the first working day for issuing ID cards drew large crowds to district and municipality offices, resulting in a nationwide overload on the system.

"We had many children come, but we were only able to issue two ID cards before the system crashed," said one District Office official who asked not to be named.

Following the malfunction on the first day, far fewer parents made the trip with their children the following day even though the system was back to normal.

"So far today, we've had only seven children come to apply for an ID," Phuket City Municipality Registrar Porntipa Jampathong said on Tuesday.

"However, there's no need for parents to hurry since they have until July 10, 2012 to get their child an ID, free of charge," she added.

Previously it was announced

that there would be a 100 baht fee charged to parents, but officials confirmed on Tuesday that the fee has been waived for the first year.

"From July 11 next year, they will have to pay a fee not exceeding 100 baht," Ms Porntipa said.

Many parents in Thalang were frustrated on Monday when they were sent home empty handed.

"It was a waste of time on the first day, but we did issue about 10 cards the following morning," said Sakarom Lipronket, Chief Administrative Officer of Thalang District.

"To lessen the load, we are coordinating schedules with schools in our area. Meanwhile, we prefer for parents to bring their children in on Saturdays so kids don't have to miss out on school," she said.

Thanawit Disataporn, Chief Administrative Officer for Kathu District, said his office issued five ID cards on Monday, and 12 the following day.

He conferred that Kathu is also coordinating with local schools.

Patong City Municipality will be issuing child ID cards through the three schools in its jurisdiction: Sai Nam Yen School, Suwankiriwong School and Kalim School.



LINEUP: Children as young as seven are now required to have an ID card.

"We've sent letters to the three schools and have already received a response from Kalim school, which has only about 100 children. We estimate our area will be complete within two months," said Patong City Municipality Registrar Sitthichai Inrit.

"We would like to tell parents who have children aged seven to

14 living in the Patong area to provide the necessary documents to their child's homeroom teacher," he added.

According to the Phuket National Statistic office – sourcing data from the Department of Interior – on December 30, 2010, there were 42,158 registered Phuket residents aged seven to 14 years old.

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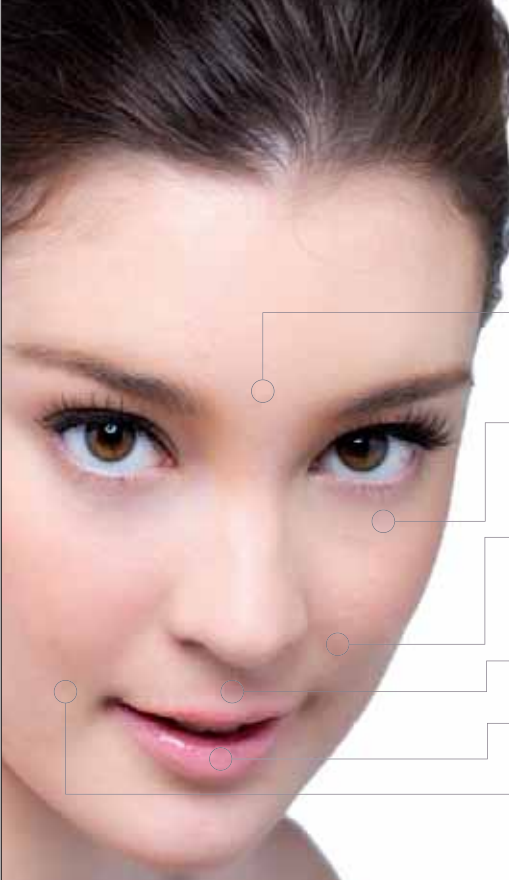


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Cherng Talay mayor confident in success

CHERNG Talay Mayor Suniran Rachatapruet on July 11 announced his primary policies at the first Cherng Talay council meeting since his re-election on June 4.

Mr Suniran has served as Cherng Talay mayor since July 1999.

The meeting at the Cherng Talay Municipality offices was presided over by municipal council president Suphat Athiudomphol, along with council vice president Charoon Thawichatanon.

Mayor Suniran explained his policies covered infrastructure, public health and sanitation, economics, safety and security of life and property, and municipal management.

He also expressed confidence in his ability to get the job done.

"I have worked here for 16 years. This place is like my second home and I know every process needed to get work done," said Mayor Suniran, whose recent re-election will see him serve the community until 2015.



Mayor Suniran laid out his policies at a meeting on July 11.

"There are four projects already under construction to be continued: a four-storey building for Cherng Talay Municipal School; a new 25-meter swimming pool; landscaping the front of Cherng Talay Wittayakom School; and flood prevention in the municipality," he said.

"I hope to receive full cooperation from everyone in order to achieve success during my term," he said.

— Pimwara Choksakulpan

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STOP INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN TRAFFICKING.

THESE DOLPHINS DIDN'T MAKE IT TO dolphin shows or swim-with-dolphins attractions at fancy resorts around the world. Instead they ended up in a garbage dump in the Solomon Islands, victims of a growing worldwide trade in wild dolphins orchestrated by greedy wildlife traffickers.

The cruel and deadly market for wild dolphins is growing, fueled by the popularity of dolphin sideshows and swim-with attractions. With a going price of as much as \$200,000 per dolphin, unscrupulous operators are capturing and shipping dolphins wherever they can, and merely paying lip service to international laws whenever they have to. Many dolphins die in the process.

These dolphin hunts often occur in small villages like Taiji, Japan, or developing countries like the Solomon Islands, which lack the political will or resources to monitor and protect their wildlife.

It is time for all governments around the world to take responsibility and prohibit

the import of dolphins from these inhumane dolphin trafficking operations.

Right now, the dolphin traffickers operating in the Solomon Islands, who have already sent dozens of dolphins to Mexico and Dubai, are planning to airfreight more wild-caught dolphins to theme parks around the world — including Singapore, and possibly Panama and the Dominican Republic. You can help stop them.

Only a public outcry now will help put an end to this cruel dolphin trade, and keep more dead dolphins from landing in the dump.



ENDORSED BY: Animal Welfare Institute, Born Free USA, Cetacean Society International, Earth Island Institute, Elsa Nature Conservancy of Japan, In Defense of Animals, Marine Connection, World Society for the Protection of Animals.



Produced by Public Media Center

HELP STOP THE DEADLY DOLPHIN TRADE.
GO TO HSI.ORG AND SAVEJAPANDOLPHINS.ORG.

Police nab youths in drug arrests

By Yodsak Jarana

IN ONE of the latest drug busts in Phuket, Thalang Police on July 11 presented six suspects arrested for possession of *ya bah* (methamphetamine) with intent to distribute, seizing some 2,000 pills and about 200 grams of *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine) in the process.

Thalang Police Superintendent Witun Kongsudjai told the press at Thalang Police Station that the arrests were part of an ongoing effort by his department to suppress illegal drug use in the district.

He identified four communities of particular concern: Baan Lipon and Baan Phru Somphan in Thepkasattri, and Baan Pakcheed and Baan Yamu in Pa Khlok.

The latest series of arrests began when police served a search warrant on a house on Soi Premruedee in Srisoonthorn Village 5.

Finding three-quarters of a *ya bah* pill and 1.3 grams of *ya ice*, officers arrested local resident Pinyo "Ball" Boonyeun, 23, and Pilaiporn Thareuaraksa, 20, of Kathu Village 6.

Among the evidence seized from the home was 94,030 baht in cash.

From there the officers proceeded to an apartment in the Kan Keha 2 National Housing Authority estate in Baan Lipon where they arrested 24-year-old Anupong "Kwang" Songsri with 128 grams



One of the young suspects lays her head on her accomplice's shoulder.

of *ya ice*, 12,000 baht, a client list and an expense account book as well as drug-taking paraphernalia.

At that point, officers coordinated efforts with Phuket Provincial Police and Tourist Police to arrest Chalong residents Wisut "Khwan" Songkun, 33, and Panuluck "Ong" Songkun, 26.

Seized from the pair were 2,000 *ya bah* pills, almost 57 grams of *ya ice*, three handguns, a Toyota Fortuner, a mobile phone and digital scale.

After that, they expanded the investigation to arrest 20-year-old Wuttichia Phoom-ngam of Srisoonthorn Village 3, who was caught in possession of 2.2 grams of *ya ice*.

All six were arrested on charges of possession of a Cat-



Police presented *ya ice* seized during the recent series of raids.

egory 1 drug with intent to sell.

Also presented at the conference was 21-year-old Sittikon Suwankamnerd of Srisoonthorn Village 5.

Police with a search warrant found him in possession of four handguns and a variety of ammunition on July 10.

Blaze engulfs Chalong home

DAMAGE caused by a fire that engulfed a wooden house in Chalong last Thursday is expected to be in the millions of baht.

No deaths or injuries were reported to have occurred at the scene, in Chalong next to HomePro Village on Chao Fa West Road.

The fire began just before noon and raged for more than an hour, consuming much of the house before firefighters were finally able to bring it under control.

Phuket Tourist Police volunteer Garry Halpin, who is based at the new center at Chalong Circle, was one of the first to arrive at the scene.

He was joined soon thereafter by Snr Sgt Maj Surasit Sukkrai of the Chalong Traffic Police.

Both men were crucial in the initial emergency efforts as firetrucks, rescue workers and other authorities arrived at the scene.

More than 20 Disaster Prevention and Mitigation officers responded from the Rawai, Kata-Karon and Chalong Municipalities.

"It's hard to put into words



It took over an hour to bring the blaze under control. Photo: Garry Halpin

how much help he [Sgt Maj Surasit] provided in organizing everyone and moving all cars, motorcycles and flammable materials away from the fire, and then later helping to fight the fire," Mr Halpin said.

The flames grew and spread rapidly, fueled by the wood construction of the house and strong winds, he added.

Mr Halpin explained that despite the damage, a lot more would have

been lost if it hadn't been for the efforts of the officers at the scene.

The owner of the residence, Winai Pongbupasirikul, also owns Winai Construction, a wood furniture factory behind the house, which was not damaged in the blaze.

Chalong Police said an investigation will be launched to determine the cause of the fire.

— Michael DesPortes
and Yodsak Jarana

Banharn admits Brunei rendezvous

A RECENT meeting between former Thai premiers Banharn Silpa-archa and Thaksin Shinawatra in Brunei has prompted speculation that the two banned politicians were discussing formation of the next Cabinet.

The Chart Thai Pattana Party, for which Banharn serves as adviser following a five-year ban from politics in 2008, is set to join a six-party coalition led by Mrs Yingluck's Pheu Thai Party.

The party, led by Banharn's brother Chumpol, won 19 seats in the July 3 election. Mr Banharn has said his party is seeking three ministerial posts in exchange for its participation in the coalition.

Mr Banharn admitted to meeting Mr Thaksin last weekend, but he denied the two discussed the allocation of Cabinet posts, which Chart Thai Pattana is currently engaged in negotiations for.

"It is just a personal visit between acquaintances. There was no political talk at all during our one-hour meeting. We did not talk about ministerial positions," said Banharn, claiming that he had gone to Brunei to look for white tigers to be brought to Bungchawak Zoo in his home province of Suphan Buri.

Reports of the meeting forced prime minister-elect Yingluck Shinawatra, who faces accusations that her brother is the person pulling the strings behind her government, to echo Banharn's comments, claiming the meeting had nothing to do with Cabinet formation.

Aussie teacher survives shot in the head

AN AUSTRALIAN schoolteacher was shot in the back of head in Chiang Mai while on a school trip to Thailand.

Lynda Cody, from Melbourne, had just left a market with a colleague around 10pm last Saturday when an armed gang sprayed their car with bullets.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* reported that

one of the bullets pierced the rear window, passed through two headrests and hit Ms Cody in the back of the head.

The bullet grazed the back of her skull, though tests showed that no serious damage had been done.

It remains unclear why the group was attacked. The Royal Thai Police are investigating.

Ringwood Secondary College principal Michael Phillips told the *Sydney Morning Herald*, "Whilst the injury sustained by Lynda wasn't serious, the incident was particularly stressful and both staff members will need counselling support as they realize how close they were to being shot. Some may also need some counseling. This has been arranged."

Democrats move to dissolve Pheu Thai

AROUND THE nation

THE Pheu Thai Party may have won a resounding victory in elections on July 3, but the Democrat Party has moved to challenge the win and potentially dissolve the party, setting the stage for further political unrest in deeply divided Thailand.

The Election Commission (EC) has received hundreds of electoral complaints since the July 3 polls, which saw Pheu Thai, led by fugitive ex-prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra's younger sister Yingluck, win a provisional majority of 265 seats in the House of Representatives.

The party expects to form the next government as part of a six-party coalition commanding 300 of the House's 500 seats.

The Democrat Party won just 159 seats, leading Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva to resign as the



Yingluck's noodles have been called into question. Photo: The Nation

party leader.

The EC was expected to begin endorsing candidates in constituencies where there were no complaints of electoral fraud last week. Where complaints have been made, the EC is investigating and will announce the confirmed poll results within 30 days.

Perhaps the most bizarre complaint is that prime minister-elect Yingluck illegally distributed noodles to supporters during a campaign event in Nakhon Ratchasima on May 31.

Pheu Thai admitted she cooked the noodles but denied they were distributed to the crowd, which

could constitute vote buying.

"There was no distribution of free food nor any attempts to buy votes as alleged," Pheu Thai spokesman Prompong Nopparit told *The Nation*.

More serious is a complaint by the Democrat Party's legal team, which has asked the EC to recommend to the Constitutional Court that the party be disbanded.

The Democrats claim Pheu Thai should be disbanded because of the involvement in its campaign of Mr Thaksin and former Thai Rak Thai politician Chaturon Chaisang, who were banned from politics for five years in 2007.

Democrat MP-elect for Songkhla, Wiratana Kalayasiri, said Mr Thaksin and Mr Chaturon had taken part in Pheu Thai's affairs by selecting MP candidates and creating policies under the slogan "Thaksin thinks, Pheu Thai does".

"Just this May, the EC resolved that a party can be dissolved if a banned executive continues behaving as if he is an executive of the party," said Wiratana.

The Pheu Thai Party denies the accusations.



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Driving toward reconciliation

THE *Phuket Gazette* wishes Phuket Provincial Land Transport chief Teerayout Prasertphol the best of luck in his efforts to end the illegal practice of using *salaeng* (motorcycles with sidecars) to transport passengers: he is certainly going to need it.

It is difficult to know exactly just how many motorbikes with sidecars there are on the streets of Phuket since the vast majority are unregistered and illegal, but as any Phuket motorist knows, the number is high.

One thing is certain: despite taking up more than twice as much space as a normal motorbike they don't pay one baht in extra road tax because there is no administrative mechanism to collect it under existing law.

Despite being unregistered, uninsured and almost universally unroadworthy, *salaeng* continue to be popular because they are the cheapest way to get people and cargo from point A to point B. A whole industry exists for manufacturing *salaeng* to customers' individual specifications and at least one well-known retail outlet on the island even has a separate parking area reserved for them.

As if the run-of-the-mill *salaeng* weren't dangerous enough, there are also scores of "mobile restaurants" and grafted onto motorbikes. These can be seen wobbling their way down the road with vats of boiling oil bubbling away or sending forth red-hot charcoal cinders. The potential dangers are far too numerous to even begin to list in this space.

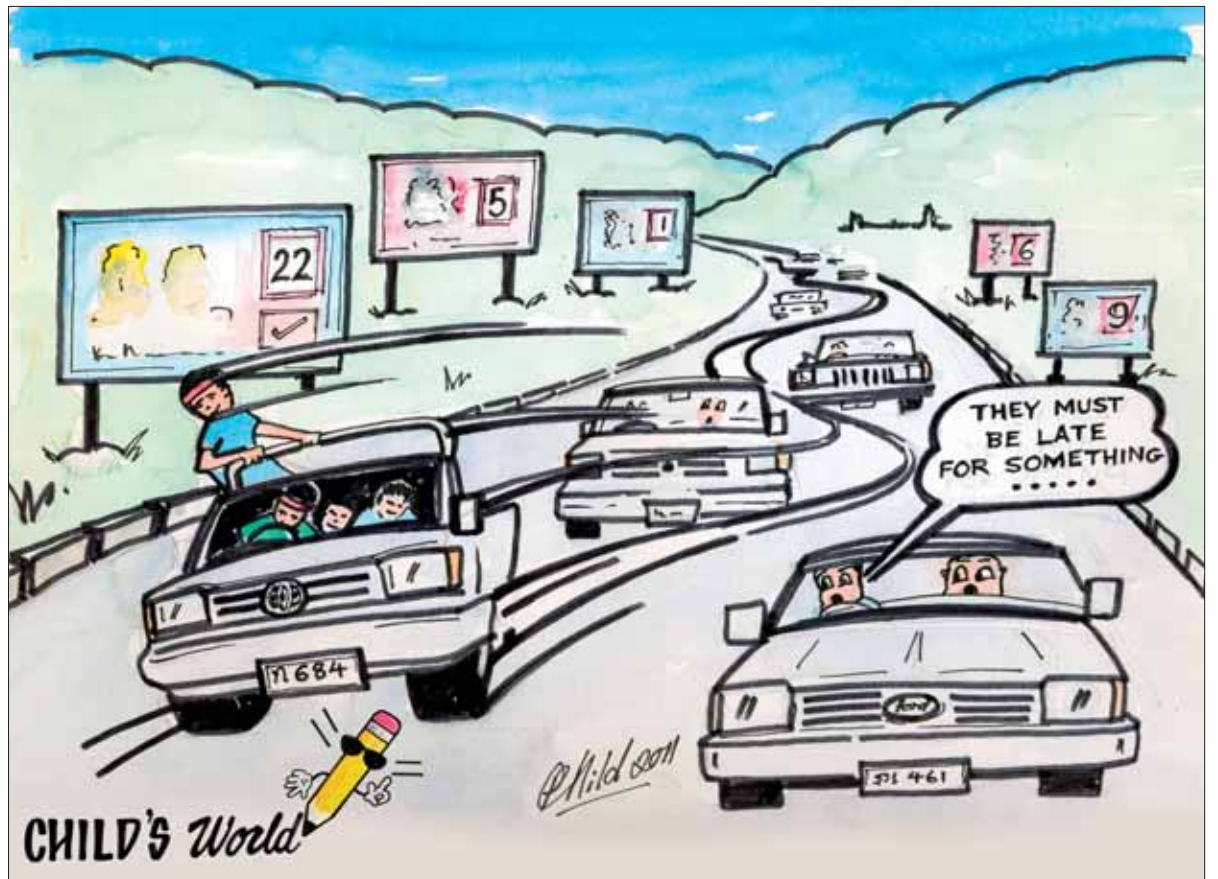
Police are quick to set up checkpoints and fine people for a variety of far less egregious traffic law violations, yet *salaeng* drivers are afforded a virtual *carte blanche* that somehow puts them in the same strata as high-ranking police officers or army generals when it comes to traffic law.

How this strange situation developed runs part and parcel with Thailand's political development, or lack thereof, in recent years. There is no question a double standard exists for the upper echelons of society. At the other end of the spectrum, the *salaeng* serves as a potent symbol for the poor, a fact not lost on the rich and politically powerful who use them without shame for campaign purposes to appeal to the masses.

Police have a clear understanding of the power of the *salaeng* as well, which is why existing laws regarding passenger transport are seldom enforced: they don't want to be perceived as oppressing the poor.

Much has been said over the past week about national reconciliation. The real path to achieve this is to create a civil society where the same rules apply to all and nobody is allowed to endanger others just because they have the misfortune of being poor.

— The Editor



Sayonara, Surin Beach

I love Surin Beach more than most people and I have been a frequent visitor for more than 12 years.

I can put up with a lot of things, but the development I've seen on the beach in the past five years has been too much.

I believe the little beach dwellings that people used for eating were demolished so the beach could be fully used by visitors without any permanent structures encroaching on the beach.

Since then I have witnessed a growing number of European-style developments on the beach side of the road. Surin used to be clean and beautiful with deck chairs and everything else that goes with a Thai beach village atmosphere.

How times have changed! Walking along the same beach now, you see modern restaurants owned by Westerners, discotheques and other developments. This is acceptable, but what really upsets me is the seawall that has been built outside Pla Restaurant.

The way that the owner of this restaurant has set up the dining area above the seawall makes it impossible to walk along this public beach at high tide. So much of the shore has been claimed that you have to go back to the roadside to get around the restaurant or risk your life between the pounding waves and seawall. You can also walk through the restaurant itself but this makes you feel like an intruder on what should really be a public thoroughfare.

Someone had to give permission to build this wall to claim the beach and profit from the use of public space. I understand that money speaks a universal language, therefore someone must have been paid

Letters to the Editor

handsomely for this to happen.

If this happened everywhere else, there would be no beaches left to enjoy at high tide.

Give Surin Beach back to the people.

Concerned long time visitor,
Surin Beach

Sidecar dreaming

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket crack-down on motorbike sidecars, July 9*

It would be much safer if they were all taken off the road. They are a total hazard for both the user and the other road users around them. Being both wider and slower than the average scooter, awkward to steer and often in a terrible state of disrepair, these menaces and their equally dim pilots congest roads and are all accidents waiting to happen.

El Bliz
Gazette forum

Hidden Agenda

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket to pull out all the stops in issuing kiddie ID cards, July 8*

About 800 million baht from this and a bunch more taxable income from small hotels, all while planning to give corporations big tax breaks.

It sounds like someone got their hands on the US Republican playbook.

Get money from the masses and kowtow to the rich. I wonder what their voting base thinks of this. 100 baht is a lot of money to a poor person.

Dave Williams
Gazette forum

Tuk-tuks and taxes

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket Gov pushes for underground hotels to register, July 8*

Taxing Phuket more means prices will be pushed up. Phuket is already dangerously close to out pricing itself in the Southeast Asia holiday market.

Like most countries, the people will not see any benefits to infrastructure with the extra money raised. "The Magnificent Seven" will never be magnificent while there is no affordable public transport on the island. The tuk-tuk situation has become the shame of Phuket.

The Economist
Gazette forum

Give kids a chance

Re: *Gazette online, Volunteers to help alien worker registration push in Phuket, July 8*

I think a child born in Thailand should be classed as a Thai national, no matter where his parents are from, and should be helped by the Thai government to the best of their ability to give him or her a secure future here.

Patrick
Gazette forum

Overconfidence in Bang Tao

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket's Cherng Talay mayor lays out policies, July 11*

He also expressed confidence in his ability to get the job done? So, after 12 years in office why is Bang Tao Beach still littered with unsightly and illegal restaurants, bars and food vendors?

agogohome
Gazette forum

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A call to protect Nepalese arrivals

FIRST PERSON

THE association was setup in 2010, but I have been working for the Nepalese community for several years now. There are currently 18 volunteers working in the association and almost 3,000 Nepalese people in Phuket.

The Ambassador of Nepal came to visit us not long ago and assigned me to be take care of three provinces: Phuket, Krabi and Phang Nga.

We support and assist Thais and Nepalese alike, using our knowledge of what it is like to live in Thailand and abiding by all local laws and customs. Our highest aim is to bring the Nepalese community together, helping us all look after each other.

When some Nepalese people first arrive in Thailand, they have no understanding of the local culture and sometimes unwittingly do something that is against the law. We are able to provide support in these types of situation.

Some Nepalese enter the country illegally. We inform them that this can land them in trouble and advise them that it would be better if they returned to their home country and seek legal entry into Thailand.

The biggest issue we face right now are people who pose as police officers and approach Nepalese immigrants to rob them



Phanuphong Limbuprasertkul, 42, is president of Phuket's Thai-Nepalese Association. Born in Kanchanaburi, he has lived in Phuket for 15 years. He is also a Tourist Police Volunteer with six years of experience and runs a tailor shop in the Sheraton Grande

Laguna resort. Here, he speaks about the help he provides to the local Nepalese community.



Police escort confessed serial rapist Phakpoom Maneerat, whose victims were Nepalese women.

of their money and in some cases even harm them.

Sometimes these impostors tell immigrants to get into their cars to go solve any issues at the immigration office and then drive around while demanding money and valuables from their victims.

They target young, good-looking Nepalese women in particular. For example, there are many Nepalese women working at Jungceylon shopping mall. After

work they have to walk home late at night. As you may have read, some women encountered a particularly cruel man a few months ago.

We have informed everyone now that if they encounter anyone who asks them to go somewhere, they must pull themselves together and ask to see identification.

I have told Nepalese immigrants to try and call me first before going anywhere with strangers.

If there is anyone out there who needs assistance, please feel free to contact us. We may not be the most established organization yet but we do our best to help and support.

For more information, feel free to contact me at my personal phone number 089-871 4172 or email: daeng_rimmu@hotmail.com

The association is located at 2/47 Soi Kunyang, Phra Baramee Road in Patong.

No grounds for complaint

Island View

By Samuel Shields

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

News of a new sports facility, namely the cricket ground in Thalang has generated much excitement among those who enjoy knocking one out of the park every now and again.

The generosity of one man in donating a patch of land big enough for two football pitches is extraordinary to say the least. To then have another soul willing to donate one million baht to the same venture is fantastic, and both gestures are truly worthy of comment.

However, one would think that any comments made would be of a supportive or congratulatory nature. It seems very odd that individuals would use public forums to criticize, whine and voice bitterness towards such a positive activity.

One such negative character suggested that the money would be better used in helping abandoned or stricken animals, namely dogs, on the island. As much as people recognize that stray dogs are an issue on Phuket, there is the slightly more important aspect of our children's welfare to consider.

Providing an area with children's future in mind, where sports can be played with qualified supervision, offering hygienic and well maintained facilities, while developing social skills and a sense of loyalty combined with discipline is a tad higher on the list than sterilizing a few dogs.

Recently, one of these canine care foundations began an appeal

to raise 10 million baht to buy a piece of land to continue their work. This land presumably becomes their property on purchase. Remember, the new cricket ground will be on donated land and is now the responsibility of all those involved with Phuket cricket. The only requirement is that the facility be named and cared for in honor of the man who provided the plot.

On that note, another lemon-addicted commenter felt informed enough to suggest that naming the ground after the donor was "terrible self-aggrandizement". It is human nature and desire to see our names and deeds carry through generations. We name children after parents and grandparents and we name trophies and stadiums in honor of those who have influenced sport. For this same reason the ground takes the name of someone worthy of this noble gesture.

In essence, this cricket ground is built on selflessness and a hope that future generations will benefit from what a few have gained from sport. Teach our children codes of care and discipline through sport and maybe we won't have to chase our tails when it comes to being responsible towards animals.

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

What penalties are incurred for not voting?

I read that voting in Thailand is compulsory and that any Thai citizen who doesn't vote in an election will be penalized and lose their right to vote in future elections.

My wife and her sister, who are registered as residents of Udon Thani, didn't go back home to vote in the July 3 elections and did not inform anyone.

Do my wife and her sister lose their right to vote in the next election? Do they face fines or other penalties for not voting? In the future, what should they do if they can't or don't vote?

Jim Patong

Kitipong Thiengkunakrit, Director of the Phuket Election Commission, replies:

In Thailand, voting is compulsory according to Article 72 of the Constitution (August 24, 2007).

It states that every it is the duty of every Thai citizen to exercise their right to vote. Those who fail

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

to do so without giving a valid reason shall lose his or her "right" as provided by the law.

The words "shall lose his or her right" misleads some to believe that if they do not vote in an election, they may lose the right to vote in future elections.

However, this is not true.

If you do not or cannot vote you must inform the Election Commission of Thailand (ECT) within seven days before or after the election.

To inform the ECT you must:

1. Fill out a *Sor Sor 28* form complete with ID card number and



Officials hold up a ballot paper at the July 3 election in Phuket. Not voting without cause will cost some rights – but you will keep the right to vote.

evidence of house registration

2. Attach any/all evidence relating to the reason for not voting

3. Submit the form and evidence to the District Registrar listed on the house registration. You can submit it in person, assign someone else to submit it on your behalf or send it by registered mail to the relevant District Office.

As listed on the ECT website, the following are recognized by the ECT as valid reasons for not being able to vote:

1. Urgent business one must attend far from one's district
2. Ailment, disability or old age
3. Disability or old age causing inconvenience in traveling to vote
4. Travelling outside the Kingdom

5. Current residence is more than 100 kilometers from one's designated polling station

If you do not inform the ECT of your reason for not voting you will lose the following three rights:

1. The right to file petition for protest or removal of MPs and Senators

2. The right to run for candidacy for MP, Senator and local council or administrative positions, or receive appointment as a Senator.

3. The right to contest local elections to become a Village Headman (*Phu Yai Baan*) or Village Chief (*Kamnan*)

You will lose these rights, but your right to vote remains intact.

In fact, you are encouraged to vote in the next election as this is the only way you can restore the three rights.

Voting in any following official election, local or national immediately restores all rights. Other than the three rights lost, there are no other penalties imposed.

Muay Thai oversupply

How the business of boxing on Phuket is reaching the point of oversupply as the number of training camps continue to rise...

By Anand Singh

MUAYTHAI training has grown exponentially in Phuket recently, and the island is now emerging as an internationally-recognized martial arts destination, with enthusiasts visiting from across the globe.

Phuket's combat training industry was sparked by the emergence of the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC), a sport that has experienced rapid growth worldwide, said Ray Elbe, professional fighter and trainer at Tiger Muay Thai (TMT) camp in Chalong. He is one of only two Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Black Belts in Thailand.

"UFC is a mixed martial arts (MMA) sport, which means fighters can incorporate various styles of fighting into the match. Over the years many professional fighters have discovered that Muay Thai, which allows fighters to hand-strike, kick, knee and elbow the opponent, is largely considered the most effective form of fighting in MMA," Mr Elbe explained.

"Elements of Muay Thai have been

demonstrated across the globe with the growing popularity of UFC.

"Although fans of Muay Thai have been visiting Thailand for decades trying to experience the authentic training, new fans of Muay Thai have developed an interest in the art by watching it being performed in MMA tournaments," he said.

Last month TMT had clients from 28 different countries come train at the camp.

Philippe Lauren, Director of Education, Sales and Marketing at TMT, touts Phuket as a fantastic MMA training destination because of its beautiful beaches, surrounding hills and clean

air. It is also well connected by flights to major cities in Europe and Australia.

"A lot of our fitness training programs take place outdoors and Phuket's natural surroundings make it a great place for that. You can train hard, but also have a good time with the array of entertainment venues the island has to offer," Mr Lauren said.

"People who enroll at TMT usually train

'With the opening of a lot of new camps, the market is nearing the point of saturation. Many new camps are also turning into tourist traps, trying to cash in on the Muay Thai craze.'

— Ray Elbe, TMT



TOUGH BUSINESS: Ray Elbe (left) trains at Tiger Muay Thai. Photo: Gazette file

for about three weeks to a month. The training expenditure at the camp is around 10,000 baht, while students also have to rent accommodation, which cost anywhere between 12,000 to 24,000 baht. Our camp is able to enroll around 200 students at a time," he added.

"Our students range from aspiring fighters who want to turn professional, to Harvard professors looking to lose weight during a fitness vacation, and everywhere in between.

"Combat training is a growing business in Phuket and will continue to grow for camps that are able to provide quality training for customers," Mr Elbe said.

"However, with the opening of a lot of new camps, the market is nearing a point of saturation. Many new camps are also turning into tourist traps, trying to cash in on the Muay Thai craze but providing low-quality training," he explained.

"With the amount of Muay Thai gyms

now available in Phuket, several schools have been suffering from low guest count," he added.

Mr Lauren noted that TMT is still receiving a healthy number of enrollments every month. He credits this to the high quality of training that is maintained at the camp, as well as social media marketing and word of mouth. TMT also has a number of return clientele that helps support its business growth.

"There is no shortage of quality Muay Thai trainers in Phuket, as it is the national sport of Thailand. I once read that there are more than 50,000 professional Muay Thai fighters in the country.

"A lot of trainers in Phuket have had experience in professional Muay Thai. Some boast of numerous championships on their resume.

"However, it is still hard to find Thai fighters who are comfortable teaching foreigners because of the language barrier," Mr Elbe explained.

Gov pushes for underground hotels to register

WITH the prospect of a civil service reshuffle looming in the wake of the recent general election, Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha is pushing to get hundreds of underground hotels on the island

registered and paying taxes.

The news came during the first meeting of an advisory committee formed by the governor on May 11.

"I will look into the issue of unregistered hotels during my

term. At present, their numbers almost equal those of registered hotels. I am going to look into how to bring those hotels into the registration system so the government receives the taxes it is due," Gov Tri told the advisers

at meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall last week.

A light rail project would definitely be started during his term, but the project's ultimate success was another matter entirely, he said.

The meeting was called to allow the 18 advisers to become acquainted. Selected to provide council on a range of issues, seven will advise Gov Tri on tourism and foreign affairs.

Another seven will assist him with local economic issues and the remaining four will focus on social matters.

"I need these advisers to help me turn Phuket into a sustainable tourist destination. Most of them spoke of tackling the issues of tourists who are taken advantage of. We need to gain their [tourists'] trust and boost the local economy. These issues are a priority and we will take action soon," Gov Tri said.



Surin Bamrungphol, one of Gov Tri's 'Magnificent Seven' economics advisers.

"Despite the recent change in government, I will try to bring an appropriate budget down [to Phuket] and use it for the benefit of Phuket's residents," he added.

The first of the committee's annual meetings will take place next month, when they will begin to look for solutions to the most pressing issues.

— Pimwara Choksakulpan

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Wage rise triggers backlash

THE Association for the Promotion of Thai Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (ATSME) has expressed deep concerns with the new government's plan to raise the minimum wage rate across the country to 300 baht per day by early next year.

The increase in the minimum wage could set the country back in its preparations for joining the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2015, said Secretary-General of ATSME Suwanchai Lohawatanakul.

"After 2015, ASEAN will become a single market, which means labor and capital will be able to move freely between member states," Mr Suwanchai said.

"In Phuket, where tourism is the main industry, the higher minimum wage is likely to attract an influx of English-speaking labor from countries like the Philippines, where workers are generally speak better English than Thais. Therefore Thai workers in the service industries may find it hard to compete for such jobs," he warned.

"It will also inevitably affect foreign investment on the island. Until now, cheap labor has been an attractive reason for foreigners thinking of investing here. Higher wages will increase production costs, which will hurt foreign companies that are



ATSME Representatives Panthip Pornchaded (left) and Suwanchai Lohawatanakul.

already doing business here and will deter new foreign investment," he added.

President of ATSME Panthip Pornchaded explained that increasing the minimum wage rate suddenly and drastically as is planned will hurt small and medium businesses, and in the long run its effects will only be

weighed out by increased inflation.

"We should build the economic understanding among workers that wages are determined by the quality of labor. Thai workers need to concentrate on improving their skills and quality of service, in order to earn better wages. Wage increases, if

not backed by an increase in labor skills, will do nothing more than increase costs of production," Ms Panthip explained.

If that proves true, the extra production costs will inevitably feed into increased prices, leading to inflation. The wage increase will be damaging to small and medium-sized businesses in the short run, yet will not actually benefit workers in the long run either, because they will have to spend their extra wages on more expensive consumption goods, she added.

Secretary-General Suwanchai continued. "In the near future if inflation is exacerbated and food prices rise uncontrollably, Phuket will lose its competitive edge as a value tourist destination," he said.

Ms Panthip agreed. "I feel the government has overlooked this fact. Instead of promising drastic wage increases to improve the quality of life, they should be focusing on government sponsored training and labor skills improvement. These are the most important factors that propel growth in any economy," she explained.

ATSME represents more than 7,000 small and medium enterprises across Thailand. Its leaders are calling for the wage rate policy to be revoked. — **Anand Singh**

7-Eleven top with tourists, Thais flock to Supercheap

By Stephen Fein and Chutarat Plerin

7-ELEVEN remains the most popular convenience store chain among foreigners in Phuket, but the rapidly-expanding network of Supercheap stores has emerged as the strong favorite among Thais, according to the *Gazette's* latest poll.

Overall, almost one-third of the 418 readers (30.6 per cent) who took part in the online poll from June 16 to June 30 listed 7-Eleven as their favorite.

However, more than one-fifth (21.1 per cent) said they preferred independent "mom and pop" stores to any of the branded chains.

Rounding out the field in terms of popularity overall were

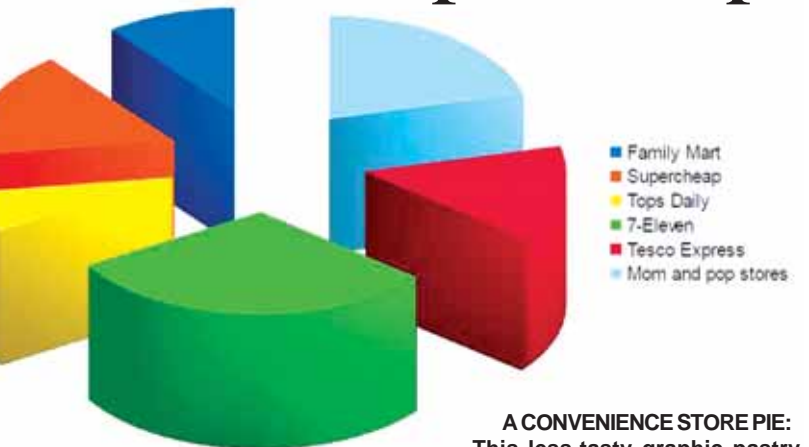
Supercheap (16.7 per cent), Tesco Express (14.8 per cent), Family Mart (10.3 per cent) and another newcomer, Tops Daily, at 6.5 per cent.

In a breakdown by demographic, 37 per cent of Thais listed Supercheap as their favorite, well ahead of second-place 7-Eleven (16 per cent). The least favorite response among Thais was mom and pop stores, garnering only 7 per cent of votes.

This sharply contrasted with the preferences of tourists, who listed 7-Eleven as the overwhelming favorite (45 per cent), followed by mom and pop stores (27 per cent) and Family Mart (14 per cent).

Brand name recognition and location appeared to have a strong influence on the results, with only 4 per cent of visitors listing Supercheap as their favorite.

As usual, local foreign residents fell in the middle, with 28 per cent choosing 7-Eleven as their favorite, ahead of mom and pop stores (22 per cent), Tesco Express (18 per cent), Supercheap (17 per



A CONVENIENCE STORE PIE: This less-tasty graphic pastry outlines how the people of Phuket voted in the poll. Gazette graphic



SEVEN HEAVEN: Tourists are partial to the 7-Eleven brand.

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3G wars start heating up

BANGKOK'S two big English-language newspapers have different takes on the topic, but it's clear at this point that the 1-2-Call mobile phone company Advanced Information Systems (AIS) and Thai telecommunications services and hardware giant Samart are both going to try to match up with TOT to deliver High Speed Packet Access (HSPA) "3G" service to Thailand, and possibly Phuket.

The Nation reports that Samart has set aside 500 million baht to roll out an HSPA network using TOT's towers and frequencies, if it can seal a deal with TOT that is.

The Nation also says that AIS is interested in offering HSPA service through TOT, so there's competition between the two.

This has raised some problems in the form of the potential for favoritism, because current Prime Minister-designate Yingluck Shinawatra is the past president of AIS, which was once owned by a rather well-known former Prime Minister: her big brother Thaksin Shinawatra.

The other newspaper reports that AIS and Samart are both in the running to acquire parts of TOT's spectrum. Both newspapers appear to agree that TOT will divvy up its spectrum into (at least) three parts, comprising 40 per cent, 40 per cent and 20 per cent of its bandwidth. One or both of the big slices of the pie will be made available to large organizations – AIS and Samart certainly among the contenders – while the small piece will go to a hodge-podge of 3G SIM card sales outfits associated with smaller organizations.

How can they do that, you ask, when the Thai government hasn't yet auctioned



TELECOM TALES: Yingluck Shinawatra was formerly the head of AIS, which is now competing with Samart to provide 3G in Thailand.

Photo: AFP

off the 3G spectrum? Good question. The convoluted answer basically boils down to

this: CAT's already subletting its frequencies to True for HSPA service. Why shouldn't TOT sublet its frequencies?

Both CAT and TOT appear to have long-standing approval to offer HSPA 3G services through other companies on the frequencies they already control. They're both hell-bent on getting the service out right now, as fast as they can switch the gear on the towers. CAT and TOT, through True and possibly AIS and/or Samart, all want

to get market share nailed down now, before the auctions.

That also raises a ticklish question. Let's say AIS gets a concession to run 3G on the TOT towers and frequencies. AIS markets the living daylights out of the service and signs up a whole bunch of customers. A month or year or decade from now, the Thai government finally gets around to auctioning off the other 3G frequencies. Will AIS bid to get its own network? If AIS wins the bid, will it pull all of its customers over to the new system, leaving TOT high and dry? The same question applies to True and CAT.

It's a complex situation, with billions of

baht and tens of thousands of jobs hanging in the balance.

Stay tuned. This is going to get interesting, and we consumers will be the winners.

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.



Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

Pull out before it's too late Brit pensioners

MANY people with final salary pension schemes in the UK do not realize they can only begin drawing benefits up until they transfer money out of their pension scheme.

This is one area people can miss a huge opportunity if they wait too long to do their homework.

A former Shell employee I spoke to recently was told he could only transfer money from his pension fund up until one year before his retirement age. Lucky for him we got on top of it in time, but he nearly missed the window.

If you have UK pension rights and do not plan to return to the UK, it is worth looking into it now to find out whether it is beneficial for you to transfer money offshore.

If you wait too long, the window may close and you could wind up paying a fortune in taxes to the British government for the rest of your life, taxes that could be easily avoided and money that could go into your own pocket instead.

The benefits of doing a transfer to a Qualifying Recognized Overseas Pension Scheme (QROPS) are numerous, but the main advantage

Retirement Years

By David Mayes

is the enormous potential savings in tax.

This can double the net value of a pension overnight, if the individual is in the top tax bracket, and any remainder left in the pension at death will avoid inheritance tax, amounting to another 40 per cent or so in savings.

The investment options offshore are also greater and usually

cheaper, especially if one leverages the buying power of their custodian to get institutional discounts on high-quality funds.

People who have invested in a Self-Invested Personal Pension (SIPP) most likely have the largest window, and can usually transfer right up until one has taken an annuity. At that point it can no longer be transferred.

Unfortunately, UK state pension benefits are not eligible for transfer, and British Army pensions are usually only transferable up until benefits begin to be paid. For

these, it is best to transfer as soon as one leaves the service.

For final salary company pensions, it depends on the company involved.

In most cases, funds must be transferred before benefits begin, although there are a few companies that allow transfers later. This is worth investigating, even if you have started to take your benefits. As mentioned above, some schemes are more restrictive and require all funds to be transferred earlier.

In any event, everyone with UK pension benefits could stand well to consider transferring before the window closes on them.

It isn't appropriate for everyone, but any person who is already paying a large chunk in tax and is not planning to retire in the UK will very likely gain a lot by transferring their pension offshore.

It is better to make the decision without time pressure added, so it is best to not wait until the window is starting to close before checking into it.

David Mayes MBA is a resident of Phuket, Thailand, and provides wealth management services to expatriates throughout the region of Southeast Asia. He can be reached via email at david.m@faramond.com



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Daily News
Phuket Promise: The beach guards 'will be back'
PHUKET: Lifeguards will soon be back on the beaches in greater numbers and with more new lifesaving equipment, Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBozOr) President Pansoon Upasissing has confirmed to the Phuket Gazette. The news follows the February 26 expiration of the contract for the Phuket Lifeguard...
Greater Phuket: Shock TAT report on stinking beach
PHUKET: Despite regulations of the local village government stipulating that garbage not be placed out for collection before 8pm, trash continues to be dumped on Krabi's Ao Nang Beach in broad daylight. Tourists say they don't like it. The stink and the unsightly mess are a source of harsh complaints not only from tourists...
Phuket lucky license plate auction raises more than 8123mm
PHUKET: The sixth annual "Lucky License Plate Auction" held in Phuket Town over the weekend raised 23,504,500 baht. Kanok Siriparichokorn, chief of the Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO), has told the Phuket Gazette. "I am very happy with the revenue raised – it's five million baht more than last year," he said...
Phuket Mining Museum now open
PHUKET: Governor Tri Augkaradacha stepped up to buy the first entrance ticket to the Phuket Mining Museum yesterday to mark the official opening of the 180-million-baht attraction. The museum showcases Phuket's in mining history and the lives of the Chinese miners of the era through indoor and outdoor exhibits in both...
Poll: Do Burmese in Phuket enjoy basic human rights?
PHUKET: A senate committee meeting in Phuket last year was told the number of migrant workers from Burma living in

Events Calendar
Phuket Gazette The island's NEWSpaper... since 1993
Add Your Event
Date Hours Title
Mar 7 - 13 08:00 - 23:30 1994 Facebook: Guess the Search Game
Mar 7 - 11 21:00 - 01:00 Mango House Festival
Mar 8 - 10 07:00 - 18:00 Transforming Felicity and Adversity at Mind Centre
Mar 12 20:30 - 12:30 Salsa Night @ Lila Angel
Mar 13 09:00 - 12:00 Phuket Yacht Club Kid's sailing
Mar 13 10:00 - 12:00 FREE Computer Clinic - Laguna
Mar 16 10:00 - 12:00 Celebrating The Burgundy Grand Cru by Drouhin
Mar 16 10:00 - 14:00 Phuket International Women's Club AGM and lunch
Mar 17 10:00 - 23:30 Curry Fridays
Mar 18 19:00 - 23:30 Second Belly Dance Party
Mar 19 20:30 - 10:30 FREE Computer Clinic - Chalong
Mar 20 10:00 - 12:00 FREE Computer Clinic - Laguna
Mar 25 18:30 - 23:30 SIX of the Best in Phuket
Mar 26 - 27 08:00 - 17:00 Phuket Youth Sailing Squadron Island Regatta
Mar 26 - 31 11:30 - 23:30 Bacon and Stone Vase Art Exhibition
Mar 26 18:30 - 06:00 St. Patrick's Ball 2011 at Movenpick Karon Beach
Mar 27 10:00 - 12:00 FREE Computer Clinic - Chalong
Mar 27 19:00 - 23:30 Curry Fridays
Apr 1 10:00 - 12:00 FREE Computer Clinic - Patong
Apr 3 10:00 - 12:00 Chalong Memorial Day - Public Holiday
Apr 5 18:30 - 20:00 Stock Market Investing for Beginners (FREE)
Apr 7 10:00 - 12:00 FREE Computer Clinic - Laguna
Apr 10 Songkran Festival - Public Holidays
Apr 13 - 15 Curry Fridays
Apr 15 19:00 - 23:30 FREE Computer Clinic - Chalong
Apr 17 10:00 - 12:00 PHASIC InsurKids Phuket Triathlon
Apr 23 10:00 - 12:00 FREE Computer Clinic - Chalong
Apr 24 10:00 - 12:00 Curry Fridays
Apr 29 Labor Day - Public Holiday
May 1 Substitution Day for National Labor Day
May 2

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In brief...



Artist and writer Frank Miller

Holy Terror

FRANK Miller, the comic book artist and writer of *Sin City* acclaim, will release a new graphic novel about a superhero who battles al Qaeda.

Holy Terror has been a work in progress since 9/11. It has evolved from originally being planned as a Batman comic, to introducing a completely new character and storyline. Its protagonist, The Fixer, is a highly-trained soldier and finds his calling when his home city is attacked.

In 2007, Miller said the novel was "bound to offend just about everybody", and its publisher Legendary Comics said to the *Guardian* newspaper recently that it "seizes the political zeitgeist by the throat and doesn't let go until the last page".

Holy Terror hits the shelves September 14.



A death-defying read

Death comic still making news

A STUDENT at Franklin Military Academy in Virginia, USA, was recently suspended for keeping a self-made *Death Note* book.

The concept follows the themes of the eponymous Japanese manga series, which features a notebook that causes the death of anyone whose name is written inside. The student had written the names of some of his classmates in his own book.

This is not the first time the series has caused controversy. It was banned in some cities in China after students began making their own replicas of the books. Schools in the USA have experienced similar cases and a 2007 murder in Belgium appears to have been inspired by the comic.

It's the end of the World

UNITED KINGDOM: Britain's *News of the World* tabloid printed its last ever edition last Sunday, following a scandal over phone hacking.

Owner Rupert Murdoch's son James Murdoch said last Thursday: "Having consulted senior colleagues, I have decided that we must take further decisive action with respect to the paper. This Sunday [July 10] will be the last issue of the *News of the World*," he said in a statement.

Photo: AFP /Adrian Dennis



When Piracy was King

Books

By James Eckardt

PIRACY had its heyday in the Mediterranean, as it did in the Caribbean, during the 17th century. The sea was divided in two, between the Christians in the north and the Muslims in the south. During this era, they energetically attacked each others' ships and enslaved passengers and crews, spurring a great number of religious conversions for convenience.

As in the Caribbean, the lives of the Mediterranean pirates were often nasty, brutish and short, though some retired to a life of wealth and ease. Adrian Tinniswood's *Pirates of Barbary* (Vintage Books, London, 2011, 352pp) tells a lively history of some very colorful characters.

Take Captain John Ward. "Half-man, half-legend, John Ward was the arch-pirate, the corsair-king of popular folk culture...Clergymen in their pulpits thundered that Ward and his renegades would end their days in drunkenness, lechery and sodomy within the sybaritic confines of their Tunisian palace, while congregations wondered idly if drunkenness, lechery and sodomy were really such a bad way to go."

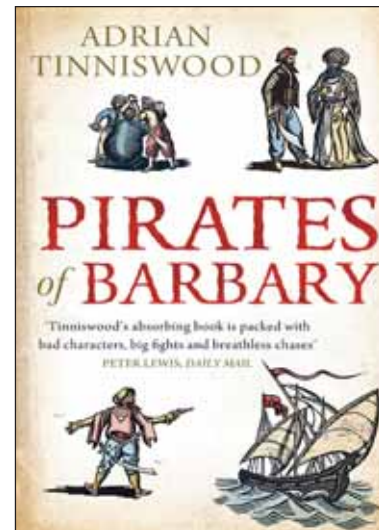
Tinniswood has a knack for

plucking juicy quotes from dusty archives. Here is a contemporary description of the pirate king: "John Ward, commonly called Captain Ward, is about 55 years of age. Very short, with little hair and that quite white; bald in front; swarthy face and beard. Speaks little, and almost always swearing. Drunk from morn till night. Most prodigal and plucky. Sleeps a great deal."

During the book's course, Ward becomes a Muslim. In London, this prompts a spate of pamphlets, poems and plays about the apostate. Among his fans was a crewman who described Ward taking over a ship.

"The battle was long and it was cruel, it was forceful. But in the end our Captain had the sunshine, he boarded her, subdued her, chained her men like slaves, and seized on her goods, as his lawful prize, whom the whistling calm made music unto, ushering her and our general into Tunis."

Eventually Tunis dies in his bed. Others were not so fortu-



A tale of lechery and sodomy

nate. The typical punishment in London for piracy was to be hung at Wapping until three high tides had passed over the corpses. Then they were tarred and caged in gibbets along the Thames as a warning to others.

Barbary raids upon Europe reached coastal villages in Iceland, Ireland and southern England. Eventually the British crown was roused to retaliate. The forces of law and order were as colorful as the pirates. In 1629, the Royal Navy launched

an expedition against Algiers, led by Sir Robert Mansell.

"In an age in which public office and corruption went hand in hand, Sir Robert Mansell stood head and shoulders above his colleagues in his relentless, shameless pursuit of public funds which were not his to spend...In 1604 he obtained the post of treasurer to the navy, and clung to it for all it was worth for the next fourteen years. And it was worth a lot."

Among other scams, he fitted out his own ship at the Crown's expense and used it to transport naval provisions which he sold at an inflated rate. His mission in the Mediterranean was not a success.

But eventually, as in the Caribbean, the tide of history turned against the pirates of the Mediterranean. European naval firepower eventually subdued the ports of Tripoli, Tunis and Algiers, but only for a time.

The Muslim rulers still demanded tribute but this era came to an end with the arrival of the brash American fleet of Commodore Stephen Decatur in 1815. The endgame came with the eventual conquest and colonization of North Africa by the French.

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On the Menu

By Sam Wilko

EVER since its inception, Surin Plaza been a place to indulge in fanciful pleasures – albeit of the decidedly wallet-shrinking kind.

Comprising an art gallery, several stand-alone boutiques where brand names are eschewed in favor of unique creations, a scoopful of curios shops, as well as a pretty good rooftop restaurant, no one can deny that it is a class act. For this reason, its appeal is firmly aimed at the affluent Cherng Talay/Surin expat and visitor market.

And now, the Plaza has got a cheeky neighbor peeking over its right-hand shoulder saying “yoo-hoo, here’s where it’s at!” This is the newly-opened Cudos restaurant, a gorgeously-appointed Mediterranean-cuisine eatery run by tuned in and highly experienced Managing Director Warren Lucas with, in the kitchen, fellow-Australian Belinda Tuckwell – a delightfully fitting name for an Executive Chef.

Warren’s marketing talents, combined with Belinda’s creative touch, resulted in the restaurant enjoying a 50 per cent capacity on each evening of its first week, excluding the “dry” nights imposed due to the government’s archaic no-alcohol rules on two consecutive weekends.

In my experience, this is unprecedented and speaks volumes – of the restaurant’s quickly-earned reputation that is, not of govern-

Med comes to Surin



SAVORING SURIN: Cudos Restaurant & Bar is serving sumptuous Mediterranean food in Surin. Photos: Giuseppe Terella

ment policies. Of these, this writer has no comment.

Cudos is a chic affair. The main dining room is a modernistic symmetrical corridor design of neatly-aligned tables laden with quality eating irons (“quality glasses and crockery are so important,” intimates Warren) leading to a bar and generous *al fresco* back space dominated by an ancient tamarind tree.

The sounds are groovy and non-intrusive, the cocktails swing a hefty punch and by the time we’re led to our table we are already impressed. Cudos certainly delivers in image, but does it stand up when it comes to dining?

It sure does. Belinda is a veritable maestro at mixing Med fare with local ingredients. Manchego and leek croquets (180 baht) are explo-

sions of taste with a delicious crust, duck, pine nut and feta “cigars” (190 baht) are colorful, while the piquillo peppers, tuna salad and basil oil starter (250 baht) are not only equally tasty, but stand-alone clever creations. For entrées the tuna carpaccio, parsley and quail eggs (390 baht) is the stand-out dish.

Warren ensures that the maximum possible amount of local

produce is used – right down to employing the services of a local cheese maker to great effect; and what would genuine Med cuisine be without fresh cheeses? In the happy juice department, the 35 labels are balanced between old and new world and the range displays a connoisseur’s touch. We particularly enjoy the Feudi di San Marzano Primitivo Merlot (1,450 baht) red which has strong “legs” and a marked adaptability to complement the various dishes.

At this point in the evening and with such rich, varied starters and entrées it’s easy to feel like a full meal has been served. But there’s more – in the form of roast duck, tangerine and honey glaze, pumpkin purée and anise (690 baht) and a fine grouper with excellent butter beans, sour lemon and garlic dressing (500 baht). These are undeniably fine dishes and even though some may claim that the price tag isn’t exactly stunning in economic terms, quality never comes cheap.

You get exactly what you pay for at Cudos – a well thought out and excellently prepared and presented menu; a full wine list; muscular cocktails; friendly and attractive wait staff and luxurious surroundings. Oh, and a 200-year-old tamarind tree.

*Cudos: 117 Moo 3 Srisoonthorn Road, Cherng Talay Tel: 076-386598
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Andy Combe

ANDY Combe is a golf professional who has been the coach at the Laguna Phuket Golf Club on and off for the past eight years. Earlier this year he won a tender to establish his own golf academy at the Club.

He was born in London and completed his A-levels in Math and Business at Guildford. He started playing golf at age 13. Without a professional coach, he practiced on his own and by age 17 won the Youth County Championships in Surrey.

Andy was a natural athlete in school, talented in both football and golf, but he was encouraged to pursue his interest in golf. He competed with young golfers from around the world in a tournament called the 'British Boys' and made it to the semi-finals.

"I spent the early 1990s playing in regional tournaments and having a good time. By 1993, I was ready to focus on a career in golf and enrolled in a four year Professional Golfers Association (PGA) program at the Clandon Regis Golf Club which gave me the qualifications to teach and operate my own academy."

During Andy's PGA course, he learned golf club management and repair, assisted golf professionals, and took exams in business management, sport psychology and teaching methods. He played around Europe and won 18 golf tournaments during these years.

"I was interested in pursuing a

EXPAT

gallery

By Bruce Stanley

career as a professional golfer, which can be complicated and challenging as there are hundreds of golfers who compete to qualify for tournaments. I played well but not well enough to always assure an automatic place in major tournaments."

On the invitation of a friend, he first came to Thailand in 1998, when he was just 25, to practice for the Asian Qualifying School, a competition for up to 1,000 golfers, from which only 35 are given a tournament place. He was based at the Springfield Golf and Country Club in Hua Hin where he played with Simon Yates.

He spent the next few years competing in tournaments in Asia during the winter months and returning to Europe to compete in the Challenge Tour and various other tournaments during the warmer season. He was sponsored by TaylorMade who supplied him with equipment and products.

Andy came to Phuket in 2000 to play golf and returned a few years later to teach the sport. He married an island girl and started a family.

"I had a great time competing in

tournaments but after awhile I wanted to settle down and spend more time with my family here on Phuket. I took a Youth Qualification Course at Ascot a few years ago as I wanted to focus more on teaching than on playing."

He set up Andy Combe Golf as a professional golf academy to help young golfers, visiting golfers and others wanting to learn about the game. He has a comprehensive website, andycombe.com, that outlines the full extent of his teaching and tour programs as well as a variety of golf packages.

He also uses the latest technology in his training. He bought a GASP Lab device which helps his students analyze their golf swings and compares them to industry professionals.

Andy has also built a Swing Analysis Centre at his driving range that includes video recording with FlightScope Doppler Tracking Golf 3-D Radar, a system which allows his students to track the trajectory of a golf ball and check elevation, horizontal angles and velocity. All of this state-of-the-art technology accompanies his private instruction.

He also provides Phuket's only golf club re-gripping service.

"We have some great golf courses on Phuket and I want to provide the opportunity and instruction for everyone to improve their game so they can enjoy golf with more fun and more success," he says.



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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Real life drama in Vachira's ER



ER physician Chanida Kemngern

By Chutharat Plerin

IT'S just after 9pm on a Thursday when the *Phuket Gazette* arrives at Vachira Phuket Hospital's emergency section. Within earshot a drunken patient protests loudly that he is fine and going home.

Kittituch "AJ" Maitreejit, an emergency room nurse, tries to calm the man down but finally resorts to removing the bandages on his broken leg forcibly, in order to survey the extent of his injuries. The man goes silent and submits, while AJ gets back to work.

It is the eighth motorcycle accident case during what Vachira staff call the "Golden Period", the



BATTERED AND BRUISED: A nurse eases a patient onto his side for treatment.

afternoon shift that goes from 4:30pm to half past midnight. They have been interspersed among other arrivals, and the medical professionals who move about the section barely have time to speak. It is plain to see that the emergency room, the first point of contact for cases both big and small, is the beating heart of the facility.

Vachira Phuket first opened its doors as Sukhapiban Hospital in 1906. During a royal visit, King Phra Mongkut Klao Chaoyuhua (Rama VI) granted and funded the construction of a new building to house the hospital so it could avoid recurring floods. The new facility was completed in 1919 and the

King allowed the use of his given name for both the new structure and the hospital itself.

An additional 21 buildings have been added since then, bringing the hospital everything from staff housing and a library, to surgery wards and a hyperbaric chamber. However, it is the Vachiraphayaban Building that has housed the facility's emergency section until today.

Earlier in the evening, Suntana Raviwan, a nurse with 24 years experience who has been with the Vachira Phuket emergency section since 1993, said that a Golden Period would see between 60 and 80 patients move through the section. That number can reach 100.

Up to 200 patients are treated in a day, which means that the afternoon shift often gets half of those.

"I didn't really like this job at first but after a while I discovered that I would not be anything other than a nurse," Ms Sunanta says.

"One problem is we need more staff...It's exhausting and discouraging sometimes because we can't help everyone at once," she adds.

As if to highlight her point, one of the patients, a baby girl with a



THE REAL ER: A nurse tends to another road accident victim.

high temperature, starts crying while waiting for treatment. Her mother humms a song to her while they wait for a doctor to sign documents admitting them to a hospital room.

A nurse with a pulse oximeter waits at the entrance to the triage area while an additional five nurses and two doctors are on duty inside.

AJ explains that the emergency rooms run on three shifts. The morning begins at 8:30am and ends at 4:30pm. This is followed by the Golden Period and then the night shift takes over from 12:30am.

A non-critical patient, who suffered a motorcycle accident, arrives at 2:10pm. He is bandaged by a nurse and asked to wait for a doctor. Cases begin arriving regularly but none are urgent. A baby begins to wail while receiving asthma treatment.

Over the din, Chanida Kermngern, an emergency physician who

was working with the morning shift is upbeat and positive.

"I love my job. I love saving people's lives. We have a great team here, so I'm not alone in this. Everyone, the nurses, doctors and nursing assistants achieve great co-ordination. We are happy to save people's lives before they are sent to another section of the hospital depending on their needs," she says.

Dr Chanida's tone shifts slightly when asked about the frustrations she deals with on the job.

"We are open to all kinds of patients and this

makes some non-urgent cases come to the section because they think treatment will be given faster here. What frustrates me is that sometimes there are too many patients and we cannot deal with everyone in a timely manner," she explains.

"Another thing is that we have to make some patients wait after they are triaged as the order we treat them in depends on the urgency of each case that comes through the doors, not arrival time. Some people don't understand this policy, and they or their relatives complain about waiting. That makes me frustrated," she adds.

Dr Chanida points out that the number one cause of death in the emergency room is drunk driving, but also relates that motorcycle accidents are often fatal whether the drivers are wearing a helmet or not.

"As you might be able to tell, the helmets people use are usually not very safe," she explains.

When the *Gazette* comments on Dr Chanida's wide smile, she explains that: "Working with a smile is the most important thing here."

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Patong's forgotten people

The Klong Pak Bang community is home to 100 villagers downstream of the busy Patong sewage plant



UNFAZED: Children swim in the river that runs through the community.

By Janpen Upatising

KLONG Pak Bang community is part of Patong, but exists in stark contrast to the nightlife and crowded atmosphere that the beach town is known for.

Going largely unnoticed as far back as 50 years in some cases, about 100 villagers in 16 modest homes live on the bank of the canal that runs into the bay at the south end of Patong Beach.

Klong Pak Bang, once surrounded by dense mangrove forest, is also the main discharge point of wastewater and rainfall runoff into the bay. It lies downstream of the Patong Municipality sewage treatment plant.

Local residents have witnessed gradual environmental degradation over the decades, but nothing could ever have prepared them for the destruction caused by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

The first of many challenges they faced was replacing their homes, all of which had been destroyed. Fortunately, Thai and foreign companies were quick to provide aid to the stricken community.

"After the land was leveled, the 16 houses were rebuilt in four months with the help of iTV (now TPBS Channel) and BlueScope Steel (Thailand) Ltd. They also gave us electronic appliances, kitchenware, bedding and clothes. It was as if everything had been prepared for us to move right back in, despite the fact that the tsunami had taken everything away," said Sombat Rattanadatt, age 39.

Mr Sombat and his wife, Panjai Kampong, from Nakon Sawan, have been living in Klong Pak Bang, Patong for over 20 years.

"I am originally from Chon Buri. When I was young I moved from place to place, from north to south, with my mother working with a construction company," Mr Sombat explained.

"As I grew up, I felt that I wanted to settle down with my wife. I saw this land and did not know who it

belonged to. At that time there were only four houses here, so we decided to make our own. We went up into the hills behind the community and cut down some trees to build our home," he added.

At the time, the development of Patong was a mere shadow of what it has become today, so houses in the vicinity of the canal blended in with the environment.

"If you stood on the bridge [over the canal] and looked around from there, it was likely you would not see any houses or buildings," Mr Sombat said.

With housing and the means to live once again, Mr Sombat and the other fishermen faced another hurdle when they realized that the tsunami had caused currents off Phuket to shift.

"We had to adjust ourselves and learn where to find fish again. It took us two years to get used to it," Mr Sombat said.

The community begins each day with the women of each household selling the previous night's catch on the footpath on Muen Ngern Road, returning at about 10am to cook meals, Miss Panjai explained.

In the afternoon, after preparing their long-tail boats, the men leave to fish in the waters off Kamala, Kata and Karon beaches. They return at about 9pm the same night, or about 8am the following day if they wish to stay out and fish in the early hours of the morning.

"Sometimes we would catch two to five kilograms of fish depending on the monsoon season. The most fish we have ever caught was around 40 kilograms," Mr Sombat said.

"That is how we live everyday. We are happy and satisfied with it," he added.

However, as the memories of the tsunami disaster fade, the Klong Pak Bang community still fear for their homes, which are located on government land.



Sombat Rattanadatt has been living in the village for over 20 years and built his home from surrounding trees.

The plight is not an unfamiliar one. A policy put into place by the Democrat Party aims to help people who do not have a place to live or work, allowing 30 years of collective ownership through a *chanote choomchon* (community title deed). Klong Pak Bang is one of 35 Phuket communities waiting for government approval for such a *chanote*, and will no doubt be waiting to see if the incoming government moves forward with the plan.

Mr Sombat is unsure how the situation will unfold, but he remains positive.

"I don't know what will happen or what the Pheu Thai party will do, but I think we should give them a chance," he said.



SIMPLE EXISTENCE: Many of the villagers catch and sell fish for a living.

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Patong Beach, Phuket



ROUND 'EM UP: Very few herding breeds have the opportunity to exercise their inherent urges.

Meeting the breed's needs

WITH centuries of canine domestication behind us, it seems more and more households have at least one dog. Many of the problems that owners face stem from choosing the wrong breed. Choices might be made because "the puppy looked cute" or may be down to a child's plea of "daddy, daddy I want that one..." Either way, if you want a happy household, understanding breed characteristics is hugely important.

SPORTING DOGS

This group includes retrievers, spaniels and pointers, which are naturally alert and very active with great instincts in water or in the woods.

These dogs were bred for field activities such as hunting and have energy to burn, needing regular, invigorating exercise which tests them mentally and physically.

WORKING DOGS

Dogs from this group were bred to perform a range of jobs from guarding, or pulling sleds, to rescuing people and boats.



Dog Whisperer
By Russell D Russell

Their contribution to mankind over the years has been nothing short of amazing.

Breeds such as newfoundlands, huskies, great danes and rottweilers are working dogs – quick to learn and highly intelligent, capable animals which make great companions.

However, with their considerable size and strength, they can be unsuitable house pets unless properly trained.

HERDING DOGS

These breeds share the fabulous ability to control the movement of other animals.

A remarkable example is the low-set corgi, perhaps one foot tall at the shoulders, that can drive a herd of cows many times its size to pasture by leaping and nipping at their heels.

The vast majority of herding dogs nowadays never cross paths with your average sheep as they are kept household pets.

But nevertheless, pure instinct prompts many of these dogs to gently herd their owners, especially the children of the family.

In general, these intelligent breeds, which include border collies or German shepherds, make excellent companions and respond beautifully to training exercises.

HOUND DOGS

Most hounds share the common ancestral trait of being used for hunting.

Some use acute scenting powers to follow a trail while others demonstrate phenomenal stamina as they relentlessly run down quarry.

Most are visually stimulated and – as anyone who has ever owned a beagle or a greyhound will know – once they see a rabbit or a squirrel, they're off! The hound dogs group encompasses quite a diverse lot.

There are pharaoh hounds, Norwegian elkhounds and Afghans among others.

Some hounds share the distinct ability to produce a unique sound known as baying. You'd best sample this sound before getting a hound of your own to be sure it's your cup of tea.

TOY DOGS

Love them or loathe them, toy dogs are here to stay. The diminutive size and winsome appearance of toy dogs illustrate the main function of this group: to trot around spreading joy.

Don't let their tiny stature fool you – many toys are tough as nails. Remember the mantra "It's not the size of the dog in the fight, it's the size of the fight in the dog..."

If you've been on the receiving end of a highly strung chihuahua before, you'll know what I mean.

Toy dogs will always be popular with city dwellers and people without much living space as they make ideal apartment dogs and terrific lap warmers on cold nights.

One of the more common behavioral problems seen with these

lightly blighters is an "inability to walk" brought about because their owners carry them absolutely everywhere.

People commonly don't even consider toy dogs, seeing them as "yappy little scrappers", but any toy dog that exhibits those kind of characteristics does so due to lack of training and not having its needs understood.

All dogs, toy or otherwise, can be suitable and loving house pets if properly trained.

NON-SPORTING DOGS

This is quite a diverse group with a range of different personalities and appearances.

Everything from the chow chow, to dalmatians, French bull dogs and the schipperke.

Lots of variation in coats, colors and size.

Now while you don't often stumble across a Tibetan spaniel down at the beach, Lhasa apso's are far more common.

So, remember readers, a dog is always more than just a dog.

Think carefully about breed characteristics and needs before choosing a dog – even a street dog – as you may find that your lifestyle does not match up with the needs of your new pet.

Remember, we humans are meant to be the smart ones, so let's not let the dogs suffer because we make errors in judgement.

For more information contact the Thailand Canine Academy at 089-588 4050 or email tca@tk9a.com



HOME WRECKER: Restless dogs find creative ways to entertain themselves. Photo: Megan Ann

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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

July 11-16. Laguna Phuket Summer Family Festival

From 5pm to 9.30pm. The Laguna Phuket Summer Family Festival runs at Canal Village with daily Kidz Zone afternoon adventure activities 2pm to 5pm for kids aged 5-15 at just 200 baht per kid. There is also evening entertainment at the festival beer tent, with happy hour at the bar from 5pm to 7pm, barbecue food and live big screen sports events. Keep the children entertained with Kidzole flying trapeze, a lounge with movies and games, a bouncy castle and a trampoline. There will also be a quiz night on Wednesdays and a special appearance by Coco the Clown at 6pm on Saturday July 16. Contact Robin Wilson at T:076-362300 E: robinw@lagunaphuket.com or visit W:lagunaphuket.com.

July 11-17. Slim Up Center's 3rd Anniversary

From 10.30am 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 11 to August 5. TSLC Kids Summer Camps

From 9am to 12.30pm, let your kids enjoy sports and adventure at Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club's (TSLC) kids summer camps. Children from 7-14

July 20-24. Six Senses Phuket Raceweek



Winner of the Asia Boating Award for Best Asian Regatta of the Year 2011, **Six Senses Phuket Raceweek** presents four days of adrenaline-pumping, international-standard yacht racing for a wide range of yachts — from the highly competitive top racers all the way to live-aboard cruisers and charter boats. Based at the Evason Phuket & Bon Island, from 10am to 11:30pm. The social program is five-star, offering excellent catering and first-class entertainment — Phuket Raceweek parties are renowned as some of the best on Phuket! Raceweek is Phuket's own, locally organized and managed, international-standard regatta. Contact Grenville Fordham at T:076-264491 E:raceweek@image-asia.com or visit W:phuketraceweek.com.

years old can join the fun with a wide variety of sports to choose from. Activities from football and swimming to nature walks and trekking will be combined in the camp. The camps aim to develop self esteem, confidence and leadership qualities in the children and encourage them to "be the best they can be". It is run by professional, internationally accredited specialist instructors. Half day: 600 baht (either 9am to 12:30pm or 1:30pm to 5pm). Full day: 1,000 baht, five days: 4,000 baht. Contact Giles at T:076-336000 E:tslc@thanyapura.co.th or visit W:thanyapura.com.

July 11 to August 19. Learn to Swim at TSLC

From 9am to 6pm. This comprehensive program helps develop a wide range of skills to ensure that children are competent in all strokes, water safety and survival. Qualified instructors will teach classes in all six levels of our program. We recommend group lessons for most children learning to swim. However, for those requiring individual attention, private classes can be arranged. Dates and Pricing: July 11 to August 19. From Monday to Friday. 45 minutes sessions from 9am to 12pm, or from 4pm to 6pm. 200 baht per class per person. Contact Kevin Lai at T:076-336000 E:aquatics@thanyapura.co.th or visit W:thanyapura.com.

July 13-16. Grapes and Grazing

From 6:30pm to 10pm. Four nights, four winemakers, four luxurious resorts. Winemakers from New Zealand, Australia and Italy will converge on Mai Khao Beach's sophisticated resorts. 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 2,200baht 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:076-363999 E:events@northphuket.com or visit W:northphuket-resort.testproject.com.

July 16 and 23. Saturday brunch at Two Chefs Kata Center

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 395baht, 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. For reservations, contact T:076-330065 E:katacenter@twochefs.com or visit W:twochefs.com.

July 18-23. Free Phuket Bridge Clinic for beginners

From 10am to 12pm, at Sandwich Shoppe Laguna. Join Phuket Bridge bard Derek Priest for an absolute beginner's guide to the game. If you're curious about bridge and want to learn the basics, drop by and learn from our local five star master and qualified bridge teacher. Soon you'll be ready to join the regular weekly duplicate bridge sessions. Perfect for blustery day. This free seminar is on July 18 from 1pm to 4pm at the Sandwich Shoppe Laguna. The lesson's limited to 12 people. Sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and Khun Woody's Sandwich. Contact Derek Priest at T:076-290468 register E:priest-derek@hotmail.com or visit W:KhunWoody.com.

July 18 and 25. Cowboy Night at Two Chefs Kata Beach

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 Chefs 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.

July 20. Tex Mex Wednesday at Two Chefs Karon Beach

From 6pm to 2am every Wednesday, Two Chefs hosts a big Tex-Mex buffet. For only 495 baht you can eat as much as you want. Featuring great prices on drinks and live music from the house band to make you enjoy your evening. So if you miss your Tex-Mex food, come in and have a try. Reservations at T:076-286479 E:karon@twochefs.com or visit W:twochefs.com.

Free Computer Clinics

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FUNNYMAN FAREWELL: Former PGTV Executive Producer Marc Mulloy bid a fond farewell to Phuket this week after seven years on the island. The actor-producer hosted a shindig to say goodbye to his Phuket pals at The Family restaurant in Chalong. The full cast of the Andaman Players, a local theater-comedy group of which Marc was a member, came to see him off. Photo: Bruce Stanley



PHUKET PALS: Marc's media chums from left: Marc Mulloy, Fraser Morton, Baz Daniels, Sam Wilkinson, Nick Davies, Chris Husted, Alexandra Andersson and Bruce Stanley. Photo: Helpful Person



BIRDIE SONG: A large crowd turned out for the Nok Air Concert at Central Festival last weekend.

Canada in sync w



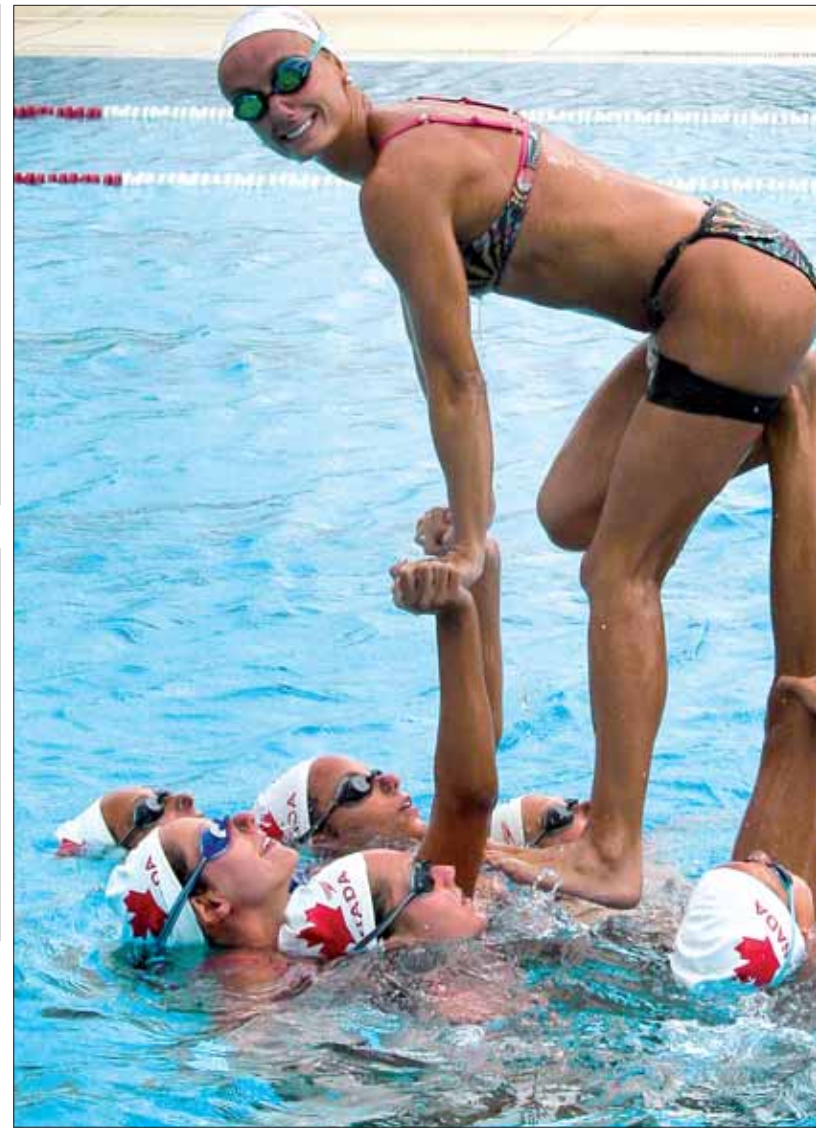
The ladies in a light-hearted mood.



SPORTS FANS: Combined ballet leg and crane routine.



May I have a side fishtail with lift please?



I WANT TO RIDE MY BICYCLE: A platform lift in the form of a bicycle.



OLYMPIC ART: The Canadian national synchronized swimming team, "Synchro Canada", performed their graceful yet powerful routines exclusively for the *Phuket Gazette*.

The ladies used Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club as a training camp ahead of their quest for gold at the 14th FINA World Championships in Shanghai next week.

For a more in-depth report, see page 42.

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with Phuket



Photos: Dean Noble



A difficult stack lift with throw.



Entry into the pool is also in sync.



HOT OPENING: Flame rotisserie's grand opening party last weekend was a red hot success, with a throng of expats and Thais turning out to welcome this latest culinary addition. Photos: Dean Noble

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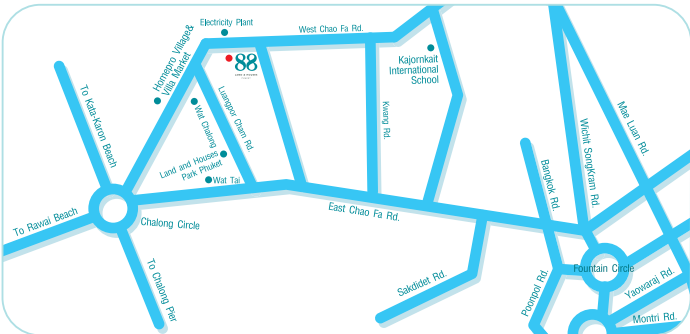


Photo of actual house with simulated environment

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The Impossibly Possible Quiz

General Knowledge

- Who won the world cup in cricket in 1983?
- Where is the Yellow River, the 6th longest river in the world, located?
- Who had a hit single with *To Sir With Love* in 1969?
- Who is the president of Libya?
- Where was the Blackberry mobile phone developed and designed?
- Who won an Academy Award for best actor for his role in *American Beauty* in 2000?
- Yamoussoukro is the capital of which African country?
- What's the fastest swimming fish in the world?
- What's the third highest mountain in the world?
- Where is Michaelangelo's *David*?
- Who wrote *Great Expectations*?
- Who played Dastan in the *Prince of Persia* (2010)?
- Which planet is 149 million kilometers from the sun?
- Who is Philip Mountbatten married to?
- When did the Vietnam War end?

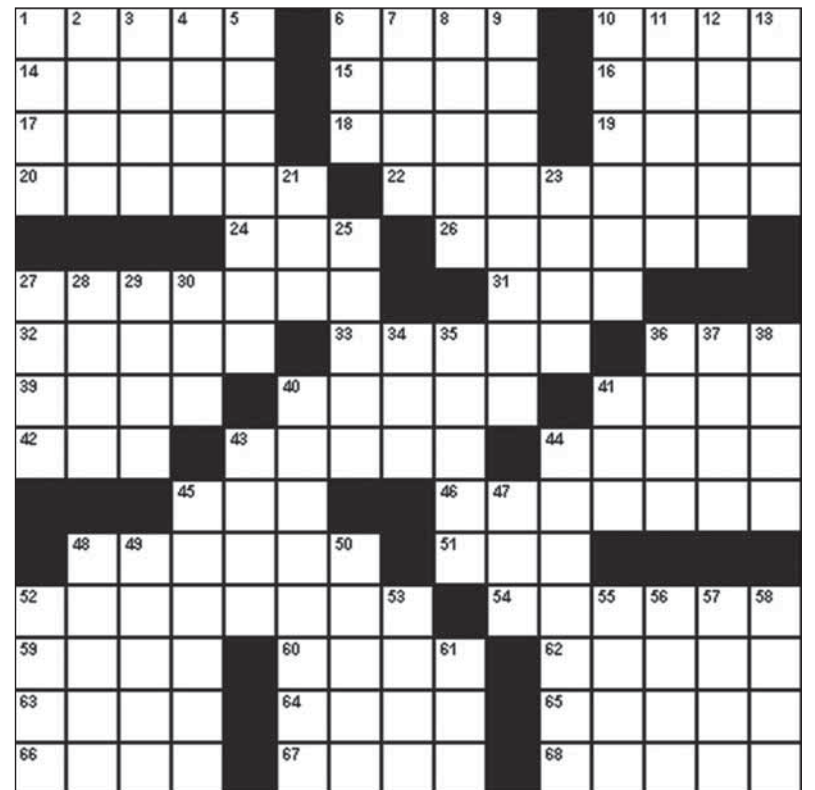
Quiz answers on page 39

Across

- Milan's La —
- Annoyance
- Raced
- Shoe ties
- "From — according to his abilities..."
- Baht spender
- Diarist Nin
- Boris Godunov, for one
- Goes bad
- Ornament gaudily
- Like a recluse
- British rule in India
- Holly shrub
- Recently created
- It's past due
- Group of eight
- Ancient tongue
- Backward tidal movement
- Yonder thing
- Monument
- Purim month
- Baseball bat wood
- Soft
- Pong maker
- German article
- Clay products
- Address
- Male cat
- Foolish talk
- Mirthless
- Low-cal
- Author Dinesen
- Scoundrel
- A long time
- Duration
- Eject
- Fruit-filled pie
- Catch a view of
- Student tables

Down

- Thick slice
- Bamboo stem
- Military school
- Sci-fi princess
- Confident
- Domestic animal
- Alleviate



- Fearsome
- Endanger
- Band of color
- Pic
- Kind of kitchen
- It may be compact
- Bleat of a sheep
- Gloom
- Pertaining to the cheek
- bene
- Folk singer Phil
- D-Day beach
- Large container
- Rocker Ocasek

- Build
- Dutch cheese
- Adriatic port
- a-brac
- Penitent
- Loss leader?
- Embankment
- A tank is an — vehicle
- First-born
- Aurora's counterpart
- Coniferous evergreen forest
- Adjust, modify
- Fertile area in a desert
- Planar
- Genie's home
- Deep affection
- Sponsorship
- Filth
- Devices for fishing
- Crucial

Provided by BestCrosswords.com
Puzzle solutions on page 39

CANCER (June 22-July 23):



Auspicious astral conditions mean that you should see more success during the second half of July. Cancerians are forecast to be hot on the trail of a money making scheme this week, which will result in there being little free time in the immediate future. If your birthday lies in the days ahead, expect better luck with property matters in the coming year. The number one can bring good fortune this weekend.

LEO (July 24-August 22):



The sky's the limit for Leos this week. The stars are ready to support attempts to overcome long-term obstacles and there are signs that the key to more freedom will be in your hands by the end of this month. Another fire sign family member starts to see a situation from your point of view and agreements are forecast to put this relationship onto a more positive footing.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23):



Your current learning curve will bring you into contact with a creative air sign this week. Virgoans who have been waiting for motivation to move on should benefit

from meeting this person. Your luck in the area of romance will improve when you move out of cloud cuckoo land – the stars advise that a fire sign has been taking advantage of your generosity. The number five can be lucky this weekend.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23):



Your hard work during recent weeks is about to bring rewards. Librans who are ready for a rest should be able to plan a getaway within the coming weeks. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, waiting for changes in a relationship with another air sign will require more patience. Those who are single can't get an earth sign out of their mind. Your lucky number this week is nine.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22):



Your energy is better balanced this week and the stars suggest that Scorpions will be embarking on projects that previously seemed too challenging to contemplate. An earth sign is forecast to provide the help you need, but some differences will need to be overcome. Lucky days for finances are Wednesday and Thursday, with emphasis on problems to do with credit being ironed out.



SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21):



Sagittarians can benefit by observing how a water sign colleague is quietly getting ahead. The stars indicate that your own ascent of the career ladder will speed up when you examine your goals more carefully and change tactics. The second half of July promises to be a fulfilling time socially – there are signs that old friends will suddenly reappear on the scene this week. The number six can bring good fortune this weekend.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20):



Capricorns should guard against indulging in self pity this week. The stars suggest that your negative mood could alienate others and block new opportunities from coming your way. A job offer from an air sign may not be quite what you were hoping for, but could lead to other doors being opened. Wear the color tangerine to en-

courage a more upbeat mood. The number four can be lucky this weekend.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19):



Those Aquarians who are intent on sticking to schedules will be faced with frustration this week. Work colleagues are forecast to let you down at the last minute, particularly on Tuesday and Wednesday. In the realm of romance the stars advise allowing your heart to lead you to where you need to be. A relationship with a water sign will eventually work out. The number seven can be lucky this weekend.

PISCES (February 20-March 20):



This week the spotlight is on personal relationships for Pisceans. The stars suggest that your loyalty to a fire sign friend could be misplaced. Events are forecast to show you that this person's agenda is quite different to how you presumed it to be. Where romance is concerned, an earth sign could indicate that they want to take things more slowly.

ARIES (March 21-April 20):



Excitement will not come looking for you this week. Arians who

are ready for a more fulfilling social life are advised to venture to new places. The stars predict that you will meet interesting people away from your usual environment. Where work is concerned, your keen eye could save money and trouble on Monday or Tuesday. Romance with an earth sign is well-starred this weekend. Your lucky number this week is three.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):



Taureans who fell out with an air sign recently are advised to wipe the slate clean and put this situation firmly in the past. Your tendency to over-react to words spoken in the heat of the moment needs to be addressed. Those who hope to make a romantic impression on another earth sign should do something out of the ordinary to get noticed.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



Geminis will have reason to believe that a water sign is a false friend this week. The stars suggest that it would be wisest to keep this person at more distance in the future. In the world of work this is not an auspicious time to juggle interests – focusing on an idea that you are sure will be productive is advisable.

PROPERTY Gazette

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

Fountain to be ready by Loy Krathong fest

By Janpen Upatising

WORK on a world-class musical fountain in Phuket Town should be completed in time to celebrate the Loy Krathong Festival in November, the head of the provincial council has announced.

Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) President Paiboon Upatising said work on the 59.8-million-baht project began at Saphan Hin in December last year.

When completed, the fountain will be used to showcase the cultural and social history of Thailand, he said.

"It will be similar to the Fountain of Fortune in Singapore or the Dancing Fountain in Dubai, but our fountain will be used to present stories of cultural importance, such as the history of the Loy Krathong Festival.

"When it is the time for His Majesty The King's birthday, the fountain will be used to project images of His Majesty," said Mr Paiboon.

Foreigners will gain a better understanding of Thai history and the high level of respect Thais hold for His Majesty



FOUNTAIN COMING: Construction work is ongoing at Saphan Hin.

through the choreographed sprouting water, lighting and music, he said.

The fountain will be located in the brackish pool in front of the Prince of Songkla University, near the main stage area and Mining Monument in Saphan Hin Public Park.

The pool has been the center

of annual Loy Krathong celebrations in the past, but the addition of the musical fountain should draw record crowds under the full moon on the night of November 10.

Once opened, the musical fountain will be on display daily with three shows a night starting at 7pm, 8pm and 9pm.

Eco-parks planned for two Phuket reservoirs

THE PHUKET Provincial Administrative Organization (*OrBorJor*) is looking to develop tourist parks and facilities at two dam sites.

A public hearing was held earlier this month to gauge public opinion on a plan to turn areas surrounding Bang Wad Reservoir and Bang Neaw Dam Reservoir into eco-tourist destinations.

"The areas have good potential. They are accessible by main roads and surrounded by abundant forest," *OrBorJor* chairman Paiboon Upatising said.

The *OrBorJor* has already assigned a private company to prepare a master plan for area development and organize public hearings under a 7.9-million baht budget.

"A suitable budget for the project is expected to be allocated by the 2014 fiscal year," Mr Paiboon said.

Pisut Technology executive Songkrit Sanphakit said for the Bang Wad Dam in Kathu, development was likely to comprise parking areas, public parks, meeting facilities, accommodation services for visitors, playgrounds as well as restaurants, orchid farms or floral orchards, and adventure zones.

"Kayaking and rope bridges are included in the plan," Mr Songkrit said.

For the Bang Neaw Dam Reservoir in Thepkasattri sub-district, plans will include accommodation, a camping area, parks, a playground and a medium-sized sports center.

"We are working on a plan. All details should be in place by December," Mr Songkrit added.

Construction costs are likely to range from 200 million baht to 500 million baht, he said.

— *Phuket Gazette*

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Future in focus

ALL EYES ON YINGLUCK: Pheu Thai leader Yingluck Shinawatra at the party's headquarters in Bangkok on July 3. Photo: Nicholas Asfour/AFP

READING my iPad while caffeinating with an early morning espresso fix last week, I scanned stories about Thailand's elections from leading media outlets around the world.

The canvas was painted with a decidedly doomsday picture.

Damned if we do, damned if we don't, forget breaking even, the weekend elections was a lose-lose situation, the subtext screamed from headlines. A military coup was seemingly unavoidable.

The world was poised to relegate Thailand to the trash bin, slam the lid shut and take a summer holiday. Never mind that the country is Southeast Asia's second-largest economy and one of the most desired tourism brands on the planet.

The gods had called it in and determined the fate of an entire nation was damned before the event had even taken place.

Well surprise, Thailand and Phuket are indeed still alive and well.

Yes, all those images conjured up by foreign correspondents of a country in flames with only the cinders of burning despair left glowing were indeed far off the mark by Monday.



Property Watch
By Bill Barnett

The only flames present on Sunday were at an ill-advised weekend barbeque at home, where after the third bottle of red wine I scorched a large cut of beef so badly that even CSI couldn't work out what it was. As the blackened flesh broke into a small fire, I realized my life as a tongmaster was in question and perhaps not a viable second career option.

Democracy was on show across the land on election day. As I drove by voting stations and saw Thais exercising their rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, there was a startling sense of peacefulness in the air.

From local shops and restaurants locals watched news updates on TV. They watched and waited in trance-like self-determination.

While you'd expect tensions to run high, perhaps the opposite was true. But it was not a matter of apathy either, as citizens went to the polls en masse.

Soon we will have a new prime minister, and – yes – high drama on the possible return of Thaksin Shinawatra remains just a page turn away in democracy's next chapter. Yingluck does take a great photo though, so at least it will be glamorous controversy.

For the overanxious and often excitable media, all I have to ask is, "Could the West have done it any better?" Go take a Xanax and chill out. Asian democracy has a long way to go, but political miracles such as Indonesia and the Philippines have made the transition over an amazingly short period of time. Yes, Vietnam and China are works in progress, but cast a wider eye to see what a volatile world we live in.

Role models are few and far between. George W Bush is still checking under his bed for weapons of mass destruction before he goes to sleep at night.

Berlusconi...let's not even go there. And Greece, now there's a place where you could torch a kebab just with the heat coming off the tear gas from street demonstrators. Libya, Yemen, Bahrain... Yeah, how are they coming along?

Last Friday demonstrators hit

the streets in Hong Kong over property prices and a widening gap between the rich and poor. It takes a lot to get their citizens out of the shopping malls, much yet the aircon – but skyrocketing food prices and inflation are becoming global problems that are tipping the iceberg.

For Thailand, please give the country a break. It's moving in right direction – the direction its citizens have determined in a democratic process.

Sure things could go awfully wrong in the days ahead. Along with a whole lot of other people, I hope it can continue on a peaceful and prosperous course. The signs are already emerging that the country has an appetite to get back to work, and this can only bode well for the island.

An airport expansion and convention center could well accelerate as the incoming government looks to make brownie points in the economic community and instill confidence back into the direct foreign investment regime.

Our attention spans are short in the days of Tweeting and Facebooking, but I'm only looking to get back to the barbeque next weekend and try not to mimic an Agent Orange attack on an overgrown chicken.

I am, after all, a would-be tongmaster and am happy to call Thailand my home.

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

In brief...

CBRE Phuket celebrates its seventh anniversary

LEADING real estate agency and management group CBRE Thailand is celebrating its seventh anniversary on the island.

Chairman David Simister said recently that he was optimistic about the prospects for the island's property market and said the group is seeing renewed interest in greater Phuket.

AOCAP sets date for October

THE Alternative Ownership Conference Hotels and Resorts Asia Pacific, which was held in Phuket last year, is moving to Bangkok for this year's installment.

Dates have been set for October 9 to 11 at Bangkok's Shangri-La Hotel.

This year's event has been expanded to cover shared ownership, branded residences, condo hotels, and fractional property.

Asia Pacific expert Paul Dean will be leading the advisory panel. Early bird registration has been set at 12,500 baht.

Marriott and Schrager run into problems in Hawaii

MARRIOTT'S lifestyle pairing with hotel design guru Ian Schrager on the Edition brand has run into a road bump.

The owner of the first property to operate in Waikiki, Hawaii, has launched a lawsuit premised on an allegation over a lack of brand promotion.

Schrager has been publicly vocal about what he terms a "frivolous case". Recently he has launched his own brand called Public.

The Edition pipeline includes a property in Bangkok currently under development.

Six Senses update

LUXURY resort Six Senses Yao Noi in Phang Nga Bay has reopened following a one-month closure.

A refreshing program for the 51 villas and upgrading of landscaping has been completed.

Meanwhile at the Six Senses Sanctuary Naka Yai, the property will shut its doors August 1 and reopen by the end of September.

A new management contract with a US-based global chain will be announced later this month.

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

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Laguna Village luring investors



TOP OF THE LINE: The seven luxury villas have five bedrooms and cost US\$1.8 million each.

By Anand Singh

DEVELOPMENT of the Laguna Village Deluxe Residences project near Bang Tao Beach has entered its first phase as construction of seven luxurious villas gets underway.

The first phase of the development is spread over 264 rai (422,122 square meters) of land, and will consist of seven villas.

Each villa will be built on 846sqm of land and incorporate a "hybrid-Chinois" style, which is a blend of traditional Chinese and modern architecture, five bedrooms, a large swimming pool and an optional outdoor Jacuzzi.

"The Deluxe Residences offer potential buyers a completely unique and luxurious

home design. It is not only a great place to stay, but also a good investment opportunity," Dan Simmons, Senior Assistant Vice President of Laguna Property said.

Properties in the Deluxe Residences are priced at about US\$ 1.8 million per unit. Flexible payment plans are being offered to lure investors.

Customers can defer payments of up to 50 percent for one, three or even five years after purchasing the home.

"Customers who are thinking of buying for investment can also place their villas in an optional rental program managed by Outrigger Laguna Phuket Resort and Villas.

"There is also the option to enter into the rental pool, where the property will



The Villas are 'hybrid-Chinois' style, a blend of traditional Chinese and modern architecture.

become part of the hotel inventory with the owner receiving annual returns," he explained.

"Many customers who are interested in these properties tend to work in nearby locations in Asia, such as Singapore, Hong Kong and Shanghai, and are going to use these villas as holiday homes," Mr Simmons said.

"After the financial crisis in 2009, many of our customers have been requesting larger residences. This was because people were actually using their holiday homes more than they did in past years," he explained.

"We went through a thorough market study to design products that suited families and people looking for retirement. The result is that these new villas are not

just holiday-type villas, but homes with fundamental aspects of residential living," he added.

Mr Simmons believes that the luxury high-end property market is still gaining momentum and holds a lot of potential for Phuket.

He added that projects developed by Laguna Property have an edge over the competition because the company is a well-recognized brand name, with a strong financial background.

Mr Simmons also listed the residents privilege card as a major pull-factor, which will allow them access to the Laguna complex facilities including 30 restaurants, an 18-hole golf course, luxury spas and a shopping village.

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London's flower power postcards



Splashes of color in London.

THE expression "make hay while the sun shines" means grasping the right opportunity when it comes along. The literal meaning refers to the farming practice of letting the spring grass grow tall, then mowing it and leaving it to dry out under the summer sun, before baling it, or storing it in haystacks. This is then used as essential winter fodder for all the cows, sheep and horses in colder climes.

In London, the summer sun has been shining and all the trees, shrubs and flowering plants have been absorbing its benefits. They have to, since although Midsummer days yield 18 hours of light or more, the sun itself is all too often obscured by clouds.

Nonetheless, from May to July, and at a time when many plants in Thailand go into a state of suspended animation, those in Northern Europe relish the long days and relatively balmy temperatures.

Of course, hardly any of the plants are the same as the varieties we cultivate in our Phuket gardens. For a start, like cows and sheep, they have to endure winters when temperatures often drops below freezing. Last winter was the coldest on record in many parts of Britain; just one day of such weather in Phuket would



Chelsea flower show is a major tourist attraction. Photos: Herry Lawford



Gardening
By Patrick Campbell

eliminate just about everything in your garden.

Gardening in Britain presents challenges quite unlike those experienced in Phuket, where the main requirement is daily watering during the dry season. Paradoxically, Brits have always been enthusiastic gardeners, precisely because they have to fight the unfavorable climatic conditions.

For example, an English summer is the time for flower shows, the most famous of which are held at Chelsea and Hampton Court Palace. If Chelsea's spring show is the most celebrated, July's Hampton Court affair is the world's largest, with 34 acres of displays, exhibits and stands. This year it featured, among many other things, the Royal Horticultural Society's (RHS) "Edible Garden" based on fruiting trees and shrubs.

This is quite a feat, really. Unlike Thailand, where there is an abundance of delicious tree-borne fruits, many of them wild, there is little comparison in Britain. In the UK apples, plums and pears have been developed from more-or-less inedible wild varieties.

This RHS exhibit focused mainly on traditional practices and old-fashioned fruits in danger of disappearing, such as quinces, medlars and cobnuts. There was



SENSORY DELIGHT: England is in full bloom this time of year.

a cider press, working bee hives, and borders of lavender in full bloom. More surprisingly, there was a small vineyard and an olive grove, evidence that even Mediterranean shrubs and trees can be grown here.

There were in fact vivid floral colors on display everywhere in central London. While most trees in Thailand are evergreen, most trees in the UK are deciduous, dropping all their leaves in late autumn.

As Shakespeare memorably observed, the trees in a winter landscape are "bare, ruined choirs where once the sweet birds sang". Now, in early July, they are a fresh and brilliant green, the streets lined with verdant alders.

Hedges lining those streets are mainly privet and choysya. Suspended from lampposts are huge, hanging baskets of luminous, deep purple and white petunias.

Most apartments seem to have



ENGLISH ROSE: Growing flowers is challenging in the cooler climes.

Tip of the week

Sand wash care

THE areas around swimming pools and other outside surfaces such as car-ports are usually composed of sand wash or, as Thais know it, *sai-lang*.

It is made from graded and color-coded stone chips which are cleverly set in wet cement, which is then washed and brushed to remove the surplus cement.

It is particularly good for pool surrounds, since it is not only hard-wearing, but has the texture of coarse sandpaper, and is consequently slip-proof.

Its main disadvantage is that, due to impurities in the atmosphere, and the action of algae, it discolours over a period of time.

There are proprietary clear varnishes which can be painted directly onto the *sai-lang*, but they are expensive and not always effective.

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2 bedrooms, large living room. Nice unit. Price: 3 million baht. Tel: 084-851 6121. Website: www.phukethome.ws

KATA SEAVIEW CONDO

Modern, fully furnished, 72sqm, 2-bedroom condo. Contact Peter for more information. Tel: 089-652 1951. Email: notley.peter@gmail.com

**POOL HOUSE
RAWAI**

For sale. 400sqm. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, garden. Freehold. Built in 2009. Price from 4.9 million baht. Quick sale: 4.3 million baht. Email: gm@thenetworkproperty.com

**PHUKET VILLA 5
HOUSE FOR SALE**

Home and business located in Phuket Villa 5. Living room, dining room, 5 bedrooms, office, shower/WC, business room, storage room, kitchen. Plot over 500sqm. Asking price 7.7 million baht. Tel: 081-956 6462 (Thai), 086-682 4356 (English & Thai). Email: siam@gmx.net www.thai-swiss.ch/immobilien.immo bilien.0.html

**PENTHOUSE
7 MILLION BAHT**

Two entire floors in a very private setting with the best view in Patong. Great location. 9 million baht invested. Tel: 084-848 4876. www.condosales.asia

**SINGLE HOUSE
FOR SALE**

In Thanapa Park View village in Koh Keaw. 57sq wah, with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a kitchen, a carpark and a garden. Price: 2.4 million baht. Contact owner. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

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Properties For Rent



houseinphuket.com

Rent or buy a house on my island? Maybe I can help you. My name is Wellta

PATONG POOLSIDE STUDIOS

Available for short-or long-term rental. Starting from 20,000 per month. Located 5 minutes from Jungceylon. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English). Email: solitude001@aol.com

KATHU GOLF VIEW 7 BEDROOMS

Large house with golf view available for rent. Price: 65,000 baht per month. Located close to BIS, QSI, HeadStart and many places for shopping. Tel: 081-271 3228. Email: info@procarpentering.com

PATONG TOWER CONDO

Luxury sea view condo. Low price. Tel: 081-088 8099. See our website at: www.selectphuket.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

HOUSE IN PATONG

Newly furnished modern house with 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, spacious dining area and stylish open western kitchen. Living room with balcony. Full aircon. All extras: LCD television, Internet, satellite. Quiet setting. Please call for more info. Tel: 084-185 8536.

CHALONG BEACHFRONT HOUSE

Furnished. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, quiet, with Internet, cable TV, pool. Rent: 13,500 baht per month. Tel: 089-470 6104.

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.

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).

GOLF VIEW STUDIO FOR RENT

130sqm big pool. Over looking lake Loch Palm golf course quiet on top a private hill furnished, WiFi, maid. For long-term 20,000 baht per month. Contact Khun Noi. Tel: 087-269 8492.

HOUSE FOR RENT PATONG

1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, living room with full kitchenette. New building. Furnished, with aircon, Internet, UBC. Quiet location. Rent: 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-185 8536.

AMAZING SEAVIEWS



Luxury 3 bedroom, 3 bathroom villa, set in gardens with pool. With large kitchen and maid quarters. Very private. Only 1 minute to beach and 15 minutes to PIA/BIS schools. Furnished. Rent: 60,000 baht per month. Call Richard Desmond. Tel: 086-279 6283. Email: capeheights@yahoo.co.uk

KATHU GOLF VIEW PENTHOUSE

For rent. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathroom, big pool, 4km to BIS over looking lake, Loch Palm golf course, quiet, on top of private hill, secure, maid, furnished, WiFi. Long-term 65,000 baht per month. Contact Khun Noi. Tel: 087-269 8492.

TOWNHOUSE RENT/SALE

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

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.

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

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

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

NEWLY BUILT TOWNHOUSE

For rent in town. Fully furnished, with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 aircons. At a very good location, close to Central, Makro and entertainment venues. Entrance is in front of Head Start International School. Tel: 081-719 7015, 089-470 8926. Email: eanfievat@voila.fr

2 BED PATONG HOUSE

For rent. Furnished with aircon. Close to Jungceylon. Special rate from now to December: 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-900 8445. Email: lozt@vic.chariot.net.au

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.

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.

HOUSE FOR RENT IN TOWN

Townhome in Phuket Town. "Chanakam village" near Central Festival. Total area: 96sqm. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, with sofa and TV set, kitchen sink set, bedding, dressing table, wardrobe. 2 aircons. Rent: 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-677 7773. Email: nobeta18@hotmail.com Website at www.ddproperty.com/property/show/146303

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

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

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

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

THALANG ROAD SHOPHOUSE



Perfect for boutique hotel, high-end restaurant, gallery, or mixed-use development. The property comprises a 600sqm double-wide shophouse extra deep lot with two interior courtyards, and large rear garden at prime Old Town location. Tel: 081-893 5014 (English).

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

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

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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
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- Telemarketer

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

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: amydaves13@hotmail.com

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

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

THAI STAFF MEMBER NEEDED

Thai staff member needed. Ability to speak English is a must. Basic salary + commission. Tel: 081-270 1370.

HEADSTART INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

We are seeking qualified, dedicated and caring primary teachers to fill 2 positions by August 1, 2011. UK qualified and experienced with PGCE preferred. Tel: 076-612876. Fax: 076-612876. Please send your CV to school@headstart-phuket.com

TEACHER WANTED

We are looking for a qualified native English teacher for children aged 18 months to 3 years. Great work environment and compensation. Send your CV to email: phuketinternational@asia.com

SALES STAFFERS NEEDED

Sales staffers needed. English skills are required. Basic salary + commission. Tel: 081-270 1370.

MAID AND GARDENER WANTED

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

ARCHITECTURE - MECHANICS

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

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.

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

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

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

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

MAID

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

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

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

HOTEL STAFF REQUIRED

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

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@intercall-service.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

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

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,
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Convent road, Silom, Bangrak, Bangkok 10500
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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**



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



Career Opportunity



VS Asia Co., Ltd. was established in Phuket, and has over 35 years experience in professional printing & information technology and post-production for clients in Europe, Asia and worldwide.

Text & Layout Editor

Job Description:

- Knowledge of German language
- Work with text-editing program
- Art or imagination in design
- Team work and cooperating with related departments

Qualifications:

- Male/Female, Thai National Only
- Fluent German language in reading + writing
- Good knowledge of computer (Windows or Macintosh) and Internet
- High responsibility and punctuality
- Able to work as a shift with team or independently

Salary & Welfare:

- Salary, Social Security Insurance, Tax, Food, etc.
- Incentive bonus: depends on quality, skills and experiences.

Interested applicants apply at:

VS Asia Co., Ltd. (Human Resource Department)
42 Moo3, Palai2, Chaofa Rd., Chalong, Muang, Phuket 83130
Tel. (00)66-76-380600 Fax. (00)66-76-380605 Email: **info@vsdma.com**



Italiasia 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 Italiasia Group submit your resume with cover letter in English and photo to: **italasiaphuket@me.com**



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

Human Resources

- Training Manager

Housekeeping

- Assistant Executive Housekeeper
- Housekeeping Supervisor x 2

Engineering

- Assistant Chief Engineer
- Engineering Supervisor

Diversion

- Diversion Supervisor
- Diversion Attendant – Sport x 2
- Diversion Attendant – Kid Club
- Diversion Attendant – Excursion

Accounting

- Income Auditor

Spa

- Spa Supervisor
- Spa Therapist

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!

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**

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For SaleSEWING MACHINE
FOR SALE

Sewing machine 'Taking TK-801' type. 3 years old, almost never used. Price: 10,500 baht. Tel: 081-956 0571 (English), 085-478 6494 (English). Email: customerservice@bayokcreation.com

PALLET LIFTER

Little used pallet lifter @ baht 5,000. Tel: 076-246428, 087-274 6602, 081-787 9454. Fax: 076-246428. Email: info@scansnax.nu

GLASS STORE FRONTS

Two sections of glass store front available to collect from July 25. 5,000 baht each. Approx 2 x (397x286) cm. Photos available. Tel: 076-246428, 087-274 6602, 081-787 9454. Fax 076-246428. Email: info@scansnax.nu

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

SWEDISH CANDY
SALE LAST DAY

Stock clearance. Gott & Blandat, Bilar, Djungelvrål, Snoren, etc. Tel: 076-246427, 087-274 6602 (English), 085-885 6798. Fax: 076-246180. Email: info@scansnax.nu For further details, please see our website at www.scan-snax.nu

SEWING MACHINE

Sewing machine 'Taking TK-335' for sale. 3 years old, almost never used. Perfect for sewing leather and hard fabric. Price: 19,000 baht. Tel: 081-956 0571 (English), 085-478 6494 (English). Email: customerservice@bayokcreation.com

EQUIPMENT
FOR SALE 2

30 glass shelves, brackets, scrub, bed, cashier table, nail table, 2 massage chairs, auto machine, electric parafin machine. Many other items for massage and beauty parlor. Tel: 086-281 8883.

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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

PEPPER SPRAY

Large (60g) 600 baht. Lipstick size 400 baht. Tel: 089-896 5600. Email: enquiry@saenyim.com

JACUZZI FOR SALE

Mobile spa in good condition, used only for 1 year. Price: 70,000 baht. Tel: 081-667 1637 (English & Thai).

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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

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: 086-8440480 SWE, 085-4647450 SWE

For info on other Thailand AA
meetings inquire @ 02-23118300
(for Thai language press 3)
www.aathailand.org or
email: info@aathailand.org

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

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Near Prince of Songkhla University campus, AC, Wi-Fi, equipment and training included for 260,000 baht. Tel: 089-866 6616. Email: chanyarakjo@hotmail.com

BAR FOR SALE

Snazzy looking bar in Karon for sale. Includes 2 guestrooms (fully air-conditioned) and kitchen. Tel: 080-320 2061 (English). If interested, email sean54d@gmail.com

RESORT FOR SALE
IN TRANG

For sale directly from the owner. Charming small island resort with 22 rooms on Koh Sukorn in Trang province. Business runs well, is fully licensed and has colorful gardens. 5 rai (8,000sqm) of free hold land, 100 meters of it is beachfront. Tel: 081-537 1957 (English & Thai). Email: sukorn2@cscsoms.com

MASSAGE SHOP

Patong beach, excellent location with high profit records (800,000 baht). Tel: 087-473 7280.

BAR FOR SALE

Bar for sale, newly refurbished, in good location. Rent only 10,000 baht month plus electric and water. Interested parties call Sk Properties for further information. Tel: 082-282 8730 (English) Email: raymond.1.thompson@gmail.com

ROOFTOP RESTAURANT
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On the top floor of Sinthavee Hotel, Phuket Town. Convenient for a restaurant or bar. Also, a discotheque on the 2nd floor (with licence). Tel: 087-270 9093. Email: a.pueng@gmail.com

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/ BEERGARDEN

2 rai of prime leasehold land for rent or sale. Optional 16 shophouses included. Tel: 076-486118, 086-942 5244 (English), 089-999 2380 (Thai). Fax 076-443137. Email: info@siam-interact.com Please see our fanpage at http://www.facebook.com/pages/Jovel-Bar-Bang-Niang/270261800037

16 ROOMS LIFT AND
RESTAURANT

16-room guesthouse for lease in Patong, comes with lift and restaurant. Tel: 089-648 1739 (English & Thai). Email: annychou@hotmail.com

RESTAURANT
FOR SALE

Restaurant in Karon for sale, good location. Tel: 086-271 7640 (English). Email: tan_sonice36@hotmail.com

BAR POOL HOTEL/
RAWAI BEACH

5-year lease: 3 million baht (\$100,000) or 800,000 baht yearly rent. No key money. Bar, pool, hotel, 9 bedrooms, 9 bathrooms, WiFi, cable TV. 60 meters from the beach. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com

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(Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chaofa East Rd)

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- Taurus Travel Tel: 076-344521-2
(Aroonsom Plaza)
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■ **Pattaya Office**
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Tel: 038 235 061 Fax: 038 235 062
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SURFBOARD 7' 3"

San Juan Pin tail flyer. Very good condition. Price: 12,500 baht. Tel: 085-794 7610. Email: opt888@gmail.com

SPEED BOAT 32FT

Wood and fiberglass. Yamaha 2x200Hp. Year 2009. Price: 650,000 baht. Contact Virot. Tel: 080-879 3908. Email: k.virot.edendiversnim@gmail.com

GENTLEMAN'S DINGHY 4.5M

Formerly sailing boat and yacht tender. Glass-over-ply bottom with tongue and groove redwood top. Suzuki 5Hp 4-stroke. Spruce mast, boom and rudder. 3 sails. Price: 150,000 baht + 20,000 for trailer. Tel: 074-442170, 089-466 1130, 081-896 9319 (English). Email: pygmypm@whale@yahoo.com

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One of the prettiest and quickest in SE! Winner of many races and regattas! Tel: 081-088 2955. Email: jimremington@yahoo.com Website at www.sail-remington.com

43 FOOT CRUISING CATAMARAN

2 double cabins, 15sqm saloon. In composite, not finished! Price: 680,000 baht. Tel: 087-461 8089.

INFLATABLE CANOE

Sevylor Colorado. New in bag, includes paddle and two inflators. Price: 8,480 baht. Tel: 087-077 9816 (English). Email: williet98248@hotmail.com

46FT OFFSHORE CRUISER-RACER

For sale. Please contact Khun Gerrit. Tel: 081-842 3961, 087-276 7997. Email: gj.bijlsma@gmail.com Website at: www.phuketbutler.com/node/1544

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For sale 36-foot fiberglass boat. Ideal for diving and sightseeing. Email: pktthai1@gmail.com

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Well cared for, all in good condition with new main sail. Price: \$15,000. Tel: 084-112 1419. Email: G2landcr@gmail.com

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Sessa Key Largo, 140Hp. Mercury outboard. Used for fewer than 100 hours. Comes with 9Hp Yamaha backup engine. Free mooring + trailer + dinghy + GPS fishfinder. Price: 600,000 baht with accessories. Tel: 087-620 8420.

PACIFIC TRIP

This is your opportunity to sail romantically across the Pacific Ocean. We are looking for someone to sail a Catalac 900 in July from Curacao to Phuket. You will need a skipper experienced in tidal waters and crew. Contact Voytek as for more information. Tel: 084-457 3574 (English). Email: reuss_v@yahoo.co.uk

NEW 2011 KAWASAKI 300X

Kawasaki Jetski 300Hp, fastest ski ever. New in crate. Last unit left. Don't miss out! Price: 589,000 baht. Tel: 081-754 7599. Email: csutivas@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.mfjetski.com

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36 feet with 2 Yamaha 200Hp engines. Just reconditioned. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

LUXURY YACHT

25m luxury motor yacht for sale. Construction 95% complete. Price: \$420,000. Website: www.argusyachts.yolasite.com

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Safe, secure storage moorings on the island of Koh Lanta. Tel: 083-104 3109, 084-726 1828 (English). Email: steve@lantamarineservices.com For further details, please see our www.lantamarineservices.net

BERTRAM 50'

US\$129,000. Boat is in Phuket, but registered outside of Thailand. Email: lily@vetliner.com Website at www.vetliner.com

YAMAHA JET SKI FOR SALE

Wave Runner FZR, 1850cc, 2009. Rarely used. Price: 300,000 baht. Tel: 084-851 6121.

SELLING BOAT

With many spares. Yanmar, Yamaha o/b 15Hp, pumps, fans, blocks, anchors, chain, rope. Too many to list! Reasonably priced. Call Greg. Tel: 087-385 4018. Email: pantheratsea@hotmail.com

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40Hp and 5Hp engines, can seat 8 people, like new. Price: 180,000 baht, ono. Tel: 089-652 5664.

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Wave Runner FZR. 1850cc. 2009. Rarely used. Price: 350,000 baht. Tel: 084-851 6121.

SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES

Crossword puzzle:

COFFEE break

**Impossibly Possible Quiz answers:**

1. India
2. China
3. Lulu
4. Muammar al-Gaddafi
5. Canada
6. Kevin Spacey
7. Ivory Coast
8. Sailfish
9. Kangchenjunga
10. Accademia Gallery, Florence, Italy
11. Charles Dickens
12. Jake Gyllenhaal
13. Earth
14. Queen Elizabeth II
15. April 30, 1975

SWISS CATAMARAN 24FT

Perfect fishing boat in fiberglass. 2 Honda 4-stroke engines, each 50Hp with hydraulic system. Simrad Navigation Plotter electric. Ankerwinch. Built in 2004, running time only 300hrs. Including 4-wheel aluminium trailer. New price: 1.6 million baht. Now: 550,000 baht. Please contact K. Aree. Tel: 089-474 5168.

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Aircraft For Sale

1995 PIPER MALIBU JETPROP DLX

S/N: 4636005. HS-RGR. SNEW Airframe 1,410hrs. Engine 501hrs. Engine trend monitoring, Garmin MX20 moving map, 6 seats. Price: 35 million baht. Contact Dana Whorton, Minor Corporation Public Company Limited. Tel: 081-937 1443. Email: dana_wt@minor.net.com

CESSNA 172P

With full IFR for 3 million baht. Everything on the aircraft is new, including Garmin Aera 500. Interior and exterior was redone in 2010. The engine has 700hours with TBO at 2,000. Dual nav/dual com, EGT, transponder, etc. Registration: HS-SEX. Cost: 2.8 million baht. Location: Best Ocean Airpark (near Bangkok).

For information at email sonny @salientgroup.net.

CESSNA 172 (IN USA)

SUPER CLEAN and HARD TO FIND! Airframe total time since new: Approx 2,175hrs. Country of Origin: USA. Registration #: N13103. Asking Price: US\$60,000. Contact Paul Sinthunava. Tel: 001-1-201-790 3965 (USA). Email: Contact pauls@import solution. net

CESSNA 177RG

Good cross-country plane (cruising speed 135 knots). Registration: HS-ASP. Aircraft serial number: 1263. Manufactured 1977. Blue seal overhauled engine, November 2006 (80hrs). Overhauled propeller (80 hrs). Airframe: 2,780 hrs. Reason of sale: Formerly a 1/3rd partner who does not fly anymore. However, now the law has changed.... Price: 925,000 baht. Tel: 081-843 4026. For more details send email to: beric@chanon.co.th

CORVUS PHANTOM

This is a new, 2-seat, low-wing airplane that is all composite. Certified as ultralight and LSA. It has 17hrs on the airframe and 20 hrs on the Jabiru 3300, a 6-cylinder, 120hp engine with a 3-bladed prop. It has the Dynon FlightDEK-D180 EFIS/EMS glass panel and the Garmin SL40 VHF radio, Garmin GMA 340 audio panel, and Garmin GTX328 mode S transponder. Analog instruments are Ulmavsi, alt, and compass. The following options are included: extended 110ltr fuel tanks, hydraulic toe brakes on both sides, parking brake, cabin heat, canopy tarpaulin, custom made cover for entire airplane, Garmin 296 GPS, and 2 GCA-4T headsets. Price: 4 million baht. Tel: 089-825 6729.

CHALLENGER II SW ULTRALIGHT

This ultralight a 2-seats and located at Eastern Airfield (Pattaya). Only 50hrs on engine and 250hrs on airframe. Cost: 850,000 baht. Contact Alex at tel: 081-825 9713. Email: alex@bangkokbase.com

Rockwell Commander 114 HS-AWS**Built: 1976**

Registration: HS-AWS (in Thailand for the last 6 years)
Previous Registrations:
N4798W - USA
N479GE - USA
I-ECCE - Italy
G-BVNL - UK

Lycoming IO-540-T4B5D (1,300 hours, 700 hours to TBO). Prop: B3D32C419/82NHA-5. Overhauled Feb 2011 (7 years to TBO). C of A Due 11th November 2011. New 5-year Permit. 100 hour check completed 19 Feb 2011.

Specs:

Horsepower: 260
Top Speed: 166 kts
Cruise Speed: 157 kts
Stall Speed (dirty): 55 kts
Rate Of Climb: 1088 fpm
Ceiling: 17,400 ft

Gross Weight: 3140 lbs
Empty Weight: 2094 lbs
Fuel Capacity: 68.00 gal Usable
Range: 700 nm
Fuel Av Gas 100LL
1 crew plus 3 passengers

Radio and Navigation Configuration: Fully IFR equipped. 2 Garmin GNS430 VHF/COMM/NAV/GPS/TERRAIN. Garmin GI-106A VOR/LOC/GS/GPS CDI. King KN64 DME. Garmin GTX 320/327 Transponder with Mode C via Ameri-King AK350-30 Height Encoder. Garmin GMA 340 Audio Panel. Bendix King KR-87 ADF. Sandel SN 3308 EHSI. Century IIB Autopilot Dual Axis and S-Tec Altitude Hold. WX-500 Stormscope.

Price: 3.75 million baht. Located at Thai Flying Club, Bang Phra.

Contact Tony Scragg at 081-906 3250, or email tony_scragg@hotmail.com

Aircraft Sharing

DIAMOND DA-20 KATANA (1/3 SHARE)

1/3rd share for sale at price to be negotiated. Registration: HS-JON. Built 1995. Full standard equipment. Engine is Rotax 912A3 with 638hrs. Aircraft has recently undergone full 600hrs check and has hardly flown since, due to waiting for new registration papers. Propeller: Hoffman V352F. Thai C of A, valid until 2012. Aircraft is based at Thai Flying Club, Bang Phra, Chonburi. Contact Edwin Wouters. Tel: +62 81908424618. Or email: eawouters@yahoo.com

DIAMOND DA-20 KATANA

Registration: HS-AXL. Year: 1995. Equipment: IFR, Dual Nav/Com, ADF. Engine: Rotax 912F3 (700hrs SMOH). Propeller: Hoffman V352F (10hrs SMOH). TTAF: 4,660hrs. Thai C of A, valid until 2012. Price: 2.25 million baht (half share also available). Aircraft currently based at Nok Airfield in Chiang Mai. For more info and pics Contact Jon Malnick. Tel: 084-222 3945. Email: jonm66@me.com



Notice from Thai Flying Club: There is a very nice Piper Cherokee airplane at the Thai Flying Club (TFC) in Bang Phra. It has fallen into disrepair. Someone took out the seats and some other parts... and then went away.

Owner Wichai Pettongkam loves this airplane and wants to get it back in the air. If you like flying and might want to be a partner in the plane, please come to the TFC to have a look, or contact **Khun Tom** (email tom@thaiflyingclub.com, Tel: 089-092 2711). Or talk to **Khun Wichai** directly on 081-633 7082.

Khun Wichai does not want to sell the plane, but would welcome a partner who can help to get it flying again. This could be a very good opportunity for someone to get a share in a nice airplane for a very good price. All negotiable.

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Aquatic grace, athletic prowess

By Neil Quail

SYNCHRONIZED swimming combines the highest level of core strength, balance, flexibility, artistry and grace – a rare combination on the international stage.

Speaking exclusively to the *Phuket Gazette*, Canada's Olympic coach Julie Sauv and team captain Marie-Pier Boudreau-Gagnon explained the challenges of their chosen sport and future hopes of success.

The Canadian team, known as "Synchro Canada", has several goals.

Raising the profile of the sport is a constant, but as they get closer to major competitions the focus turns to podiums and medals.

On July 17, the team starts their bid for glory at the 14th FINA World Championships in Shanghai.

Following the competition in China, they begin preparations for the Pan-American Games in Mexico this coming October which, if successful, will allow them to qualify for the 2012 London Olympics.

"We want to show that Canada is on track to be number one in the world, and that we have the potential to be Olympic champions," said Marie-Pier from Quebec.

"Of course we promote synchronized swimming through activities around our country. But when sports teams bring home medals, participation in that sport increases. Having champions from your country is always good for any sport," she added. Canada are ranked in the world's top five and depending on the competition, are considered to be the third best team at international level.

"Russia, Spain and China are our biggest competition, and we have beaten Russia and Spain pre-



TAKING A FLYER: Maneuvers require gymnastic agility and flexibility.

viously. Taking on China in their own country next week will be difficult, but we are looking forward to a good fight," said Marie-Pier.

Julie Sauv, also from Quebec, has been head coach of the team for 25 years.

A true character, Julie is one of the most experienced coaches in the sport and has traveled the world for 30 years, competing, promoting and coaching.

"This is not a natural sport. It requires balance, strength and fluidity in the water. Kids love to dance and swim, but to reach a high level these elements must be developed over 10 years," Julie said.

"Every routine must incorporate artistic aspects and difficult movements, but too much difficulty proves boring.

It has to be flashy to make the audience and judges sit up and appreciate the routine," Julie added.

The *Phuket Gazette* was given the privilege of watching the team perform a routine which will be used at the FINA championships next week. The graceful movements, explosive and controlled lifts, somersaults and flips were amazing to witness at close quarters.



SYNCH CANADA COACH: Julie Sauv



CAPTAIN SOLO: Marie-Pier



CANADIAN PRIDE: Olympic athletes pose for our camera.

you win the gold medal. When you have the gold, you may sit on it and play safe. When you don't have it, you must do everything to target that prize.

"The Canadian team aims to do this by changing expectations and the style," Julie said proudly.

Deciding to use Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club in Phuket was important for the Canadian team. TSLC's 50m pool is 3m deep from end-to-end, unusual for most pools of this size.

This aspect allows for a larger training area, a fact which impressed the Olympic coach.

"TSLC is an amazing facility. Most pools don't have seating areas like this does. And athletes can walk from their accommodation to training in five minutes.

"This is one of the best I have ever seen," Julie said.



STACKS APPEAL: Photos: Dean Noble

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Sport

Cup of Kings

By Neil Quail

A QUARTER of a century ago the first Phuket King's Cup Regatta was established to celebrate His Majesty the King of Thailand's fifth cycle, and since then it has grown to become Asia's largest sailing event.

This year's regatta honors His Majesty's seventh cycle, with sailors from Thailand and around the world assembling for competitive, multi-discipline racing and on-shore social events.

The Regatta regularly has over 100 participating boats, as well as crew and spectators numbering in the thousands. This anniversary year is particularly special for the King's Cup, so these numbers are expected to be even greater.

In 2009 dinghies were reintroduced to the Regatta, having not been included since the very early years. Last year this was expanded to include a pre-regatta Phuket dinghy series which attracted youth sailors from around Thailand, and concluded with a weekend competition at the King's Cup. This year, the sailing development will continue and plans are being drawn up to bring more Optimist dinghies to Phuket for the dinghy series and the King's Cup, as well as to open up these events for more dinghy classes.

A number of changes are also planned this year for the big boat classes. The grand prix yachts that compete in the Racing Class will see a name change, with the IRC classes being named IRC 0 (formerly Racing Class), IRC 1, IRC 2 and IRC 3, and split by TCC Handicap rather than design specs.



SPINNAKERS ALOFT: The Phuket King's Cup Regatta celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. Photo: Guy Nowell

Bareboat Class and Modern Classic Class remain, as does the Premier Class, but all will have a few subtle adjustments. One Design Platu Class may also see a return to the regatta.

Race Director Simon James has introduced an IRC National Championship Trophy for this year's event. All yachts in IRC classes will qualify and after having looked into scoring options and consulted Australian events and the IRC itself, a formula has been developed to give overall scores across all IRC classes. This trophy will not replace the Regatta's

class trophies, but will be a unique addition.

The vast experiences of Jerry Rollin and Ross Chisholm will again be called upon as Race Officers, and their professionalism will undoubtedly ensure top quality race management under the eyes of the international jury.

The Phuket King's Cup Regatta Organizing Committee continue to build on the event's legacy with a view to the next 25 years and beyond.

The Regatta runs from December 3 to 10. For more information visit W: kingscup.com.



FUTSAL KIDS: Young futsal enthusiasts will see the big names.

World championship of futsal on the island

THE Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT) is on the move with a Futsal Roadshow that will travel around the country to promote the sport ahead of Thailand's hosting of the Futsal World Championships in 2012 and the Asian Beach Games in 2014.

Phuket will be one of four domestic venues for the 7th Futsal World Championships to be held from November 2 to 18 next year.

A new facility is currently being built in Saphan Hin specifically for the tournament, the design of which includes a 4,000 seat auditorium and will be named Phuket Indoor Stadium.

SAT governor Kanokphand "Big Boy" Chulakasem, with president of the futsal development division Tirachai Wootthitthamand and the Thai National Futsal Team general manager, announced their Thailand to the World project at the Golden Tulip Sovereign Hotel in Bangkok on July 7.

The project hopes to build awareness of the sport among Thais and also generate support for players on the national team, who will be traveling by bus to major cities around the country.

Phuket will be the roadshow's first port of call from July 22 to 24, followed by a stop at Suphan Buri from July 30 to 31.

From there they will visit the three other host venues at Nakhon Ratchasima from August 6 to 7, Chiang Mai from August 19 to 21, and finally completing the tour in Bangkok on August 22.

Fans will have the opportunity to get players' autographs, participate in futsal clinics and get some free gifts including futsal balls.

The Roadshow will also promote the 2014 Asian Beach Games during their Phuket visit. The Organizing Committee of the games will attend a gathering of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) on July 12 to 14.

— *Phuket Gazette*

Victron Energy Series 2011 draws to a close

EIGHT boats fittingly contested race eight of the Victron Energy Series on Sunday – the last race in Ao Chalong Yacht Club's (ACYC) Keel Boat and Multihull club championship competition.

This outing gave local racers an opportunity to tune up for the SEA Property Multihull Championship

to be held from July 15 to 17 and the Six Senses Raceweek from July 20 to 24.

Good racing conditions met the crews with winds reaching 15 knots and gusts ensuring an exhilarating sail on the waters off ACYC.

Moto Inzi skippered by Roger

Kingdon and *Dreamtime* in her maiden race almost collided near the end of the start sequence, but both reacted well to avoid calamity.

Mark Mizner on *Babe*, and *Minx* crewed by Kevin Gillow and his daughter Mia, shot off in pursuit of *Moto Inzi* who was first past the start line.

It was a vigorous sail for *Minx*, which needed more weight in the blustery conditions.

Having led the Racing Class for most of the time, *Babe* had to retire with a damaged foresail and with *Linda* earning a Did Not Finish (DNF) for not following the correct course, *Dreamtime* was awarded first place in her first race while *Minx* grabbed second spot.

Chetak skippered by Jim Kane kept Mark Horwood's *Iruvai* at a distance to secure Cruising Class. *Moto Inzi* took line honors with a big lead, but *Nina* took first based on corrected time.

— *Neil Quail*



SMOOTH SAILING: *Minx* and *Babe* cruising along in the Victron Series.

Victron Energy Series

Racing:

1. Linda
2. Minx
3. Babe

Cruising:

1. Chetak
2. Iruvai
3. Rusalka

Multihulls:

1. Ni a
2. Moto Inzi
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Away goal a hurdle for Phuket

By Neil Quail

FC PHUKET faced Sri Racha Suzuki in the first leg of the Toyota League Cup quarter-finals at Surakul Stadium on July 6, where they threw away an opportunity to take an important one-goal advantage with them for the return leg on July 13.

Sri Racha sit at 16th place in the Sponsor Thai Premier League (TPL), a division above Phuket, but this fact clearly did not daunt the boys in green in front of their home crowd, who began the game with only attack in mind.

The visitors were late getting into the game and on five minutes were late in a tackle on Nene Bi Tre Sylvestre. Phuket continued the onslaught relying on 10 men for a few minutes while the Ivorian received treatment.

Kone Adame retaliated for his teammate when he found space to shoot on 10 minutes, but his effort only found the welcoming arms of Sri Racha's keeper, Echeniguel Daniel.

Sri Racha countered immediately and good build-up play in the home side's half gave Kroekrit Thawikan a clear line of sight from 18 yards. His ensuing shot only troubled spectators behind the Phuket goal.

On 16 minutes Phuket's pressure paid off. Nirun Phanthong beautifully controlled a floated delivery from the left to cut inside a defender and cross into the danger area. New signing Tamishi Hayiyuza dismissed the at-

tention of several defenders, and from six yards headed home his first goal for the club.

A quick pass to the right wing on 28 minutes gave Sri Racha a decent chance to equalize, but Tanapon Haungprakhon blasted the ball into the side-netting.

Solid defending just before half time prevented Phuket doubling their lead when Adame was channeled away from goal, his eventual shot proved harmless to Daniel.

Five minutes after the restart Adame was put through to shoot at goal, but a desperate scything tackle from Diego Mendes earned Phuket a penalty and the Sri

Racha player a yellow card.

Nene Bi strode confidently forward to take the spot kick only to direct his strike straight at Daniel for an easy save. A golden opportunity to take the game away from the TPL side squandered.

The penalty incident charged the game for the next 25 minutes, Sri Racha having been let off the hook and Phuket needing to shut the door on their visitors.

Both teams came close to finding the target, but fortune smiled on Sri Racha first. On 74 minutes a questionable free kick was awarded 25 yards out on the left side of Phuket's penalty area.

The first strike cannoned off Phuket's defensive wall and fell to Justin Moose. His well-executed volley gave Leuchar Juntawong in Phuket's goal no chance as it



JAMMED IN: Tamishi Hayiyuza being harassed by Suzuki players. Photo: Apinun Saithong

flew low into the bottom right corner to bring the score level.

Fearful of losing any further advantage, Sri Racha and Phuket battened the hatches and the game petered out over the remaining 15 minutes. Although not a fluid game, Phuket will be encouraged by their performance against the TPL outfit, if slightly unlucky not to have an advantage for the away leg.

"The team played well today. It is un-

fortunate that we missed the penalty. We'll just have to do better when we play Sri Racha in their hometown," said Phuket coach Sompong Wattana.

Dusit Chalermsoan, coach of Sri Racha FC, exuded more confidence regarding the return leg.

"I am reasonably satisfied with a draw. Our next match will be at home so we should have no trouble advancing to the next round," he said.



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By Neil Quail

CANADIAN synchronized swim team members practice a spectacular high-flying maneuver during a training session on Monday at Than-yapura Sports and Leisure Club.

The Olympic hopefuls have been training in Phuket for the past two weeks in preparation for their inclusion in the FINA World Championships in Shanghai next week.

The *Phuket Gazette* met the ladies of "Synchro Canada" earlier this week for an exclusive interview and to witness their spectacular routine.

Eight of the 12 athletes in Phuket will be selected to go head-to-head against favorites China and Russia in Shanghai.

Also on the island to supervise the team have been the many team coaches, captains, nutritionists and human performance managers who explained the

intricacies of the sport to the *Gazette*, and talked of the dedication it takes to become an Olympic synchronized swimmer.

Later this year, these athletes will compete at the Pan-American Games in Mexico, where two gold medals in the duet and team routines will secure automatic qualification for the 2012 London Olympics.

See pages 22-23 and 42 for more

Photo: Dean Noble

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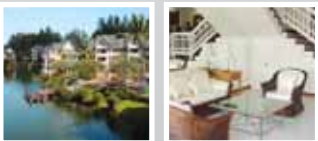
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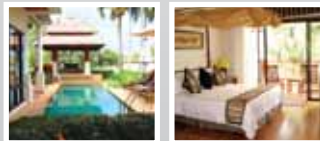
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BEST REGATTA IN ASIA - OFFICIAL



Six Senses Phuket Raceweek, now in its eighth year, has been voted 'Best Asian Regatta of the Year' in the Asia Boating Awards 2011, which recognise the cream of Asia's marine industry across 23 categories, from boat builders to marinas to regattas. The awards ceremony was held at the Gold Coast Yacht & Country Club in Hong Kong on May 6. Phuket Raceweek is only the second of Thailand's six regattas to win this prestigious award.



"Naturally, we're delighted with the 'Best Regatta' accolade, which reflects what our participants have been telling us for the past several years," said Grenville Fordham, MD of regatta rights owners and organisers Image Asia Events.

And a first in Thailand for Phuket Raceweek – the oldest brand of rum in the world and sponsor of 120 regattas worldwide – has chosen Six Senses Phuket Raceweek as the platform for the Thailand brand launch, which will take place at the regatta's opening party on 20 July, with a Caribbean buffet and entertainment (steel band, fire jugglers and limbo dancers) – and plenty of good clean fun.

"We're honoured to have been selected by this world-famous brand as the launch event for their celebrated brand in Thailand, and delighted to be the first



Record-breaking round-the-world yachtswoman, Dee Caffari MBE, Six Senses' sailing ambassador, will race on the Andaman Cabriolet catamaran, *Niña*.

regatta in Southeast Asia to be able to offer participants the coveted Mount Gay 'Red Cap' – a symbol of the pas-

sion, spirit and identity that unite the seafaring family," said Fordham.



Kittipat Chaiyakul, Marketing Director for Remy Cointreau, the brand's parent company, added: "Since its origin, our product has been intimately linked to the sailing world. We're delighted to support Six Senses Phuket Raceweek for the first time."

Down to the nitty-gritty... entries for Phuket Raceweek 2011 promise to be strong; 38 yachts have already confirmed participation and, with a participant base notorious for its last-minute commitment, this promises to set

a new record for the first race on 21 July. Confirmed entries include five first-timers, led by David Ross's brand new Ker 40 pure racing yacht, *KukuKERchu*, which will debut at Phuket Raceweek.

On the water, this year's event will count a couple of well-known 'yachting personalities', Dee Caffari and Paul Larsen. In 2006, Dee became the first woman to sail solo, non-stop, around the world against the prevailing

...continued on back cover

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Every year, a few companies and individuals on Phuket generously give their support to make Phuket Raceweek run smoothly. Mostly, it's the big sponsors, the international names, that get the glory, so here's a little background on our Island Partners.

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Here's another local company that's come on board in a big way, as 'Offsite Party Sponsor'.

Anyone who hasn't heard of this iconic Italian restaurant in Naiharn must have been sleeping for the past year or more! Their logo seems to be everywhere and their name pops up in almost every island conversation about places to eat.

Hosting the one-and-only offsite party this year – and going for the regatta multihull title – they seem determined to make sure there cannot be a soul left on the island who hasn't had the 'Da Vinci experience'.

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Phuket International Hospital is the island partner hospital for Six Senses Phuket Raceweek providing the emergency and hospital services for the event.

Phuket International Hospital provides a comprehensive range of services including health checkups, plastic surgery and dental services, specialty clinics as well as a complete range of acute care hospital facilities.

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Other local and marine industry companies supporting the regatta include, **Boat Lagoon Marina, Electrical Marine, Seraph Cruises, and Quantum Sails Phuket.**

And, finally, a huge thanks to the many volunteers who give their time freely; their services are invaluable!



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- **EVERYTHING FREE!** Perhaps not quite, but when you buy a crew/party ticket to the Six Senses Phuket Raceweek social gatherings, you pay nothing more. Free-flowing beer, wine and spirits throughout each party, in part courtesy of our Official Suppliers a well-known regatta wine sponsor and a famous brand of the sailor's favourite tippie. Four out of five fabulous buffets at **Evason Phuket & Bon Island**, courtesy of **Six Senses** and the Evason's great F & B team.
- The rest of the format is the same as for the last seven years: 4 days of racing, no lay day, 5 parties.
- **Party at DaVinci!** Back by popular demand is the 'DaVinci Pizza & Pasta Party' with live music and the same free-flowing beverages. One of the island's top restaurants, this is DaVinci's third year of support for the regatta – and this year they're pitching for a First Place with their Andaman Cabriolet catamaran *DaVinci*. When you see a company that has not yet put a marketing foot wrong make this kind of commitment, it should make everyone think twice – or more – about this regatta sponsorship thing...
- The regatta HQ – registration, results, prizegivings and all regatta administration – will be operated from the lower sea view terrace (**Into The Beach**) of the Evason Phuket & Bon Island, adjacent to the jetty. Into the Beach is also the venue for the post-race Regatta Tavern.
- **Into the Beach** offers ice-cold post-race beers at Ao Chalong-type prices and an afternoon snack menu. This is the place to gather off the water and chew the fat. Ask anyone who has been there for Raceweek — this is one of the best regatta venues going!
- There will be a **longtail boat** from the Evason jetty for boats anchored in front of Evason and another operating in Chalong Bay for boats moored in the bay. There is plenty of room at the Evason anchorage and those who use it get to enjoy the Regatta Tavern.
- All race starts will take place at 10:00 hrs off the Evason Phuket.

SIX SENSES PHUKET RACEWEEK 2011 SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY 20 JULY Registration & Opening Ceremony	10:00-16:00	Registration at Evason Phuket's 'Into the Beach'
	17:30	Skippers' Briefing at the Regatta HQ
	19:00	Opening Ceremony & Barbados Product Thailand Launch Party with Caribbean buffet, live music from Caribbean steel band, fire show & limbo dancers
THURSDAY 21 JULY Race Day 1 & DaVinci Party	10:00	Racing off the East Coast of Phuket
	19:00	OFF-SITE PARTY: Prizegiving & Pizza, Pasta & Salad Party at DaVinci restaurant , Naiharn. Live music.
FRIDAY 22 JULY Race Day 2	10:00	Racing off the East Coast of Phuket
	15:00-19:00	Free flow all drinks at Regatta Party Bar
	17:00	Franke Prizegiving
	17:30	Buffet Dinner
SATURDAY 23 JULY Race Day 3	10:00	Racing off the East Coast of Phuket
	15:00-19:00	Free flow all drinks at Regatta Party Bar
	17:00	Rodenstock Prizegiving
	17:30	Buffet Dinner
SUNDAY 24 JULY Six Senses Race Day, Overall Prizegiving & Closing Party	10:00	Racing off the East Coast of Phuket
	18:30	Six Senses Resorts & Spas Raceday Prizegiving
	19:00	Overall Raceweek Series Prizegiving
	19:30 til late	Buffet dinner & party + Live music from Big Bamboo

About Six Senses Phuket Raceweek: Six Senses Phuket Raceweek presents four days of international-standard yacht racing for a wide range of yachts – from the highly competitive top racers all the way to live aboard cruisers and charter boats. Based at the Evason Phuket & Bon Island (part of the Six Senses group), the social programme is 5-star, of-

fering excellent catering and first-class entertainment – and very special low-season rates for luxury accommodation. Raceweek is Phuket's own, locally organised and managed, international-standard regatta. Following the success of Phuket's first International Boat Show, launched by Phuket-based Image Asia Events, the company brought yet another first to Phuket.

About IMAGE asia: IMAGE asia was formed in 1999, and has become a prominent player in the Phuket publishing industry, with an innovative approach to producing information sources and advertising media. The company inaugurated Thailand's first ever international boatshow and organises – and holds the rights to – Six Senses Phuket Raceweek.

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.../continued from front cover

winds and currents and was awarded an MBE in recognition of her achievement.

More recently, she competed in the 2008/9 Vendée Globe – a gruelling race around the world, non-stop and alone – crossing the finish line in 6th place out of an original fleet of 30 competitors. In June of the same year,

Dee and an all-female crew went on to smash the monohull speed record around Britain and Ireland. Dee will race on board the Andaman Cabriolet catamaran, *Niña*.

Paul Larsen has a history of sailing some of the wildest and fastest boats ever to grace the oceans and is project leader and pilot of the Vestas Sailrocket team, which is cur-

rently preparing in Namibia for an attempt at the 'Outright World Speed Sailing Record'. Paul was a member of Pete Goss's ill-fated Team Philips and his many achievements include a winning non-stop circumnavigation in the Oryx Quest and a double-handed lap of Britain with Pete Goss on a 30-foot Seacart trimaran. Paul will be the skipper of the

Andaman Cabriolet catamaran, *Da Vinci*.

Back on shore, the participants will be treated to the regatta's hallmark 5-star buffet parties, free flow regatta bar, courtesy of two famous sponsors, and great entertainment – although this year with a difference.

In response to feedback from previous years' racers, two of the parties will start early and finish early. On these days, sailors will be welcomed ashore at the Evason regatta venue with a full free-flow bar from 3pm until 7pm, with a prizegiving at 5pm and buffet at 5.30pm.

These two 'easy' nights offer a break for exhausted sailors between the Barbados product's Launch Party, the hugely popular DaVinci off-site party (which is scheduled after the first day's racing) and the extravagant final night party and series prizegiving.

An addition to the on-shore fun and games this

July 16 - 22, 2011 year comes from Co-sponsor, Franke. The Swiss-based kitchen equipment supplier, which also sponsors the Alinghi America's Cup team, is celebrating 100 years in business with its Raceweek sponsorship and is staging a cooking competition (which will be broadcast live on Phuket Radio 91.5FM) at Evason exclusively for those unsung heroes – the yacht charter cooks of Phuket.

Perhaps of more direct interest to regatta participants, Co-sponsor QBE Insurance will liven up the skippers' briefing with a 20,000 baht contribution to someone's regatta entry fee – no claim forms required!

Last but not least, there's the 'explosion' of the skipper's bag... "We've calculated the value of the bags this year and discovered that, at 28,000 baht, it's more than double the (12,000 baht) cost of entering the regatta!" said Fordham.



Mark Mizner's *Babe* and Scott Duncanson's *Quantum Fusion M* on opposite tacks just after the start

Someone has to do it...

There are long hours on site, interacting with hot, impatient participants on registration day; there's all the detailed preparation ahead of the regatta, then two days setting up and one day clearing the site; there's the fatigue that builds up due to lack of sleep because work starts at 6am and finishes late into the night...

The team at IMAGE asia, a publishing company that organises this regatta once a year, has been doing it now for seven years... and they call it fun! "Exhausting, but it's a real buzz," they say.

To find out what makes it all tick, ask the people who do the spadework. (Most of the IMAGE asia team have not missed a Raceweek in seven years). From the magazine distribution team who double as regatta party bartenders, to those who stand by for all sorts of reasons, to those interacting face-to-face with racers with a thousand questions and needs, this



IMAGE asia's regatta team: the devil is in the detail of what goes on behind the scenes – before, during and after the regatta.

team is about as well-oiled a regatta organising outfit as you'll find anywhere.

Preuksa Sukkasem, (Fon), normally Executive Editor of Shop WINDOW on Lifestyle magazine, looks after registration (a big job, getting boats and sailors sorted the day before the racing begins!) and then she assists with catering. "It's not really like work. We're willing to work hard together to enjoy the event. It's like a small vacation, or a working holiday," she says.

Director of Sales & Marketing, Peter Smith, is kept busy ensuring that sound, lighting, video, IT and WiFi for communications and for the parties work – and that glitches are dealt with promptly. "You have to focus because things happen one after the other. Everything must flow seamlessly. It's all about the participants. If they enjoy themselves, so do we."

Ngamsiri Saebang (Mai), is an Advertising Sales Executive. On site during the regatta day, one of her jobs is to distribute items such as shirts, hats, party tickets and other goodies to the sailors. In the evening, she greets

and takes care of the VIPs who've come to the parties, then gets up on stage to help out with the prizegiving. "For me, it's an excellent regatta with great parties," says Mai. "We all work hard and enjoy the event. I can't wait for it to start this year!"

Sakon Loamchart (Dton), the Distribution Supervisor, moonlights as head barman late into the night after a full day's work delivering magazines around Phuket.

Warapan Yamalai (Yam) is IMAGE asia's Creative Department Supervisor, responsible for a lot of the pre-regatta work. His role is to design the 24-page souvenir regatta programme and all the communications material – the display advertisements, banners and billboards – that you see in magazines, around Phuket and, of course, at the Evason regatta venue.

Editorial Supervisor/Webmaster, Leslie Hand, spends time both on and off the water, minding the media and sending out the daily race reports. "Everyone looks forward to Raceweek. It's exciting and interactive, with opportunities to get involved in the sailing and the social side. Yet it's also intimate."

Overseeing all of this – like the ringmaster in a circus

– is Nittaya Khongmai (Nit), whose 'day job' as IMAGE asia's General Manager well equips her for the myriad tasks involved in preparing for, and running, the regatta administration. "Because we have the same staff every year, everyone gets the same job for the week," said Nit, adding that she has done everything before. Every staff member has learned the ropes over the years, and they all do their best to turn a once-a-year mad scramble into a finely tuned machine.

One problem the team faces is the weather. Since the regatta is held in the middle of Phuket's rainy season, they're always ready to 'bathe down the hatches' to keep office equipment, paperwork and the like from getting a soaking. Other issues are security and safety. Procedures are taken to ensure equipment and regatta stocks are secure each night and that emergency procedures are in place each race day.

And what does the IMAGE asia team do after the regatta? Clear up the site on the Monday morning and take the rest of the day off. Then it's back to their 'day jobs' on Tuesday.

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