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Mega-projects in sight

PM Yingluck to 'shower gifts' on the people of Phuket and the Andaman region

By Warisa Temram

WITH the Thai Cabinet meeting to be held in Phuket this coming Monday and Tuesday, Transport Minister Jarupong Ruangsuan has promised that the 180-million-baht elevated road over a mangrove forest at Saphan Hin will be presented to Cabinet for approval.

Mr Jarupong even guaranteed that the Klong Koh Pee road project will become a reality during Yingluck Shinawatra's term as prime minister.

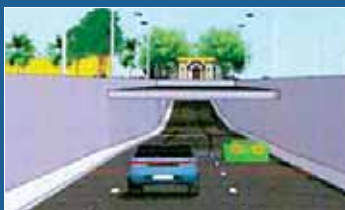
"PM Yingluck plans to 'shower gifts' on the people of Phuket and the Andaman region by approving many important projects, especially the Klong Koh Pee road project that Phuket people have been waiting for 15 years," Mr Jarupong said.

"This project will definitely happen in this government's term. The underpass project at Darasamut intersection will be another present that PM Yingluck wants to give to Phuket people in order to solve the traffic problem," he added.

The Klong Koh Pee elevated road is expected to alleviate inbound traffic from the south of

Phuket projects on the agenda

- Bt600mn for Darasmuth underpass
- Bt700mn for Tesco underpass
- Bt600mn for Bang Khu underpass
- Bt180mn for Klong Koh Pee elevated road
- Bt200mn baht for Deep Sea Port
- Light Rail project
- Patong Tunnel
- New airport terminal by 2013
- Aircraft landing capacity boost by 2015



The Bang Khu underpass is one project under consideration.

the island into Phuket Town. The project was strongly supported by Wichai Phraisa-ngop during his term as Phuket Governor. Mr Wichai is now a senator.

The project, to be carried out by the Department Of Rural Roads, would see a 600-meter four-lane road traversing mangroves via a "bridge" three meters high and 510 meters long. The road is to include a bicycle lane and pedestrian walkway.

As all mangrove forests in Thailand are protected, projects to build anything on or over a mangrove forest must first receive special permission from Cabinet on the condition that the project is of exceptional "public benefit".

Joining Mr Jarupong in Phuket last Saturday was Prapat Chongsanguan, a former Governor of Bangkok's Mass Rapid Transit

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PM Yingluck Shinawatra and her Cabinet will be presented mega-projects for approval that will have a deep impact on Phuket's future. Photo: AFP

Lifeguards vow to stay on the beaches

PHUKET's lifeguards have vowed they will continue to patrol the beaches despite funding under their current contract with Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor) ending on April 2.

On Monday, Phuket Lifeguard Club President Prathaiyut "Nut" Chuayuan told the Gazette that he had received no information from the OrBorJor as to what is to happen next.

"I believe the OrBorJor will open bidding to anyone interested in providing the service, but we have yet to decide if we want to renew the contract," he said.

"Last year was tough. We're exhausted and some of us want to take a rest. I think it would be fair if the OrBorJor opened the bidding process to others, but if they can't find anyone to carry on the service, we will do it. Our top priority has always been public safety," he added.

Uten Singsom, head of the Phuket Life-



The lifeguards will be there to watch over swimmers.

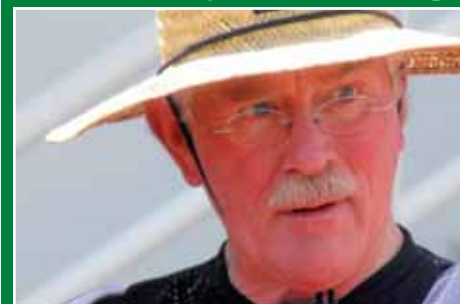
guard Club at Kata-Karon, said, "It all depends on the OrBorJor. We have to return the equipment when the contract ends. With no equipment we can't work."

Mr Uten highlighted the dangers of the coming monsoon season.

"The weather has changed. Last weekend we sent six tourists to hospital when big waves struck," he said.

"I am worried that with the coming monsoon season, if there are no lifeguards on the beaches, tourists will be at risk. Even with lifeguards on duty 10 people drowned in this area last year," Mr Uten added.

Wallaby Training



Bob Dwyer, who coached the Australian Wallabies to World Cup victory, is in Phuket to train our very own Phuket Lomas. See p46 for our exclusive interview.

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This Week

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Making a go of it

OrBorJor election becomes a two-horse race

By Warisa Temram

CHAYOT Wisartpong from Pa Khlok has been confirmed as the only candidate to contest the April 7 Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) presidential election against former president Paiboon Upatising.

Mr Chayot arrived at Phuket Community Hall with his supporters to register with the Phuket Election Commission on March 9 – the last day to register.

A teacher in Phuket, a Master of Ceremonies at events and an *OrBorJor* adviser from May 2011 to February 2012, Mr Chayot admitted this was going to be a very short campaign, but said he knew the right people and technology to make it happen.

"I believe in democracy. I was paying close attention to the election since the first day of enrollment. Up until the last day no one apart from candidate number one [Mr Paiboon] had enrolled, so I decided to register as a candidate," he told the *Gazette*.

"I have always been ready to sacrifice myself to public service and I believe I am trusted by the public," he added.

Concerning the issues he believes need addressing, Mr Chayot said, "The first problem that needs to be fixed is the traffic. The next



Candidate number 2 Chayot Wisartpong. Photo: Warisa Temram

thing is the lack of educational facilities. Education is not being supported as it should be.

"The voice of the people is also very important. I will involve everyone in my work, especially religious people. This is important, because religion encourages people to act positively," he added.

On how he will conduct his campaign given such a short time before the polls open Mr Chayot said that he believed canvassing door to door was not a viable option.

"I will use technology to help, especially the telephone," he said.

One person who has spared himself the frantic political maneuvering was long-term Phuket political player Wisut Santikul.



Wisut Santikul elected to not run at the last minute. Photo: Warisa Tamram

The former *OrBorJor* Deputy President and MP candidate, changed his mind at the last minute.

Mr Wisut arrived at the hall at 9am armed with the required enrollment documents, but elected not to submit them.

"I am sorry for everyone that I did not enroll. I wish I could have been a candidate in a fair field."

"I think it is unfair to ask other candidates to run a campaign in 20 days," said Mr Wisut.

Mr Wisut plans to wait until he sees a better opportunity to contest the *OrBorJor* presidency and believes that local government administrations could learn lessons from how this election has been "mishandled".

Convention Center on the skids

EFFORTS to build a world-class convention and exhibition center in Phuket remain mired in red tape, and a recent visit to the proposed project site by two Government advisers raises little hope that the work will begin any time soon – if ever.

The latest twist in the decades-old saga came with a visit to the proposed project site in Mai Khao March 6 by Wuttipong Chaisaeng, adviser to Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Yongyuth Wichaidit, and Dr Boon Wanasin, president of the advisory committee for deputy prime ministers.

The pair said that specialists from the National Environment Board (NEB) would meet on March 16 to review the details and that Cabinet would reject the



Wuttipong Chaisaeng, advisor to Interior Minister Yongyuth Wichaidit

project outright if it were deemed to have adverse effects on the environment.

Originally funding for the 2.6 billion-baht project, to cover over 100 rai on the island's northern tip, was approved by the Democrat-led government that fell in May.

Tourist electrocuted at resort

THE electrocution of 45-year-old Russian tourist Fedor Samsonov at a high-end Phuket resort on March 7 has prompted an investigation by police and a full-scale safety inspection of the resort's electrical system.

"This is very tragic and we feel very much for the family," said Lars Ydmark of resort management company Tri-Asia, which manages the Dewa Karon Beach Resort.

The incident was caused by an unsecured wire on the bridge over the pool, he explained.

"There were never any wires in the pool," he added.

Chalong Police Deputy Superintendent Boonlert Onklang arrived at the resort with rescue workers



The fatal electrocution sparked a full safety inspection of the resort's electrical system. Photo: Dewa

from the Phuket Ruamjai Kupai foundation after receiving the report at 8:30pm.

"A section of power cables was exposed, which we believe caused

the incident," said Chalong Police Acting Superintendent Sirisak Wasasiri.

Mr Samsonov, wearing his swimming trunks, grabbed the metal rail of a footbridge over the pool, and suffered a fatal electric shock, said Col Sirisak.

Restaurant Manager Surasak Phetsut, 33, rushed to his aid and tried to pull Mr Samsonov from the rail, but he too suffered an electric shock and fell face down into the pool.

A hospital staffer at Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town confirmed to the *Gazette* that Mr Surasak is conscious and talking.

– Warisa Temram and Chutharat Plerin



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CENTARA GRAND BEACH RESORT PHUKET

Dirty land deals uncovered

By Warisa Temram

A PROBE into the issuance of land title deeds in Phuket has uncovered a history of widespread encroachment into protected forest areas and identified government officials as playing the key role in facilitating the theft of state property.

Public Sector Anti-Corruption Commission secretary-general Dusadee Arayawuth, in Phuket as part of the investigation, last Friday told the press his office had identified “hundreds of rai” of land valued at billions of baht that fell into private hands through collusion with government officials.

Joining Pol Col Dusadee in his Phuket investigation was Chote Trachu, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

Among the land plots identified were two parcels totaling 15 rai in the Nakalay area of Kamala, just north of the Patong border. Both plots had been issued *Chanote* titles based on *SorKor 1* papers, which are issued by the government to confirm a holder’s claim of having occupied the land.

However after inspection, the *Chanote* titles were found to have been issued based on *SorKor 1* papers representing a different or smaller plot. The method of deceit is



Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Permanent Secretary Chote Trachu (left) and Public Sector Anti-Corruption Commission secretary-general Pol Col Dusadee Arayawut.

commonly known by Thais as the “Flying *SorKor 1*” ruse, explained Col Dusadee.

“The 15 rai was sold for 200 million baht. On the *SorKor 1*, the northern boundary of the plot was next to a field, but in reality it is next to a large hill,” he said.

That irregularity prompted further investigation to check all the boundaries and compare them with the *SorKor 1*.

“None of the property boundaries in reality matched the description on the *SorKor 1*,” Col Dusadee said.

Two other plots at Nakalay – of 8 rai and 19 rai – were issued *Chanote* titles in 1994.

“The land is worth 200 million baht. If a resort were built there, it would be worth a billion baht,” said Col Dusadee.

Any *Chanote* deeds issued in such cases must have been approved by the Kathu District Chief, an official of the Kathu Land Office and an officer at the Department of Forestry Phuket Office at the time, he explained.

“We are still investigating the people involved,” he said. “If we find that any of these officials have been involved in illegally issuing land titles, we will press criminal charges against them.”

Of particular interest to the investigators were *Chanote* titles issued for a 45-rai plot in a “Class C” protected forest in the Kamala Hills.

Two *Chanote* titles covering a total of 15 rai were issued in the name of a former deputy governor of Phuket, said Col Dusadee.

However, he did not specify the year the deeds were issued or identify which “former deputy governor” took possession.

Despite the severity of the charges, no mention of what would be done to reclaim the land was made at the conference.

Cabinet meeting spotlights Phuket development

From page 1

Authority who is now assistant to the transport minister.

Also present were Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha, Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwansupana and Phuket MP Raywat Areerob.

The entourage also conducted site inspections for the underpass projects at the Darasamut intersection (at Central Festival Phuket), at the Samkong intersection (at Tesco Lotus on the bypass road), and at the Bang Khu intersection where the bypass road joins Thepkrasattri Road.

The delegation then retired to Phuket Provincial Hall to discuss other major infrastructure projects already underway or under consideration and scheduled to be put before Cabinet for funding approval.

“We need to improve Phuket Airport to be able to handle 12.5 million people a year. Currently, Phuket Airport can handle 6.5 million tourists a year. We will need to increase the number of bays for large aircraft from 15 to 25, and add another 30 bays for smaller aircraft. The project will be completed in 2013,” said Mr Jarupong.

“The cargo building, airplane maintenance building and new international terminal will be finished



Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwansupana shows Transport Minister Jarupong Ruangsuan the plans for a mangrove flyover.

by April 2014. The renovation of the existing domestic terminal will be completed by early 2015. We will also conduct a study on how to make the runway able to handle 25 flights per hour,” he added.

Mr Jarupong also targeted projects that are likely to have a significant effect on Phuket’s development.

“Transportation links between the airport and Phuket Town as well as other tourist attractions will also be developed,” he said.

“The Deep Sea Port will be upgraded to accommodate two large cruise liners. Chalong Pier will be developed, under the budget of 200 million baht, to become the one-stop service point for all

yachts sailing in and out of Phuket,” Mr Jarupong said.

On roads, Highways Department Director-General Wanchai Phaklak explained that his office had three main projects underway to help alleviate traffic woes: an underpass at Darasamut intersection, an underpass at Samkong intersection and an underpass at Bang Khu intersection.

Department Of Rural Roads Director-General Chatchai Thipsunaree added, “We will improve the Kathu – Nakoh road that leads 13 kilometers to the Kathu Mining Museum.

“For the Klong Koh Pee road project, we will seek Cabinet for permission to build the bridge over the mangrove forest.

“We are also carrying out an environmental-impact study on the new road between Chalong to

Patong. It’s a five-kilometer road starting from the Luangpu Supha Temple in Chalong.

“Once the study has been completed, we will propose the project to the Cabinet to seek permission to build the road through protected forest there,” he added.

Mr Prapat, Assistant to the Transport Minister, returned the discussion back to what he called Phuket’s two “dream” projects: the light-rail network and the Patong Tunnel.

“Both are really big projects that need foreign investment. We will have to further discuss the funding issues.

“If these projects do go ahead, we will use Phuket as a model for mega-project investments in other major tourist towns,” Mr Prapat said.

Black taxi drivers given ultimatum

PHUKET Airport Director Prathuang Sornkham and Wantha Phummararossukontha, Assistant Director of Phuket Provincial Transport Office (PPTO), have warned illegal taxi drivers to obtain the correct license plate or face stiff fines.

Mr Wantha said action was being taken because many passengers complained of overcharging by “black plate” taxi drivers.

“To protect passengers, we will be conducting checks for illegal taxis. For the first two weeks offenders will receive a warning,” he said. “After two weeks, anyone operating a taxi without the correct license will be fined 2,000 baht.”



At “Into the Sea”, the signature restaurant at the Evason Phuket & Bon Island, chef Luis Cantons’s Modern Logical Cuisine showcases his latest innovation in the form of new, creative interpretations of a cuisine that has both visual and textural appeal. The taste and focus on fresh wholesome and local ingredients are paramount.

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Bus Terminal 2 scheduled to open 'after Songkran'

THE Administrative Court in Nakhon Sri Thammarat has thrown out a complaint against work on the new turning in front of Phuket Bus Terminal 2, which the Land Transport Office hopes to have in operation shortly after the upcoming Songkran holiday.

Phuket Land Transport Office [PLTO] chief Teerayut Prasertpol received a call from the court last Friday informing him of the ruling, which clears the last hurdle to the opening of the terminal that was completed 27 months ago at a cost of 128 million baht.

"An official written summary is expected to arrive in Phuket next week," he said.

"The Administrative Court dismissed a complaint filed by Bussaya Lianudom, wife of former Rassada Mayor Suratin Lianudom, charging that creating a turning in front of Phuket Bus Terminal 2 would endanger her home and its residents, as well



The new turning in front of the terminal has sparked much debate. Photo: Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai

increase the likelihood of road accidents in the area," he said.

"On February 28, she accused the Department of Highways and the head of its Phuket Office with working illegally on the project and requested that the Court order a work stoppage until the Court ruled on the case," he said.

However, by the time the Court received the complaint. Workers from subcontracting firm the Chaiyakorn Company appeared at the site around dawn on February 25 and quickly got to work on the 3-million-baht project.

A stretch of median strip, as well as shade trees that once covered it, were gone before the Court even had a chance of considering issuing a stoppage order.

Mr Bussaya's complaint charged that some 400 buses a day would pull out of the terminal using the new turning, most between the hours of 5am and midnight.

The buses would spew fumes near her home as they went through their lower gears, creating a great deal of noise pollution in the process, she wrote.

The turning would also increase danger to pedestrians trying to cross the road due to decreased visibility, while attracting scores of tuk-tuks, taxis and other service vehicles, she charged.

The complaint also charged that buses might endanger vehicles traveling southbound because the access road to the terminal is sloped.

- Phuket Gazette

Will more

With Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra due to land on the island in time for the Cabinet meeting on March 19-20, Patong Municipality recently staged a public discussion on whether Phuket's top tourism town should become a Special Administrative Zone.

The Phuket Gazette's Warisa Temram reports.

PATONG Mayor Pian Keesin has publicly declared his stand on the need for Patong to become a Special Administrative Zone.

His call for the administrative change received much support at a public meeting held recently to present and explain the concept to local residents and business people.

The meeting was coordinated through Patong Municipality and the Bangkok-based Community Organizations Development Institute (CODI), an independent public organization under the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security.

The hearing also followed Government Spokesman Prompong Nopparit publicly announcing his support for the change during a recent visit to Phuket.

"For the long term, Patong should apply to be a special administrative area for tourism, just like Pattaya. That will make it easier to manage all the local problems without going through the Ministry of Interior," Mr Prompong told the press.

At the meeting, held at Phuket the Gracelands Resort & Spa on March 7, Mayor Pian fired the first salvo, strongly advocating for Phuket's leading resort town to have more self-governing authority.

"Patong should have the ability to fully manage itself, to manage the money that it collects and how that money is spent on development and people," Mayor Pian told

the conference.

"I am not happy with the way Patong is currently administered. We have 16,000 people registered as living in Patong, but we have more 100,000 people living here," he added.

Mayor Pian explained that under the current rules for allocation of government funding, budgets are allocated to cater to the number of people registered as living in an area.

They are not allocated according to the actual number of people living there.

"It's not fair. We generate so much money for the economy, but we get so little budget funding from the central government because of the way the budgets are allocated.

"If we were a special administrative zone like Bangkok and Pattaya, we would collect enough money to develop ourselves [without having to ask

Bangkok for funding]," he said. "Patong, and Phuket, generate a lot of money for the country. I understand that the central government has to take care of other provinces, but the government seems to forget that Phuket is facing many problems with development.

"If things continue as they are, Phuket will become like Pattaya 20 years ago," he warned.

A recent press release quoting statistics from the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) claimed that Phuket contributes 137 billion baht to Thailand's tourism indus-



'Patong, and Phuket, generate a lot of money for the country. I understand that the central government has to take care of other provinces, but the government seems to forget that Phuket is facing many problems with development.'

- Patong Mayor Pian Keesin

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power solve Patong's woes?

What is a Special Administrative Zone?

A special administration zone is not run fully independent from the province. For example, Pattaya is still under the administration of Chon Buri province. However, the likely benefits of a municipal area such as Patong being designated a special administrative zone are:

- The city can administer itself without going through the Provincial Office. Municipal councils must submit proposals for any projects to the Provincial Office for approval by the Governor first, but a special administrative council can submit proposals for all projects directly to the central government for approval and funding.
- The city can collect tax and use it to develop the city without giving it to the central government.
- The city can create its own regulations and ordinances in accordance with existing law. The regulations must be useful and legal. Any new regulations must be reviewed and approved by the Department of Local Administration before they can be enforced.

— Chakri Khajohnkit, of the Ministry of Interior's Department of Local Administration Legal Division in Bangkok.

try revenue, accounting for around 30% of the total tourism income in Thailand.

Tourism is the critical business in Patong, and Patong Entertainment Business Association (PEBA) President Weerawit Kurasombat echoed Mayor Pian's comments.

"Patong has grown so fast. The current form of administration cannot manage Patong's development problems.

"Patong contributes so much

money to the economy and pays so much tax to the central government, but gets so little money

back to develop the city.

"If Patong became a special administrative zone, we could collect our own tax and use it to develop the city," he said.

'Would this solve all of Patong's problems? I don't think so. A special administrative zone is not the way to solve all the problems.'

— Dr Jatupong Kaewsai, Chief Administrative Officer (Palad), Kathu District Office

The Phuket Chamber of Commerce representative Jalan Sungarn, however, cautioned that making Patong a special administrative zone alone was not enough to ensure good management of the town.

"We need to make sure we have good, honest, trustworthy, reliable people in charge to make sure the right

decisions are made and to get things done. Otherwise making Patong a special administrative zone will make no difference at all," he said.

Patong people will be taking up that challenge later this year, when they go to the polls to elect a new Patong Mayor and Municipal Council. A date has yet to be set for the Patong election, but under election law Mayor Pian will not be allowed to enter, as he is currently completing his second consecutive term.

Dr Jatupong Kaewsai, Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) at Kathu District Office, also posed the question whether a change in the form of administration would solve Patong's problems.

"Patong has developed very quickly, with so many problems. There should be more focus on

Patong developmental problems.

"We should ask ourselves why the current form of administration is not working and what would the benefits be of Patong becoming a special administrative zone. Would this solve all of Patong's problems? I don't think so. A special administrative zone is not the way to solve all the problems," he said.

Rachin Thongmakkul of the Patong Hotel Association disagreed. He called for more self-regulation, arguing it would be more responsive to Patong's needs.

"We fully agree with Patong becoming a special administrative zone. It would go a long way toward helping to resolve all the negative aspects that affects tourists who come here.

"For example, Patong should have a genuine Tourist Service Center. Also, we could set up a one-stop shop for all government services instead of business operators having to go to 10 different offices to get all the paperwork they need," he said.

Suthep Chaovalit, director of

the Human Resource Development and Management Institute in Bangkok, voiced his support for the change, adding that now was the right time to push for it.

"The time is right, right now. The government supports the change and the AEC 2015 [Asean Economic Community] is approaching.

"Thailand is aiming to lead the Asean nations as the tourism and aviation hubs for the region. This will help us achieve that goal," Mr Suthep said.

Local residents at the meeting who the *Gazette* spoke to all voiced their support.

They will have the chance to express their opinions and to propose what they want at the next public meeting on Patong becoming a special administrative zone. That meeting will be held expressly to gather public feedback, explained Mayor Pian.

At the time of going to press, a date and venue had yet to be set for that meeting.

Additional reporting by Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai



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Police recover bumper haul

By Warisa Temram

POLICE are urging residents in Chalong whose houses have been robbed recently to come forward and claim items recovered after the arrest of two suspects landed more than 100 stolen goods.

The news comes after Phuket Provincial Police Commander Chonasit Wattanavrangkul presided over a press conference at Chalong Police Station on March 12, held to present Thawatchai Tipytin, 42, and Jenjira Artharn, 25, both from Phuket.

The two are charged with theft at night, illegal possession of a firearm and ammunition, carrying a firearm in a public place and resisting arrest.

Chalong Police Deputy Superintendent Boonlert Onklang led officers to an apartment in Phuket Town where Thawatchai and Jenjira were arrested.

In the apartment officers found

one .38 handgun, eight bullets, a handmade gun and 104 stolen items, including Buddha amulets, a sword, clothes, boxing gloves, watches, cameras and other items.

The suspects confessed to robbing eight houses in Chalong and another in Thalang, he said.

"Chalong Police had received reports from foreigners that their homes had been robbed," he said.

The couple were nearly caught on March 7, when a patrol officer saw the couple riding along Patak



Just some of the 100 plus items recovered by police.

Road in Karon.

As Thawatchai and Jenjira and the motorbike matched a description wanted by the police, the officer stopped them at the entrance to Patak Road Soi 16.

The couple fought the officer and finally Jenjira pulled a gun and threatened to shoot the officer if he did not let them go.

The couple left the motorbike behind and ran off on foot.

Under the motorbike seat, the officer found the license plate. He also found a wig and a cap.

Later that same night, police received a report that Noppra Pirapada was threatened at gunpoint to hand over his motorbike.

The couple sped off toward Karon Circle, but apparently failed to negotiate the curve in front of Karon Temple.

Picking themselves up off the ground, Thawatchai and Jenjira then forced 52-year-old passing motorist Suwannee Tipnoo to



Jenjira and Thawatchai are unlikely to be this close together for a while.

hand over her motorbike.

However, while getting on the motorbike, the gun accidentally fired, shooting Thawatchai in the right leg, Jenjira told police.

Although he had just been shot, Thawatchai opened the throttle and sped off toward Patong with Jenjira sitting behind.

At the press conference Monthicha Mooksri said that she saw Thawatchai and Jenjira walking away from her home in Rawai on February 19.

"I ran after them and I grabbed my laptop back, but they took off with my iPad and 4,000 baht cash," she said.

Body lotion bust reveals bike and drug gang

TWO shoplifters caught at a 7-Eleven store were later found to be involved in the theft of seven motorbikes and were dealers of *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine), police announced on March 9.

Staff at the 7-Eleven store near Phuket International Airport informed police that a man and woman were caught on the store's CCTV system stealing items from the shop.

Police arrived and detained Daorueng Budda and Tawan Dechjirachoti, both 28, for possession of five stolen bottles of Nivea lotion.

During questioning, Mr Tawan admitted that he had also stolen motorbikes to pay for drugs, said

police.

Acting on that information, Tah Chat Chai Police set up a "sting" operation, with plainclothes police officers posing as drug buyers.

At an unreported location in Rassada, police arrested a third member of the gang, Suphachai Wareesri, 28. Mr Suphachai was found in possession of two bags of *ya ice*, four stolen motorbikes and 7,000 baht in cash.

Another three motorbikes were recovered after Mr Tawan admitted stealing them from Thalang and Phuket City areas.

All were charged with theft, receiving stolen property and selling drugs.

— Warisa Temram



A visit to the shop was probably a mistake as the two men and woman (centre) now face much more serious charges. Photo: Warisa Temram

Immigration tops list of 'most worn-out complaint' in Phuket poll

GRIPING about immigration requirements is overwhelmingly the topic readers are most tired of hearing foreigners complain about, according to the most recent *Phuket Gazette* Readers' Poll.

A total of 1,982 readers took part, which ran from February 17 until March 8.

Readers were asked: "Which of the following topics are you most tired of hearing foreigners in Phuket complain about?"

Overall, 61.4% answered "Immigration requirements", almost four times as many as the second most popular choice "tuk-tuks, taxis" at 15.6%.

Less popular choices were "local driving habits" (8.6%), "overpriced alcohol" (5%) and "double-pricing" (5%). The least popular was "jet-skis" (4.4%).

A breakdown by demographic revealed some interesting trends.

Those who identified themselves as "local foreign residents" (71%) overwhelmingly identified "immigration requirements" as the most irksome common complaint.

In contrast, Thais were more likely to opt for "tuk-tuks, taxis" (40%) or "local driving habits" (33%), with "immigration requirements" coming in third at 12%.

Among tourists, "tuk-tuks, taxis" was the most popular choice at 38%, followed by "jet-skis" (16%) and "immigration requirements" (14%).

Perhaps ironically, the poll itself became a topic of complaint among many in the Readers' Forum.

— Phuket Gazette

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'Rape' video increases tension in Deep South

A VIDEO of a Thai soldier having sex with a 16-year-old Muslim girl in the Deep South province of Pattani has caused outrage among local people and led to the arrests of two privates on gang-rape charges.

The incident led to a protest in neighboring Yala province by more than 300 students, who demanded an investigation into the case and justice for the girl and her family.

The clip showed Pvt Winai Klangwichai, 21, having intercourse with the girl. While the victim does not appear to struggle, she attempts to hide her face.

The video was filmed by Pvt Somyos Jantharaphut, who is heard shouting encouragements at his friend. Pvt Somyos forwarded the clip to friends, who distributed it more widely.

The two privates handed themselves in to police on March 6.

AROUND THE nation

They are being charged with gang rape and separating a minor from her parents, without their consent, for molestation purposes.

While the age of consent according to the Thai Criminal Code was 15, a later amendment made it an offense to have sex with a person under the age of 18.

The suspects are being detained at Inkayuthaboriharn military camp in Pattani pending trial.

The case has sparked outrage among local residents, who rallied at Yala Rajabhat University to demand a "fair" investigation.

They also demanded justice for other victims of army abuses. The



Muslim women marking International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women in November of last year. Photo: The Nation

Emergency Decree in place in the three southern border provinces protects officials from prosecution, leading to what local people

claim is a "culture of impunity".

The Emergency Decree was extended for another 60 days for the 27th time on March 13.

Compensation for killed protest victim

THAILAND will offer US\$250,000 (about 7.6 million baht) compensation to the family of a Japanese cameraman who was shot dead during the red-shirt protests of 2010.

The country will also send a letter of condolence to the relatives of Hiroyuki Muramoto, who died on April 10, one of the most violent days of the protests.

"The letter is issued on behalf of the Thai prime minister to Hiroyuki's family and to inform them of the compensation they are entitled to receive like others," Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra told reporters, as quoted by AFP.

Mrs Yingluck made the announcement before embarking on an official trip to, among other things, assure Japanese companies that Thailand was taking the necessary steps to prevent similar catastrophes to the flooding last year.

The premier said her itinerary was too busy to visit Mr Muramoto's family during the visit.

Yellow-shirts call off street protests

THE People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) has called off its planned street protests against the government's constitutional reform program - with conditions.

The decision was announced at a peaceful rally at Bangkok's Lumpini Park on March 9, during which several PAD yellow-shirt leaders took to the stage.

Chief among them was Sondhi Limthongkul, who told the crowd of about 3,000 that he would continue to battle former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who lives abroad to escape a two-year jail sentence for corruption.

Last month, Bangkok Criminal Court found Mr Sondhi guilty of securities fraud, sentencing him to 20 years in jail. He was granted bail.

The decision by the PAD to shelve threatened street protests



Yellow-shirt protester in Bangkok last year. Photo: AFP

was made on two conditions: that proposed constitutional amendments do not change the status of the monarchy, and that they do not result in an amnesty for Mr Thaksin.

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Digging up dirt to clear a path

CYNICS may see the effort by the Office of the Public Sector Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) to investigate officials who allegedly colluded with investors to steal state land in Phuket as just the latest in a series of politically-inspired witch hunts. However, we should hold out hope for any effort to expose corruption, especially when elected officials and “civil servants” are among the alleged perpetrators.

The history of land rights in Phuket has been like Pandora's Box. Corruption and collusion have been consistently powerful forces, so much so that most of the abuses will never be exposed. We have experienced many times what can happen to those who try to bring them to light.

This space is far too limited to list all the scandals involving land rights issues in Phuket over the years, but the net result is a landscape of vast inequity. On one hand are families that began to amass fortunes in the tin-mining era and have since parlayed their holdings to become fabulously wealthy with huge landholdings at the advent of the tourism industry and ensuing real estate boom.

At the other end are poor communities such as the sea gypsies, who have lived in certain seaside areas for generations, yet find themselves at the mercy Bangkok-based investors who appear out of nowhere with state-issued deeds and marching orders.

The 2,000 families in the Soi Kingkaew community of Rassada now fear mass eviction following the shocking presentation of a *SorKor 1* paper, reportedly issued over 80 years ago.

This case highlights some of the absurd realities that have developed on the ground in Phuket over the years. Soi Kingkaew, once a vast expanse of verdant mangrove forest, is still nominally protected as such by the state. This is despite the fact that most of the land in dispute is now home to little more than a shanty town.

Rounding out the irony is the fact these very same people who encroached on the mangroves in the first place are now donning the environmentalist mantle in telling the holder of the antique *SorKor 1* he cannot exercise his claim to the land because it is, or at least once was, protected mangrove forest.

The *Gazette* will closely follow the work of the PACC. We don't expect all the abuses of the past to be addressed, but will remember that after the curious Pandora opened the box letting loose all of the evils in the world at least one thing remained inside: hope.

If we can finally begin holding at least some officials accountable, perhaps we can gradually start moving away from a dark past to a brighter future.



Witnessing horror

I am the School Consultant of Earth Language Training Centre on Phang-Nga Road in Phuket Town. One of our contracts is Anubaan Phuket.

At about 4:15pm, a teacher, who works for my school and is contracted at Anubaan Phuket, came into the office devastated after having witnessed a young student from Anubaan Phuket being hit by a truck on the intersection of Montri Road.

He reported that the poor kid was “covered in red from head to toe instantly”. It took me all night to comfort him.

I want to report this incident as I am sick to the bottom of my heart of truck drivers killing innocent children.

When will they be accountable for their actions?

When will the “my brakes have failed” excuse be outlawed and people pay the price that they must pay?

Ady Hughes
Phuket

It's a park, not a parking lot

I have had the opportunity to enjoy King Rama IX Park for nearly 20 years and have seen the park's ups and downs.

There have been many great improvements including the new exercise facilities and also the upgrade of the children's playground.

Less positive, however, is the increase of driving in the park, as well as the cars and motorbikes that are parked in the main park.

This development mars the experience of the park for recreational users and contradicts the intention of the park as a refuge from street noise, pollution and the bustle of the city.

We all know the local govern-

Letters to the Editor

ment has many tasks to manage: an increased population, tourists, crime and traffic congestion. Generally, they do a good job.

I hope the local government can set aside some time to consider making King Rama IX Park free of vehicles, because future generations will have a greater need for recreational activities than ever before.

Nature lover
Phuket

Tactical drinking

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket alcohol ban for Makha Bucha Day, March 6*

I totally agree that we all have to respect a country's laws and cultural traditions.

But as usual, all the Thais and long-term expats know about alcohol bans for Makha Bucha. So, many of the Thais are just going to buy their Mekong or whatever else the day before the holiday. The next day, they will organize picnics at home or next to the beach. Expats will buy beer the day before and organize BBQs, and in the end the tourists who just want a drink while on their holiday get punished because they didn't know about the ban.

manneken p
Gazette forum

Shiny cars don't mean a thing

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket Police to start patrols with the 'All Blacks', March 8*

“The new patrol vehicles are expected to improve our international

image,” said Lt Col Charturong.

Image and respect are quite different. International observers are not fooled by fancy new cars. It is what you do and don't do that is important.

I would rather have an honest police force in beaten-up pick-ups, than a [suspect] one in new cars.

Chas
Gazette forum

I've got bees!

Re: *Gazette online, Bee swarm invades Krabi school, March 11*

I have yellow bees with broad black bands, which have invaded my garden in droves. They seem to live in holes bored into a tree.

I have been stung once. Ouch! The place was numb and swollen for three days.

I have smoked the tree and tried poisoning them – no success. It seems I must cut the tree down.

I certainly would not want children around these little critters.

Stuart
Gazette forum

Voting motivation

Two men arrived at my house last Sunday, with the burlier one carrying a 500-baht note in hand.

As they approached my front door, my landlord, who lives next door, shouted out, “No need. A farang lives in that house.”

They all started laughing and the two gentleman walked away.

I am guessing that these two men walking house to house with 500-baht notes had nothing to do with the two pamphlets I received the day before from each of the parties contesting the March 25 Chalong Municipal election...

Damien Evans
Chalong

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No complaints, but ready to head home

FIRST PERSON

AS A Burmese worker you don't want to complain to the authorities, because you don't want to create problems with anyone in Thailand.

For the past 20 years I have been working in Thailand and have not been back to Burma. Both my parents passed away while I was working here. For many years I had jobs in Ranong working on fishing boats and construction sites. I can lay bricks, paint or carry out glazing work.

The worst employment I had was when they didn't pay me for almost a month. However, I didn't complain to the authorities. In the end I left and went to work for another employer.

Before I came to Thailand I was a rice farmer and worked on fishing boats in Burma. The wages were very low and I was unable to support my family. I decided to leave. At that time the police were not strict on immigrants entering Thailand.

I met my wife years ago in Phuket while working in a field. Her husband had passed away leaving her with two children back in Burma. She has only been home to visit once in the eight years. Her daughter is 13 years old and her son is 10. I have only seen photos of them, but I think of them as my own. We call them once a month and sometimes they call us, but we don't talk too long as in-



Than Nyunt is a 45-year-old Burmese migrant worker who has been living in Thailand for 20 years. He is happy with his work in Phuket, but feels he should avoid filing complaints with the authorities. He and his wife hope to earn enough money to allow them to go back to Burma in couple of years and build a house for them and her two children.



Burmese are the bulk of construction workers in Phuket. Photo: Gazette

ternational calls are expensive.

My current employer treats me very well because I'm here legally. Here in Phuket I earn more than 300 baht per day and I have the right to go to a government hospital and pay only 30 baht for treatment. We transfer some money back to our family in Burma. If there is someone we know well who is going to Ranong

we give them the money to exchange and deposit in the bank.

My wife and I are planing to go back to Burma in another two years, but it depends on how much we manage to save. We are trying to save enough money to build our own house in Burma. My wife already has a plot of land, so hopefully we will have enough money go home and build a house.

Phuket climbing: no rocks, no walls

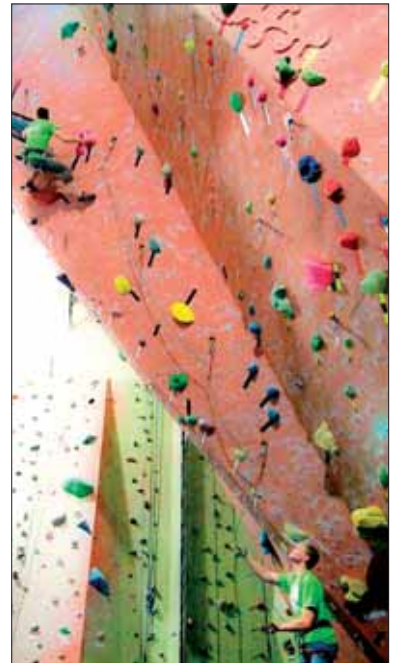
PHUKET is surrounded by world-class rock climbing. Koh Phi Phi, Koh Yao Noi and, without a doubt, Krabi all have stunning geological edifices.

The first glimpse of the landscape of Krabi, with its enormous limestone cliffs, and towers rising out of the jungle like the half-buried limbs of the titans, is inspirational – an almost spiritual moment for a climber. Yet here in Phuket, there is nothing. But who is to blame for this lack of geological creativity? As much as I would like to point a finger at the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*), the tuk-tuk mafia or even the "certain individuals that cannot be named", it wouldn't be very fair.

But as Phuket continues to evolve into the training grounds for top-notch athletes, there is no excuse for not having a climbing wall somewhere among the circus of tourist attractions and training centers.

For many climbers, Phuket is the most logical place to call home. There's the ease of finding a job, there's the infrastructure, and of course, there's its relative position to world-class climbing crags. However, there are no training grounds on the island, making it nearly impossible for Phuket climbers to get the necessary training to rack up first ascents on all the beautiful climbs in their neighbor's backyard.

There have been several attempts to establish climbing walls in Phuket. One ill-conceived idea joined a climbing wall with a bar, which reminded me of the archery range inside a bar complex in



Isaac Heacock belaying at Hoosier Heights Indoor Rock Climbing Gym Indiana, USA. Photo: Hoosier Heights

Island View

By Ginny de la Souza

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

Buenos Aires – perhaps not the best idea.

The most recent failure to maintain a climbing wall was at Laguna, where the wall is no longer available to climbers.

With more than 100 dedicated climbers already on the island and bus loads of tourists eager for entertainment, there is no reason that my small hometown, stuck in the cornfields of America's grain belt, can support a climbing gym and Phuket can't.

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

A world of sound

The level of noise is increasing in Ao Po. A general problem is the longtails with car engines, but no mufflers. Isn't there a law against the use of these engines?

The latest contribution to the noise comes over 10 loudspeakers, which are sharing the Muslim call to prayer five times a day starting at 5am.

Is it possible for those who want to listen to this to use a radio/TV channel, so other residents can get a good night's sleep?

*Farang in Ao Po
Ao Po*

Phuritit Theerakulpisut, Marine Office Director replies:

According to Marine Department Regulations, longtail boats are allowed to produce noise up to 100 A-weighted decibels.

Generally, longtail boats will have a four-stroke engine, which doesn't cause too much noise, but some drivers switch to a Kubota

engine and also modify the exhaust pipe, because they believe that it will make the boat faster – those modifications produce more noise. However, Marine Department staff will measure the noise level every year.

For more information contact the Phuket Marine Department at 076-391174

Rapin Suwansin, Vice Governor of Pa Khlok Administrative Organization replies:

We cannot do anything about the sound from Muslim calls to prayer – it is a religious ritual. Because Ao Po is home to one of the biggest Muslim communities in Phuket, the residents have to accept and respect their daily religious activities.

Pramote Mungkung of Bang Rong Mosque Committee replies:

The speakers are generally used

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

to broadcast *Adhan* "call to prayer" from the mosques five times a day.

There isn't a fixed volume but it is usually set to cover the community the mosque is located in.

The purpose of the call is to remind Muslims in the community to come to the mosque or to remind them that it's time to pray.

Though I'm not sure when the muslim community first started living here, I know that they have been here for generations.

Sometimes when the loudspeakers don't work we receive complaints because they were busy working or doing other activities and forgot to pray.

Eradication of trees

I live off a newly named road called Kata Buri Soi on Kata Hill, where there is much development being undertaken by one particular developer. As a result, the trees and other flora are being cut down at an astronomical rate, much of which I feel is unnecessary. Is there a government office or body that is responsible for such issues? If there is, I would like contact details please, so that I may contact them on this matter.

*Concerned resident
Kata*

Sarayut Wasinanont, an engineer at the Public Works Division, at Kata-Karon Municipality replies:

The Public Works Division at Kata-Karon Municipality is responsible for issuing building permits in our area. If the correct written legal permission has been issued by the relevant authority, then the developer is permitted to cut the trees down on the land

specified. However, some trees are protected.

If you have a doubt about whether or not the developer has a building permit and permission to clear the land, and has satisfied all the requirements for being issued a building permit, such as being approved for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the project, then please check with our office by calling 076-330186 or visiting our office at 1 Kata Road, Karon, Muang, Phuket. Our office is open Monday-Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm.

An officer at the Khao Pra Taew Wildlife Conservation Center in Thalang replies:

Special permission must be obtained from the Royal Forest Department in order to cut down teak and rubber trees. In Phuket, the Phuket Provincial Office Of Natural Resources and Environment can answer queries about who has been granted this permission. Tel: 076-273017-8. Email: admin@phuketenvioffice.org.

Andaman motor show drives sales

By Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai

THE 14th Andaman Motor Show, organized last week at HomeWorks, opposite Central Festival Phuket, concluded with one of its most vibrant years in car sales.

The six-day event, this year under the theme "Summer on the Beach", ended on Wednesday.

"We don't have final figures for the overall number of car loan applications yet, but I have to admit that we are making better sales this year than the first two years we attended," said Phichet Siripreuttikun, Kiatnakin Bank's New Car Loan Marketing Manager for all of Thailand.

"By the nature of this kind of event, people usually make their

decision whether or not to buy a car on the second-last day or on the final day of the show," he added.

The trend for the car buyers this year is favoring pickup trucks and eco-friendly cars, said Mr Phichet.

"Pickups have become more popular since the flooding in Central Thailand, but this year is another good year for the eco-car market," he added.

"We have approved more loans for people in Phuket compared with all other provinces in Southern Thailand," Mr Phichet explained.

Kritchapanat Patwarasit, Marketing and Managing Director of event organizer ND Productions, pointed out there are vehicles from eight major Phuket dealerships on display at the show: namely Toyota, Isuzu, Volvo, Mazda, Chevrolet, Nissan,

Ford, Mitsubishi, among others.

"Besides the wide range of vehicles from all the top dealerships, people who want to buy a car can expect special promotions that are difficult to resist," he added.

Phuket resident Sumed Sutthikul, 42, agreed.

"I want to buy a pickup truck and I came to this event because I know I can expect tempting deals here – and I have found some great deals, even better than what they are offering at the show-rooms," said Mr Sumed.

"I will have to discuss this with my family and make a decision before the show closes," he added.

Not all visitors were seeking a new car as the complimentary entertainment provided a major attraction in itself.



NICE HEADLIGHTS: The 14th Andaman Motor Show featured lots of eye candy for spectators to enjoy Photo: Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai.

Popular Thai singer Kanitkul "Praw" Nestbud performed a mini-concert to a large crowd on Sunday, while the Andaman Junior Talent Contest on Saturday drew families from across the island.

And what Thai car show would be complete without sexy girl beauty competitions?

Mr Kritchapanat said: "Motor shows are all about special cars,

tempting promotions and beautiful ladies. . ."

Every night of the event featured coyote dancers, with its finale: 'Sexy Wash, featuring Ananya 'Baifern' Mongkolthai – runner-up of The Look Supermodel 2011 beauty pageant – and the Final 20 contestant of the Miss Maxim 2011 contest, among other famous models.

APSA gears up for boating show

ASIA-Pacific Superyacht Association (APSA) is gearing up for the Phuket International Boat Show (PIMEX), to be held at the award-winning Royal Phuket Marina from March 29 to April 1.

The leading consumer boat show in Asia, PIMEX will feature the largest in-water boat display with more than 50 boats representing leading brands from around the world.

The line up is set to include everything from uber-luxe multi-million dollar luxury superyachts to power boats, sailing yachts, tenders and dinghies, attracting boat enthusiasts and marine lifestyle-lovers from across Asia and around the globe.

"The boat brands you see in Monaco, Cannes and Fort Lauderdale, you will find here at PIMEX.

The number and diversity of brands is impressive, but more important is the quality of boats on display this year," said PIMEX Show Director Andy Dowden.

"The largest boat on display this year is a 92-foot powerboat, and the smallest a little over 20-foot. And there is everything in between – different sizes, specifications, prices, power and sail. Whatever your boating needs, you will find something to suit at PIMEX," added Dowden.

The Ferretti Group, together with local dealer Lee Marine, will be showing the 92-foot Pershing – the largest boat at PIMEX 2012 – as well as a number of other models. For the first time this year, the flagship Fairline Squadron 78 Custom – a first show in Asia – will be presented by Derani Yachts, and Sunseeker will be showing three luxury flybridge yachts – the Manhattan 73, 63 and 53.

Princess have an exciting line-up with Asia Premieres for the V52 – a sports yacht – the P60 – a brand new model for Princess – and the 72MY.

There are also many quality mid-sized powerboats on display, and an increase in the number of sail boats showing this year, including the new Jeanneau 57, Prestige 440S and the award-winning Tartan 4000 which is showing for the first time in Asia, to name just some. And for those looking to dip a toe in the water of boat ownership, Absolute World Group are offering Fractional Boat Ownership.

Visitors to PIMEX 2011 came

from over 15 countries, with a good number from outside of Asia. Russia was a big market in 2011 and is expected to be a growth market this year.

"We had a lot of positive feedback from last year's exhibitors on the mix of visitor nationalities and purchasing power of the Russian market. This year we have strategically targeted Russian visitors and

and its member companies.

Colin Dawson, Chairman of APSA said "It is great that APSA has the support of the Informa Yacht Group and the APSA membership is delighted to be exhibiting at both the PIMEX and SYS in 2012."

Both events offer extensive opportunities for APSA members to meet other members and encounter potential business contacts from Singapore, Thailand and other Asia Pacific countries.

The Asia Pacific Superyacht Conference 2012, on April 25-26 is also an important networking opportunity for industry professionals in the region to learn more about the key issues affecting the superyacht industry in the region.

APSA's stand at PIMEX, SYS and high-profile representation at its conference will provide a golden opportunity for APSA members to

network with potential clients from the United States, Europe and other countries outside of the Asia-Pacific region.

APSA committee members Colin Dawson, Gareth Twist and Tork Buckley will also be speaking at the conference on a variety of superyacht topics.

PIMEX will take place at Royal Phuket Marina, from March 27 to April 1. For more information about PIMEX 2012, visit W: phuketboatshow.com The Phuket Gazette and PGTV sponsor the annual PIMEX boat show. To find out more about the region and membership please contact E: info@apsuperyacht.org

– Phuket Gazette



The 92-foot Pershing will be the largest PIMEX 2012 boat.

are expecting an increase in this segment, together with our perennially strong visitor markets of Singapore, Hong Kong and expatriates in the region," said Dowden.

Complementing the boat displays will be a packed exhibition hall full of the latest gadgets, boating toys, marine and lifestyle products and services, as well as a selection of stunning villas on the island's market

In addition to PIMEX, APSA are also set to exhibit at the Singapore Yacht Show (SYS) from April 27 to 29.

APSA members will be on hand to offer comprehensive information about the Asia-Pacific region, the association, its work

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Limited companies spike

By Steven Layne

ISLAND officials have registered a decline in business dissolutions coupled with a rise in new limited liability companies (Co Ltd).

Figures from the Department of Business Development (DBD) show that only 16 company dissolutions were filed in the province in February, 2012, a 46.6% drop from the previous month (30).

Compared to 31 dissolutions in February 2011, the year-on-year (y-o-y) decrease equates to 48.3%.

Meanwhile, Phuket's DBD office last month processed registrations for 157 new companies, including 141 Co Ltd and 16 limited partnership (LP) entities.

Although exactly the same number of new company registrations were reported in Feb-

ruary 2011, Co Ltd registrations this February rose by 10.1% y-o-y (from 128) while LP registrations dropped by 44.8% (from 29) over the same period.

Month-on-month (m-o-m), registrations for new Co Ltd in Phuket jumped 21.5% from 116, while the number of new LP dropped 23.8% from 21 filed in January 2011.

The total number of dissolutions on the island decreased by 46.6% m-o-m, with failed Co Ltd ventures dropping by 60% down to only 10 from 25 the previous month.

A stabilizing economy is also apparent on the national scale, with all of last month's new companies having combined worth of 30bn baht.

Speaking recently at a press conference in Nonthaburi, Deputy Minister of Commerce Siriwat Kajornprasart outlined

national business registration trends in February, 2012.

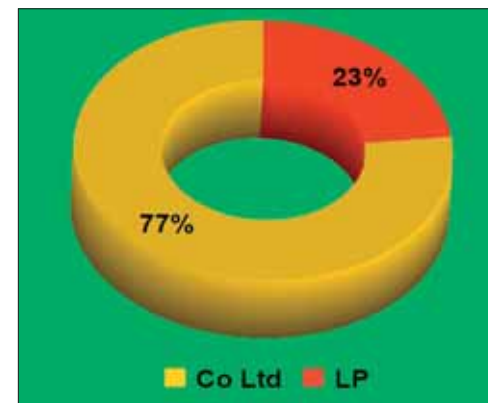
He highlighted that 5,747 new companies were registered across Thailand, with 2,100 of these made in Bangkok and 3,647 in the provinces.

Registered capital of all the new companies have a combined worth of 29.7bn baht, while dissolved companies were valued at about 3.6bn baht.

All in, there are a total of 501,749 businesses registered nationwide, including Co Ltd, LP, and ordinary partnership entities.

In addition to 920 Public Companies, the total number of registered businesses in Thailand is now 502,669.

Of these, 17,846 are in Phuket, which comprises 13,745 Co Ltd, 4,078 LP and 23 ordinary partnerships.



More than three quarters of businesses on the island are limited companies (Co Ltd).

A DBD registrar has confirmed with the *Phuket Gazette* that there are currently no public companies registered in Phuket.

SET in the city



Investment opportunities are expanding: Dr Pakorn Peetathawatchai

INVESTORS in Phuket became privy to invaluable financial advice at the island's inaugural investment extravaganza hosted by the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) on Saturday.

Organized in collaboration with the Phuket Chamber of Commerce, Phuket Federation of Industries and the Phuket Bankers Association, it was the first time for "SET in the city" to be held in Phuket.

The event was held at the Royal Phuket City Hotel in Phuket Town, and featured a seminar led by eminent speakers from the forefront of the investment sector, in addition to investment advice booths of 20 major financial institutions.

The event's slogan was: "Shares for making money, derivatives for making profit, funds to administer savings for Phuket residents".

Dr Pakorn Peetathawatchai, SET Chief Marketing Officer, outlined the reasons for bringing the thoroughfare to Phuket.

"Phuket has the third largest deposits' client base in the Southern region, and SET trading on the island is valued as much as 2 to 3 billion baht.

"More importantly, Phuket is experiencing high economic growth. We believe that coming here and giving knowledge about investment will benefit Phuket residents greatly."

SET's stated aim is to continue to promote savings and investment in Bangkok and the provinces, he explained.

"The financial and investment world is changing much, now with many more options for administering finances.

"It is necessary to inform the public, savers and investors to know, understand and be able to access and apply investments to be consistent with their lives.

"The goal of SET is to present this information for the maximum benefit of businesses and the community," he said.

Doctor Pakorn explained that the event emphasized on "analyzing the economy and direction of investment, shares, gold and combined funds" as well as "picking out the money making shares, groups and categories".

He went on to say: "Investing depends on the state of the economy of which both external and internal factors will affect the investment. Making decisions come with high risks so you have to look at all sides and diversify your investments.

"Whatever one decides to invest in, it is important that you do your homework and ensure that the direction [of the investment] is ideal.

Phuket's was the second investment promotion activity led by SET this year, following their booth at the Money Expo in Haad Yai last month, while five more events are scheduled this year including two in Bangkok, one in Chiang Mai, Udon Thani and Nakhon Ratchasima.

— Warisa Temram

Home debts swelling

PROPERTY loans in Phuket in 2011 spiked by 20% year-on-year, figures from the Bank of Thailand (BoT) have revealed.

Citing those figures, Bangkok Bank's chairman on planning for Phuket, Phang-Nga and Krabi, Somchai Pikulthong, said: "Statistics from BoT's Southern branch show that there was a total of 11.7 billion baht in property loans in 2010.

"In 2011, loans totaled 14.06 billion baht, 2.36 billion baht more than the previous year.

"We expect that there will be more loans in 2012 since there are a number of new real estate projects being developed.

Most of the new projects are being launched by major Bangkok developers such as Sansiri, Pruksa and Supalai, and targeting the medium income buyers of homes



The island's property market is heating up.

under 5mn baht, he said.

Satchaphol Tongsom, board member of the Phuket Real Estate Association agrees.

The low and mid range market will continue to grow, and the market for homes priced 8 to 12mn baht will also grow, while the market for homes priced more than 20mn baht will

struggle, he said.

P-REA President Tanan Tanphaibul said: "Though demand among the [affluent] foreigner market group has declined, the property sector has benefited from some other favorable factors, namely with the Russian market gaining momentum."

Another trend he highlighted is the decline in developing villas in excess of the one million dollar (30mn baht) bracket on islands off Phuket.

Instead, developers have shifted to building hotels and rental options instead, he said.

"This is because it is more difficult to reach the target groups [of expensive villas] and so the developers have had to adjust their approach to meet the circumstances of the market.

— Kom Chad Luek

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The next iPad is here



Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

THE cat's out of the bag, and at this very moment the first "new" iPads are on store shelves in the US, Australia, Canada, UK, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Singapore and Switzerland. While you may think of it as an iPad 3.0, at this point the official name is "The New iPad." Apple hasn't yet set a price for the new iPad in Thailand, nor have they announced when it will be available.

Concomitantly, Apple dropped the retail price of the iPad 2 by US\$100 in the US, so it now costs US\$399. Apple Thailand's lowered the price of the iPad 2, too, but not as much: the base 16 GB, WiFi only iPad 2 now lists for 13,500 baht (about US\$440), including free delivery in Thailand. You can order yours online at store.apple.com.

Also, I am happy to report that Apple dealers in Phuket are no longer forcing iPad 2 buyers to pay for a third-party accessory with every iPad 2 they purchase. I'm still smarting over that.

If you want 3G service to go along with the iPad 2, Apple will sell the 16 GB 3G + WiFi version to you for 17,500 baht (about US\$570, compared to US\$529 in the US), but you can probably find a better deal at AIS or TrueMove, if you're willing to commit to a year of 3G service.

I've had about a hundred people ask me if they should get the "new" iPad. The short answer is: probably yes, especially if you don't already own an iPad, or if you have an iPad 1.

Like a hundred million other people, I'll probably end up buying a new iPad, even though I already own an iPad 2.

Here's why...

First, the screen's four times as dense as the iPad 2's. You can call it a "retina display" if you want, but the new iPad runs its screen at 2048 x 1536 pixels, which is the same density as the gorgeous iPhone 4s screen. If you want to see the difference, just

put an iPhone 4s next to an iPad 2. There's a very noticeable improvement — and it'll be even more stunning with movies, apps and games that take advantage of the higher resolution.

Or you can think of it this way. There are lots and lots of "high definition" TVs in Phuket right now that don't even come close to the new iPad's resolution. CNET's tablet reviewer Donald Bell says, "Let's be clear, here. Not only does the new iPad's QXGA screen wreck your expectations for tablet screens, but

your laptop or desktop computer screen will also look shabby by comparison."

Granted, if you're reading books, the Kindle's e-Ink technology is easier on the eyes because of its backlit display. But in the world of tablets, the retina display is king, no question about it.

Second, the camera's nearly identical to the one in the iPhone 4s. I rhapsodized over that camera in my Live Wire column two weeks ago, and for good reason: it's better than the best point-and-shoot cameras from a couple of years ago, better than the best last-generation video cameras, and almost as good as the best point-and-shoots on the market now. No, it isn't as good as a Nikon EOS 5D, but that beast will set you back US\$3,000 — just for the body.

I know it looks weird taking photos with an iPad. But with the new iPad, I'll snap with abandon, and won't worry about what people think. With 5 megapixels, anti-shake technology, and the ability to shoot good quality full 1080p high definition videos, the only thing I'm lacking is an external flash and a good mike.

Third, it's easy to turn the new iPad into a WiFi hub. Unless

TrueMove-H, AIS, DTAC, CAT or one of the carriers blocks it, you can use your new iPad to connect to the "3G" HSPA or HSPA+ network, and let other computers use the internet connection with WiFi. The new iPad can support up to five concurrent WiFi connections.

There are some features in the new iPad that don't really mean much.

possible pitfalls that I wouldn't bet any money on it. That said, "3G" HSPA and HSPA+ should work well on the new iPad, just as it does on the iPad 2.

A word of warning: if you buy a "4G" (LTE) iPad, it won't

able photo editing chops), and upgrades to Garageband and iMovie. iPhoto costs US\$4.99 while Garageband and iMovie are US\$9.99.

Bottom line: Apple has, once again, produced an

iPad that's substantially better than its predecessor, at the same price as its predecessor.

The branding, market timing, and execution are impeccable. Apple's locked up production of the retina displays, several of the camera components, and a host of lesser items, making it very difficult for competitors to even make a machine, much less ship it out of China and price it at less than \$499. The new iPad's going to sell like hotcakes.

Seth Bareiss holds computer sessions on every-other Wednesday afternoon, from 1 to 3pm. If you have a Windows problem that needs to be solved, drop by one of Seth's free afternoon sessions, or come to one of our free Sunday morning roundtables at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. Details in the Events Calendar. Sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.

Live Wire is Phuket Gazette columnist Woody Leonhard's weekly snapshot of all things internet in Phuket. Shoot him mail at Woody@KhunWoody.com, follow him on Twitter @PhuketLiveWire, or "like" his page at facebook.com/SandwichShoppes.



Supposedly it runs four times faster than the iPad 2, but that's just to compensate for the higher resolution display; speed only counts in tablets when they're as slow as molasses or your graphics start pixelating. That said, the new iPad should be able to run some eye-popping games.

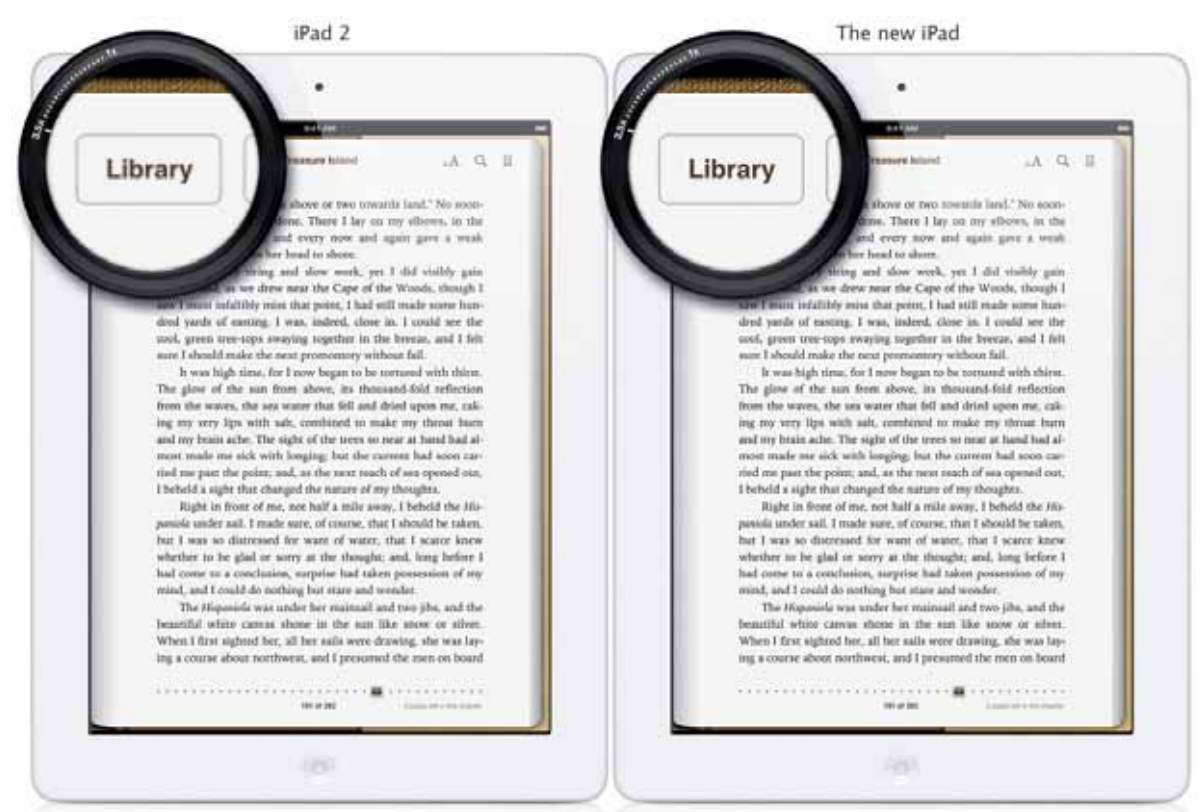
The new iPad is available in the US with an optional, expensive "4G" LTE internet connection. At this moment, the only LTE service available in Thailand is offered on an experimental basis by AIS in Bangkok. While it's possible that we might see LTE (I hate to use the term "4G") in Phuket sometime this year — if the government actually auctions off the 2.1 GHz spectrum — there are so many

run a n y faster than a "3G" (HSPA, HSPA+) iPad, because Phuket doesn't have LTE service, yet.

In the US, the new iPad is only available in WiFi and 4G+WiFi models. The 4G+WiFi models will also run on the 3G network. It remains to be seen if Apple will release a 4G version in Thailand, but if they do, expect it to be more expensive: in the US, you have to pay US\$130 more for 4G, even if you only use 3G. Does that make sense?

The new iPad is almost as thin and light as its predecessors. You probably won't be able to tell the difference. The battery's better — you can still get 9 to 10 hours on a charge, even with the higher resolution display.

The operating system, iOS, has been upgraded, but you can install the new operating system on an iPad 2. New apps are now available, including iPhoto (which has some very respect-



CLEAR DIFFERENCE: the New iPad screen's is four times as dense as the iPad 2's. Photos: Apple Inc.



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A mortgage in the UK

HOUSING prices in the UK have suffered a dramatic fall over the past few years and banks have made it harder for first-time buyers. To put it bluntly, banks have made it harder for any buyer getting on the housing ladder when prices are low.

Although UK housing prices are expected to make a steady recovery over the next few years and investors who dipped their toes at the right time to make a healthy profit from this, there is a threat.

Interest rates in the UK have remained at an historic low, but some major banks are beginning to increase lending rates, and this is bad news for many UK home owners.

The Bank of England (BoE) Base Rate hasn't changed. It's still at 0.5%. In fact, the central bank's most recent move was to loosen monetary policy with another round of quantitative easing. There are no indications that the BoE will raise interest rates anytime soon, so why are the private sector banks starting the raise mortgage rates?

Halifax is raising its standard variable rate (SVR) to 3.99% from 3.5% on May 1. That doesn't sound like much, and in the big scheme of things it isn't. It's about £40 per month extra on a £150,000 repayment mortgage.

Island Investor

By Anthony Lyman

According to the website thisismoney.co.uk, roughly 850,000 borrowers will see their payments rise.

Santander and RBS/Natwest have raised some of their rates, too. And what's significant here – for now, at least – isn't the amount of money: It's the direction of the rate change.

We have to remember that the BoE Base rate is incidental. What matters is how much banks charge to lend money. It has become more expensive for banks to raise money in the wholesale markets in recent months, although it has eased off in recent weeks. It's also getting more expensive to raise money from savers. Fed up with inflation eating their cash savings, people are increasingly investing, rather than saving.

That's risky of course, but it's a direct result of BoE policy. People are doing what the Bank wants them to do. The trouble is, once savers have made that psychological jump, it means banks have to work harder to attract them back.

One particular line that banks like to use in situations like this is, "We are just passing the costs

on." Rubbish. Banks have to make a profit, too. As Halifax had one of the lower SVRs, this move merely brought it more in line with its rivals. So it makes sense, from the bank's point of view, to improve its margins where the market will bear it.

This makes life a little harder for marginal customers. Many customers would have stayed on the marginal rates, pretty much because they can't afford to go anywhere else.

Some reports suggest that as many as one in six borrowers regularly have problems meeting their payments. So this could be the final straw for some, especially if unemployment continues to rise. House repossessions in the UK in 2011 were just above 36,000 and I expect this number to rise.

Over the longer term, property seems to be a good investment as mortgages become more expensive and those all important first steps on the housing ladder become harder and harder. This all bodes well for the rental market.

If you own a home in the UK and you are on a standard variable rate, don't be shocked if your mortgage payments become a little bit more expensive.

Article written by A Lyman, Senior Consultant for Montpelier Group. For more information email: ALyman@MontpelierGroup.com.



ROCKING UP: Customers outside a branch of Northern Rock - a Mortgage specialist and a top UK mortgage lender. Photo: Dominic Alves

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Kids are doing it for themselves



TIRED: Recycling is core to the program. Learning to be innovative with objects that most people would throw away, the students decorate old shoes and helmets as planters for young vegetables or flowers.



The school is home to 120 students, from four to 18 years, who come from fractured homes.

By Bruce Stanley

AS PART of its philosophy to teach young Thai students the importance of self-sufficiency and respect for the environment, the Yaowawit Boarding School and Lodge has developed a model agricultural project which demonstrates the fundamentals of independence for small farmers.

Located in the middle of a Phang Nga jungle, far away from the glamor of international tourism or even modern Thai life, the Yaowawit School, was founded by a German philanthropist and an American architect with the sup-

port of Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn and the Thai government.

The school is home to 120 students, from four to 18 years, who are accepted from around Phang Nga based on their financial and personal needs. Some are survivors of the 2004 tsunami and all come from fractured homes where one or both of their parents are dead or missing.

Sabine Kraus is the Project Manager for Yaowawit.

"Our goal is for these children to develop their personal inner resources and to become productive members of their society. Our teaching stresses the importance of being responsible

for one's own actions as well as one's effect on the local environment. We have developed the 10 Station Learning Center so the students can see how to make organic foods in a way that does not harm the environment," she said.

With the help of committed volunteers, Christian von Aufess and Addy Ukhatarn, the Yaowawit School has taken a large portion of their 120-rai piece of land to develop agricultural products.

"We are constantly under pressure to raise funds to continue our operations. We are hoping that by growing most of our own foods, we can become self-suf-



PEDAL POWER: Watering the crops using an old bicycle.



Self-sustaining lessons.



Project manager Sabine Kraus.

ficient. We are currently able to get some revenue from rice cultivation and palm oil production, but it is not enough," said Sabine.

To create needed revenue, the school has added six rooms which are rented to visiting groups or tourists who want to help the school and explore the surrounding beauty. They are also developing products based on what they produce at the farm such as massage oils and organic drinks made from Thai fruits and herbs.

Students learn how to make organic fertilizers from vegetable scraps and rotting organic materials. A station with water pumps, pow-

ered by students who pedal bicycles, is connected to a canal bringing water directly onto fields of vegetables. Recycling is core to the program. Learning to be innovative with objects that most people would throw away, the students decorate old shoes and helmets as planters for young vegetables or flowers.

There are 10 different stations in the project designed to create a self-sustaining farm. The fish pond was seeded with 2,000 small catfish that are being raised to sell in the local community market as well as for use in students' meals in the school restaurant.

"For our school to become more self-reliant we need the participation of local and international sponsors. We are fortunate to receive support from the Swiss Education Group, the German Embassy and a few corporate and individual sponsors, but we still need the help of the community and people who can donate their time or some funds to keep our school in operation. We invite people to sponsor a child for only 2,000 baht a month or to volunteer their skills in art, dance, sports, etc to share with our students," said Sabine.

To learn more about the Yaowawit School Kapong, visit Yaowawit.com or call Sabine Kraus at 082 283 8355.

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The slow road to Bangkok

Looking Back

By Anand Singh

TOWARDS the end of the 18th century, trade and logistics was tough business. Phuket, or Junk Ceylon, during that time was rich in tin, a semi-precious metal that was highly sought after by European and Indian traders. Tin mining was therefore an important source of revenue for the island.

Because tin mines in Junk Ceylon were considered government property, a large chunk of trade revenue had to be sent to the capital on a regular basis. In a time long before banks and money transfers, revenue collected in the form of silver, gold or bartered goods had to be physically transported to the capital to be handed over to the king.

A rare piece of document dated from around 1785 explained this process. It was mandated that tin revenues from Junk Ceylon and nearby towns, as well as merchandise imported from eastern India had to be transported to the capital on a regular basis.

18th century Siamese merchants used a route that started from Takua-Pa, a town just north of Junk Ceylon. Travelers and caravans would then pass through Khao Sok in Surat Thani, an area that is covered with thick tropical

rain forest and steep hills even today. The caravans would have to penetrate the tropical jungle until they reached the Thaphanom canal. From there government officials would arrange for the goods to be taken to Chaiya. The cargo of tin and other goods would then be transported by small boats sailing along a collection of small rivers and canals until it reached the Siamese capital in the central plains. Since the Ayutthaya period and up until 1785, the trail

had also been used by merchants to transport goods to the capital and who wished to avoid sailing all the way around the Malay Peninsular to reach the Bay of Bengal.

In order to ship tin revenues from Junk Ceylon to the capital, the governor of Thalang would arrange to send the cargo up to Takua-Thung. The governor of Takua-Thung

would then arrange to forward the goods to Takua-Pa so that it could be transported along the trail.

The overland route was used for many reasons. It was an old route that had been used for many years by merchants, since the ancient days when Takua-Pa, or Takola as it was then called, was still a thriving trade center. A network of deep canals had been dug so that merchandise could be transported by large boats to different towns. The town of Chaiya on the Kra Isthmus was also a

'Using this route was hard, considering merchants had to transport their heavy cargo for miles overland through harsh terrain but sailing around the Malay peninsular was considered even more dangerous.'



OLD SIAM: Using the new route, it only took three days for goods to reach Bangkok. Photo: Gutenberg project

popular stop for merchants and traders. Using this route was hard, considering merchants had to transport their heavy cargo for miles overland through harsh terrain. But it remained the preferred route because sailing around the Malay peninsular was considered even more dangerous. Storms have, in the past, wrecked countless ships and opportunistic pirates infested the sea trade routes.

However in 1785, the Burmese invaded Siam and war broke out between the two kingdoms. Whilst Junk Ceylon managed to fend off the invaders, the ancient land route to the capital that had been used for centuries was cut off by Burmese troops that had taken over parts of the isthmus. It soon became impossible to transport tin and other revenues from Junk Ceylon to the capital since major towns like Takua-Pa, Takua-Thung, Chaiya and Chumporn had fallen under Burmese control. Stocks of tin, fabrics from India and an array of weaponry bound for the capital began to pile up at the Khao Sok pass for years. Much of the cargo was lost, damaged or stolen during this time.

After the war, King Rama I wanted to establish a new trade route from the South to Bangkok. He asked Phraya Surintharaja, a high ranking noble to find a new shipping route that would connect the south-west coastal towns with the capital. Phraya Surintharaja was the governor of eight coastal towns in the south of Siam, including Thalang (Junk Ceylon), Takua-Pa and Takua-Thung, so he knew the geography of the area quite well. These towns made up a major part of the old route. The arrival of the Portuguese, Dutch and English also meant that sea voyages were becoming safer and more advanced and were utilized to a greater extent.

Initially Phraya Surintharaja was asked by King Rama I come to Bangkok to meet with him. There the king told him that a high ranking minister had just passed away and that he wanted Phraya Surintharaja to take the vacant position. Although highly honored, Phraya Surintharaja did not want to stay in Bangkok and he told the king that he would lead a happier life if he was allowed to remain as the king's viceroy in the southern

coastal towns. In return, he promised King Rama I that he would open a new trade route that would connect the southern towns of Siam with Bangkok. The king agreed and Phraya Surintharaja set out to plan the new route. He asked the king to grant him the use of ten elephants from Nakhon-Si-Thammarat and another ten from Chaiya, in addition to a large workforce that he recruited from the nearby villages. The king approved of his request and the large project to clear a new route to Bangkok was underway.

The new route that Phraya Surintharaja built was a much needed replacement to the old one that had been in use for centuries. Using the new route, it only took three days for goods to reach Bangkok from the south. The journey was also much easier and less prone to sudden flash floods that had in the past destroyed a lot of precious cargo. The new route not only allowed for easier transportation to the capital, it also made the administration of the southern provinces easier and more effective.



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Shark Point diving



WONDERLAND: Down the rabbit's hole and into a trippy world of tropical sea life. The surprises hidden around the limestone pinnacles of Shark Point are endless. Photo: raya divers

Diving

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

THERE was a sinking feeling in my stomach as raya's dive boat approached Hin Musang, better known as Shark Point. Casually floating not more than a kilometer away from our splash-in point were two ragged looking commercial fishing boats. Rumors and grumbles that Shark Point's namesake sighting, leopard sharks, were becoming a rarity began to take on some merit.

Because of their unique and prominent large black spots, as well as their hardness, leopard sharks are a favorite for private and commercial aquariums. Not only are they sought by aquarium enthusiasts, they are also caught for food, a popular dish by all accounts. Sadly, some Phuket divers have claimed to see leopard sharks on board fishing boats around Shark Point.

Leopard sharks tend to remain within particular areas, rarely undertaking long journeys to other suitable habitats, which makes the rumors of their declining presence at Shark Point all the more unsettling.

However, like all dive trips, there are no guarantees of what you are going to see once underwater. A little nervously, my group

jumps first and quickly descends onto one of the three major pinnacles of Shark Point.

I feel like Alice in Wonderland. Shark Point is everything a tropical dive site should be – a total wonderland of marine life. The “need” to see a leopard shark begins to evaporate as giant gorgonian seafans gently wave in the current, beckoning us around the decorated limestone pinnacle, which rises out of the sandy sea floor like a petrified Christmas tree.



MISSING: Leopard sharks are famous for their distinctive pattern and well known as being very docile. There is only a single record in 1955 of a leopard shark harassing a skin diver, who had a nosebleed at the time, and no injury resulted from the incident. Photo: raya divers

Juvenile butterfly fish flutter among the corals, as schools of blue and yellow sergeant majorfish stormed forward.

Following our raya divemaster we peek into the bowl of a rusty-red giant barrel sponge. Motionless

at the bottom was a gnarly scorpion fish, not the only master of disguise that we bumped into on the dive.

Everywhere we looked, the sea floor was alive. False clownfish, not as funny as the real thing, danced around sea anemones. Moorish idols, Indian cushion starfish, bubble anemones and coral banded cleaner shrimp dotted the landscape.

Curious about every nook and cranny of the reef, I float less than a meter above the sea floor. The desire to see a leopard shark is completely washed away by the beauty of the site.

Time, like air, goes fast when you're having fun, so in what felt like no time we were due for a safety-stop.

We stop in a forest of pink soft corals, atop of one of the pinnacles. While waiting, we start a search of the brilliantly colored corals for seahorses, but our three minutes quickly expires and we are forced to surface.

Back on board there is a twinge of jealousy as the other dive group starts talking about the two-meter leopard shark they spotted. However, the condolence package wasn't so bad and the silver lining of course is that Shark Point still has its

namesake, even if they are a bit more rare this high season.

If you have general questions about scuba diving or freediving in the Greater Phuket region, you can contact me at anytime at Isaac@PhuketGazette.net

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Phuket Bike Week has come of age



Phuket Big Bike Week 2012 arrives on the island next month.



READY TO RUMBLE: A Fat Boy (and its rider) prepare to join thousands of other big bikes to descend on Phuket. Photo: Dean Noble

By Marc Mulloy

THERE are places in the world where the roar of big bikes coming towards town spells trouble, but here in Phuket that sound heralds good news as it means that Big Bike Week is here again and that business is as booming as the engines.

Heading into its 18th year, the event will take place between April 6 to 8, just before the Songkran festival kicks off and, like the bikes themselves, has become bigger and better each year.

Back in 1995 the Phuket Riders Club and the Immortals Thailand Club decided to organize a group ride with motorcycle riders from Bangkok and tourists from Malaysia, Singapore and the USA.

That original ride involved around 150 big bikes with about 300 visitors and has grown over the years.

Organizers of Phuket Bike Week 2012 believe this year's event will attract well over 6,000 big bikes to the island, and along with the annual Songkran Festival, inject at least 600 million baht into the economy. This year they have the added support of many Phuket officials and the festival is being organized collectively by Phuket Province, Patong Municipality, the Phuket Big Bike Club, the Phuket Riders Club and Ride Thailand magazine.

Boasting 450 members, Phuket has 36 motorcycle clubs in all with the Phuket Riders Club being the largest with 24 members.

The aim once again is to attract some 30,000 big-bike lovers from across Thailand and the world to visit Phuket and spread the word about South East Asia's largest motorcycle event.

Indeed, with Thailand preparing to join the Asean Economic Community (AEC) initiative in 2015, this year's theme is 'Asean Ride Together' as many bikers come across the borders, especially from nearby Singapore and Malaysia.

The organizers of Phuket Bike Week also recently attended a press conference in Jakarta to encourage more bikers from Indonesia to the event.

"Last year about 200 participants came from Indonesia and we hope to raise that number to around 500 this year," said Wittaya "Sumon" Singkalah who is the coordinator of Phuket Bike Week 2012.

As with previous years, Big Bike Week 2012 has a number of entertaining events to keep the bikers happy both on and off their ma-



Miss Phuket Bike Week 2011 Photo: Phuketbikeweek.com



HOGGING THE ROAD: At least he has a helmet. Photo: Christian Mouchet



EASY RIDERS: Interesting choppers will be returning. Photo: Ridethailand.com

chines such as a Miss Phuket Bike Week competition, a tattoo and custom bike show, a motorbike exhibition, a ride for peace and global warming, a sand castle art contest, beach parties and a music festival at the new specially prepared area at Loma Park on Patong Beach.

The beach party and music festival will feature some top local and some overseas artists including Carabao and Baowee.

The event attracts television coverage here both in Thailand and overseas and is supported by companies such as Harley Davidson, who have more than 300 community members in Thailand alone.

"It is a great opportunity to showcase Phuket and we are still seeking sponsors to help support this huge event, Any local businesses that want to get involved are still welcome to join" said Sumon.

Meanwhile Phuket's population will be able to view the awesome sight of hundreds of dedicated bikers on their gleaming machines rumbling around the island and planting banana trees along Patong

Beach to reduce their own carbon footprint.

Sumon points out that the sort of participants that attend are usually responsible and safe riders and that the event has little to do with infamous bike gangs that people fear.

"We discourage some disreputable gangs from joining as we aim to create better relationships between bikers of all nationalities while creating awareness of Phuket's culture and traditions. We also use this event to promote Phuket as a tourist destination for bikers," said organizer Sumon.

Readers who are into bike bikes, tattoos, biker babes or top-class live music should not miss this opportunity to see, or be seen at, one of the most spectacular events on the island.

Phuket Bike Week 2012 is sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and PGTV.

Anyone who wishes to join or sponsor the event can contact Sumon: E: sumon@ridethailand.com or visit the websites: phuketbikeweek.com or ridethailand.com.

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Saint Patrick's Day

By Neil Quail

LET the celebrations begin! It's that time of year again when the shy and solemn Irish expats around the world awake from obscurity to throw off the shackles of sobriety and enjoy a pint or two.

Yes, it's Saint Patrick's Day on March 17, and not only a day, but a whole weekend is available to indulge in all things Irish. Bar, pub and club owners will be wringing their hands in anticipation of a three-day spending spree and of course the free entertainment their Celtic patrons will undoubtedly provide through unsolicited singing and unnecessary dancing.

With all the merriment and 'craic' that will be exhibited from Friday to Sunday in honor of our patron saint, there will be another coinciding event that will encourage even more Irish out from the woodwork on Saturday night.

Emotions will run high that night. As the clock strikes midnight bringing us into Sunday morning, there will be mobs of Irish rugby fans standing in lines, arms locked across shoulders, mirroring the national team's lineup as we all roar 'Ireland's Call' at the television. Grown men will have tears in their eyes and not from the piece of chili that they accidentally swallowed with the salted bar nuts.

Anyone in the vicinity of these dis-



A TASTE OF HOME: All wrapped up for the St Patrick's Day parade in Ireland. Photo: K. Allen

plays, that is not English of course, will undoubtedly have the hairs on their arms and necks standing on end. It is of course 'the old enemy' Ireland face in the Six Nation's rugby international on Saturday and it doesn't get much more difficult for England – battling the Irish on Saint Patrick's Day – the only advantage they will have is that the game will be played at Twickenham.

Not that we are forecasting an Irish win, but others are supremely confident that we will be celebrating long into the wee hours of Sunday morning including the Honorary Consul of Ireland to Phuket, Hélène Fallon Wood.

"I will be guest of honor at the Irish Times pub in Patong on Saturday night. I

will be there with Peter, my husband, to watch Ireland thrash England in the rugby," Hélène told the *Gazette*.

"I'm looking forward to seeing everyone Irish there, and if not Irish come and join in the 'craic' of Saint Patrick's Day at Jungcelopyn," invited Hélène.

Whether it's Patong for Scruffy Murphy's and Molly Malone's, or Karon Beach at Angus O'Tools – dig out something green from the wardrobe, get to one of the establishments mentioned above and have a decent Irish dinner to line the stomach and make Mum happy. Then tuck into a few pints of porter and maybe a whiskey to celebrate Patrick and hopefully an Irish rugby victory.



Greetings on St Patrick's Day from His Excellency Declan Kelly, Ambassador of Ireland to Thailand

Best wishes to the Irish Community in Thailand and all friends of Ireland on the occasion of St Patrick's Day 2012.

I am repeatedly impressed by the pride and enthusiasm with which Irish communities around the world celebrate our national day and heritage. As St Patrick was himself a migrant, a missionary from across the Irish Sea, it is natural that the Irish abroad should have a special connection with him.

I am also proud of the open and welcoming manner in which Ireland and our traditions are celebrated so as draw in people of all backgrounds. I have seen that the Irish organisations in Thailand exemplify this approach.

Let me also use this occasion to underline my appreciation for the role played by the Honorary Consul of Ireland in Phuket, Hélène Fallon-Wood, and the Honorary Consul of Ireland in Bangkok, Gary Biesty. The important consular services they provide, throughout the year, for Irish citizens in Thailand and for visa applicants planning visits to Ireland deserve to be recognised.

Declan Kelly, Ambassador.

Seven's heaven for our Lady Pie

AFTER last year's successful involvement with the rugby world's premier 7s tournament, Phuket's Lady Pie can claim world renown and will once again fill more appreciative bellies with their themed and delicious fare at the 2012 event that starts on March 23.

Now in their sixth year of operation in Cherng Talay, Lady Pie owners Susan and Harry Usher are thrilled with another opportunity to promote Phuket's growing international culinary reputation in the world arena, or at the Hong Kong Stadium at least, with their range of crusty puff pastries.

A few facts and figures for academic digestion suggest this is a 'takeaway' of mammoth proportion that goes some way to satisfy the appetites of over 120,000 players and spectators, who will enjoy one of the world's top annual sporting events.

Four aptly named types of pie will complement the gallons and gallons of alcohol traditionally quaffed at the 7s, with the Aussie Beef Ruck, Chicken and Mushroom Maul and the Steak and Kidney Scrum providing vital sustenance for rugby and pie enthusiasts over three days of guaranteed revelry.

As this paper went to print, 5,500 Aussie pies, 2,000 chicken and mushroom pies and 840 steak and kidney pies were being prepared for the global feast and the following details what literally

goes into fulfilling an order of this size.

The weight of minced beef required is 220kg, while beef alone weighs in at 50kg. Over 4kg of kidneys are needed in addition to 72kg of chicken and the 45kg of vegetables. All the fillings dealt with, Lady Pie's tireless staff then prepares 420kg of puff pastry and 620kg of short crust pastry.

It's evident that the pies are a source of pride for Susan, but she is quick to admit it's her staff that make it all possible.

"If it wasn't for my girls we wouldn't be in this position," said Susan. "They work so hard to get everything done on time. Some of the preparation is very precise and can only be done by eye. Due to weight restrictions on the flights we have a tolerance of just half a kilo per 20kg container, but they get it right every time. Absolutely fantastic, they're brilliant," she added.

While discussing the Hong Kong 7s, Susan kindly offered a new addition to the menu for our delectation in the form of sticky hot cross buns.

It will be Easter on Phuket all year round now and with Lady Pie on our doorstep it's easy to taste a little of the atmosphere Hong Kong will enjoy tackling next week.

For more information visit LadyPie.com.

– By Neil Quail



EASTER BUN: Sweet and sticky hot cross buns by Lady Pie.



UPPER CRUST: Lady Pie's outstanding staff present a fresh batch of gravy laced rugby ball shaped pies in readiness for the Hong Kong 7s.

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The big picture of global horror

Books

By James Eckardt

IN LIBRARIES and book stores, not shelves but entire bookcases are devoted to World War II and the American Civil War. Therefore, a one volume history of each fills a crying need.

The American Civil War has *Battle Cry of Freedom* by James M. McPherson. Now World War II has *Inferno* (Alfred A Knopf, New York, 2011, 729pp) by Max Hastings, subtitled "The World at War 1939-1945".

Hastings brings a magisterial authority to the subject, having written eight previous military histories of the war.

He is blunt on the subject of generals. A nutshell explanation of the Confederate's initial success in the Civil War is that they had good generals and the Union had bad. Similarly he is unafraid to assert that the Germans had good generals – Manstein, Guderian, Rommel, Kesselring – and the British and Americans bad: the entire brass of the early days of the war and much of the later.

He calls General Douglas MacArthur a "vain glorious blowhard". His campaign to re-take the Philippines was strategically unnecessary, but his PR machine rolled over the powers in Washington. "MacArthur was distinguished by the splendor of his self-image as a warlord, which it suited his nation to indulge, rather than by gifts as a battlefield commander. General Mark Clark in Italy

squandered his best troops – the Gurkhas and the New Zealanders – on frontal attacks on Monte Cassino out of sheer personal lust for glory for the conquest of Rome. Lust for glory was also the main reason behind British general Bernard Montgomery's failure of the Arnhem campaign, "The British commander charged with executing it, notably Lt. General Frederick "boy" Browning, displayed shameful incompetence and merited dismissal with ignominy rather than the honors they received in a classic British propaganda operation intended to dignify disaster."



Director of the US Navy's Pacific campaign Admiral Nimitz, in 1942



Gen. MacArthur wades ashore to the Philippines.

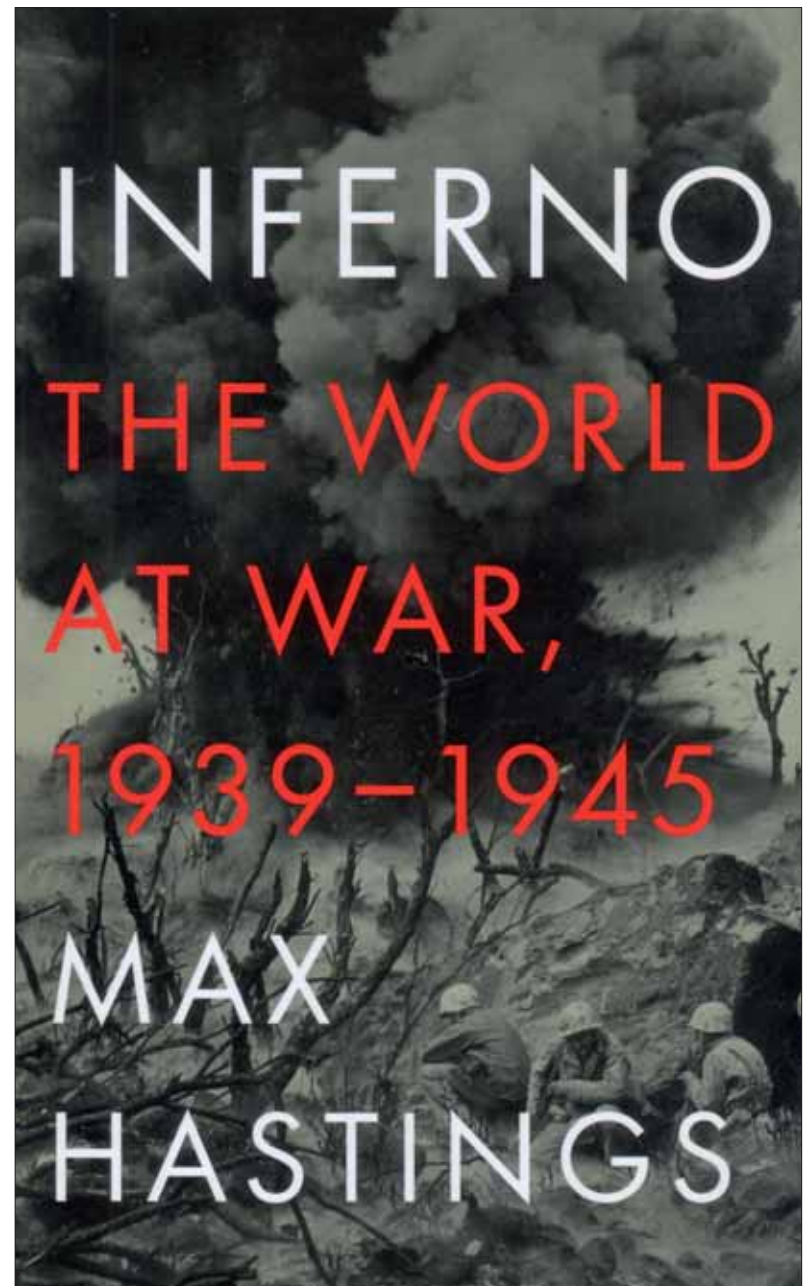
The American generals Bradley and Hodges were mediocrities at best. Patton alone merits qualified praise: "In pursuit, he displayed an inspiration and energy rare among Allied generals, but in hard fighting, his army fared no better than those of his peers."

In contrast, he esteems highly the naval and air force commanders. "The outstanding personality of the Japanese war

was Nimitz, who directed the U.S. Navy's Pacific campaign with cool confidence and judgment, often displaying brilliance, especially in the exploitation of intelligence. Spruance showed himself the ablest fleet commander at sea." In contrast, after many initial successes, the Japanese admirals showed nothing but dullness and timidity.

But the high command of the war forms only a very tiny portion of Hastings' sweeping vision. The bulk of the book is made up of the personal stories of the people on the ground, from infantrymen and civilians. His point is that the war was a force that swept away normal lives and tested everyone in varying degrees of horror. It is this vast human mosaic that forms the beating heart of the book.

The most important corrective is that the war was really fought on the Russian front. A mere half dozen divisions were fielded by each side in the North African campaign. By contrast, the Russians fielded 200 divisions on their front. Three quarters of their tankers were killed. Of seven million taken prisoner by the Germans, only three million survived. Total deaths topped 27 million with 16 million civilians. The Russian generals were successful simply by throwing millions into bloody



THE COSTS OF WAR: Hastings vividly portrays war as a force that destroys life's normalities and tests the affected in horrific ways.

frontal attacks.

"The advancing Soviet legions resembled no other army the world had ever seen: a mingling of old and new, Europe and Asia, high intelligence and brutish ignorance, ideology and patriotism, technological sophistication and the most primitive transport and equipment. T-34s, artillery and katyusha rocket launchers were followed by jeeps and Studebaker and Dodge trucks supplied under lend-lease, then by shaggy ponies and columns of horsemen, farm carts and trudging peasants from the remote republics of Central Asia, clad in foot cloths and rags of uniforms. Drunkenness was endemic."

So was mass rape and looting. Europe was plunged back into medieval horrors. Japanese civil-

ians suffered mass murder from the sky. Hastings concludes:

"Among citizens of modern democracies to whom serious hardship and collective peril are unknown, the tribulations that hundreds of millions endured between 1939 and 1945 are almost beyond comprehension.

Allied victory did not bring universal peace, prosperity, justice or freedom; it brought merely a portion of those things to some fraction of those who had taken part.

All that seems certain is that Allied victory saved the world from a much worse fate that would have followed the triumph of German and Japan. With this knowledge, seekers after virtue and truth must be content."

Film

The Grey

Director: Joe Carnahan
Lead Actors: Liam Neeson, Dermot Mulroney, Frank Grillo
Genre: Action/Adventure/Drama
Phuket Release Date: March 1

THE survivalist movie *The Grey* pits a half-dozen or so oil-rig rough necks against a den of wolves, and writer/director Joe Carnahan's portrayal of that elemental struggle for survival breathes new life into the genre by being unusually thoughtful and philosophical.

Carnahan brings an unexpected sobriety to the proceedings by introducing Ottway (Neeson) as a deeply troubled man who has lost his will and purpose to live.

Liam Neeson is a sharpshooter who has seen his fair share of killing over the years now makes his living protecting the riggers in the Alaskan wilderness, but can't figure out why he's now safeguarding men he describes as "unfit for mankind".

Their fundamental struggle is told with unvarnished clarity, and Carnahan's attention to the little details in every scene makes the journey thoroughly mesmerising every step of the way.



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Kiat Eksilapa

SUCCESSFUL IT businessman Kiat Eksilapa fell in love with classical guitar when he was young. Growing up in a family of music lovers – his father played the guitar and his younger brother the flute. Kiat went on to study music at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok.

At 22, he won an audition to study at the prestigious Conservatory of Music Óscar Esplá in Spain, where musical virtuosos from all over the world converge.

“Spain is the home of the classical guitar, the best in the world,” Kiat explains.

“Music was an important part of the great Spanish civilization during the 15th and 16th Centuries, the *Siglo Cde Oro* (“golden age”). At that time, artists, musicians and writers the world over met there to bask in the air of creativity. And that was how my music maestro there put it: ‘Submerge yourselves in the fountain of civilization.’ For five years I lived and breathed music. You couldn’t help it: it was so much part of life there.

“The Spaniards not only play music, but they speak it as well on a daily basis. Do you know that the musical term *allegro* doesn’t actually mean fast but describes a state of being – joyous and lively?”

Having graduated from the Conservatorio, Kiat returned to Thailand and briefly taught music

THAI
gallery
By Nanthapa Pengkasem

in Bangkok. He realized then that “submerging in music” was not an option in the real world and decided to enter the world of academia and become a fellow researcher at the Lund University in Sweden. His subject: late renaissance and baroque music. The research lasted four years.

Back in Phuket in the early 1990s, Kiat set up IT-Access, the first company to offer technical solutions for businesses in Phuket needing computer systems. As the company prospered, music, as it were, was put on the back burner.

Not until 14 years later Kiat could rekindle his passion. He opened PianoPros in 2008 to sell and rent pianos and other musical instruments, but with a loftier idea – to fuel interest and appreciation of classical music among young Thais and to integrate this into the existing education system.

On this he lobbied hard to be accepted as representative and examination center of the noted British musical institution ABRSM

(Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music).

“My idea is to develop a full and workable teachers’ training program to expand music education in this country by working with schools, colleges and universities. I realize that the scope is huge and I have a lot of work ahead of me. But I have a capable partner (in Bangkok) who is also in the music business and who has a large network we can deploy,” he says.

“This is not about money and profits but more about giving back to society, a practice in social awareness. I have always wanted to do this and this is it,” says Kiat, his eyes brighten with excitement.

To the question of how he reconciles the two seemingly different disciplines, music and IT, Kiat answers, “Music is abstract and so is science. There’s quite a bit of mathematics in music and it’s a well-known fact that physicists in particular appreciate classical music because they understand it so well. To me the two are just branches of the same tree.”

Kiat is married to Ruedee, also from Phuket, and have a 10-year-old daughter named Aria. It seems that for the moment his personal life, professional work, and his passion are all playing to the cheerful tempo of *allegro*. No staccato notes here.



About Thai Gallery

The individuals profiled in “Thai Gallery” are chosen on the basis of their contributions to Phuket as an *international* community, and, often, for having made those contributions through successful social and/or working relationships with foreigners. This implies some foreign language skills and an interest in interacting with different cultures. They are people who in our experience help make the lives of expats far more enjoyable here than might be the case without them.

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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

March 12-18 6:30-10pm. Coconut Carnival at DiVine Restaurant, Thanyapura Phuket

It's more than just coconut. Enjoy a week of this festive buffet dinner at DiVine Restaurant, offering a wide selection of innovative coconut dishes. THB 780 baht per person. Price is subject to a 10% service charge and 7% VAT.

March 17 10am-11:30pm. St Patrick's Day Party – Good Craic!

Angus O'Tool's Irish Pub - Karon Beach. Come and Join us for Paddy's Day Celebrations, little bit of Ireland in Thailand. Fun for all the family, free prizes, t-shirts and lots of.. Guinness with Irish & international fare. Cold beer, good food, warm folk.

March 17 – 18 10am-2am: St. Patrick's Day Party @ Scruffy Murphy's Patong

Come on into Scruffy's for our annual St Patrick's Day party, kicking off at 10am. Hundred baht Happy Hour All Day – Frozen Cocktails, Double Vodka Red Bulls, Chang Pints and Green Beer. Guinness and Kilkenny Specials All Day! Live Music All Night Long!

March 17 – 18 10am-2am: St. Patrick's Day Party @ Molly Malones

St Patrick's Day Party starting from 10am. We have Happy Hour All Day – Frozen Cocktails and Double Vodka Red Bulls at 100 baht, Chang Pints and Green Beer for 100 baht. Live Music All Night Long. Guinness and Kilkenny specials – All day!

Phuket Afternoon Computer Clinic

Is Windows driving you NUTS? Looking for a good internet connection? Need to know how and where to get your PC repaired, or your confounding questions answered? Drop by the new Afternoon Computer Clinics, hosted by Woody Leonhard and Seth Bareiss. Bring your computer. Bring your questions. Bring your sense of humor and let's see if we can solve your PC problems. Second and fourth Wednesday of every month. Sponsored by Woody's Sandwich Shoppes and the *Phuket Gazette*.

March 28. – Chalong

April 4. – Patong

Starts at 1 to 3pm

Contact at 076-282403,

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Lions Club Phuket Pearl Ray of Hope



March 24, 7-11:30pm. Lions Club Phuket Pearl Fund Raiser Royal Phuket Marina

A charity fundraiser for the Phuket Handicap and Austistic Societies. A fun evening which will include live jazz, drinks and food, fashion and dance shows and silent auctions with great prizes. This annual fundraiser, Ray of Hope, benefits flood victims and supports a variety of children's charities on Phuket.

Contact Wanida Hongyok Phone 086-954 4389 Email h.wanida@gmail.com

The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV are proud to sponsor this event.

Mar 17 7-10:30pm: Sileni Wine Dinner at Mom Tri's Kitchen, Villa Royale

A Taste of New Zealand, Mom Tri's Kitchen, Villa Royale. Presented by Pip Austin, General Manager for Asia Pacific Sileni Estates. Sileni Estates is a major vineyard and winery development in Hawke's Bay, New Zealand's oldest established vineyard area. The wines have won worldwide acclaim. Enjoy a 5-course dinner and 7 wines from Sileni Estates. Menu by: Chef Darren Wiper. Main Course: Sileni Cellar Selection HB Merlot 2010. Roast rump of lamb. THB 1,900++ per person, not including tax or service. Visit our website or email for our full menu.

March 19-25 8am-6pm: An In-Depth Week of Yoga & Meditation, Thanyapura Retreat

Finding Balance in the Midst of Chaos: An In-Depth Week of Yoga and Meditation with Kim Roberts. Learn practices to help maintain balance during challenging or transitional life phases. In addition to a daily yoga practice, we will identify what inhibits our progress and how we can best work to overcome these obstacles. Using the power of intention and focus, we will address the obstacles to relaxation in our lives, and incorporate practices to encourage a more balanced approach to daily life.

March 19-23 4:30-6:30pm: BIS Phuket Year 13 Visual Arts students exhibition

You are invited to the opening of the IB Visual Arts Exhibition which will take place in the foyer of the Main Teaching Building at 4:30pm on Monday, March 19. Public viewing will take place until Friday, April 27. Some great pieces on display from very talented students.

March 23 6-8pm: "Island Bliss" Fashion Show

Calling all Phuket Fashionistas! An exclusive preview of the island's

hottest new collections. Modeled by some of Phuket's coolest Ladies! Whether you are looking for that special cocktail dress, new spring outfit or something cute for the kids, you will find something for everyone on the night! Free flow drinks and canapes throughout the event. 800 baht per person or 500 baht for non-alcoholic beverages. All proceeds will be donated to charity. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*.

March 23 7-10pm: Special Indian Feast Promotion @ Les Anges

Royal Phuket Marina is pleased to introduce you to our new Special Promotion: "Come 4, Pay for 3". This gives you a 25% discount on our buffet and 10% on the listed menu, every Friday night from 7-10pm. This Authentic

Home-Made Indian Buffet will be prepared and served by our very own in-house Indian Chef, Padum Kahtri. Only 495++ baht per person. Reservations are recommended, so please call Les Anges on 076-360803 or Mr Murat (Events & Group Manager) on 081-797 3364.

March 23 7-11pm: Curry Fridays Navrang Mahal Indian Restaurant, Karon

We present Curry Fridays at Navrang Mahal India Restaurant. Here is your chance to enjoy an authentic and lavish Indian Curry Buffet every Friday. Selections include all-time favourite 'Chicken Tikka Masala', very hot 'Mutton Vindaloo', succulent Kebabs, Goan Fish Curry and much more... served with Nan bread and Basmati rice. 'All you can eat' for only 449 baht nett! Draught Beer by the glass: just 50 baht nett. Special discount on beverages. Venue: Navrang Mahal India Restaurant at Karon Sea Sands Resort & Spa. Time: 7 to 11pm. For reservations, please call: 076-286464, ext 4.

March 24 12-3pm: Saturday Brunch @ Two Chefs!

Two Chefs Kata Center Saturday brunch at Two Chefs Kata Center! Every Saturday we are setting up our brunch buffet, filled to the limits with home made delights. In our smoke house, we smoke all of our fish and meats by ourselves, and in the bakery we bake all our bread. With very well trained chefs and a Swedish head chef, we can promise you that you won't leave hungry or thirsty. All this for only 395 baht, and if you add an extra 300 baht you can choose to drink what you want from our free flow alternatives. For more info, please visit our web page TwoChefs.com.

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PLEASE RELEASE ME: At the third Mai Khao Turtle release were (from left) JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa's GM, Tony Pedroni; Deputy Chief Executive of the SAO, Wiraj Makaew; a volunteer; Phuket Marine Biological Center Director, Mickmin Jarujinda, and Phuket Naval Civil Affairs Department Director, Captain Parinyatham Pulpitaktham of the Royal Thai Navy.



CUTE: Rane Phuntong drove car 17 with Mark Kennedy and her mascot named "Roadkill". Photos: Christian Mouchet and Dean Noble



ARTISTIC VENTURE: At the grand opening of the new VR Gallery at Villa Royale were (left to right) Villa Royale's management team Sylvie Yaffe and Khun Pusadee; Dutch Artist Leo Musch; Mom Tri's Wife, Tam Devakul, and Mom Tri Devakul. Photo: Dan Miles

RALLYING TO THE CAUSE

The Phuket Invitational Car Rally involved dozens of cars cruising around Phuket – all in the name of charity.

Event organizer John Devenport (left) was at the start aided and abetted by Saksri Kerdphol from Auto Express. Roy Beattie (below) was "number one" but was beaten by the Danish team for first place.

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LET ME GO: Laguna Phuket senior management joined Khun Mickmin Jarujinda, Director of Phuket Marine Biology Centre (second right) and Captain Parinyatham Pulpitaktham, Director of Civil Affairs Division, 3rd Area Naval Command, Royal Thai Navy (right) to release the first of more than 70 young sea turtles.



NEW MODELS: Showing off their Volvo at the 14th Andaman Motor Show.



WE'RE FINE: Centara Grand Beach Resort Phuket recently held an exclusive dinner featuring the fine quality wines of Chapoutier winery. From left: Stephane Barlerin, Export Director of M. Chapoutier; Jean Christophe, Siam Gourmet Paradox; Sandro Aguilera, Executive Chef of the resort; Christophe Gestin, Executive Assistant Manager of F & B and Denis Thouvard, General Manager of the resort.



GET YOUR CHIHUAHUA HERE: Two kids at the exciting new Weekend Market at Boat Lagoon which got off to a good start on Saturday with plenty of buying, selling or even bartering, although we think the dog in the photo was not really for sale.



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Happening

Boathouse Wine & Grill



SANDRONE

Monday 12th March 2012

Sandrone Wine Dinner

Join us for a wonderful celebration of Barolo for a fantastic 4 course dinner. Cristian Magdalena visiting from the winery in Italy will talk us through the various wines during the evening. Book now as this is an exclusive visit and there are only 19 seats available. Cocktail 7 pm followed by dinner Baht 2,500++ per person.

Friday 16th March 2012

Kathy's exciting exhibition

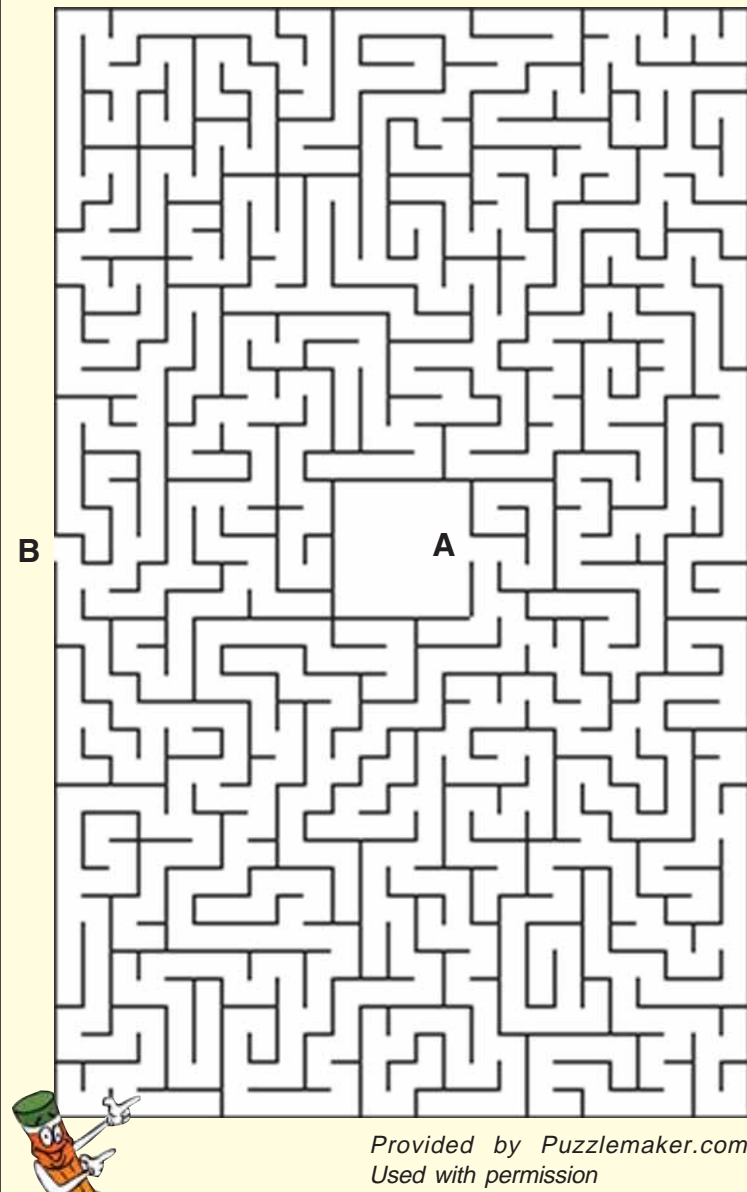
The first of a series of Art Exhibitions. Mixed Media and Encaustic New Works of talented Phuket based Californian Artist Kathy Manthei Coulson will be on display in the lobby of Boathouse Resort on the beach from March 16th – April 16th, 2012. The Launch Reception of Kathy's exciting exhibition will be held on March 16th from 7pm -9pm



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

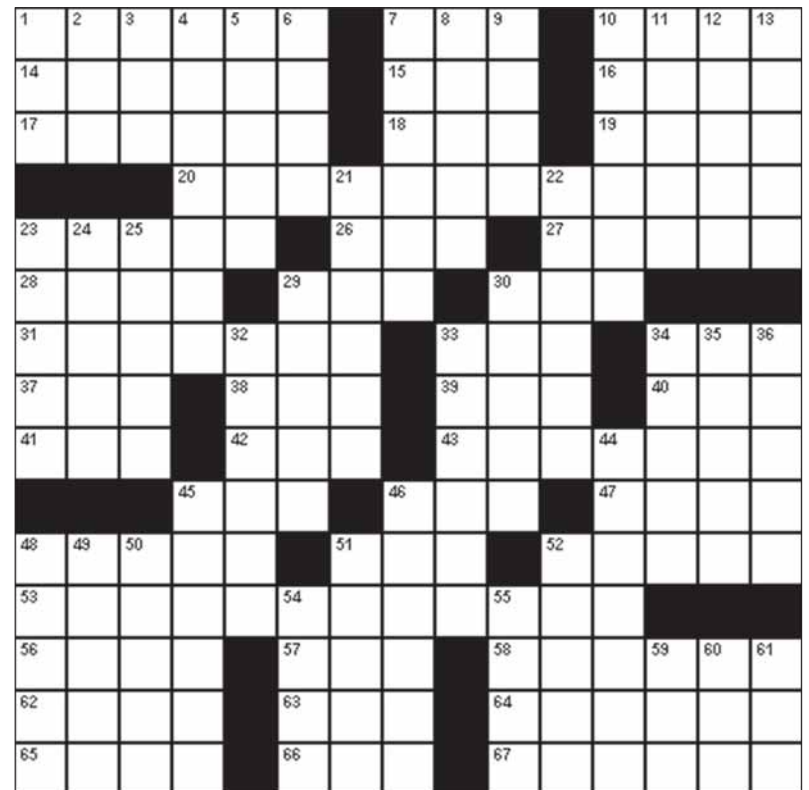


Across

1. Flat taker
7. "You've got mail" co.
10. St crossers
14. Salty
15. Dernier —
16. Director Wertmuller
17. General tendencies
18. Citrus cooler
19. Asian sea
20. Self-destruct
23. — bleu!
26. Evergreen tree
27. Old cars, often
28. Clearasil target
29. Curator's deg.
30. God, biblically
31. Flirting
33. Monetary unit of Bulgaria
34. Brother's title
37. CPR expert
38. AOL alternative
39. Altdorf's canton
40. Actor Fernando
41. Actress Charlotte
42. — be my pleasure!
43. Act of soaking
45. T.G.I.F. part
46. Craze
47. Make-up artist?
48. Military chaplain
51. Albanian coin
52. Ringing instruments
53. Unfriendly
56. Collar type
57. Here, to Henri
58. Raved
62. Anklebones
63. Fleur-de—
64. Think
65. A Baldwin brother
66. Biblical verb ending
67. Republic in S North America

Down

1. Queue after Q
2. Boat propeller
3. Cheer for Manolete
4. Mosque tower
5. Clothe
6. Break



7. Former French colony of North America
8. Command
9. Falsehoods
10. Old call to arms
11. Infectious agent
12. Make into law
13. Saline
21. Annoy
22. Trifles
23. More secure
24. Pueblo Indian village
25. Benjamin
29. Thin fogs

30. Biblical king
32. Strikes
33. Capital of Zambia
34. Fragile
35. Fit for a king
36. Australia's — Rock
44. Brand of facial tissue
45. Sardonic
46. Talisman
48. Michelangelo work
49. Conductor Dorati
50. Wild Asian dog
51. Lawful
52. Part of an ice skate
54. Heap
55. Fedora feature
59. Mai —
60. And so on
61. — gratias

Provided by BestCrosswords.com
Used with permission.

Puzzle solutions on page 41

PISCES (February 20-March 20):



A disagreement with an air sign should blow over early next week, but Pisceans with a short fuse are advised to leave their irritability at home. The stars suggest that your mood will settle during late March. Those with a birthday in the coming week are forecast to discover that more wishes will come true in the year ahead. Wear mellow yellow to encourage a calmer frame of mind.

ARIES (March 21-April 20):



Gaining more understanding is highlighted for Aries this week. In business relationships, it appears that there is no smoke without fire. Your growing suspicions that an earth sign colleague has been busy behind the scenes could be confirmed on Monday or Tuesday. Those experiencing setbacks in romance could soon have a change of heart about a water sign.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):



Try not to give in too easily in negotiations. There are indications that a smooth-talking air sign could convince you to settle for less than your fair share early next week. Friendship with a water sign can become something more

when you are ready to take a leap of faith. Lucky days for finances are Tuesday and Wednesday. Wear topaz to encourage clearer insight.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



Don't worry over things you have no control over. The stars are ready to support your efforts to get ahead in business, but stronger focus will be necessary this week. Another air sign is predicted to lend a hand at an auspicious moment, but a fire sign's promises are empty. Lucky days for romance are Saturday and Sunday. Money matters are best handled after Tuesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):



Your pace of life speeds up this week. If you doubted proceeding with a work-related plan, you should receive the go-ahead. If another water sign is causing delays, you may decide to leave this person behind. In romance, Cancerians who recently experienced a parting of the ways are likely to be cheered up by an old flame this weekend.

LEO (July 24-August 22):



Your chances of achieving a particular goal at work improve



when an earth sign leaves the scene. The second half of March is well-starred for travel and leisure. Some Leos will combine work and pleasure, with lucrative results. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, an overdue discussion this weekend finally clears the air. Lucky days for finances are Sunday and Monday.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23):



The second half of March is forecast to be mostly positive, with slight emphasis on problems at the start of next week. A thorny issue at work is best solved by listening to someone who has been in the same situation. If you are single and would like that status to change, another earth sign could help that to happen. Those already committed are caught off guard by a partner's suggestion.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23):



Librans can be led in unexpected directions this week. The

stars show that a water sign is ready to include you in an unusual adventure – those who are keen to get out of a rut will appreciate this. Love with another air sign looks promising, but there are hints that an earth sign's unwillingness to compromise can cast a shadow over the weekend. Finances are well starred on Tuesday and Wednesday.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22):



Your goodwill has welcome results this week. Scorpions who recently put themselves out to help those in need will see their efforts have paid off. The stars advise trusting your instincts in the world of work and success will follow. In the realm of romance, Cupid has your best interests at heart during the second half of March. Committed relationships become more harmonious and Scorpions seeking a partner have good luck.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21):



Frustrations at work can take a toll this week. If another fire sign's attitude is responsible, the best solution is a tactful talk with the person concerned. Tuesday is most auspicious to get your point across.

Money matters become more stable during the second half of March, but making large purchases on a whim is not advised. Lucky days for love are Wednesday and Thursday.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20):



The astral atmosphere will encourage Capricorns with too much on their minds to find peace this week. Certain worries turn out to have been unfounded and friends and colleagues will be ready to help you sort out problems. In romance, a relationship with a water sign benefits when you listen to your partner's point of view. Those who are single discover a way to win another earth sign's heart.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19):



Avoid people who bring you down this week. The stars indicate that negativity could be contagious as your mood is likely to be vulnerable around the middle of the month. The chances of finding lost objects become strong after Tuesday – this also applies to opportunities that you believed to be missed. Finances should be treated with caution; this is not an auspicious time to commit to new investments.

PROPERTY Gazette

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

Phuket style gets defined

By Steven Layne

THE direction of property design on the island was intimately examined last week by a panel of international designers to kick off discussions at the latest meeting of the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) Greater Phuket chapter.

Hosted at Royal Phuket Marina, the Design Evolution Workshop featured brief presentations from Adrian McCarroll of Original Vision, Clint Nagata of Bangkok's Blink Design Group and noted designer of the Twinpalms resort, Martin Palleros.

Mediated by Scott Gorsuch of the Leisure Design Group, the panel of three were challenged and stimulated with a series of questions – some difficult and some simple – about the past, present and future of the island's and region's property design scene.

While the presentations and Q & A session highlighted some of the island's design milestones, lingering opportunities and challenges, the climax came with the final, billion dollar question.

CEO of C9Hotelworks, Bill

Barnett, asked the panel to do what has previously never been satisfactorily done: Define Phuket.

Phuket is eclectic, answers Adrian, whose latest projects include Kata Rocks, along with luxury estates Samsara and Sava, in addition to his firm conducting master planning for the 1000 rai Thai Muang project (Phang Nga) of Hong Kong billionaire Richard Li.

"It's difficult to define a style about an island so diverse as Phuket," he admitted, "It is a holiday destination as it is also business destination."

It's an indoor and outdoor experience, he states concisely and confidently.

"People coming here love the idea to be able to be in their swim wear, or walk about their home or yard in the nude, said Adrian.

Adrian's answer reinforced these points in his presentation, in which he emphasized the importance of incorporating pre-existing and underlying environmental factors into the design process.

Next to address the question, Clint Negata said: "I would call it lifestyle tropical architecture. It's about balancing the tropics and the



From left to right: Martin Palleros, John Magee, Adrian McCarroll, Clint Negata, Scott Gorsuch, and Bill Barnett.

outdoors. We all have different definitions."

Clint's Blink Design Group is the interior designer behind the upscale resort Regent Panwa, and has also contributed its creative input to a number of luxury brands in Thailand and Bali including Conrad, Hilton, Jumeriah, Langham Place, Le Meridien, Sheraton, Westin, Banyan Tree, The Venetian and The Luxury Collection.

Last but certainly not least, Martin, who is known for his work on Baan Yamu and the ultra-residence Villa Mayavee on Kamala's Millionaires' Mile answered: "It's not so much about the style as it's about the Phuket experience."

Phuket is about the sea and relationships we have with the sea, he said.

Like Adrian and Clint, Martin also believes that pre-existing and

indigenous factors must be considered and incorporated into design.

Asked about which natural materials will play a significant role in Phuket's trial to be more sustainable, unique and innovative, Martin said to look out for bamboo, of which he believes is set to take the island by storm.

This event was sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and PGTV.

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Move over Phuket here comes Samui

Phuket's neighbouring resort island of Koh Samui is catching up in the tourism property stakes.



IT MAY come as a surprise to some readers, but Thailand does have another resort island on the upswing by the name of Koh Samui.

Phuket may get more ink spilled about it be it good, bad or sensational as do other sea-side leisure spots named Pattaya and Hua Hin, but what about that spot over in the gulf?

Samui's tourism's screenplay seems oddly reminiscent of that epic journey from small rural fishing village with the early adopters being backpackers then somewhere down the line comes some nicer bungalows, a hotel or two and the next thing you know the party is in full swing.

Hotel chains, largish resorts and upscale offerings have turned an infant into a full-blown adult. Pump up the volume, take some steroids and a fast track spurt often ensues.

Numbers in tourism remain

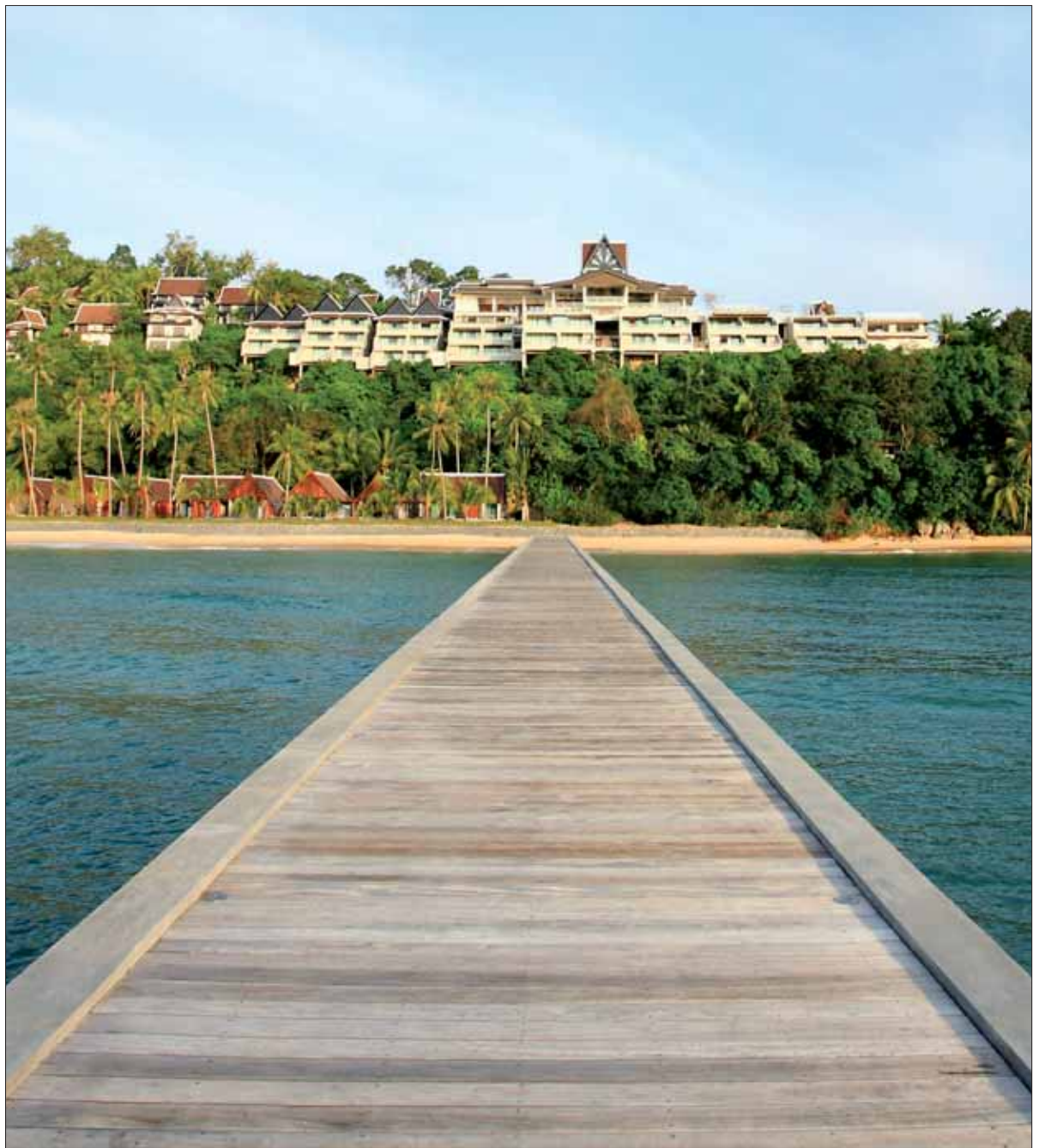
meaningful. It's a grade card on how the sector is performing and often a reality check on what's gone right or else what's gone very wrong.

Koh Samui suffered a marked decline during the global financial crises, with its traditional long haul visitors evaporating into thin air. Phuket was able to cope better with the change, with a shift to more Asian visitors, with sustained increases in low-cost carrier flights.

Now everyone could fly... and they did, but to Phuket and not to Koh Samui.

Our island has continued to post record high visitor arrivals, embracing a numbers game up and up into the sky. But one clear trend in the post-sub-prime-world has been domestic hotel investors crowding into a single phone booth.

More precisely everyone in Thailand apparently wants to own a hotel and a surprising number pony up and cash and crank out bed factories. But upscale luxury hotels were either too capital intensive or the right



PARALLELS: Samui Baan Taling Ngam. A view of the resort from the licensed private pier. Photos: C9 Hotelworks

type of land is beyond the reach of most of these 'would be Donald Trumps'.

Patong has forged ahead and an increasing urban sprawl of vague, forgettable properties have shot up not only there, but in every single corner of the island.

Here is where the paths separated with Samui which is seeing developments and brands such as Four Seasons, W, Conrad, InterContinental and Le Meridien crop up.

According to our market research and analysis the influx of upscale hotels is turning the tables and shifting the market place. Last year Koh Samui saw average room rates soar by 16 per cent compared to the previous year and occupancy was hitting a high note with 6% growth.

Meanwhile airlift patterns compound average growth rates over the past five years (2007 to 2011) show a respectable 7% rise. Foreign travelers continue to dominate the scene and this has been a godsend as the combination of highly sought after quality hotels and emphasis as a boutique destination is resonat-

ing with upscale travelers.

Talk to many hoteliers who provide feedback from guests and they and the travel trade claim that an increasing number of visitors say "smaller is better" when comparing Samui and Phuket. A slower pace, less in-your-face offerings and an exciting portfolio of accommodation.

While we've replayed the airlift scenario into Samui as part of the Bangkok Airways cartel

our neighbor is that a slowdown in the development sector now means only 513 more rooms are on the medium term horizon.

If we were on one of those high pitch Wall Street business television sessions we'd be buzzing about a return to trading fundamentals or stabilizing the supply and demand situation.

In easy terms, the end result means if visitors continue at sustainable numbers, rates and occupancy could very well have a bright outlook.

Of course there are other issues - such as the long term absence of a new airport, straining infrastructure and a gorilla in the room with all of those, now elderly, hotels built on the climb up the ladder, now becoming marginalized.

Times change, taste and décor

don't remain static and how to fill those rooms in a boutique setting remains challenging. But to sum it up, Koh Samui is back on the radar and it's a welcome return to form.

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



WATCH OUT: A beach front Pool Villa on Koh Samui.



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Anantara vacation club and the Lai Thai confirm EIA approval

ANANTARA Vacation Club, a unique Shared Ownership concept launched in 2010 by Anantara Hotels, Resorts & Spas, has confirmed that Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) approval has been received for a new Anantara Vacation Club (AVC) development in Phuket.

With EIA approval now given by Bangkok's Office of Natural Resources & Environmental Protection (ONEP), World Construction, the appointed building contractor, will now commence construction on the new resort, phase one of which is scheduled to open late this year. Anantara Vacation Club Phuket will comprise 70 one, two and three bedroom suites, along with 30 spacious one and two bedroom pool villas with swim up lagoon pool, kids club, gym and restaurant, all adjacent to Mai Khao Beach. Guests will also benefit from a range of shops and restaurants next door and the convenience of being located just 15 minutes from Phuket International Airport.

The purpose-built property Anantara Vacation Club Phuket hopes to set a new benchmark of quality and is being developed with a team of international consultants that include Stephen O'Dell, Soda Thai Architects, Lincolne Scott and Warnes Thailand.

Harold Derrah, CEO of Anantara Vacation Club, said, "This EIA approval gives us the green light we have been waiting for to commence construction on what I consider

will be one of the premier shared ownership resorts. We are very excited about this new addition to Anantara Vacation Club's portfolio which will offer the ultimate guest experience for our Club Points Owners."

Mr Pairat Panarodvong, managing director of World Construction and Engineering Co Ltd, said, "We are very happy to be able to commence construction on this project, and to be working with such a world-class vacation ownership group as AVC. Work will shortly be underway and we are confident that the project will be completed upon schedule, with the first phase to open before the end of the year."

The launch of Anantara Vacation Club in December 2010 marked an important stage in Anantara's evolution. In just 15 months, the company's short span of operation to date, Anantara Vacation Club has rapidly expanded in the market with ownership sales continuing to exceed all expectations.

An AVC preview center is open at Turtle Village, Mai Khao, where a two bedroom display villa showcasing the forthcoming Phuket development is available for viewing by potential future Club Points Owners. Additional Anantara Vacation Club preview centers are located in Koh Samui and Bangkok.

Meanwhile the Lai Thai Luxury Apartments has announced that the project has been granted approval from the Thai Office of Natural Resources and



VIEWING A ROOM: An AVC preview center is open at Turtle Village, Mai Khao, where a two bedroom display villa showcasing the forthcoming Phuket development is available for viewing.

Environmental Policy and Planning, following a lengthy Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

The project has a completion date scheduled for the 3rd quarter of 2013.

Sales are strong, with buyers from both within Thailand and across the globe USA, Holland, Italy, UK and Australia and are

expected to rise following the EIA approval, as investors can take advantage of pre-construction prices with this additional layer of security.

For more information on these projects please go to W: Anantaravacationclub.com or W: LaiThai-resort.com. – *Phuket Gazette*

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Construction commences Q2 2010 and Completion during Q2 2012

Location, location, location



HONG KONG ORCHID TREE: The *bauhinia blakeana* features on the Hong Kong flag. Photo: Jan Smith



The ylang ylang (*cananga odorata*) is technically a vine. Photo: Zaqqy

ONE of the first, if not the first thing to consider when creating a new garden or re-vamping an old one, is to work out which plants do well in your locale. There are more micro-climates around than you or I realize – even in Phuket. So it's a good idea to do some homework in your area, and discover which garden plants are successful and why.

Let's take one distant example. A friend of mine has an English wood that is carpeted with wild primroses every March. A mile away, another friend can't get any primroses to grow for love nor money, even though conditions appear similar. Why? Who knows. But an educated guess would probably link the disparity to soil quality, and the availability of suitable nutrients and moisture in the earth. Primroses need little sun, but plenty of water and an acidic soil. Plants only naturalize when conditions are right.

Switch 7000 miles to Phuket... The owner of an island spa has just camouflaged a bare, sun-drenched wall with some new shrubs. He has chosen pairs of wrightia religiosa, ylang ylang, bauhinia blakeana (Hong Kong orchid tree), magnolia champaca, and, at each end, fiddle-woods (*citharexylum*).

There are already mature ylang ylang vines draped over the trellis outside the sauna, already a row of wrightias flourishing in shade behind the relaxation area, a single magnolia champaca set in a grassy area. These same species are doing well in their new environment, having already shown that soil conditions in the spa are conducive to their particular needs. And the newly planted wrightias are not phased by the remorseless sun, since they are shrubs that will tolerate most conditions - except bone-dry soil. The tulip trees, magnolias and fiddlewoods, used to sunny aspects, are also doing well. Interestingly, all these species are thriving in other gardens in the vicinity.

So the spa people have, quite

literally, done their homework in choosing shrubs and small trees appropriate for the location. Furthermore, the new plants have been regularly watered and mulched, and a raised ridge of soil forming a circle round each one has ensured its retention..

A second matter to consider with a new planting is the size and the growth habit of your new

charges. For example, the ylang ylang (*cananga odorata*) is technically a vine,

and will eventually need support. In time, maybe, it can be attached to the adjacent wall. The tulip trees and champacas will eventually reach fifteen to twenty feet and will stand on their own. No problem. Always a good choice. So too the fiddlewoods, the fastest growing, and ultimately the largest of this quintet. Sensibly they have been placed at each end of the wall, so that they will not crowd out their smaller brethren. The wrightias are perhaps the most surprising selection, since they are small shrubs, rarely more than six feet in height, and usually used as screens or hedges.. Still, they will doubtless prove effective understory shrubs once the others get into their stride.

I almost forgot. All these varieties produce beautiful blooms: the orchid tree, the largest and most exotic purple flowers, the champaca attractive cream or pale yellow flowers. The fiddlewood blossoms abundantly, producing long spikes of tiny white blooms, ylang ylang has distinctive deep yellow, incurved petals, and wrightia has clusters of delicate drooping white blooms.

Oh, and one other very relevant thing.... All these shrubs and trees, with the exception of the scentless bauhinia, exude the most delightful fragrance. And in the setting of a spa, that is surely the most important consideration of all...

If you have a question or a garden that you would like featured, you can email me anytime at: drpaccampbell@gmail.com



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Post-event	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓		
Advertising, full color	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓				
Events Flyer – every week !	✓											
'What's On' page x 1	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓				
Website Events Calendar, every week until event closed out !					✓	✓	✓					
PGTV – Daily spot – 30 sec					✓ ⁽¹⁾	✓ ⁽¹⁾					✓ ^{(2) (3)}	
PGTV – Post event – 1 min of News footage					✓ ⁽¹⁾	✓ ⁽¹⁾					✓ ^{(2) (3)}	
Radio promotion – Spots / Mentions / Interview					✓							✓
Tickets Sales Promotions	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓			✓

* THAI; Emirates; United; China Airlines; Air France; Delta; Lufthansa; Singapore Airlines; Cathay Pacific; Dragonair and Vietnam Airlines.

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Phuket Gazette

Contact K. Jane, Events Manager:
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LUXURY VILLA IN CHALONG



Baan Prangthong Park. An exclusive residential gated community. House 660sqm on 3 levels. Land 1,600sqm, 5 bedrooms, 7 bathrooms, swimming pool 12.5 x 6m with spa, large sala, double garage. Freehold: 5 Chanote titles of 82sq wah (350sqm) each. Excellent investment potential on 2 plots with Chanote title, to build 2 other separate villas, fully independent with own entrance. Tel: 086-271 3260 (English), 086-2734149. Email: crishausb@hotmail.com Website: www.tamata-phuket.com

KAMALA HOUSE LEASEHOLD

18 years left, 300sqm, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, aircon, furnished, sundeck, carport, photos available. Price: 4 million baht. Rent 30,000 baht per month for 6 months rent. Tel: 084-716 0502.

KAMALA HOTEL ROOM
18 years left on lease. No kitchen, 2 pools, jacuzzi. Monthly fees 2,700 baht. Price reduced to 850,000 baht. Tel: 084-716 0502.

BEACHFRONT FOR SALE

3 bedrooms, 2 living rooms, private pool, big sala on the beach. Great price. Tel: 088-168 5032.

KHOK KLOY



8.5 rai, beautiful land, 1km to beach, 2km from Sarasin Bridge. 750,000 baht per rai. From owner. Tel: 083-388 8036.

HOUSE IN KAMALA

For sale. 2.2 million baht, 2 bedrooms. Soi Jasmin, 5 minutes from beach. Tel: 084-852 8457.

5 BEDROOM THAI STYLE POOL VILLA

Luxury finished, 5 mins to Laguna, quiet area. Contact for details. Tel: 087-893 4636 (English & Thai). Email: annericphuket@hotmail.com

LAND FOR SALE

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

MODERN POOL VILLA



Stunning 3-bedroom pool villa, 5 mins from Laguna. 600sqm plot in peaceful location. Finished to a very high specification. Must see. Selling price: 12.9 million baht. Tel: 084-994 9303. Email: phuketpoolvilla.info@gmail.com

VILLAS IN RAWAI

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished. Sale price: 4 million baht. Pool villas: 5 million baht. 2% interest, 10% deposit, 90% finance. Tel: 083-641 9327. Email: rawaipoolvillas@hotmail.com

LAND FOR SALE IN RAWAI

1 rai with Chanote title. 5 minutes to Rawai Beach in secure area. Contact owner directly. Tel: 089-472 9870. Email: dchaibut@gmail.com

LUXURY VILLA

for sale or rent at Rawai. Company included, 5 bedrooms, private pool. Call 084-778 5652 for more information.

4 BEDROOM LAGUNA PHUKET

5 minutes from Laguna in quiet tropical location, a quality pool villa on 1,000sqm land. 220sqm indoor living space, 50sqm pool terrace, 30sqm salt water pool, 6 bathrooms, 65sqm open style kitchen-living-dining area. Western kitchen etc. 9.9 million baht. Tel: 089-875 9609 (English), 087-418 5924 (Thai). Email: claudebaltes@gmail.com

NAI HARN LUXURY CONDO



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

OCEAN VIEW LAND BANG TAO

Over 1,000sqm, road, utilities, river, waterfall. 4.9 million baht. Tel: +1-509-561-0055. Email: philipagordon@yahoo.com

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Estate offering the security of a small, private, gated community complete with clubhouse and swimming pool all beautifully maintained and well managed. Email: mike.rossiter@ol-i.co.uk

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Beautiful big garden with a newly renovated house. 160sqm, 4 bedrooms. Price 5.9 million baht. Tel: 080-147 1400, 080-147 3025 (English & Thai). Email: tomas@tmsengineering.se

SEAVIEW APARTMENT 2.8 MB

Beautiful, 58sqm 1-bedroom apartment. Western kitchen, spacious living room. Sai Yuan, Nai Ham. 50sqm roof garden with panoramic sea view, communal pool. 2.8 million baht. Payment plan possible. Tel: 084-855 7803. Email: shellycider@yahoo.com

CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

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

SUPERB CONTEMPORARY VILLA



5 bedrooms. Between Boat Lagoon & BIS. 120sqm swimming pool, fully furnished. 26 million baht. Tel: 082-276 4314, 082-276 4318. Email: caronitk@hotmail.fr See our website www.phuketfinder.com

100% OWNER FINANCE



Rawai condo. To foreigner, 6 rooms, 27 or 54sqm. 600,000 baht up. 200m to Rawai Pier. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com

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New detached house for sale. 2 bedrooms, en suites. Large walled garden. Price: 2.2 million baht. Contact Jai. Tel: 089-817 4864.

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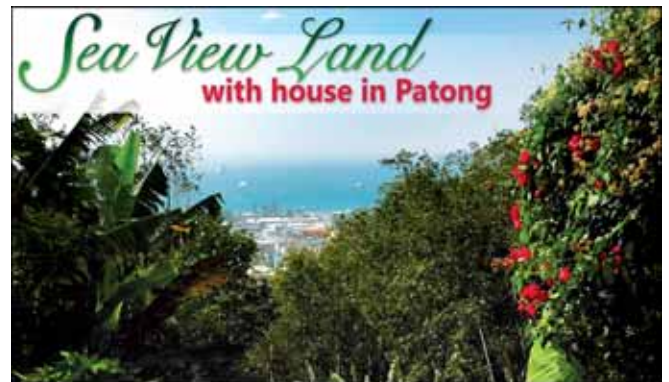
KATA HOUSE FOR SALE

Must see. 5 minutes to beach, large modern house with spacious living room, 3-bedroom with aircon, large bathrooms and storage, garage with laundry, sitting garden and large covered patios. Furnished with beds, TVs, sofas. Company name available for easy transfer. 5.4 million baht. Tel: 081-131 5751. Email: sea dog5000@yahoo.com

CONDO IN SUPALAI PARK



for sale. Near Seng Ho Bookstore in Phuket Town. Studio 30sqm, floor 15, seaview, aircon, furnished. Price: 1.9 million baht. Ready to move in July 2012. Tel: 089-472 9118.



Sea view land with a Chanote land title on the quiet hillside overlooking the beautiful Patong Bay. Exclusive and excluded but still within reach of all facilities. The land plot is 680sqm. A perfect location for a villa or guesthouse development. Development plans are available. There is a well maintained 2-storey house located on the land which could be included in the development. A unique opportunity to find land at this altitude with an official land title that allows developments.

Price: 19.9 million baht

For more information contact: Mattias Björkqvist
Zion Property Co.Ltd
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mattias@zionproperty.com

www.zionproperty.com

LAND NEAR MISSION HILLS



Pa Khlok. 2 rai 32sq wah, 60m wide. Chanote. Located on Tha Ruea-Pa Khlok-Muang Mai Rd. 11 km from Heroines' Monument. Price: 7.8 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118. Email: honda.1437@hotmail.com

PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

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

LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

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

SEAVIEW LAND NAI HARN

-1,200sqm. Price: 12 million baht.
-1,200sqm. Price: 6.8 million baht. Tel: 088-167 3860.

LAND NEAR KATA CENTER

Great location, road access, 5 mins to Kata Beach and main road, 1,450sqm with title deed. Contact Lychee. Tel: 081-891 3048 (Eng & German).

HOUSE & FURNITURE

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

LAND NEAR MONUMENT

6 rai flat, easy building land. Very quiet, chanote title. Below market sale price 1.9 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-894 5848 (English & Thai). Email: doburtay@yahoo.com

HOUSE IN PHUKET VILLA 5 FOR SALE



46sq wah, furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 aircons, carpark. Only 3.5 million baht. Tel: 081-787 7675.

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PRIVATE VILLA IN CHERNG TALAY

Manik, preferably for long-time lease. 220sqm, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished and in a secure and quiet location. Rent 35,000 baht per month for 12 months contract (less than 12 months contract to be discussed). Tel: 081-874 3040, 082-770 3404. Email: taibowman@hotmail.com

PRUKSA VILLE THALANG

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, full furnish. Close to Lotus. 15,000 baht/month. Tel: 089-795 6363. Email: vicky_grc@hotmail.com

RAWAI POOL VILLAS

3 and 4-bedroom villas, private pool. Short and long term rent. Tel: 087-893 8747.

THALANG VILLA

3 bedrooms, new kitchen, fully furnished, aircon, small garden, garage. Very quiet and safe. Tel: 076-311853. Email: matswistedt@hotmail.com

POOL VILLA RENT IN RAWAI

Available now. Tel: 089-472 9870. Email: dchaibut@gmail.com

BUNGALOW KARON

2-bedroom bungalow for rent, minimum 6 months. 2 bedrooms, 2 aircon, fully furnished. Rent: 14,000 baht per month. Tel: 085-691 1837. Email: man.geolsson@hotmail.com

4-BEDROOM VILLA

Beautiful fully-furnished pool villa for rent. 5 minutes to golf courses, 10 mins to int'l schools, 15 mins to Patong and Central. 65,000 baht per month. Owner pays pool, garden and common area expenses. Contact Don. Tel: +61-8-6161 2691, +61-43-592 2900. Fax: +61-8-616 1691. Email: donmountford@hotmail.com

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1 & 2 bedrooms, fully furnished, long-term, near Chalong Circle. Tel: 089-475 1200 (English & Thai). Email: info@welcomeinn.com For further details, please see our website at <http://welcomeinn.info>

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New in Kathu. Big rooms, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, garden, and car park. Rent: 7,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-692 3163.

LUXURY 3-BEDROOM POOL VILLA



with seaview for rent. Luxury pool villa, fully furnished. Only 5 minutes drive to Nai Harn Beach. Start price 65,000 baht/month. Tel: 087-804 4014 (Thai & Eng), 087-885 5765 (Thai & DK) Email: info@kb-realestate.com Website: www.kb-realestate.com

HOUSE FOR RENT NAI HARN



near beach. 2-storey Thai-style house with 12x6m common pool, big terraces. 2/3 bedrooms, kitchen, aircon, TV, WiFi. For rent 25,000 baht per month. Please visit website for more details. Tel: 083-388 8036 (English). 089-972 5378 (Thai). For further details, please see our website at www.phuketqualityhouse.com

LUXURY POOL VILLA

Designed for comfort, has everything. Near Laguna. Lease 22,000 baht/month. Tel: 089-594 4067.

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3 bedrooms with furnished kitchen, cable TV, internet, ADSL. 5 mins to Nai Yang Beach and Phuket Airport. Long term rental 20,000 baht/month or sale 5 million baht. Tel: 076-241594, 089-652 1751 (English & Thai). Email: pietankam@yahoo.co.th

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Bypass Road, opposite Tesco Lotus. 47sqm at corner, 3fl, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, swimming pool view, fully furnished (2 aircons, washing machine, refrigerator, TV, microwave, etc). Pls contact for more details. Tel: 089-469 1813.

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3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, full furnished, aircon, internet. Tel: 087-266 7191.

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KAMALA BEACH

New houses, apartment for rent. 2-4 bedrooms, furnished, cable, WiFi, cleaning lady. All included 15,000-30,000 baht per month. Very quiet and safe. Tel: 083-645 3546.

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Fully furnished, ground floor apartment, 65sqm, for rent, central Patong, 1 month minimum. Available from April 20. Tel: 087-887 9070. Email: ianscondo@yahoo.com

THAI VILLA AND POOL

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ASP.net c#, MSSQL, HTML, CSS, JQuery, Javascript, etc. Contact Noi. Tel: 080-887 3603. Email: noi@lepep.org For further details, please see our website at www.lepep.org

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www.clubtropicalifestyle.com

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Male, Thai national, spoken English, driver's license. 15,000 baht/month. Tel: 087-555 8155 (English). Submit your resume in English with recent photo to info@phuketdrive.com

MANAGEMENT STAFF WANTED

Young and adventurous management staff based at Surat Thani. All nationals and also couples welcome to apply. Send CV in English & photo to rainforestjob@gmail.com

MANAGER IN PATONG

Bali Hai Massage needs English-speaking Thai person to run day shift. Good command of English skills. Please contact for more information. Kathy: 086-745 7745 or Balihai: 084-441 7538.

WEB DEVELOPER

HTML, CSS, JQuery, Photo-shop, Dreamweaver, etc. Contact Noi. Tel: 080-887 3603. Email: noi@lepep.org For further details, please see our website at www.lepep.org

STAFF WANTED

1 chef and 2 waiter staff wanted for restaurant bar in Karon. Good salary, bonus. All year round work. Must speak English, friendly personality required. Tel: 085-655 9008.

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- Multi-tasking skills
- Customer-oriented with a service mind
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The successful candidate will be offered attractive working conditions and benefits. Interested persons, please submit your CV with photograph and expected salary email to pm@lifehomeproject.org
www.lifehomeproject.org
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Contact Khun Bong: +66 (0) 89 228 0011

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Seeking more bike guides to join our growing team. Must speak good English, be passionate about biking, and be a Thai national. Tel: 087-263 2031. Email: info@amazingbiketoursthailand.asia

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English speaker with good Microsoft Office skills and references. Please email CV to info@techworx-projects.com

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Russian staff with good English needed for restaurant manager position. Experience in same or similar position is required. Tel: 082-329 3207 (Russian).

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Person or company that has experience in project management. Good salary for a person. A company can give a quotation. Tel: 081-968 5963. Email: cc@bayshoreprojects.com

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Only Thai nationals with good English needed for position of Thai Manager for Thai staff management. Salary from 20,000 baht. Tel: 084-734 0122 (English).

PURCHASING MANAGER

English speaker, must have experience and references. Please email CV to info@techworx-projects.com

MAID/BABYSITTER

Need Thai lady take care my son, 1 year 9 months old and clean house. Koh Kaew area. Live in. Tel: 080-690 6487.

TEACHER WANTED

For class of 3-year-olds, 12 students and assistant. Hours 8-4, native English speaker. Tel: 082-323 1188. Email: jsiporin@gmail.com

ACCOUNTANT

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Facility Administrator / PA

- Bachelor's degree or related field
- Thai national 25 years old or older, fluent in English (written and spoken)
- Minimum of 3-5 years experience in the related field
- Computer literate with good knowledge of Microsoft Office
- Excellent administrative and communication skills required
- Bookkeeping and office management skills required
- Self-motivated, proactive, flexible and well organized
- Service-minded and must have attention to detail
- Experience in property management an advantage.

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Phuket Gazette

As the result of a major expansion in its **Classified Advertising** business due to the launch of the newspaper's Nationwide Edition, the *Phuket Gazette* seeks to add a **Receptionist** to its existing team of five.

Qualified candidates will be:

- ▶ Thai nationals, aged at least 24
- ▶ Service-minded with an outgoing personality
- ▶ Able to work well with large numbers of advertisers, both foreign and Thai

and should have:

- ▶ A Bachelor's Degree from a recognizable university
- ▶ A good sense of organization and respect for details
- ▶ Knowledge of basic office software

Knowledge of InDesign, PageMaker or Quark Express would be a plus.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Khun Porntiwa, Assistant Manager-Classifieds, at Jeab@PhuketGazette.Net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew A. Muang, Phuket 83000

Tel: 076-273555, ext 207 Fax: 076-615240

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Project Sales Executive (Southern Region)

Responsible to sell Kohler, Karat, and Englefield products to major specifiers, interior contractors, designers, builders, developers, and the lodging industry in Southern Region which are Phuket, Samui, Phang Nga, and Krabi.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Economics, or any related field.
- At least 5 years experience in project sales with strong connection with major specifiers, interior contractors, designers, builders, developers would be advantage.

If you are interested, please e-mail your resumé to
E-mail: porntipa.hanpalangjitsuk@kohler.com

Kohler (Thailand) Public Company Limited

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Tel: 0-2204-6000 Mobile: 084-5550338 www.kohlerthai.com



RAMADA
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Front Office Manager**Qualifications:**

- Male/ female between 30 – 40 years old
- Bachelor's Degree or higher education
- Excellent command of spoken and written in English, other languages an advantage
- At least 5 years experience in Front Office/Reservations Department with good leadership skills and guest service attitude is a must
- Assistant front Office Manager with 5 Star hotel/resort background can apply
- Amadeus PMS, Microsoft Office knowledge is required

Interested candidates are invited to email a full resume, stating present and expected salaries and enclosing a recent photograph to:

Ramada Resort Khao Lak

Contact: Theeranuch Limbos

Email: hr@ramadakhao.com

Address: 59 Moo 5, Tumbon Kukkak, Takuapa District, Phang Nga 82190 Thailand
Tel: (66) 076 427777

**Assistant General Manager**

- ▲ Previous experience as a Resident Manager, Executive Assistant Manager (EAM) or Front Desk Manager a plus
- ▲ Must be fluent in spoken English (Thai National or Foreigner OK)
- ▲ Previous Hotel experience required
- ▲ Strong organizational and people management skills essential
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Kathu, Phuket Thailand 83150 Tel: + 66 76 364 703-8,
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Kingdom of the Netherlands

The Consulate of the Kingdom of the Netherlands is looking for a personal assistant to the Honorary Consul.

The qualifications are as follows:

- female
- university degree (recent graduates considered)
- Thai nationality
- representative, independent, enthusiastic and discrete personality
- good knowledge of English (speaking and writing)
- computer experience (windows, Excel)
- eager to learn
- driving license preferred

Monthly salary around 15,000 - 20,000 baht, depending on work experience. No previous consular experience needed. The successful applicant will be trained on the job. A job description is available upon request.

If you are interested please send your resumé, including photo, to:

Consulate of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
14/18 Dara Hotel Chao-fa road, Vichit, Muang Phuket
Tel: 076-304 096-7
Email: dutchhpc@gmail.com

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

Administration Assistant

The successful candidate will be a Thai national with an outgoing personality. Experience in business administration combined with good management and organizational skills is essential. A good command of written and spoken English is also important. Knowledge of PageMaker/InDesign and Office software would be an advantage.

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

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- ▶ speak and write excellent English;
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- ▶ have a minimum of two years' experience;
- ▶ have strong PC skills, in particular MS Excel.

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- High responsibility and punctuality
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Interested applicants apply at:

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Looking for a Phuket-based assistant to consult, assist and help manage a new Beauty Tourism company. Thai/English speaker with good communication & marketing experience. Please send email: amy@esteembeautyretreats.com For further details, please see our website: <http://esteembeautyretreats.com>

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English-speaking Thai nationals required for speed-boat tours, weddings and events. Guide license an advantage. Please contact for more additional details. Tel: 076-383125, 081-956 9961 (English). Email: info@coralseekers.com

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Front Desk Supervisor at Khao Sok (16 bungalows). Seeking female Thai national, fluent English, computer skills, team attitude who enjoys a remote natural location. Starting salary from 13,000 baht, depending on experience. Tel: 081-417 0546. Email: ourjunglehouse1985@gmail.com

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Wooden frame "L" sofa with mustard color upholstery. 16k. Modern glass chandelier 5k. Huge silver candelabra 5k. All in excellent condition. Standard Lamp 1,500. All reduced for quick sale. Email for photos at beijingmarcher@yahoo.com

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SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES

Crossword puzzle:



1	R	O	O	M	E	R		7	A	O	L		10	A	V	E	S		
14	S	A	L	I	N	E		15	C	R	I		16	L	I	N	A		
17	T	R	E	N	D	S		18	A	D	E		19	A	R	A	L		
			20	A	U	T		21	O	D	E		22	S	T	R	U	C	T
23	S	A	C	R	E		24	F	I	R		25	R	U	S	T	Y		
28	A	C	N	E		29	M	F	A		30	H	I	M					
31	F	O	O	T	S	I	E		32	L	E	V		33	F	R	A		
37	E	M	T		M	S	N		38	U	R	I		39	R	E	Y		
41	R	A	E		I	T	D		42	S	O	A		43	K	A	G	E	
				45	I	T	S		46	F	A	D		47	L	I	A	R	
48	P	A	D	R	E		49	L	E	K		50	B	E	L	L	S		
53	I	N	H	O	S	P	I	T	A	B	L	E							
56	E	T	O	N		57	I	C	I		58	R	A	N	T	E	D		
62	T	A	L	I		63	L	I	S		64	I	D	E	A	T	E		
65	A	L	E	C		66	E	T	H		67	M	E	X	I	C	O		

International Sport

Whose your money on?

By Dean Noble

EXACTLY 10 Premiership games remain for all teams as we go into this weekend's action, and pundits around the world will make their predictions for the title, fourth spot and the relegation positions.

Of course the first thing to look at is who will face who during the final stretch.

The next thing to be considered is the list of injured players the clubs are carrying. Will they return to action before the season's climax? And team's current form.

Some commentators may look at the previous year's positions, both the final standings, and that of March 2011. Some will look at New Year's day rankings and its psychological impact, let's call that the "Fergie factor".

The team's manager also has a huge bearing. What makes a good manager, can he keep his nerve and handle the stress. Perhaps Kevin Keegan could enlighten us on the topic.

Third and fourth positions have come back into the spotlight with the turnaround of Arsenal's fortunes, despite their Champions League exit. The focus this may have provided to players seems evident, with Robin van Persie in ruthless form. The Gunners' decisive games will be the visits of Manchester City and Chelsea dur-



SAFE BET: Man United celebrated their 19th Premiership title. Photo: AFP

ing April. Prediction: Fourth

Chelsea with the recent sacking of Andre Villas-Boas and currently residing in fifth are Arsenal's main challenger. The Blues have a more difficult path ahead, facing not only the Gunners, but City, Tottenham, Newcastle and Liverpool. On top of that they face Blackburn on the last day, who have their regulation battle ahead for Premiership survival. Prediction: Fifth

Spurs, whose form, at least as far as results go, is poor losing their last three premierships fixtures and currently reside in third, and with the talk of Harry Redknapp taking over the England hotseat may have caused some dressing room issues. However with only Chelsea from the present top seven to face in their remaining matches, are unlikely to let slip this golden opportunity to finish in the top three for the first time since the Premiership began. Prediction: Third.

The City of Manchester will take

the title, though will the ribbons tied to the trophy be blue or red?

City have by far the hardest road to glory (see graphic left), when compared to United's, though this may concentrate the players' mind and when a manager truly shows his mettle. Roberto Mancini is very experienced, however the shock defeat 1-0 to Swansea must of affected him, and immediately stated "the title will be decided on April 30", referring to derby game with the Red Devils.

Mancini's managerial honors speak for themselves in the Serie A, and of course third place last year with the FA Cup in the cabinet. Prediction: Second.

The "Fergie factor" has it in this writer's view, with only City to contend with out of the top seven, his past performance at critical times, no major injury worries and players like Paul Scholes and Ryan Giggs who have done it before to assist.

Prediction: Champions.

MAN UTD FIXTURES			
MONDAY, 26 MARCH 2012	Man Utd VS Fulham	23:00	
MONDAY, 26 MARCH 2012	Blackburn VS Man Utd	03:00	
SUNDAY, 2 APRIL 2012	Man Utd VS QPR	20:30	
WEDNESDAY, 8 APRIL 2012	Wigan VS Man Utd	02:45	
SUNDAY, 15 APRIL 2012	Man Utd VS Aston Villa	23:00	
SUNDAY, 22 APRIL 2012	Man Utd VS Everton	19:30	
MONDAY, 30 APRIL 2012	Man City VS Man Utd	03:00	
SUNDAY, 6 MAY 2012	Man Utd VS Swansea	21:00	
SUNDAY, 13 MAY 2012	Sunderland VS Man Utd	22:00	

MAN CITY FIXTURES			
SATURDAY, 24 MARCH 2012	Stoke VS Man City	00:30	
SATURDAY, 31 MARCH 2012	Man City VS Sunderland	22:00	
SUNDAY, 8 APRIL 2012	Arsenal VS Man City	23:00	
WEDNESDAY, 11 APRIL 2012	Man City VS West Brom	02:45	
SATURDAY, 14 APRIL 2012	Norwich VS Man City	19:45	
SUNDAY, 22 APRIL 2012	Wolves VS Man City	23:00	
MONDAY, 30 APRIL 2012	Man City VS Man Utd	03:00	
SUNDAY, 6 MAY 2012	Newcastle VS Man City	21:00	
SUNDAY, 13 MAY 2012	Man City VS QPR	22:00	

PREMIER LEAGUE TABLE				
	TEAM	P	GD	PTS
1	Man Utd	28	41	67
2	Man City	28	49	66
3	Tottenham	28	18	53
4	Arsenal	28	18	52
5	Chelsea	28	16	49
6	Newcastle	28	-1	44
7	Liverpool	28	7	42
8	Sunderland	28	5	37
9	Everton	28	-3	37
10	Fulham	28	0	36
11	Swansea	28	-3	36
12	Norwich	28	-6	36
13	Stoke	28	-12	36
14	West Brom	28	-3	35
15	Aston Villa	28	-4	33
16	Blackburn	28	-20	25
17	Bolton	28	-26	23
18	QPR	28	-19	22
19	Wolves	28	-28	22
20	Wigan	28	-29	21

PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES			
SATURDAY, 17 MARCH 2012	Fulham VS Swansea	22:00	
	Wigan VS West Brom		
SUNDAY, 18 MARCH 2012	Wolves VS Man Utd	20:30	
SUNDAY, 18 MARCH 2012	Newcastle VS Norwich	23:00	
TUESDAY, 20 MARCH 2012	Aston Villa VS Bolton	02:45	
	Blackburn VS Sunderland	03:00	
WEDNESDAY, 21 MARCH 2012	Man City VS Chelsea	03:00	

Grand slam for Wales?

ENGLAND, after their fantastic win over the French 22-24 at the Stade de France last weekend still have a slim chance to retain their Six Nations title

They will need France to beat tournament favorites Wales in Cardiff (kick off 9:45pm), and win against Ireland by a considerable margin to overturn the Welsh's 38 point advantage.

The final games are all to be played on Saturday, or more commonly known as Saint Patrick's day. The Irish are unlikely to be in a generous mood, and will look to have further cause for celebration, and none better than winning against England (kick-off 12:00am), especially at Twickenham.

Ireland will start with the same line-up that drew with the French 17-17, though

Sean O'Brien, the European player of the year, who spent last week in hospital suffering from a skin infection, will be available. England are also unlikely to make any changes.

Wales are in superb form and have four of the 12 nominations for "Player of the Tournament", Ireland and France three apiece, England surprisingly none, Scotland taking the final two.

It is unlikely England will succeed in their quest, though a win should at least confirm Stuart Lancaster in the position of head coach on a permanent basis, despite the RFU's consideration of Nick Mallet.

Italy and Scotland will open proceedings at the Stadio Olimpico (kick-off 7:30pm) in the battle not to be "wooden spoon" winners.

- Phuket Gazette



GRAND SLAMMER: Leigh Halfpenny sends over another three points. Photo: AFP/BEN STANSALL

SPORTS briefs...

OLYMPICS: British Olympic Association (BOA) chairman Colin Moynihan insisted this week that their ruling to ban drug cheats for life will stand.

The ruling is currently being challenged by the Court of Arbitration, with a decision expected next month.

The BOA is the only governing body in the World which impose lifetime bans.

If the decision is overturned it will enable sprinter Dwain Chambers and cyclist David Millar to compete in the London games.

F1: The Formula 1 season blasts off this weekend around the Albert Park lake street circuit, Melbourne with the race starting at 1pm Phuket time.

On the grid will be six former world champions, a record in itself, and perhaps making for one of most competitive season.

Sebastian Vettel has other ideas. Vettel, the youngest ever double World champion was asked if he considered himself favorite, simply responded "yes".

Jensen Button was cautionary in his expectations saying "I think it's going to be extremely close".

SNOOKER: Mark Allen the current number 10 finally won his first ranking tournament at the World Open in Haikou, China.

Allen in a comprehensive 10-1 victory over Stephen Lee, dropped only the sixth frame.

A first prize of £75,000 was up for grabs to the winner, however Allen will probably need to use some of this to pay an expected fine for calling the venue's conditions "horrendous".

He had also tweeted: "dead cat found this morning. Any wonder this place stinks."

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Super Six league heats up

By Neil Quail

PHUKET'S Super Six League's latest round of matches at Headstart International School's Football Island kicked off with a top of the table battle between Phuket Serenity Villas (PSV) and Morning Star.

Both teams attempted to gain control of the game from the outset, but Morning Star proved the more inventive in attack and had a four goal advantage going into the break with scores by Simon Smith, Pedro Carrera (2) and Karl Ward. PSV rallied at the start of the second half with a goal from Watcharapong Somsong. Unfortunately for PSV the comeback was short-lived as an in-form Carrera bagged another three goals for a comprehensive Morning Star victory. Phuket Serenity Villas v Morning Star: 1-8.

Eden FC and Babynoname's encounter was certain to be tense with both teams in desperate need for league points. Neither team were able to capitalize on any chances created in the first half that left the scoreboard untouched going into the break. Eden FC started the brighter for the second half and it was Joseph Arimathea who scored the only goal of the game for an important three points. Eden FC now have back to back wins while



Pos	Team	P	GD	Pts
1	Morning Star	4	22	10
2	Shakers FC	4	18	10
3	Nanai Boys	4	3	9
4	Phuket Serenity Villas	5	2	9
5	Ristorante Rugantino	5	-3	9
6	Pita Bar Phuketeers	5	13	8
7	Eden FC	5	-18	6
8	The Lounge	4	-5	3
9	Aladdin Friends	3	-10	0
10	Babynoname	5	-22	0

Morning Star and Shakers FC top the Super Six League standings after five rounds.

Babynoname continue to struggle without points. Eden FC v Babynoname: 1-0.

In the third game of the evening, Alberto Mancuso's Ristorante Rugantino were up against Aniel Debie's progressive Nanai Boys. Sunny Gulati opened the scoring for Nanai Boys before Rugantino deservedly pulled one back, but a further brace by Gulati earned him a hat-trick and helped his side to a 5-3 half-time lead. In the second

half, Nanai Boys kept up the pressure and crept further ahead with a goal by Danilo D'Albenzi. Although Rugantino pulled another back through Jacopo Jajo, Nanai Boys defense and in particular Ryan Adekoya allowed nothing to pass and added two more goals for a comfortable victory. Ristorante Rugantino v Nanai Boys: 4-8.

The evening's last match was an entertaining and high scoring affair between Pita Bar



TOP GEAR: Stig Edvardson in control.

Phuketeers and Aladdin. Ding Yama opened the scoring for Phuketeers after good work by Natalio Santos before Aaron Bichler's strike before half-time gave the Phuketeers a 5-2 lead. Bichler completed his hat-trick in the second-half to ensure Phuketeers wrapped up another fine performance with a five goal advantage. Pita Bar Bhuketeers v Aladdin Friends: 11-6.

For more information visit Phuket Football.com.



GOLDEN KIDS: FPL U11 champions Brazil show off their winners medals.

Drama galore in Phuket Fair Play League finals

THE Phuket Fair Play League 2012 reached a dramatic conclusion to the season at Youth Football Home (YFH) in Thalang after eight weeks of competitive matches.

Players in U14 and U11 divisions from all over the island showed skill and sportsmanship throughout this latest season proving the value and title of this competition.

As with all hotly contested tournaments, the U14 champions would be decided on the final day as the fixtures matched the top two teams in a battle for the title. Germany Green had to win or draw against France to guarantee them the gold medal. But a France victory would see them overtake their German rivals to claim the title.

In a one-sided first half, France, led by the division's top scorer Dep, took a 4-0 lead into the break and it looked as if France would run away with the match when they scored their fifth goal just after the restart. But Germany Green staged a stunning comeback scoring four times without reply to get within a goal and a point they needed for the title.

With seconds remaining, Germany broke through the French back line to score the equalizer and claim the gold medal in the most dramatic of circumstances. Their fairytale ending sent players and supporters into euphoric celebrations. France v Germany Green: 5-5.

In a tight second match, Brazil played a good counter-attacking game to beat Thailand and replace their opponents as the third placed team. Thailand v Brazil: 2-3.

The final match saw Ger-

many White look to finish on a high note by beating a strong Argentina team. But it was not to be, however, and in a high scoring game they were foiled by just one goal. Argentina v Germany White 7-6.

The U11 Division was as equally exciting on the final day. After the first match Germany Green took a provisional lead in the league following a fine 5-1 victory over France.

That result meant that Brazil required a victory in the final match against Thailand to reclaim top spot and the title.

Brazil started nervously and although they did not look like conceding goals, they certainly lacked confidence in attacking Thailand's goal.

With no goals for either team by the end of the first-half, it looked as if a upset was on the cards. But a constructive team talk by the Brazil coach seemed to inspire his charges as they pressurized Thailand from the word go at the start of the second-half.

Relief was evident when Brazil eventually opened their account to take the lead midway through the second half. This changed to joy when they extended their lead with just minutes remaining to secure the victory and claim the title as U11 champions.

The final game saw a battle for the bronze medal position as Germany White and Argentina faced off. Both teams started the match on equal points with the German team holding an advantage due to a greater goal difference.

Argentina started the stronger and raced into a 3-1 lead with the division's lead scorer Joe Hunter grabbing a hat-trick before the break. But, the second half proved a different story as Germany White found form and scored two unanswered goals bring the scores level.

The turning point came when Germany White gave away a penalty in the last five minutes. A well struck shot looked destined for the corner of the goal, but a magnificent fingertip save by the German keeper diverted the ball onto the post. Lifted by this good fortune, Germany White found an extra gear and with one minute remaining scored the winner to claim third place in another suspenseful finish to the day's action.

Organizers of the FPL offered their gratitude and appreciation for the venues used during the season which included Quality Schools International, Headstart, British International School, YFH and Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club.

"The FPL would be unable to run without the support of our banner sponsors as well as out kit sponsors Tawan Sea Adventures and The Yorkshire Inn Hotel and Spa," said Martin Hill.

"Thanks to all the coaches, parents and especially the players for helping to make this year the biggest and the best season of the Fair Play League so far," added Martin.

For information on the FPL contact BSS@Thanyapura.co.th.

- Neil Quail



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Golf Guru



WORLD NUMBER ONE: Happy Saint Patrick's Day, Rory. Photo: E. McDonald

THE World Golf Championship this week was once again in the US, this time sponsored by Cadillac at the course known as the 'Blue Monster' at Doral - Doral, Miami, Florida.

Golf news of the week informed us that Donald Trump had purchased another golf course. And yes, it's Doral, which will be handed over to him in June. This continues to expand the Trump collection of golf courses. Hole by hole, course by course, he's found another way to take over the world and was quoted as saying: "Some people like gardening for a hobby, my gardens are just a little bit bigger." We say, no to towers on these golf courses, Donald and keep the prices down for golfers.

Third place was a good solid finish from Rory McIlroy and keeps him at number one for the moment, but the others are not far behind. He now has a well earned break before the first Major of the year as always at Augusta - the 'Masters'. The American player Bubba Watson is a golf marketing and manufactures dream, using a pink shafted driver from head to toe. If you are thinking of using a pink club, you had better be able to hit the ball consistently over 300 yards like Watson, otherwise you will end up with egg on your face and suffer comments such as "Shouldn't you be using that club from the ladies tees?"

Watson did stamp his mark on this tournament over the first three days with a blistering 62 in the second round and looked like all he

had to do was stand up and breath to win. However, his nervous disposition has created a regular flinch in his left shoulder just before playing his golf shots. Knowing him, it will be in his right shoulder next week, so in the last round, nine putts in the first seven holes would normally have sealed the deal, but unfortunately he was just scrabbling for bogey's being two over par for the first seven holes. On the final hole he hit magnificent second shot to within 15ft of the hole, but missed the putt on the low side to get in to a play off and eventually finish in second place.

I had been following Justin Rose for the last few weeks, and in that time he has laid a good foundation for the forthcoming season by making steady improvements in tournaments played. This week saw him in contention once again with rounds of 69,64,69 and 70, which were good enough to win by one shot. Rose missed out on Ryder Cup last time, even though he had two wins in America that year and with any luck he will keep winning the right tournaments to be automatically selected for the team this year. We wish Justin good luck in his efforts.

Quote of this week was from golf coach Sean Foley: "Justin Rose is the best iron player in my stable." How did that remark go down with the likes of Tiger Woods and the rest of the players he teaches?

Martin Platts - Director, The Golf Guru. E: martin@thegolfguru.com.

TSLC take Division One title



CHAMPIONS: TSLC have claimed the AFL Division One title after with a game in hand after defeating Ultraman.

THANYAPURA Sports and Leisure Club (TSLC) hosted another action filled evening of the Adult Futsal League on Thursday with one Premier Division match and two First Division games on the card.

Honda's season didn't improve suffering a 6-0 drubbing at the hands of league leaders Portrait FC. Pace and clinical finishing were the difference between the two sides, leaving Honda exhausted and trailing in the table..

The Division One matches were started by Chevrolet and SGS with the former looking to replace the former at third place on the table. Chevrolet played good possession

football in the first half and worked a deserved 2-0 advantage going into the break, but within minutes of the restart SGS reduced the deficit. Sensing an opportunity to get back into the game, SGS pressed forward for the equalizer and twice got hit on the break as Chevrolet gained their third win of the season with a score of 4-1.

The final game on the Division One field saw the top two teams of TSLC and Ultraman battle for points. Ultraman needed a victory to keep their title aspirations alive, but it was TSLC who started on the front foot and moved ball around well to score three unanswered

goals inside the first half. Ultraman decided on a tactical change after the break and replaced their goalkeeper with a sweeper to create an extra outfield player advantage to try and get back into the game. Unfortunately, the tactic backfired with TSLC scoring six more goals from breakaway attacks.

Ultraman did manage to find the back of the TSLC net twice, but it proved fruitless in the end. TSLC ran out 9-3 winners, the result also earning them the Division One title with one game still remaining.

For more information email Football@Thanyapura.co.th



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FC Phuket

VS



J.W. Rangsit FC

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THREE former FC Phuket players will be sporting opposition colors in the Southern Sea Kirin's' 2012 Thai Premier League Division 1 season opener, this Saturday afternoon in Nakhon Nayok.

Abdoul Coulibaly, Tameezee Hayeeyusoh and Seksit Srisai have joined JW Rangsit: Phuket's first opponents in match to be played on the pitch of Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy.

Leading Phuket as Head Coach this season is Serbian Milos Josic, who previously headed Rajpracha FC and Muangthong United.

Players from last season who have made the cut include Suphat Aonthong, Poramut Krongborisut, Watcharapong Jun-ngam, Kornphrom Jaroonpong, Nirun Panthong, Thawin Butsombat and Nenebi Tra Sylvestre, in addition to three Phuket boys: Kittitath Kraithong, Arwut Nuchet and Sutee Sakdiwong.

Four new players include: Mario Santos from Brazil, Kim Won Sup and Byeon Seong Won from Korea and Bamba Messi from Ivory Coast.

-Pimwara Choksakulpan

Lomas learn from the best

Rugby World Cup winning coach Bob Dwyer and former Leicester Tigers elite performance director Mike Pennistone staged the first of three coaching clinics in association with Phuket's rugby development program at TSLC last weekend.

By Neil Quail

IT WAS the second international rugby match I had ever attended. With just under four minutes to go, Irish flanker Gordon Hamilton took a pass from Jack Clarke and charged for the Australian try line. Outpacing the great David Campese and shrugging off a last-ditch tackle by Bob Egerton, Hamilton went over for one of the most memorable tries in Irish rugby.

I remember the transition from thunderous euphoria to utter silence and back to revelry again as Ralph Keyes kicked the conversion to put Ireland 18-15 ahead. Two minutes later, however, Michael Lynagh scored for Australia to dash Irish hopes of an historic win.

The year was 1991 and Ireland had just lost to Australia in the rugby world cup quarter-final. The Wallabies would go on to win the title, beating England in the final to claim their first world cup.

Guiding Australia to glory that year was Bob Dwyer and nearly 21 years later, on Phuket, I got to speak with the man who orchestrated my disappointment and that of thousands of other Irish rugby fans.

Bob was on the island as part of a tri-series of coaching clinics being held at Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club (TSLC) in association with the Phuket Lomas and the Asia Center Foundation to help with the development of rugby union on the island.

With Mike Pennistone, Bob

uses self-developed techniques and his years of international and club experience to improve standards of both players and coaches.

Speaking exclusively to the *Gazette*, Bob explained how the Bob Dwyer Rugby Workshop came to be involved with Phuket rugby.

"The attraction of Phuket was twofold. Pat Cotter asked if we could to do some work in the areas around Phuket where the society has been decimated by the tsunami and contribute to the redevelopment. A pretty hard question to say no to," Bob said with a grin.

"Then it became a desire to show people who didn't have a background in rugby that you can play good rugby with just attention to detail in the simple things about the game," Bob added.

"We also want to demonstrate to the coaches by coaching the players, how attention to detail can improve them immediately, and continued attention to the same

detail can improve them forever," Bob said.

Since winning the world cup Bob has continued to coach at various levels and I was curious to know what drives him to stay involved with rugby and specifically the coaching role he devotes himself to.

"I guess I have an insatiable thirst for knowledge about the game. I can't not watch a game. If I'm walking past a ground and I see an under 10s game, I've got to stop and watch. If I see a women's senior game, I've got to stop and watch, a school team practicing – I stop and watch," said Bob.

"My drive is always to see the game played well. I'm certain I am a much better coach than I was 20 years ago when Australia won the world cup with me as

coach," he said.

Coaching players takes many forms, from skills and tactics to psychological and physical aspects, but coaching coaches is a



NO WAY THROUGH: The Lomas girls show their defensive skills with coach Rob Brewer monitoring.



FOCUS: Mike explains another routine to coaches and players.



LEGENDS: Mike Pennistone (left) and Bob Dwyer (right) keep an eye on their charges during the coaching workshop at TSLC. Photos: Neil Quail



CERTIFIED: Participants at the Bob Dwyer workshop show their achievement certificates after an industrious weekend of rugby.

different animal and requires a more complex process that is not easily transferred.

"Our philosophy of coaching is that you can't succeed without accurate technique, but accurate technique means nothing if you can't apply it in a pressure situation. Application of technique under pressure develops a skill. Application of that skill to a game situation is the art of playing the game properly," said Bob.

"We want to see the coaches do three things; teach the technique, move the technique forward into developing a skill, apply that technique to a game and let the players play to see how much they grasp and learn from their mistakes," he added.

Given that there are three clinics scheduled over the coming months, I asked Bob what he expected from the initial meetings and practical work.

"The real intention of the first workshop is for the coaches to gain an understanding of what we believe is the correct methodology of being able to transfer play from the practice ground to the playing pitch and we think we have a very good method for ensuring that transfer occurs and we wanted to see if the coaches fully understood that, and most of them did," he said.

Aside from the coaches, Bob had an opportunity to see Phuket's youth players in action during the sessions and he seemed quite impressed with their abilities.

"The catch and pass skills of the kids are pretty good, at least as good as their Australian counterparts. The only thing they're lacking is consistent competition,"

Bob said.

Mike Pennistone added to that, remarking that the player's movements reminded him of young Brazilian footballers. Not a bad compliment for the youngsters.

And final words of hope and promise to Phuket's young

rugby hopefuls from the man who helped crush my own brief youthful anticipation of victory some 20 years ago:

"I want to show that you don't have to be a great player to play great rugby. If you're a great player and play great rugby then that's something extraordinary. But that's rare," Bob said.

We look forward to Bob and Mike's return and the *Gazette* will feature more wisdom and expertise from their work with Phuket's rugby fraternity in the coming weeks.

For more information on the Phuket rugby Bob Dwyer workshops visit phuketlomasrugby.com or visit BobDwyerRugby.com.



GRASSHOPPER: Bob gets a lesson from local lads on how to keep cool in the heat.



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Oilfield Classic set to tee off

IN APRIL 2009 over 100 international guests arrived on the island to take part in the maiden Phuket Oilfield Classic golf tournament. Primarily an oil and gas golfing event staged to raise awareness and funds for Phuket charities, organizers are eager to encourage greater involvement from local players.

The fourth annual Phuket Oilfield Classic charity golf tournament will take place in Phuket from April 5 to 8, at Red Mountain Golf Club and Loch Palm Golf Club with more than 200 overseas visitors expected to participate.

This year an additional event will also be staged at the Phunaka golf course on the Thursday before the main competition when the exciting new format of PowerPlay Golf will be introduced to Phuket. A risk and reward, nine-hole version of the game, golfers can choose to play to an easy white flag or difficult black flag on each green to earn extra points in this lead up to the main tournament.

Phuket Oilfield Classic organizers suggest this event is an ideal opportunity for local companies to tap into a market segment (oil and gas executives) not usually catered for on the island and even with the possibility of over 200 visitors entering the competition there will always be room for more Phuket local players in the event.

Now that this is a yearly fixture it is intended that a Phuket-based charity will be chosen on an annual basis, and for 2012 the charity chosen is The Phuket International Women's Club, who do a fantastic job in creating educational based scholarships for children.



CLASSIC SWING: Eric Cameron shows his form during the 2011 Phuket Oilfield Classic.

This year's tournament winners will earn the chance to win trips to South Africa and Hawaii as Thailand representatives in two major World Final events. The winning four ball team will get to play in the Asian Masters Senior Tour event as guests while a car or US\$20,000 cash are on offer for Hole In One successes.

Over 1.4 million baht has been raised for local charities so far and after the natural disaster in Japan last year 100,000 Yen was raised for victims of the tragedy which was returned with Japanese professional golfer Mina Nakayama from Osaka, who participated in the tournament. The remaining monies were used to educate the "POC Class



Japan pro Mina Nakayama at last year's event.

of 2011/2012" under the stewardship of The Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation.

For more information on the 2012 Phuket Oilfield Classic golf tournament visit PhuketOilfieldClassic.com.

The Phuket Gazette is a sponsor of this event.



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