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Airport gets top priority

Cabinet tackles long immigration queues

By Atchaa Khamlo

THE Cabinet will expedite measures to counter the ever-growing queues of tourists waiting to clear immigration at Phuket International Airport.

Large tour groups will be fast-tracked; passengers flying business class will have an immigration counter dedicated to clearing them as quickly as possible; and more immigration counters will be installed with more officers assigned, said Deputy Government Spokesman Anusorn Iamsa-ard immediately after the Cabinet meeting in Phuket on Tuesday.

"Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra realizes the problem of crowds of tourists at the airport. The number of tourists has increased quickly, with more than 10 million passengers passing through Phuket Airport over the past year," he said.

Mr Anusorn said the Cabinet

Budget windfall for development projects

- 84bn baht funding approved for 117 projects
- 24.8bn baht approved for 10 'Andaman' projects
- Phuket wins 47.7bn baht for 67 projects
- Feasibility study approved for Andaman rail network

See our Special Report on the Cabinet meeting in Phuket, p4-5

will target the long queues of tourists waiting to clear immigration.

"We plan to increase the number of immigration officers and the immigration process needs to be fast, balanced and secure. We will modify the [immigration-clearance] system that is used at Suvarnabhumi so it can be implemented at Phuket Airport as quickly as possible to support

tourism and to cope with the increasing number of tourists in the Andaman region," Mr Anusorn explained.

The Cabinet will also continue its support to ensure there are no delays in the ongoing expansion project at Phuket Airport, he added.

The current 5.79-billion-baht expansion plan at Phuket Airport aims to boost annual passenger capacity to 12.5 million by 2013.

The urgency in dealing with the long immigration queues comes after weeks of national headlines reporting tourists having to endure long waits at Suvarnabhumi Airport, a phenomenon long suffered by tourists arriving in Phuket.

A Senate standing committee criticized the situation at the airport in August last year during a fact-finding inspection of the facility, saying Phuket had only half the immigration officers it needed to cope with the large volume of tourists arriving at the airport.



PM Yingluck billed immigration queues as a top priority. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

PM in talks on Special Admin Zone

LOCAL tourism industry leaders on Monday urged PM Yingluck Shinawatra to establish Phuket as a special economic zone.

At the talks, which were off-limits to reporters, PM Yingluck met Phuket Senator Thanyarat Acharyachai, who chairs the Senate Standing Committee on Tourism, and fellow committee member Wichai Phraisa-ngop, a former Phuket Governor.

Senator Thanyarat told the *Gazette* that she asked PM

Yingluck for the Cabinet to consider the long-standing problem of insufficient central government funding for Phuket, which unlike other provinces has a tourism industry that attracts 4 to 5 million visitors annually.

As such an important revenue generator for the national economy, Phuket should be established as a "special economic zone for tourism", she told PM Yingluck.

— Warisa Temram

Chalerm pushes for drugs, not closing times

DEPUTY Prime Minister Chalerm Yoobamrung told top regional police officers on Monday that strict enforcement of closing times at bar and pubs was not the top priority in tourist destinations such as Phuket because visitors come here to enjoy the natural scenery, not the nightlife.

Deputy PM Chalerm, himself a police captain, delivered his mandate personally to 264 top-ranking officers, from provincial commanders down to district deputy superintendents, gathered at Satee Phuket

School in Phuket Town. He ordered the officers to crack down on drug dealing in their areas and adopt a unified approach to the problem of drug smuggling.

DPM Chalerm also asked the officers present not to focus their efforts on arresting users and small-time dealers as a way of racking up impressive statistics, but rather to gain access to drug kingpins.

Drug users should be put into rehab, while drug kingpins should face the full severity of the law, he said.

He encouraged police to work with nightlife venue operators to deal with drug suppression issues, rather than focus too strictly on closing times. In provinces such as popular tourist destinations such as Phuket, closing times could be enforced as appropriate to the area.

"Tourists come to Thailand for the beautiful scenery. Nightlife is not their priority," he said.

— Warisa Temram

Phuket faces battery of alcohol bans, page 2



Deputy PM Chalerm Yoobamrung in Phuket.

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MICE tourists 'all safe' after Patong bus crash

By Warisa Temram and Orawin Narabal

A BUS full of Ministry of Labor officials crashed into a house at the bottom of Patong Hill on March 16, the latest in a long series of bus accidents in the area.

Rescue workers rushed 10 people to Patong Hospital after the accident, which happened on the bend, known locally as "Pla Ra Curve", about 100 meters from Patong Temple. Investigating officer Thanakrit Kiawyai of Patong Police told the *Phuket Gazette*.

Lt Thanakrit explained that the bus was one of three arriving from Bangkok bringing more than 100 Ministry of Labor officials for a two-day seminar in Phuket.

"They were heading to the Sea Pearl Resort where they are staying and attending a seminar scheduled to start tomorrow," he said.

As the bus approached the final curve on its descent into



A lucky escape for passengers as another bus fails to negotiate the tight bend at the bottom of Patong Hill. Photo: Warisa Temram

Patong, it collided with a yellow tuk-tuk driven by Wichean Tungjit before crashing into the front of a house.

"The bus driver might have been unfamiliar with the road because he is from Bangkok," Lt Thanakrit said.

Tuk-tuk driver Mr Wichean, 25, was diagnosed by doctors as having a mild concussion, but not a fractured skull as was originally feared. As a precaution, Mr Wichean was transferred to Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town, where doctors in the neurology department confirmed that he was responding to stimuli, despite still suffering from a mild concussion.

The bus driver, whose name was confirmed as Chalerm Sri

Moongkhun, 46, suffered injuries to his left arm and the back of his left foot.

Patong Hospital confirmed the other injured as Somjit Intijun, 48, injured left leg; Nitawan Kummart, 51, twisted cartilage and stomach pain; Ms Pimalai Yatpleum, 34, unspecified; Ms Arunrat Phokaew, 46, knee injury; and Mr Assadayuth Temwiriyaikul, 36, minor knee injury.

Rittichai Srihamart, 14, was the youngest person injured. He suffered a gash on his right knee.

"The tuk-tuk was heading toward Phuket Town. The bus driver swerved to avoid it, and crashed into the house," said Lt Thanakrit.

Police are continuing their investigation.



Fortunately the tuk-tuk driver suffered only a mild concussion.

Ban on sale of alcohol for elections and royal funeral

PHUKET residents in Chalong and Rassada sub-districts will face a ban on the sale of alcohol this weekend for the elections in those areas. Election law requires no alcohol to be sold within election zones from 6pm Saturday through to midnight Sunday.

Phuket will face a similar island-wide ban on the sale of alcohol for the April 7 Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor) presidential election.

Immediately following that ban, all establishments across

Phuket – and nationwide – are being asked to refrain from selling alcohol in respect of the funeral services being held for Her Royal Highness Princess Bejaratana.

The request follows a Cabinet resolution for all local authorities nationwide to request vendors in respective areas for their cooperation in observing the royal funeral.

– Warisa Temram



No alcohol permitted

Customs seize 20mn baht of smuggled diesel

PHUKET customs officials raided a Malaysian ship and seized about 100,000 liters of illegally imported diesel fuel near Koh Racha Noi on March 15.

The fuel on the *Singa Maju*, estimated to be worth more than 20 million baht, was being sold to fishing ships in the area.

Following a tip off from a source, a team of customs officials, led by Rakop Srisupaat, Chief of the local Customs Investigation and Suppression Bureau unit, raided the boat and arrested

the captain, identified only as "Ranlan", and his six Indonesian crewmen.

All seven were taken to the Phuket Customs Office and charged with illegally importing and distributing diesel fuel.

"The ship re-fueled in international waters and then entered Thai waters to sell the fuel to fishing vessels without paying taxes on it," explained Customs Department Director-General Somchai Poonsawat.

– Warisa Temram



100,000 liters of illegal fuel was destined for local fishing boats.



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CENTARA GRAND BEACH RESORT PHUKET

Laem Singh beach vendors demand land investigation

MORE than 100 vendors from Laem Singh Beach gathered outside Phuket Provincial Hall last Thursday to demand that the government investigate Chanote title deeds for the beachfront land at the scenic cape.

The call to investigate the land titles follows the claimant landowner ordering a fence to be built along the property boundaries, which, when finished, will effectively prevent people from walking across the land to get to the beach.

Laem Singh Beach is accessible only by parking on the side of the road and following a path down the steep hill across the property in question.

Beach vendor Somneuk Kohkaew handed a formal letter of complaint to Dusadee Arayawuth, secretary-general of the Office of the Public Sector Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC).

"We make our living there. More than 500 tourists visit Laem Singh Beach every day. If the entrance is closed it will affect Phuket tourism."

Col Dusadee, who is heading the investigation into corrupt officials illegally issuing land title deeds in Phuket, agreed to investigate the land in question.

Land probes gain speed

Kamala Hills in spotlight as Forestry Dept launches crackdown

Warisa Temram

GOVERNMENT Spokesperson Prompong Nopparit, in his capacity as vice president of the Parliamentary Committee for Anti-Corruption and Misconduct, last Saturday led an inspection tour of land in the hills behind the Kathu Waterfall.

Joining Mr Prompong was the parliamentary anti-corruption committee president, Pol Lt Gen Wirote Pao-in. Both Mr Prompong and Lt Gen Wirote are Pheu Thai party list MPs.

The land in question is believed to be protected forest, but is now under investigation as the Phuket Land Office has received many applications for Chanote titles to be issued for parcels of land in the same area, Lt Gen Wirote explained.

"This is a tropical rainforest and a water source for the Kathu Waterfall. If Chanote titles are issued for more than 200 rai in this rainforest, then it will affect the ecosystem," said Lt Gen Wirote.

"We are inspecting this land here today because we received complaints that many people were trying to get Chanote titles for this land – which would be illegal," he added.

Mr Prompong said the investigation was still in its early stages.



Government Spokesperson Prompong Nopparit (left) and Pol Lt Gen Wirote Pao-in (2nd from left) investigated suspect land titles. Photo: Warisa Temram

"We will be fair to all parties. Now that we have seen the land in question, we will discuss this issue with all relevant government agencies," he said.

The inspection tour was the latest in a series of high-publicity investigations into the ownership of Phuket land, including the probe into the 4-billion-baht land scandal at Freedom Beach and al-

legations that former government officers have been deeply involved in illegally issuing land titles.

Meanwhile, the Royal Forestry Department (RFD) has announced it will launch an investigation into the illegal acquisition of land in Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi after it discovered that more than 2,800 rai of forest reserve areas had been encroached upon over

the past two years.

Samak Donnapee, chief of the department's Forest Land Management Bureau, said encroachment into forest reserves had been rising drastically over the past two years, due mainly to the booming tourism industry and the rising price of agricultural products in Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi.

"A lot of resorts and rubber plantations were found in these areas," Mr Samak said.

The department will also investigate land title deeds and other ownership documents issued in the past three years to see what entitles them to occupy forest reserves.

The RFD will also study satellite images to determine how the encroached land is being used. It will also check the age of the trees in the area to determine how much of the forest land in these reserves had been destroyed or degraded.

"If we find that the so-called ownership is illegal, we will immediately arrest the people and demolish all structures built in the forest reserves," he said.

According to the RFD report, the three provinces have a total of more than 4,800 square kilometers of land marked out as forest reserves.

Land Office voices support for government corruption probe

THE chief of the Phuket Land Department has voiced support for the ongoing investigation into allegations that corrupt government officials colluded with private investors to have land title deeds issued on state land.

"The investigation by the Public Sector Anti-Corruption Commission [PACC] into illegally-issued land documents in Phuket will serve as a deterrent to other people who might be thinking of doing the same," Sithichai Promchart told the *Gazette*.

The announcement by Mr Sithichai follows the discovery by PACC Secretary-general Dusadee Arayawuth and his team that many plots of protected forest land in the Kamala Hills were issued Chanote land title deeds illegally.

The PACC [Secretary-general] has forwarded his office a list of many more suspect title deeds for closer inspection, including many in the Kamala area, said Mr Sithichai.

"Our office has also sent staff to investigate certain land plots that have 'problems'," he added.

Mr Sithichai explained that from 2009 to the present, applicants had presented *SorKor 1* land-occupancy papers requesting various title deeds for 4,337 individual plots. Of this total, 1,007 were requests for full Chanote land title deeds. Of these, 526 have already been issued.

All of the remaining applications have been lodged with district land



Phuket Land Office chief Sithichai Promchart. Photo: Warisa Temram

offices in Kathu and Thalung, which are responsible for checking whether or not all the documents provided to support the applications were accurate and legally issued, Mr Sithichai said.

– Warisa Temram



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PACC names Phuket 'model province'

THE ongoing probe into official corruption by government officials in allowing land title deeds to be issued on state land should shore up investor confidence, the Phuket governor said.

Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha told the state-run MCOT news agency that the probe by the Public Sector Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) began in secrecy six or seven months ago in Phuket, which has been named as a "model province" by the agency.

PACC members have also identified Phang Nga as another province where corrupt officials were colluding with investors to have Chanote land title deeds issued on state forest land, especially in prime hillside areas with potential for resort development.

Gov Tri urged Land Department officials to scrutinize all applications for Chanote title deeds filed by holders of the *SorKor 1* land-occupancy papers, especially on hillside plots in areas such as Kamala and Patong.



Gov Tri urged officials to scrutinize all applications for Chanote title deeds. Photo: Gazette file



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Sea gypsy protest pleads for rights

PRIME Minister Yingluck Shinawatra arrived at Phuket Airport on Monday morning to be greeted by some 2,000 people protesting the need to protect their land usage rights and preserve traditional livelihoods.

The protesters, who collectively call themselves "PMOVE" (short for "Peoples' Movement"), comprise sea gypsies and members of other landless communities from across the country.

In addition to the many people from Phuket, some members of the PMOVE network at the airport traveled from Ranong, Phang Nga and Krabi provinces on the Andaman Coast, as well as Songkhla and Prachuap Khiri Khan on the Gulf Coast, and as far afield as Ubon Ratchathani in northeast Thailand.

As PM Yingluck made her way through the crowd outside the arrivals terminal, she was approached by PMOVE leader Tuttiporn Thippawong, who read

a formal letter of complaint listing three main "issues of concern".

The first issue raised was the right for sea gypsies to continue fishing in marine national park waters using traditional methods.

"More than 20 sea gypsies from Rawai [at the southern end of Phuket] have been arrested and charged for illegally fishing in marine national parks. This [issue]

affects more than 40 sea gypsy communities throughout Southern Thailand. We want the right to maintain our traditional lifestyle and livelihoods. This is how we support our families," said Ms Tuttiporn, herself a sea gypsy and Phuket native.

The PMOVE leader also called for the government to issue "Community Chanote" land title deeds to allow landless communities to continue living on land they have occupied for a long time, many generations in some cases.

The Community Chanote scheme, created under the former



Tuttiporn Thippawong



More than 2,000 sea gypsies welcomed PM Yingluck at Phuket Airport.

Democrat government of Abhisit Vejjajiva, allows communities to live on the land and use it for agriculture, but does not allow the land to be sold.

However, PM Yingluck's administration has not moved forward with the plan, reportedly out of fear that it could lead to more encroachment on state land.

Ms Tuttiporn explained to PM Yingluck that more than 2,000 sea

gypsies living in Rawai were also facing forced eviction following the presentation by a developer of a land document covering much of the land their community sits on.

PMOVE wants the government to set up an investigative committee to address the most pressing concerns faced by the communities in its network, such as overpriced water and electric power supply.

PM Yingluck agreed to this.

"I will look into it. The government will try to solve these problems for you. We will set up a special committee to look into and to come up with solutions," PM Yingluck said.

Deputy Government Spokesman Anusorn Iamsa-ard at a press conference after the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday said that Cabinet had discussed the problem of Community Chanotes.

"The problem is that many people are breaking the law by selling such land for agricultural use, such as palm and rubber farms, or for large tourism projects, such as resorts.

"This same problem has been happening in places such as Chiang Mai and Udon Thani, but it is mostly happening in the South," he said.

However, Mr Anusorn pointed out that the Cabinet was already in the midst of taking steps to address the problem.

"On January 15 this year the Cabinet announced that it would set up a committee headed by Deputy Prime Minister Yongyuth Wichaidit to handle land management issues.

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Sulaimarn Buengraheng leads the vocal effort outside the Cabinet meeting.

Cabinet closes with Southern protest

THE Cabinet meeting in Phuket drew to a close on Tuesday to the sound of another protest.

Under the banner of the "Southern Network", the protesters gathered outside the meeting venue at the Prince of Songkla University (PSU) Phuket Campus in Kathu.

The group had traveled from Satun, Songkhla and Chumphon provinces to call for the government to hold public hearings on major projects that greatly affect local people, including the Phang Nga "Land Bridge" gas pipeline project and the Pak Bara Deep Sea Port in Satun.

Wichoksak Ronarongpairee, a Pak Bara resident, told the *Phuket Gazette*, "The proper process for many government projects is not being followed. Regulations are being ignored, such as the require-

ment to hold public hearings as a condition of fulfilling the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

"The Pak Bara Deep Sea Port Project is just one example. The project cost 30 billion baht, and there were never any public hearings. The project passed its EIA right away. That means it is illegal," he said.

Mr Wichoksak said there were many other major development projects under consideration that would greatly affect local residents, including their health.

He also warned that continuing to approve major projects without following the proper procedure could result in local residents' needs and concerns being shoved aside in favor of foreign investment.

- Atchaa Khamlo

Mangrove flyover approved

By Atchaa Khamlo

CABINET on Tuesday approved 200 million baht to build an elevated road over a mangrove forest on the outskirts of Phuket Town.

The project, best known as the Klong Koh Pee project, has been on hold for 15 years.

The announcement, made by Deputy Government Spokesman Anusorn Iamsa-ard at about mid-day, followed a morning session of meetings at the Prince of Songkla University (PSU) Phuket Campus in Kathu.

Mr Anusorn told the press that approval of the flyover would end a long wait by local residents for completion of the Klong Koh Pee Road project, which will connect Sakdidet Road Soi 7 directly to Saphan Hin.

The required budget will be released in two stages: 40mn baht in 2013 and 160mn baht in 2014.

The project will take 480 days.

Work on the project began 15 years ago, but was held up after the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment ruled the final stretch could not be built through mangroves in the area, which drains an area of low-lying land, much of it the legacy of sediments deposited there during decades of tin mining.

The approval follows a series of special legal amendments, enacted specifically for Phuket and the Klong Koh Pee Project during the previous administration of the Abhisit government, that allow projects in mangrove preserves with "exceptional public benefits" to go forward, but only with Cabinet approval.

One man who will be satisfied with the approval is former Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop, who made completion of the



PM Yingluck consulting with Deputy PM Yongyuth Wichaidit on Monday.



Transport Minister Jarupong Ruangsuan explains the project to PM Yingluck. Photos: Atchaa Khamlo

project his "farewell wish" during a going-away party in September 2010.

PM Yingluck toured the project site with Phuket Town Mayor Somjai Suwansupana on Monday afternoon, when Transport Minister Jarupong Ruangsuan delivered a presentation to explain the Klong Koh Pee project to the prime minister.

During her visit to Phuket, PM Yingluck on Monday travelled to Phang Nga to discuss funding for women's groups in the Andaman region.

She also visited the Tsunami Memorial Monument as well as the beached *Tor 813* Marine Police patrol boat that washed ashore at Ban Bang Niang, near Khao Lak, on December 26, 2004.

On returning to Phuket, the prime minister inspected the site of the Klong Koh Pee Road project in Wichit and opened a One Tambon One Product (OTOP) fair at nearby Saphan Hin.

From there PM Yingluck inspected the meeting venue at the PSU Phuket campus on her way to the Hilton Arcadia Resort and Spa in Karon, where she spent the night.

Phuket to receive lion's share of Andaman budget

THE Cabinet provisionally agreed to fund 117 of the projects proposed at the Cabinet meeting, at a total cost of about 84 billion baht.

"Ten of the projects are Andaman-wide projects at a cost of 24.8bn baht. The remaining 107 projects are from the individual Andaman provinces," Deputy Government spokesman Chalitrat Chantarubeksa explained to the press immediately after the meeting.

With 67 projects approved, costing about 47.7bn baht, Phuket had nearly five times as many projects approved as any other Andaman province.

Phang Nga received approval for 13 projects with an estimated cost of 3.8bn baht.

Ranong had 11 projects approved for an estimated cost of just under 4bn baht.

Krabi had 10 projects ap-



Pakdeeharn Himathongkham (left) and Chalitrat Chantarubeksa. announcing the budget approvals. Photo: Warisa Temram

proved for 3.4bn baht.

Trang, presenting only six projects, was given provisional agreement for a modest 334 million baht budget.

"All the projects will be ratified in order to be presented to the The Bureau of Budget within two weeks of the approval of the Cabinet, after which the 2012 financial budget can be allocated," Mr Chalitrat said.

— Warisa Temram



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Finnish tourist behind bars for bottle mashup

A FINNISH tourist is being held at Krabi Provincial Prison pending charges of causing bodily harm after he allegedly struck a female bar manager over the head with a beer bottle just south of Phuket on Phi Phi Island.

Saen Jeen-no, the 29-year-old manager of Breakers Bar on Phi Phi Island, suffered a serious head injury and was transferred to Bangkok Hospital Phuket in Phuket Town, where she arrived on March 16 and was admitted into the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

Lt Wissawa Sanaeha, the officer at Phi Phi Island Police Station in charge of the case, named the Finnish tourist as Jake Petri, aged 31.

"He arrived on Phi Phi with his girlfriend [also from Finland] about a week ago, and the incident happened on his first night on the island," Lt Wissawa said.

"Mr Petri and Ms Saen became embroiled in an argument at the Slinky Bar at about 2am. Both of them then left the bar, where they continued to argue. Mr Petri struck Ms Saen, and then ran away," he said.

One of Ms Saen's female friends grabbed Mr Petri's girlfriend so she could not escape. She was told to Phone Mr Petri and get him to turn himself in, Lt Wissawa explained.

"He did. We transferred him to Krabi Provincial Court," Lt Wissawa added.

"We are aware of the case. We are still waiting for the investigation to close before we present this to the court," said Sub Lt Wattapan Umal, an inspector of Krabi Provincial Police.

Bail has yet to be set, the *Gazette* was told.

Hospital staff told the *Gazette* on March 18 that, "Ms Saen underwent a successful operation and is now in a general recovery room."

Elephant's face mutilated, worked to death by owner

By Warisa Temram

THE owner of an elephant whose mutilated body was discovered on a remote hilltop rubber plantation in Krabi last week has confessed to working the animal to death, then severing its head to remove its sole tusk.

The owner, 57-year-old Seri Srisuk, explained: "It was hot and he worked hard for many days."

"I removed the tusk. I will make sure the body is buried so as to not disturb villagers," he added.

The elephant, a 49-year-old male named Plai Boonam, was identified after an investigation by Krabi Muang District Chief Yutisak Akekkara and Wiboon Lerdwattanasombut, chief of the Krabi Livestock Office.

Rubber tappers in Khao Kraam



Plai Boonam's owner agreed to bury the carcass. Photo: Warisa Temram

subdistrict who discovered the carcass on the rubber plantation late Thursday said the elephant had

only one tusk before it died.

Evidence of abuse and overwork were visible from the

elephants severed tail and the deep wounds to its hind feet, which were probably inflicted by a *totthi*. The hook shaped device is used by *mahouts* to control work elephants, which are still used to pull logs in hilly parts of Thailand.

Local officials, who made the long trek to the elephant's final resting site, said they feared the rotting carcass might cause bacterial contamination of the local water, as the hilltop is part of a watershed that supplies both Khao Kham and Khlong Hin sub-districts.

Mr Wiboon said the carcass should be buried at the site.

As for working the animal to death and the subsequent removal of its tusk, he said: "As Plai Boonam was legally owned, there is nothing else my office can do."

Baby elephant probe hinges on DNA test

OFFICERS who led the raids on three elephant camps in Phuket late last month are back on the island to continue their investigation into whether all the elephants at the camps were legally obtained.

The investigation focused on: the ATV @ Hill Adventure Tour camp on the road to the Big Buddha image in Chalong; the Elephant Camp at the Laguna complex in Chong Talay; and the PhuThai Souvenir Market in Chalong.

"I have visited the three elephant camps again to follow up on our investigation," Col Watcharin Phusit, the superintendent of the regional Natural Resources and Environment

Crime Suppression Division, told the *Phuket Gazette*.

"We are now waiting for the results of DNA tests, which were actually supposed to be available at about the end of February," he said.

The DNA tests are expected to prove conclusively whether or not the baby elephants are the offspring of a female elephant seized at the Pang Chang Sai Yok Elephant Park in Kanchanaburi province in January.

That adult female was discovered to have been illegally obtained and has since been seized by National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) officers and transferred to the Thai Elephant

Conservation Center (TECC), a state-run enterprise in Lampang, Col Watcharin explained.

"The baby elephants seized have been sent to the Thai Elephant Conservation Center in Lampang. Their mother was seized because the identification document for her that the camp owner of the Sai Yok Elephant Park presented to us didn't match," Col Watcharin said.

"Now we are waiting for the DNA test results," he added.

Col Watcharin previously told the *Gazette*: "Anyone found guilty in the case will get up to four years in jail, a 40,000 baht fine, or both in accordance with Wildlife Pres-



Popeye was one of the baby elephants seized. Photo: Acha Khamlo

ervation and Protection Act."

Since the raids Laguna Tours & Quest has publicly denied any wrongdoing in their operations.

'Naughty' clouded leopard caught

A CLOUDED leopard was captured over the weekend after a dip into the poultry-house on Thanyamundra's organic farm in Phang Nga, which produces much of the chemical-free produce served in Phuket.

Security guard Surasit Wangphakam was responsible for the capture.

Hearing chickens "clucking loudly" inside the poultry-house, he looked in and discovered a female clouded leopard "playing" with the chickens.

Fifteen of the chickens had already been killed by the time he put a stop to it, said the 28-year-old.

"It is just a clouded leopard, not a dangerous animal. She came to hunt the chickens, but didn't eat any of them."

"This is the first time I have had to catch an animal while on duty here. Once in a while, I see elephants, deer and monkeys," said Mr Surasit.



Mr Surasit quickly caught the female clouded leopard in the poultry-house, but already 15 hens were dead. Photo: Thanyamundra

Nicknamed Khun Sod, Mr Surasit has been working at the farm for eight months under contract with Siam Guardian Services (SGS).

It took Mr Surasit about three minutes to get hold of the feline, which was not afraid of humans.

"She seemed humble, as if she was caught doing something naughty," wrote Thanyamundra Marketing Communications Manager Nathaphat Asavathanachart.

"However for security reasons, Mr Surasit tied her mouth and legs and put her in a cage," she explained.

The poultry-house is part of the organic farm at Thanyamundra Khao Sok, which is part of an organic resort "in a natural setting" that is listed in DestinAsian's "Luxe List 2011".

"This has clearly shown the abilities of the well-trained SGS guards," wrote Ms Nathaphat.

The leopard was then released back into Khao Sok National Park, its original habitat.

"On behalf of the management, we would like to sincerely thank Khun Sod," wrote Ms Nathaphat on behalf of the resort.

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Emergency Decree, violence persists

AROUND THE nation

THE government has extended the Emergency Decree in the Deep South as the debate over the governance of Thailand's three southernmost provinces continues to rage.

The law, formally known as the Emergency Decree on Public Administration in Emergency Situation, gives the authorities sweeping powers to suppress the active insurgency in the Muslim majority provinces of Narathiwat, Yala and Pattani.

The decree allows the authorities to detain suspected insurgents for extended periods of time.

Critics say the law also effectively grants security forces immunity from prosecution, which breeds a culture of impunity among soldiers and widespread human rights violations against suspects.

The government says the Emergency Decree is necessary to deal with the violence, which has



Thai Muslim men bury the body of a man who was shot dead by paramilitaries in January. Photo: AFP

claimed more than 5,000 lives since 2004.

The three provinces are also under martial law, while four districts in neighboring Songkhla province are governed by the Internal Security Act, a softer version of the Emergency Decree.

Foreign Ministry Permanent

Secretary Sihasak Phuanketkeow recently told the United Nations Human Rights Council that Thailand rejected its calls to repeal the decree.

Investigations were underway to bring to justice all perpetrators in the Deep South, he said.

"Thailand is determined to pur-

sue further efforts to address the root causes of the problem of political violence, including in the southernmost provinces," Mr Sihasak told the council.

Thailand's ruling Pheu Thai Party is also supporting controversial plans to make the Deep South a special-administrative zone

called Pattani Maha Nakhon ("Pattani Mega City").

The party's committee on law reform made the proposals, which would entail a directly elected mayor, as is the case in Bangkok.

A number of prominent figures have criticized the plans, most notably Army chief Gen Prayuth Chan-ocha, who described the issue as "risky" and "sensitive", according to local media reports.

"Thailand is indivisible", he added. Opponents of more autonomy for the Deep South claim devolving power to the region could ultimately lead to its secession from The Kingdom.

Meanwhile, the violence has continued.

On March 15, a motorcycle bomb exploded in Pattani, killing one villager and wounding three others, including two soldiers.

In Narathiwat, ordinance officials defused a homemade bomb attached to a power pole after it was detected by a squad of paramilitary rangers on foot-patrol in Rangae District.

On March 19, a 43-year-old village protection volunteer in Pattani's Yaring District was shot dead by two gunmen.

Red Bull energy drink billionaire 'gets wings'

CHALEO Yoovidhya, the billionaire founder of Red Bull energy drinks and Thailand's third-richest man, has died aged 89.

Mr Chaleo was born in 1923 to a Chinese immigrant family of fruit traders.

By the time of his death, he was worth an estimated 461 billion baht, making him the third-richest man in Thailand and the world's 205th richest on *Forbes* magazine's list of the world's wealthiest people.

In 1962, Mr Chaleo developed the formula for an energy drink he named *Krathing Daeng*, or "Red Bull".

In 1984, Mr Chaleo was approached by Austrian entrepreneur Dietrich Mateschitz, who had tried *Krathing Daeng* while on holiday in Thailand.

After finding the formula cured his jet lag, Mr Mateschitz proposed carbonating the drink and marketing it worldwide.

The two men each invested about 15.4 million baht in the new company, taking 49% of shares apiece with 2% of shares going to Mr Chaleo's son.

The drink made the two entrepreneurs US-dollar billionaires.

Mr Chaleo died in Bangkok on March 17.

Dog-meat trade continues unabated

AUTHORITIES have seized more than 2,000 dogs in Thailand bound for dinner tables over the past six months, a report by the BBC has claimed.

Both strays and domestic pets are being snatched off Thai streets for shipment to parts of Vietnam and China, where dog meat is considered a delicacy.

Royal Thai Navy officer Capt Teerakiet Thong-aram, who conducts patrols on the Mekhong River to intercept contraband be-

ing smuggled into neighboring Laos – including stolen dogs – said canines at the border fetched 300 to 400 baht each.

"The price goes up to 1,000 baht or more in the third or fourth countries," he told the BBC.

Rounding up strays from the streets is not illegal in Thailand.

Described by some as a "billion-baht industry", the dog meat trade sees more than 1,000 animals smuggled out of Thailand every day, according to some reports.



Caged dogs seized in Thailand. Photo: Courtesy of Soi Dog Foundation

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Tiny price tag for saving mangroves

IT IS a shame that regional mass transport issues and “mega-projects” to whoosh ever more tourists to their destinations trumped the need for more sustainable tourism development during the recent mobile Cabinet meeting hosted here in Phuket.

In the first-ever official visit to the island by a female Thai premier, PM Yingluck Shinawatra performed admirably. She was smiling and charismatic throughout, despite a truly hectic schedule and wave after wave of people seeking her attention.

These ranged from industry leaders seeking billions of baht for infrastructure improvements to the poorest of the poor, asking only to continue living hand-to-mouth on lands inhabited by their ancestors generations ago.

One of the many stops on PM Yingluck’s whirlwind tour was the proposed site of the 200-million-baht Klong Koh Pee elevated road project, which Transport Minister Jarupong Ruangsuan a week earlier guaranteed would gain Cabinet approval – and so it did [see News pages].

The project, begun over a decade ago and then stalled because it required the destruction of protected mangrove forest, will create 600-meter span of road over the mangroves, connecting Saphan Hin directly with main roads to its west.

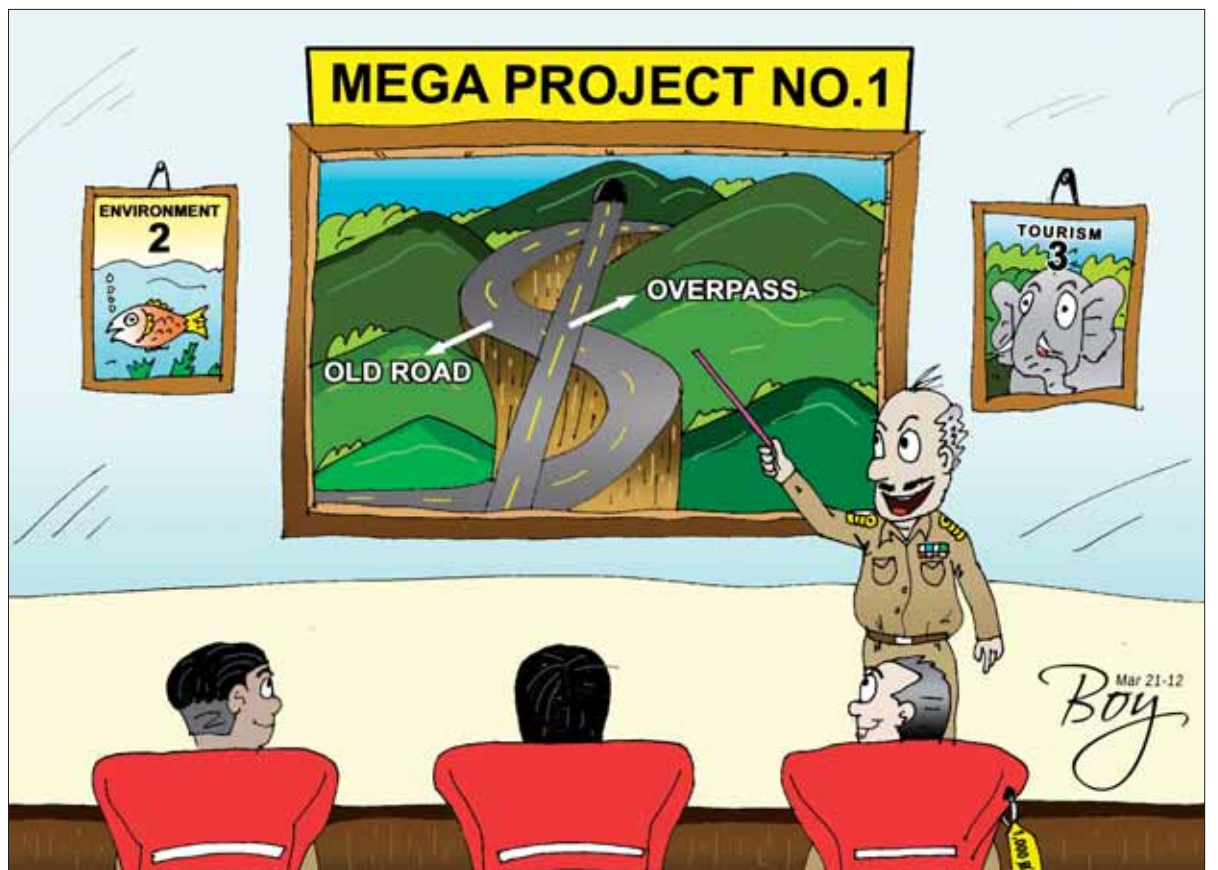
The *Gazette* applauds the Cabinet decision to finally complete the road, which will greatly improve access to the island’s largest recreational area, along with its numerous schools and government offices.

Just as importantly, it will spare the mangroves lining the canal (*klong*) the same fate that many other mangrove stands have suffered – namely encroachment and other human activities, including illegal road construction of the kind tacitly supported by at least one former high-ranking bureaucrat.

Those mangroves being hearty enough to colonize meters-thick muck and provide some stabilization for the “soil” in the Klong Koh Pee area after decades of tin mining is a good thing indeed. Most notably because the Saphan Hin Landfill is now home to what is probably the single largest accumulation of solid waste in Southern Thailand, much of it perilously at or just above the high-tide mark.

The 200mn baht price tag is modest compared with some of the other mega-projects hyped during the Cabinet meeting, including the poorly-conceived underpass projects and a tunnel that, if completed, would result in windfall profits for “investors” who brazenly built above the 80-meter-above-sealevel limit along the existing road.

It would also be a small price to pay for continued insurance against another catastrophe such as the June 2007 disaster, during which toxic runoff from the landfill into local waterways devastated the local fish farming industry, not to mention possible impacts of rising sea levels, storm surges or future tsunamis.



Ditch the silly names

PG I greatly enjoy weekly reading your letters to the editor.

The pure bone-fatheadedness of some of them make me chuckle and others I feel raise legitimate and interesting points. However, I have never seen such a queer list of names in my life. Who were these people’s parents? Who names a child or themselves “Phuket – Change or perish”, “Clickblade” or “Why am I not surprised”?

Yes, I understand that some of these comments come from the *Gazette forum*, but what has happened to people putting their name to their opinion. They simply discredit their ideas and feelings by hiding behind silly pseudonyms.

Now what do you think of me
Chalong

Call for UK Consular service

Re: *Gazette online, US Consular Outreach in Phuket, March 15*

Again – and I say this every time a US Consular service is announced in Phuket: Why can’t the British Embassy do the same thing?

agogohome
Gazette forum

Fair fares for Phuket

Last week, I traveled from Don Muang Airport to Ladprao by metered taxi. The journey lasted one hour and cost 145 baht. Also last week I arrived at Phuket Airport and was quoted 400 baht inside the airport and the taxi fare demanding just outside the airport was the same. So, I went to the taxi-meter-cab stand and was again told the fare to Phuket Town would be 400 baht.

It is obvious to me that a ‘cartel’

Letters to the Editor

is in operation in Phuket and competition is not a word understood or used by anyone involved in this business.

I took the taxi meter cab, but it did not use the meter. I had to pay 400 baht for a half hour journey. This is equivalent to 800 baht an hour, compared to 145 baht in Bangkok. It is obvious that taxi companies, as well as the tuk-tuk cartels are making excessive profits in Phuket.

E.L. Healas
Phuket

Running the system

Re: *Gazette online, Transport Minister gives Bt180mn Phuket mangrove flyover green light, March 12*

You can have as many multi-million-baht projects as you like, but if the tuk-tuks are still running transportation on the island, tourist will still be going elsewhere for their holidays.

It’s now common knowledge that transportation in Phuket costs more than your holiday accommodation. A ridiculous situation. Phuket is a major tourist destination with no public transport.

Tom
Gazette forum

Keep beach assests

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket beach vendors demand investigation of land title deeds, March 17*

These vendors are an asset to the beach, and in my experience have provided the food, spirits and other services that tourists demand.

Garbage is mostly hauled off by responsible vendors; we know who they are and spend our money there.

If private villas or condos are built above Laem Singh, it will ruin the experience and ultimately the beach, which all currently enjoy.

Josephe T
Gazette forum

Phuket’s criminals blind to reality

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket drug duo arrest lands Bt1mn haul, March 15*

These thugs are always becoming bolder: pointing guns at police officers and fleeing without any fear of the consequences.

We are definitely at a stage where these people can’t tell the difference between reality and fictitious movies.

Claude
Gazette forum

Tragically shocked

Re: *Phuket tourist electrocution brings probe, safety blitz, Gazette online, March 8*

I find it tragic that anyone should be killed in such an easily preventable circumstance as faulty electric wiring, and this was a newly constructed high-end resort.

What of the hundreds of smaller hotels, guest houses and hostels dotted around the island. Given the visibly frightening state of the power supply equipment in Phuket, I think it highly unlikely that the wiring and appliances in many of these smaller establishments will be better.

Jenny Rater
Karon

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Seizing opportunities

LETTER FROM THE GOVERNOR

THE mobile Cabinet meeting is a great opportunity for Phuket, as well as other provinces in the Andaman region, to propose projects that require government funding to improve and develop the provinces.

We are putting forward a long list of projects for Cabinet approval, so I had to arrange them by priority based on the necessity of each.

Most of the projects are tourism related, geared towards the improvement in the quality of life for Phuket people and the conservation of Phuket's culture.

The two major problems facing Phuket that urgently need to be resolved are transportation issues and an inadequate water supply. These two matters are on the 'priority-one' list of projects we are proposing to the Cabinet.

Each province is guaranteed a budget of 100 million baht to manage approved projects, but can also get an additional 30mn baht for each of the 10 sub-projects, if they are approved.

So far, we are proposing 11 sub-projects that deal mostly with reservoirs and pipelines that will supply the whole island with water.

We are also putting forward a marine traffic management project, road safety improvement project and a culture conservation project.

We are also highlighting two special projects. These are for the



Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha, 60, started governing Phuket back in October 2010. Not appearing on this year's transfer list, he now has until October 2012 to represent the island as Governor. Gov Tri spoke to the *Phuket Gazette* about the projects proposed to the Cabinet and the issues he feels need to be urgently addressed.

Cabinet to only acknowledge and authorize. We are not seeking financial backing from the government, but are looking to foreign investor to fund them.

They are the light rail train project, which will be managed by Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) and the Patong tunnel project, controlled by Patong Municipality.

As soon as these two projects are approved by the Prime Minister and the Cabinet members, we will appoint a committee to search for the right candidates to invest in each project. So far investors from China, Korea and a few European countries have shown interest.

One project that will definitely be happening is the Klong Koh Pee road project. It is ready to launch now, pending the approval of the PM and Cabinet [Cabinet has approved the project, see News pages – Ed].

The Thainaan [Darasamuth] intersection underpass project, budgeted for 600mn baht, has already been approved. I would like

to take this opportunity to apologize in advance to road users for any inconvenience caused while the project is underway. The project will start two months from now and is likely to take two years to complete.

After that, in 2013, the underpass projects at the Tesco Lotus intersection and Bang Khu intersection will start. I think the first priority for Phuket at the moment is to solve our traffic problems. If tourists come to Phuket and have to spend hours stuck in traffic jams it will create a bad impression and they may not want to come back again.

I am working hard to make tourism in Phuket sustainable, since tourism is the main mechanism of business on the island. We need to develop this province to be the most friendly place for tourists to visit, and at the same time ensure that local people can lead satisfying lives. I would do anything to improve the quality of life for locals, as well as tourists and expats living in Phuket.

Mystery hero saves Phuket tourist's life



The man was found on the rocks south of Karon Beach. By: Gazette File

AT 2PM February 19, my husband went for a stroll leaving me on Kata beach to finish a book. At 5pm he hadn't returned. I thought he may have lost his way and taken a taxi back to our hotel in Karon.

On packing up our beach things, I found his shoes under his sun lounger. When I returned to the hotel I discovered he hadn't returned, so I immediately hired a taxi to tour the area to look for him.

By now it was dark and I knew that something was really wrong. The hotel alerted hospitals and police department, and I continued to search for him in the taxi.

On returning late that night, the hotel staff told me he had been found and was in hospital.

He had walked back to Karon beach and thought that by climbing over the rocks he would return to me more quickly than by road.

How wrong he was! He became exhausted in the heat and passed out. Banging his head, he became confused and couldn't move.

Amazingly a fisherman, fishing in the dark, came across my husband. He alerted the emergency services and saved his life. He encouraged my husband along the

Island View

By Lyndsey Pickering

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

rocks as best he could and even took off his own shoes for my husband to use, as his feet and legs were badly cut and bruised.

The fisherman vanished and we were unable to thank him.

My husband spent four days in the intensive care unit. We spent the rest of our holiday, plus a week, in Bangkok Phuket Hospital, where he received fantastic care. Also the staff at our hotel looked after me and our daughter, who flew out in our hour of need.

A big thank you to the mystery man who saved my husband's life, please come forward!

Now home, my husband is making a good recovery and we aim to return to Phuket. The moral of the story: make sure you have plenty of adequate travel insurance, as my husband's care and return home to the Isle of Wight England cost many thousands of pounds, luckily all covered.

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

No health insurance

Often I see foreigners come to Phuket, rent a bike, have an accident and brought to a private hospital. Only then do they discover they have to pay for the treatment and don't have personal insurance to cover the expenses.

Of course the best suggestion for everybody is to get health insurance before your trip.

However, I would like to know what is the situation for foreigners without insurance, which are the treatments (if any) that they may be entitled to free of charge, and where can they get them.

*Federico Parodi
Nai Harn*

Dr Phumin Silapunt, Patong Hospital Director replies:

There is no free treatments for foreigners. I would suggest you get treatment in government hospitals, as it is much cheaper. However, foreigners are able to get health insurance in Thailand.

Sriwan Muankid, Thai Life Insurance Senior Manager Phuket replies:

We do not accept foreigners

with only a tourist visa, however, you can buy health insurance from Thai Life Insurance if you have a work permit, a retirement visa or are married to a Thai person. If using a work permit in support of an application, the employing company must verify the work permit.

How can a medical student volunteer?

My son is a medical student and will be visiting Phuket during his mid-year semester break. He is hoping to do some volunteer work while in Phuket, either in a clinic or hospital. Could anyone assist in supplying contact and procedural details?

*Med Student Volunteer
Rawai*

Dr Phumin Silapunt, Patong Hospital Director replies:

He is welcome to volunteer at Patong Hospital. If he speaks Thai, he would be very helpful as our interpreter.

We do need documentation, so we know what he has been studying. He would be assisting in the

medical examination room, operating theater or emergency room while observing our treatment process.

We do not know when he will be arriving, but I will be leaving Thailand, and returning after the end of April. Please contact me after my return at 076 342-633 or 076 342-634

Work permit department officer, Phuket Provincial Employment Office (PPEO) replies:

You cannot volunteer while in Thailand on a tourist visa. You must have a work permit whether you are paid or not.

The first step to getting a work permit is to contact a Royal Thai Embassy or Consulate in your country for advice on obtaining a non-immigrant "O" type visa. You must inform them you are coming to Thailand as a volunteer so that it can be specified on the visa.

If you are going to be a volunteer in a hospital, the hospital must apply for your work permit. After all required documents are submitted it takes about seven working days to process.

For more information contact the Office of Foreign Workers

Administration, Department of Employment, Ministry of Labor at 0-2209-1100, 076-219 660 or 076-219 661, or visit our website at wp.doe.go.th/sites/eng/index.html

Sound of FantaSea

We have a noise problem here in Kamala. Everyday from the afternoon to midnight FantaSea plays loud "ting, ting, ting" music. They have extra loud speakers facing outside.

We live about 500 meters away and cannot sleep with the windows open because of the sound. We don't want to move away from Kamala.

*Gerhard Wagner
Kamala*

Karoon Sriden, Chief Executive of Kamala Sub-district Administrative Organization replies:

Phuket FantaSea has legal permission to operate as an entertainment venue from 9am to 11pm in accordance with Public Health Laws.

Shortly after opening Phuket FantaSea produced too much noise

and Kamala Subdistrict Administrative Organization (*OrBorTor*) investigated. Since then, it has not had any noise violations.

If the venue arranges a special occasion and intends to create fireworks displays or other activities that might create too much noise, they must request special permission from Kamala *OrBorTor*.

Somsak Chaochang, Chief of Public Health and Environment Office, Kamala OrBorTor replies:

According to Public Health Law, an entertainment venue is allowed to produce noise up to 85 decibels. Based on our yearly inspections we can confirm that Phuket FantaSea produces noise under the legal limit.

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

European tourist market is dormant, but not done

LOCAL officials and tourism industry representatives are optimistic about the revival of the European tourist market in the near future, following the recent success of a Phuket tourism promotion roadshow in Germany.

The Internationale Tourismus – Borse 2012 (ITB 2012), one of the largest tourism trade shows in the world, was held in Berlin, Germany from March 3 to 10.

Representing Phuket at the event were 28 tourism operators who were accompanied by Phuket Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada, Phuket Tourist Association (PTA) President Somboon Jirayus, PTA vice-chairman Phurit Maswongsa and a number of other officials.

PTA President Somboon Jirayus said: “Europe has always been a key tourist market for Phuket. Even though its economy still has problems, we believe that the region will continue to be an important tourist source market for us in the long run.

“We expect the EU economy to improve within two years, and at the same time Phuket Airport should be able to accommodate more direct flights from Europe. . .we are hoping that the Eastern European tourist market will expand.”

“We leased out a 180 square meter area to facilitate the 28 operators and promote tourism to the European market.”

PTA vice-chairman Phurit Maswongsa agreed, noting that

Europe tourist direct sales prospects look promising.

From ITB 2012, we’ve gotten confirmation from Thai Airways that there will be at least two more direct flights to Phuket by April, he said.

Following their recent take over of Air Berlin, Etihad Airways, the national carrier of the United Arab Emirates will be offering direct flight service to Phuket from Abhu Dhabi after March 25, he said.

Mr Phurit pointed out that direct flights between Copenhagen and Phuket, initially launched as a seasonal service, will now become a regular service available year round.

These developments are a testament to the effectiveness of our roadshow campaigns, he added.

V/gov Chamroen went on to point out that this was the sixth time Phuket has joined ITB tourism trade fair.

“Each year the number of participating operators, including both hotels and spas, increases.

“In future events, we expect more marina and golf operators to join to add more diversity to our offerings,” he said.

He added that officials are also thinking about setting up booths to promote all the Andaman seaboard provinces (Ranong, Phang Nga, Krabi, Trang, Satun).

“Each of these provinces has unique offerings and promoting them will increase selling potential and overall interest,” he said.

“A lot of tour agents and tour-



PTA's Somboon Jirayus believes that European tourists will return.

ists showed interest in Phuket's booth at ITB this year, which marks increased tourist confidence in traveling to Phuket,” he said.

Planned upcoming Phuket roadshows will shift focus back to Asian markets with a campaign planned in Malaysia and Singapore in May and one in Japan in July.

The roadshows are supported by the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization.

– *Phuket Gazette*

Income tax filing: Part II

FOR anybody who generated income in Thailand last year, regardless of where or how they were paid, the personal income tax filing deadline is March 31.

However, since the last day of this month falls on a Saturday, Friday, March 30 will be the last opportunity to file on time.

In the first part of this two-article series we introduced the formula $Ti = Ai - (D+A)$, covering Ti (taxable income), income categories and how to determine D (deductions) by referring to a tax income certificate (PND).

To read that first article, see page 10 of the March 10-16 is-

sue, which can also be found online in the business section of the Phuket Gazette website, published March 15.

To complete the formula, we'll now go on to outline tax allowances (A) and explain how to apply progressive tax rates and determine how much tax was/is owed.

Everyone is entitled some allowances. You can claim these if you were single or supported dependents (child, spouse, parent, and/or handicapped persons); if you've paid into social insurance, an approved providence fund, long term equity fund, life insurance premium, paid interest on a

house mortgage, and/or made charitable donations.

Like deductions, allowances are also capped. For example, a maximum 17,000 baht can be claimed for supporting a school-aged child (which is split among two parents at 8,500 baht each), or 30,000 baht for the support of a spouse or parent; 100,000 baht for a life insurance premium or interest paid on a house mortgage; and 500,000 or 15% of wages for contributions to a long term equity fund and/or a providence fund.

Once you have determined all of your deductions and allowances, you are now ready to complete the formula and calculate how much of your income is actually taxable in the eyes of the government. This figure will determine what tax rate(s) to apply.

Refer to the following examples and progressive tax rate table.

Lets say that after subtracting all deductions and allowances, your Ti is exactly 500,000 baht. In Thailand, the first 150,000 baht of your Ti is exempt. Therefore, only the remaining 350,000 baht would be subject to the bracket rate of 10%, or 35,000 baht. The PND tax certificate(s) should show that this amount was withheld from your income and paid up last year. If less was withheld, you will owe the difference. Likewise if more was withheld, the revenue department will be in line to write you a check equal to the amount of the surplus.

Moving up brackets, lets say your Ti is 600,000 baht. Accord-

| Taxable Income (baht) | Marginal Taxable Income | Tax Rate (%) |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| 1-150,000 | 150,000 | 0 |
| 150,001 – 500,000 | 350,000 | 10 |
| 500,001 – 1,000,000 | 500,000 | 20 |
| 1,000,001 – 4,000,000 | 3,000,000 | 30 |
| 4,000,001 and up | | 37 |

Thailand's progressive tax rate table. Not all of your income will be taxed at the same rate.

ingly, the first 150,000 baht is exempt, and the next 350,000 baht would be taxed at 10%, while the remaining 100,000 baht would be subject to a 20% rate, or 20,000 baht. In this example, the total tax owed would be 55,000 baht ($0+35,000+20,000$).

When ready to file, no formal appointment is required at the Revenue Department. However, due to the rapidly approaching deadline, it is suggested that you get there early and allocate enough time for any potential delays. Finally, be sure to bring with you all the original and copies of all your PND tax certificates, as well as vital identification and verification documents.

Disclaimer: The information provided in this article is based on personal experience and direct inquiries with the Revenue Department. The author and the Phuket Gazette will not be held liable for any damages claimed from misuse, misinformation or misunderstanding. All specific tax issues should be directly addressed with the Revenue Department. For more information, see W: rd.go.th or call their hotline: 1161

– *Steven Layne*

Batik operations seek integration

PHUKET Provincial Industry Office recently led a seminar to reinforce the continued development and integration of the island's high-potential Batik fabric industry.

The industrial promotion event marked the beginning of the second consecutive year of efforts to develop local production, reinforcing momentum from the forming last year of the Phuket Batik Cluster.

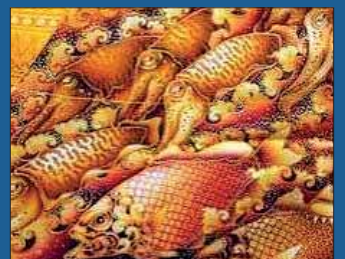
That initiative was marked by the unity of 20 Batik operators, under the guidance of the tenth industrial promotion bureau of the Phuket Provincial Industry Office along with N.P. Shindan & Consultant Limited.

Held at the meeting room of the Phuket Provincial Industry Office, the seminar was centered around the aim of promoting, developing, improving and integrating Phuket Batik production.

Discussions covered the direction of the master plan and project implementation plans.

Led by first generation veterans and teachers in Phuket's Batik circle, the seminar featured training and exchanging of knowledge of modern weaving techniques.

Another key feature of the seminar was an emphasis on developing unity and identity of the product as to be sustainable to preserve Phuket Batik as cultural heritage.



Phuket Batik design example

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Women labor holds weight

By Steven Layne

IN HONOR of International Womens' Day on March 8, the Phuket Provincial Labor Protection and Welfare office hosted a seminar aimed at raising awareness of/among women in the work place.

Entitled "Female laborers in establishments", the seminar was organized in line with the office's ongoing womens' rights promotion campaign, and fuels the "sexual equality" buzz that has been recently perpetuated by Thailand's first and current female head of state, Yingluck Shinawatra, who had promoted equality for women on her visit to Phang Nga and Phuket earlier this week.

Staged last week at Phuket Merlin Hotel in Phuket Town, the seminar was presided over by Dr Sommai Prijasilpa, Phuket's first and only female Vice Governor.

Other participants included representatives of labor groups, related government departments and a number of women laborers from various establishments across the island.

Phuket Employment Office Chief Noppadol Ployudee told the seminar:

"At present, many more women have to find work outside of the home, and have become part of an important work force in developing the country.

"Women are also an important component in the family institution, but men and women differ in terms of physi-



Women are increasing in Phuket's industry.

ogy, body strength and education.

"[Many women are] lacking of knowledge and understanding about their roles and the lacking of work experience may lead them to perform non-ideal jobs and be put in unsafe situations in the work place.

"Not having enough time for their family will result in more family problems due to the lack of warmth.

"Family members lacking care and attention will increase stress and problems for women at work.

"Therefore, the Phuket Provincial La-

bor Protection and Welfare office [intends to] raise awareness about the family institution, which is the smallest and yet most important unit of society.

"We want to teach and instill good ethics and values while emphasizing the importance of family warmth and stability...

"Our campaign will promote women laborer rights and raise awareness among employers and other persons in the workforce to understand the importance of women in the work force.

"Additionally, it will improve the quality of women and ensure that women laborers participate in more work place activities, which will ultimately result in happier employers."

According to data from the Phuket Provincial Industry Office, of Phuket's 6,809 laborers working in 418 factories in 2011, 1,865, or just over 27%, were females.

Warning: copyright collectors on prowl

OPERATORS of entertainment establishments that utilize copyright protected songs should be weary of personnel claiming to be royalty collectors, a statement issued by the Department of Intellectual Property has warned.

The statement, published last week on the Ministry of Commerce website, said that the department has recently received a number of complaints from establishment operators in Phuket, Pattaya and Chiang Mai.

The complaints were about groups, comprised of no less than five persons, who reportedly were harassing operators of bars, restaurants, spas and other entertainment venues, demanding royalty payments on the basis of copyright breach.

Claiming to be legally authorized by the original copyright owners, the suspects reportedly intimidated operators by threatening to have the operators arrested, and even pay larger

finest, the statement said.

The statement also issued guidelines (below) to keep in mind when dealing with anyone claiming to be a copyright royalty collector.

Established operators are advised to report any incidents to the local police, and to review all copyright collection notification information from the central committee of goods and services by visiting W: ipthailand.go.th

— Phuket Gazette

Guidelines from the Department of Intellectual Property

1. Request to see an official police complaint stating the charges.
2. Request to see an unexpired Power of Attorney authorizing the collection of royalties.
3. Inquire about which song's copyright was breached and which record company it was from.
4. Only a police officer is authorized to make an arrest.
5. Record the conversation and take photographs or video of the suspects and officers.

Blue Flag fair a hit

WAGE slaves suffering from rising consumer costs and stagnant salaries reveled at Blue Flag Consumer Products Fair held at Sanamchai in Phuket Town earlier this week.

The fair's main attraction was Government-subsidized consumer staples and other products, which were sold at rock-bottom prices.

Supacha Bunthalit, who heads the Department of Internal Trade (DIT) Office in Phuket, told the Gazette the most popular items were four "promotion" products selling at very attractive prices: A

bag of 30, class 3 (medium sized) eggs were sold for 70 baht, palm oil at 38 baht per liter, refined sugar at 20 baht/kg and jasmine rice at 150 baht for a 5kg sack.

Vendors were allowed space in the hundreds of booths free of charge. Some of the items on offer included: fresh roasted coffee beans, bedding, furniture, herbal remedies, clothing, cosmetics, agricultural products including seeds and gardening tools, and cheap household-name dry goods at attractive prices.

— Stephen Fein

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Wage rises should not include extras

WITH daily minimum wages on the island set to increase to 300 baht on April 1, discussions and debates about its implications and conditions are beginning to warm up.

Service charges on bills paid by customers for food or services will not be counted as part of their 300 baht daily minimum wage, a recent meeting of tourism and hospitality operators agreed.

These employees can be given service charges independent of the 300 baht wage they earn from hotels, said Somkiat Chayasriwong, permanent secretary of the Labor Ministry, who headed the meeting.

"Employers should be considerate of employees' morale if they choose to pay them only the daily 300 baht," he said.

"If employees complain, the Department of Labor Protection and Welfare [under the Labor Ministry] can only ask such employers to 'co-operate' by paying them service charges paid by guests for service staff, because there is no law against employers paying only the 300 baht wage to employees," he said.

Arphorn Chunworn of Apsara Beach Resort and Spa in Phang Nga said the matter of service fees



Somkiat Chayasriwong. The Nation

would be discussed in an internal meeting on March 28.

Initially to be implemented on January 1, wage hikes were pushed back to April 1 and will be effective in Phuket, Bangkok, Samut Prakan, Samut Sakhon, Samut Songkhram, Nakhon Pathom and Pathum Thani. — The Nation

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The next version of Windows



I HAVE spent two of the past three Live Wire columns extolling the virtues of Apple products. A few of my friends were shocked. After all, I'm a dyed-in-the-wool PC user. I've written many dozens of books about Windows and Office, and thousands of articles. Windows is like an old security blanket to me. Sparring partner, too. And it's changing. Dramatically. Right now.

Three weeks ago, Microsoft released the "Consumer Preview" version of Windows 8. You can download and install it, too, if you're curious and you have an extra PC and a 16 GB USB drive – follow the instructions at is.gd/5Wh482. Yes, you can install it dual boot, if you're adventurous, and you can install it on a virtual machine, either on Windows or on the Mac.

Windows 8's primary distinguishing factor is the "Metro Start screen," which you can see here. When you start Windows, this is what you see – a screen that looks like it came straight from a Windows phone. If you want to bring up the old Windows desktop – Microsoft calls it the "Legacy Desktop," a term that sends shivers down my spine – you have to tap or click on the tile that says Desktop, there in the lower left corner.

Microsoft dropped the Start button, over on the Legacy Desktop, and there's no Start Menu any more, either. If you want to use the Start Menu, you have to drop back to the Metro Start screen, and punt. It's quite disconcerting, at least for the first hour or two.

I've been pounding away at it madly, and I've come to several conclusions: First, you probably won't like it. Second, you probably won't like it at all. Third, if you take a lot of time to learn how to use it, you might warm up to it a little bit,

"Microsoft knows that it won't convince many Windows 7 users to upgrade to Windows 8. That isn't really their intent right now."

but probably not much.

Windows 8 isn't going to replace Windows 7 on a whole lot of desktops. Not for consumers. Not for companies. It will be useful for people who buy new tablet computers – if you get a new tablet and you really want to be able to run your old Windows programs, Windows 8 is for you. It'll be moderately interesting to some Windows 7 desktop and laptop users, because it does have a few worthwhile new features. But with those few exceptions, I can just about guarantee that you won't be chomping at the bit to download and install the new Windows.

I've written several extensive reviews of the Windows 8 Consumer Preview. If you're just coming up to speed on it, start with my Windows Secrets Newsletter Top Story, "A Windows Veteran Looks at Win8 Consumer Preview".

Microsoft knows that it won't

convince many Windows 7 users to upgrade to Windows 8. That isn't really their intent right now. Instead, they're trying to offer a product that will compete with the iPad, to slow down the mass onslaught of iPads in companies and among consumers. In the process, they've created Windows 8 as kind of a beachhead, to get things rolling with a completely new way of looking at Windows.

Why? As I've explained before in these columns, the Windows that we know is stagnating. Sales are off, and they aren't going to surge ahead any time soon, in spite of what you may have read from industry analysts and financial commentators. Windows 8 may go down as uninspiring in terms of sales, but at least it'll give Microsoft a chance to get into the tablet market. And as much as this disappoints my friends, who will be running XP until they snatch it from their cold, curled fingers – tablets are very much the future of most kinds of computing.

No, you won't be able to calculate the national debt on a tablet, or write a book, or do extravagant Photoshop projects or create Autocad portfolios. But you will be able to send and receive email, go onto the web, feed Facebook directly, run Skype, edit photos (to a layman's satisfaction), patch together videos, even edit Autocad drawings (yes, Autocad has an iPad app, and they'll undoubtedly make one for Win8, too).

Games? Used to be that gamers had to shell out a ton of money for the gizmos to run their favorite pastime. Really intricate games will always require expensive hardware. But if you look at the tablet games that are coming out for the new iPad, with that better-than-high-definition screen,

you can see they're remarkable – and they're going to get better.

In other words, 90% of the stuff that 80% of the people do with a computer, runs just fine on a tablet. So why put up with all the hassles of running Windows on a piece of iron that weighs more than your refrigerator, and breaks down twice as often? Maybe you're addicted to blue screens and frozen mice. Or maybe you're ready to leave it all behind and tap your way to something new.



A tablet also takes good photos and video. Photo: Mark Fischer

Former Microsoft General Manager and Distinguished Engineer Hal Berenson said it best: "Consumers increasingly reject the old experiences in both their personal and work lives. For the 20-something and under crowd, the current Windows desktop experience is about as attractive as the thought of visiting a 19th Century dentist."

Windows 8 is Microsoft's first step out of the 19th-century dentist's office. It's long, long overdue.

So where does that leave those of us who need our PCs? Surprisingly, we're in pretty good shape. Windows XP lasted a good ten years. (The first version came out in 2001.) Chances are good that Windows 7 will match that record, and possibly beat it.

If you subscribe to the "every other version of Windows sucks"

theory – Windows 98 was great, Windows Me was the pits, Windows XP rocked, Windows Vista stank, Windows 7 rules – then it's entirely possible Windows 8 will be worthy of all the scorn it's starting to gather, but Windows 9 will lift the old brand to new heights. If we ever seen a Windows 9.

If you like your desktop, I strongly suggest you get a genuine copy of Windows 7 Home Premium, and install it on whatever machines you want to keep for the duration. (Amazon in the US still lists 3-packs of Windows 7 Home Premium for \$160 with free shipping to a friend in the US. That's a tremendous price for a piece of software that'll last you another 10 years.) Hook up Microsoft Security Essentials, and you've got all of the Windows and anti-malware you need. Toss in a copy of Firefox or Google Chrome, and you're ready to surf to your heart's content.

As a matter of fact, that's good advice even if you expect to get a tablet in the not-too-distant future.

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 round tables 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.



OLD LIGHT THROUGH NEW WINDOWS: Yes, this is Windows, the next generation. Meet the new face of Windows 8.



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Learning from the master investor

Common sense advice from Berkshire Hathaway CEO and modern investment guru, Warren Buffet

Retirement Years

By David Mayes

WARREN Buffet, CEO of Berkshire Hathaway, is arguably the greatest investor of our time. Most of us can never hope to achieve the kind of success he has had, but we all would probably do well to follow some of his very common sense advice.

I have gathered a few quotes attributed to him for this week's article. They pretty much are all simple advice – and obvious if you really think about them – but then, most deep wisdom usually is.

• Warren Buffet's Two Rules of Investing: Rule One: Never Lose Money. Rule Two: Never Forget Rule One.

• It's far better to buy a wonderful company at a fair price than a fair company at a wonderful price.

• You don't need to be a rocket scientist. Investing is not a game where the guy with the 160 IQ beats the guy with 130 IQ.

• After all, you only find out who is swimming naked when the tide goes out.

• Investors should remember that excitement and expenses are their enemies. And if they insist on trying to time their participation in equities, they should try

to be fearful when others are greedy and greedy only when others are fearful.

• When we own portions of outstanding businesses with outstanding managements, our favorite holding period is forever.

• The best thing that happens to us is when a great company gets into temporary trouble... We want to buy them when they're on the operating table.

• I have pledged – to you, the rating agencies and myself – to always run Berkshire with more than ample cash. We never want to count on the kindness of strangers in order to meet tomorrow's obligations. When forced to choose, I will not trade even a night's sleep for the chance of extra profits.

Basically these quotes sum up a very simple yet effective approach to investing in stocks or businesses in general. Buy good companies, when times are bad and prices are depressed, and hold them forever.

Warren Buffet has amassed the bulk of his fortune from doing just that. He invests only in companies he understands, and chose to sit on the sidelines during the dot com madness. Thus he avoided the big crash that hurt so many investors at the start of the century.

He also is very anti-debt, which is what he is referring to in the



BUFFET SAYS: After all, you only find out who is swimming naked when the tide goes out. Photo: Simon Welsh

final quote. If he has been able to achieve becoming the wealthiest man on the planet without being leveraged to the hilt (for many years it bounced back and forth between him and Bill Gates), there is no reason for anyone else to employ leverage either.

It should be noted that Warren Buffet doesn't make money every single calendar year, and

even he lost money last year. The big difference between his "losses" and most people's losses are that his will be recouped easily when markets climb as he is invested in companies that will likely still be around in 100 years.

If you are seriously interested in stocks, wait patiently for the next crash, and invest in com-

panies like McDonald's and Coca-Cola when they have reasonable valuations.

David Mayes MBA lives in Phuket and provides wealth management services to expats around the globe, specializing in UK pension transfers. He can be reached at david.m@faramond.com or 085-335-8573.



Warren Buffett (left) and Manpreet Singh in Omaha. Photo: SevaCall

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Brice Borin: Panwa's hotelier extraordinaire

The newly appointed General Manager of the soon-to-open Regent Phuket Cape Panwa aims to re-establish The Regent's fine name in the region.



STAYING POWER: The pool villas at the Regent Phuket Cape Panwa exude a subdued and refined luxury and feature all-inclusive comforts that enable guests to feel at home.

By Marc Mulloy

THE new French GM of the soon-to-open Regent Phuket Cape Panwa, Brice Borin, was literally born into the hospitality business. His family ran a restaurant in the south-west of France famous for its foie gras and fine wines. Given this early start in the appreciation of fine gastronomy it is little wonder that in 1984 he started his career as a chef, moving to the USA where he worked at Le Meridien before taking his culinary skills to a luxury resort in Bermuda.

He arrived in Asia, via Sydney, back in 1993 where he worked as executive chef at the Novotel in Bangkok. From there he moved to Dalat, Vietnam to open the new Sofitel, then on to Koh Samui where he took on the added role of F&B director at the Santiburi. Following that he held both the F&B and

Chef positions in a large, 400 room, Jakarta hotel before leaving behind his chef's hat in 2002 to focus on Food and Beverage in Kuala Lumpur and later the opening of the Evason Hua Hin Hideaway.

From there he left Asia for French Polynesia to open the first *Relais & Châteaux* in the region, named Taha'a, where the who's who of the world's rich and famous would stay. By this time he was a hotel manager.

Still enamored with islands he then moved to the Maldives where, in eighteen months, he opened not one but three resorts for the Minor Group before returning to Thailand to run the Anantara in Hua Hin.

In 2008 Borin returned to the Maldives where he was given his first GM position at The Regent Maldives.

With a history of successfully

opening hotels and with his love of Asia he was the natural choice to manage the luxury Regent Phuket Cape Panwa which is due to open in July of this year.

He admits to having a real passion for the hospitality industry and a preference for tropical locations.

He also admits to being impressed by the bespoke service ethos that the Regent hotels instigated in the 1970s and the enviable reputation that they still have to this day.

Founded in Hong Kong in 1970 by Robert H. Burns, Georg Rafael and Adrian Zecha it was the first global hospitality group based in Asia at a time when the industry was dominated by European and American brands and became one of the most acclaimed brands with hotels such as the Regent Hong Kong and the Regent Beverly



GM BORIN: From the Southwest of France to the East coast of Phuket Brice Borin's passion for hospitality has never waned.



PRIVATE VIEWING: Being situated at the end of a cape the resort boasts one of Phuket's only truly private beaches.

Wilshire. It is also famous for being the first hotel chain to use a five-fixture bathroom.

It is now owned by Formosa International Hotels, the largest listed hotel operator in Taiwan (also the owner of Grand Formosa Regent hotel in Taipei) and the Regent Phuket Cape Panwa came under the Regent branding umbrella in late 2010.

Last year all Regent managed hotels were selected in Condé Nast Traveler's Readers Choice

awards for the best luxury hotels in the world, being the first international luxury hotel group to achieve this recognition.

The Regent Phuket Cape Panwa, is the latest Regent to open in Asia with an expansion into Greater China key to the group's ambitious plans.

Under Borin's expert hand, Regent Phuket is set to become a new benchmark for tropical elegance.

Married with one child, Mr Borin is a member of the French Chaine des Rôtisseurs and was the former chairman of the Samui Culinary Circle, developing improved F&B standards on the island.

For this latest project he has personally hand-picked his staff conducting every interview himself from manager to gardener.

"Good service is invisible, and for that I need the finest team" says Borin. "The Regent was born in Asia, has strong brand recognition in Asia, and is now coming home to Asia. Our goal is simply to again be the most admired luxury hotel brand in the world," he added.

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This year's top trends

By Abby McMillen

The Lady's tuxedo.

The transformation of the tuxedo into womens' apparel is a bold new take on a classic look. Fortunately, you don't actually have to wear a tuxedo just because you're inspired by its sophistication. Instead, try taking bits and pieces of it to establish your own style. A structured jacket or waistcoat in black velvet or cream satin can add instant luxury to even casual shorts. A mod black and white body-hugging dress is also a chic approach to the penguin suit. Small details can help seal the deal with this trend – suspenders with a pencil skirt and a neat bun work wonders. An ascot or skinny, sleek necktie suggests just enough hint of the tux for a classy evening on the town.

Doctor's bag – Gladstone bags.

Every woman knows we could supply a small army out of our handbags. Complete with cosmetics, gadgets and total preparation for the unexpected, it's no wonder this trend has embraced the mantra of 'the bigger the better.' Instead of the slouchy boho bag of past years, 2012 is witnessing a more polished approach to the carryall. Stiff briefcase-style bags are currently a must-have, offering a smart, cultivated look that you can take to the office, on errands, or for a formal lunch date. And don't worry — there's still plenty of space to accommodate the diversity of your day, and chances are this sturdy hand-held will keep you a bit more organized.

Color blocking.

This is a trend we last saw transition from the late eighties into the 90's. It's back in a big way now, keeping our wardrobes functioning even on those "I have nothing to wear!" days. It can be achieved by incorporating go-to separates or one frock with large, contrasting accessories. The idea is to wear solid jewel colors in tailored silhouettes. Try a pair of high-waisted navy pants together with a few layers of solids on top. This trend works best with smooth textures and no extra de-



BLOCK PARTY: Nothing to wear? Re-vamp your separates.



COLD SHOULDER: Use a light wrap and keep accessories simple.



DISCO: Tap into the 70's style.

tails—think minimalist, clean lines. Monochrome cuff bracelets ensure the style is well executed and pearl accents play up this preppy style.

Capes and ponchos.

We're not talking about superheroes or a shield from the rain here, ladies! Think of a thin wrap or shawl that lightly takes the chill off those cooler evenings.

It is important to retain some sense of shape on your lower half to avoid looking dowdy. Opt for skinny jeans or a fitted skirt to pull off this trend. A simple scarf draped over the shoulders or connected with a broach is the perfect way to don this look in the tropics.

There's no need for a cape or poncho to be thick or wooly – keep it simple and earthy by adding sandals and a leather satchel.

Wide-leg trousers return.

The skinny pant has ruled the scene for years, but more and more fashionistas are now rediscovering the benefits of a wide-leg pant. Flattering for every figure, this look can easily transition from work to an evening event. It also tends to let the air circulate better, keeping you cooler and more comfortable. To balance these large bottoms, keep your top simple. Go for something sleeveless and take this opportunity to don an oversized accessory. Play upon the 70's inspiration with hoops and a peasant top or go modern with a cropped blazer.



BAG THAT BAG: Fit it all in with this well-structured style accessory



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Those other bikers heading to Phuket

By Marc Mulloy

WITH Big Bike Week just around the corner it is good to remember that Phuket also attracts the pedal-powered variety of biker thanks to Siam Bike Tours run by avid cyclist Martin Brot.

Martin is a sprightly 54 year old with a healthy tan, deep smile lines at the corners of his eyes and well developed calf muscles. He speaks English well albeit with a strong Swiss accent and it soon becomes apparent why Martin looks so healthy and happy. Not only is he the happy owner of the successful Siam Bike Tours, he also personally leads each tour such as the recent one from Bangkok to Phuket.

"I join and lead all of our tours. I've been cycling and racing since I was a boy in Switzerland. I've been coming to Thailand for over 30 years and moved here nine years ago. I first lived in Koh Samui where we focused on mountain biking and for the last six years we have been in Phuket where we are more involved with road bikes. It is my passion" says Martin.

Guided by Martin and his team, tours are arranged into groups of 4 to 16 participants and are designed for any enthusiastic cyclist in reasonable shape. A Siam Bike Tours mini-bus follows up behind transporting all of the luggage; spare parts; wheels and tools as well as water; soft drinks and fresh fruit. If necessary any rider may also complete the day's stage by bus if they are feeling tired or unwell.

Martin determines the riding speed on any stage with faster riders going ahead together, regrouping at selected refreshment stops every 30 or 40 kilometers.

"It is not just about the cycling, we see and experience many things along the way. We stop at noodle shops, temples, waterfalls or just stop to share some fruit. We spend each night in excellent, clean hotels most of which have a swimming pool, Thai massage and spa or wellness facilities. Even though we are cycling hard we also have a few beers and a few laughs each night, we become like a big family," says a smiling Martin.

The 10-day, nine-night Bangkok to Phuket tour follows both the East and West coastlines covering a total of 833 kilometers in eight stages which vary between 72km to 140km each.

For many in Phuket the idea of riding a bicycle in Thailand, yet alone covering such a distance, seems a dangerous prospect.

"Not at all" says Martin "Many of our riders say that Thailand is even safer than Europe and we drive mostly along empty roads. Motorists here respect bicycles and give us a wide berth especially the lorries. Indeed we often ride two abreast for most of the day. However it is true that once we get to Phuket the traffic is different and we are squeezed into single file."

Having recently completed another successful Bangkok-Phuket run (he does seven every year) the ever energetic Martin now looks forward to his upcoming "Issan Tour" in the east of Thailand. Siam

Bike Tours also offer what they call the 'Transalp challenge of Thailand' which starts in Chiang Mai and takes in Mae Hong Son and Doi Inthanon a 13,435 meter ascent.

"This is a more challenging ride, but for many of our repeat riders it is not a problem as many come from places in Europe where we have big mountains," says Martin.

When asked if the company has expansion plans he laughs and says "Now it is just right – a boutique business. We already have over a dozen scheduled tours a year as well as customized tours and our shop to run, so I do not want to get bigger than this."

It is always refreshing to find a man so happy in his work where the only obstacles ahead for Martin seem to be those mountains in the North.

For more information visit SiamBikeTours.com.



DRESSED FOR SUCCESS: Martin Brot (right) with one of his team.



SAFE AND SOUND: The tour group at the end of their 10 day ride.



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PEDAL POWER: The 10-day, nine-night Bangkok to Phuket tour follows both the East and West coastlines covering a total of 833 kilometers in eight stages which vary between 72km to 140km each.



HEALTH CONSCIOUS: Pad Thai in egg parcel using organic eggs.

By Nanthapa Pengkasem

THE latest addition to the coffee shop scene in Kamala Beach, north of Phuket, is Live Present Moment. It stands out from the crowd with its original and charming décor and menu offering healthy Thai food, snacks, and all-day breakfast.

The proprietor Noppamas 'Ae' Mungwiriya explains that 'Live', which opened its doors a year ago, was created to serve the guests of its Bed and Breakfast upstairs. As residents from nearby villas and holidaymakers started to frequent the place, Live expanded its menu and evolved into the fully operational coffee shop-cum-wine lounge it is today.

Situated on the southern end of Kamala Bay and part of the Millionaire's Mile, Live has a small terrace with a few tables for al-fresco lunch or dining. Step inside and a chic interior reveals itself. Decorated in a brown color wash and filled with large comfortable sofas strewn with cushions, Live feels more like a stylish family home. The café also showcases unique furniture and ceramic dishes (both made in the family-owned studio in Chiang Mai, that can be ordered), and home accessories.

"I wanted to create a warm and homey environment offering healthy fusion food," explains Noppamas, who uses organic ingredients such as brown rice, vegetables and fresh seafood. She eschews MSG and uses very little sugar in her cooking.

The Live breakfast menu includes Buttermilk Pancakes served with fresh fruits (150 baht), and Golden Waffles and Chocolate Sauce (150 baht), all made with organic eggs. There is also an English-style full breakfast with eggs, beans, bacon and sausages.

As a healthy appetizer, we tried Noppamas' own creation, the creamy Cashew Nut and Sweet Basil dip, accompanied by carrot and celery sticks. Who needs avocado-based guacamole when the

local cashew nut yields equally rich and creamy substitution?

Next up was the signature dish, Vietnamese Wraps (150/200 baht), featuring rice pancake rolls filled with fresh herbs, noodles and either BBQ chicken or prawns.

Sautéed Shitake Mushrooms with chopped parsley and white wine (180 baht) was good on its own or either on brown toast. We particularly loved the *Laab* Salmon (300 baht), which features chunky salmon pieces laced with lime dressing, mint, shallot and crispy rice.

Another take on Thai dish is the Crispy Tofu (150 baht), pan-fried (healthier than the usual deep fried) tofu pieces with peanut and coriander dip. All these were accompanied by the super healthy Raw Green Smoothie, made from fresh fruits and spinach (no added sugar).

Also on the menu are the usual Thai fares of Green Curry, Chicken or Pork Sate, and Pad Thai, the latter served in an omelette parcel topped with a few prawns.

To accompany the freshly brewed Chiang Mai coffee, Live stocks some delectable though not necessary healthy dessert such as homemade Tiramisu (90 baht), Panna Cotta with blueberry or strawberry sauce (90 baht), and Blueberry Cheesecake (90 baht). Try also the Thai-style dessert of Banana in Coconut Cream (80 baht) and the well-loved national dessert Sticky Rice and Mango (90 baht).

In all, Live is a cosy, yet elegant place to lounge around. The healthy dishes (though not the yummy dessert) will be a comfort to your waistline and conscience. Friendly and graceful, our hostess Noppamas, kept us enthralled with lively tales about her love of good food and cooking.

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Top chefs to share a kitchen

By Neil Quail

THE old adage of "too many cooks spoil the broth" receives a sound thrashing later this month and in fact will be given "Six of the Best" with an annual gastronomic fundraiser to help underprivileged children on Phuket.

"Six of the Best" features half a dozen chefs from Phuket's premier luxury resorts and restaurants, who will join culinary forces to produce a six-course gala dinner to be hosted at "Millionaire's Mile" highway, Paresa Resort Phuket.

This exclusive cartel of chefs includes Stefano Artosin (Amanpuri), Silvano Amolini (Dusit Thani), David Hamilton (Banyan Tree), Chalermchai (Kla) Prakobkip (Trisara), Ryan Arboleda (Paresa), Aaron Hooper (Joe's Downstairs).

Each of these top chefs are contributing one course to this remarkable repast that will certainly encourage lovers of fine dining and worthy causes to attend.

"I'm very pleased and honored to be part of this great event and to give my small contribution to build a better future for those less fortunate than me," said Silvano Amolini.

Not only are each of the resorts and restaurants extending support, but their individual food and beverage suppliers have also added to the exquisite mix by donating all the menu ingredients and wine, ensuring that all proceeds go directly to The Good Shepherd School.

In August 2010, The Good Shepherd set up a very basic school at the Phuket Fishing Port, one of the most unclean areas of Phuket. The premises comprised two pieces of concrete as a floor and chicken wire for walls to



COOKING UP A SCHOOL: Top class chefs (from left, at the back) Stefano Artosin (Amanpuri), Silvano Amolini (Dusit Thani), David Hamilton (Banyan Tree), Chalermchai 'Kla' Prakobkip (Trisara), Ryan Arboleda (Paresa), Aaron Hooper (Joe's Downstairs) will combine their craft to benefit local kids.

accommodate 20 children. There are now over 100 children registered with four grades of classes cramped into the same area.

Current funding is insufficient for even rudimentary resources such as tables, chairs and even lunch for the children. But everyday the children come with smiles on their faces, their delight at being given the opportunity to learn and improve their lives entirely evident.

A solid foundation is the goal, both for the children and for a properly constructed school. Land has been donated by the local Thai community and financial donations generated by "Six of the Best" as well as other fundraisers will help realize a better learning environment for the students.

Last month the chefs involved in the upcoming event visited The Good Shepherd School in Phuket Town, with each

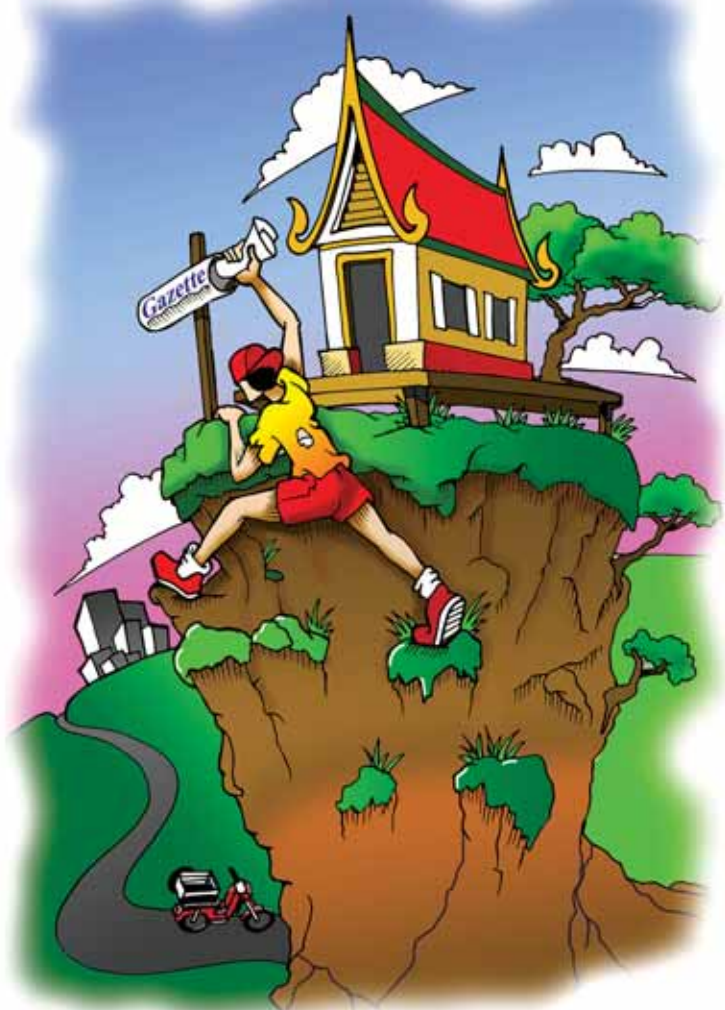
bringing food and beverages for the kids.

"Six of the Best" will take place on Saturday, March 31 starting with cocktails at Miracle Lawn, Paresa Resort Phuket at 6pm.

Donations of 4,500 baht per person include the six-course menu paired and served with six choice wines.

For more information on this event contact Chantal.Fernandes@gmail.com.

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Traffic jams to peanut butter

By Bruce Stanley

GOOD news that big projects on Phuket are finally getting government attention. These include a light rail track from the airport and a mountain tunnel through to Patong with plans for overpasses and underpasses to move traffic along the Bypass Road.

However, plans for solving traffic congestion at Chalong Circle where thousands of Thais and expats from Rawai and Nai Harn get trapped each day attempting to get to work or get home seem non-existent.

Chalong Circle is the island's most congested traffic bottleneck, funneling construction trucks, tourists' minivans, cars, bicycles and motorbikes coming from Kata, Phuket City and all points south of the island. Chalong traffic police handle the daily dilemma by placing brightly colored traffic cones in the midst of the chaos to channel the peak travel time's increase in vehicle numbers through this chokepoint.

The future for commuters looks more disheartening with recent growth and development in the area. Just north of the Chalong police station, an area has been cleared that used to be A-One grocery store and Baan Kanom bakery with a large tyre factory next door. They have been bulldozed and plans for 300 local vendor shopping stalls with parking for tour buses are in the process of being built.

Chalong has traditionally been home to long term expats, many of whom retired to the south of the island almost 20 years ago long before upscale developments were considered up north. The area around and south of Chalong was where the more affordable housing and restaurants could be found. Much of that is changing.

The Yoothim family has been great friends of Chalong's expat community. They own much of the land and many businesses near Chalong Circle on the road to Kata. They opened their KL Mart in 1988 to service the growing number of foreigners who were settling in the area. Their business thrived and by 1996 they had expanded their store to over 1,000 square meters with 21 guest rooms on an upper level. They imported cheese and butter and wine, commodities that were hard to find on Phuket back then. Most recently, with the opening of the many Super Cheap mini-stores in the area, they've had to close their doors and hope they can find a tenant for their massive edifice.



COMMUNITY: The Yoothim family own the KL Mart pictured below left, but have succumbed to the influx of supermarket convenience stores.



ORIGINAL: Chalong's KL Mart offered Western comforts for years.

Further up the road is Runnapa Supermarket, the fun center for local Thais and late night expats who gather when most have already found slumber. A lively center that sold everything from bug spray to any kind of alcohol, late night drinkers, just off from a late shift at a five star resort, could be found swapping stories with their colleagues while the *farang* contingent were in competition to see who could drink the most beer before dawn. Now Runnapa is broken and in ruin, another victim of the nearby Tesco-Lotus and Tops invasion.

But not all is grim in Chalong. Villa Market at Home Pro Village is the upscale destination for foreigners from all over the island willing to pay high prices to pretend they are back in Western civilization.

Another success story is Julapan Stationary, where expats eagerly await to buy their weekly *Phuket Gazette*. Chanok and Jularat Karndee opened their stationary store in 1995 when there were still rice fields in Chalong. The land belonged to the family. Chanok had been working on Koh Samui, but wanted to return to Phuket and he convinced his family to open Chalong's first stationary store. It has grown to be so successful that he has expanded and built a 28-room hotel as part of Julia Place. This boutique hotel probably has Chalong's most exciting architecture having looked at many proposals before deciding to build



READ AND RELAX: The Julapan book store and boutique hotel.

his hotel with a wonderful futuristic look.

Chalong is home to one of the most glamorous dining destinations on Phuket. The new Vset restaurant, presided over by Chef Ronnie Macuja, sets the bar for beautiful food and setting at Chalong Bay. And not



CRUNCH TOGETHER: Khun Woody with his Sandwich Shoppe staff. The label for their new peanut butter product (insert) now available.



NOVEL IDEA: Jularat and Chanok Karndee opened the stationary store that has grown to include the modern Julapan hotel. Photos: Bruce Stanley

too far away is the new location for Woody Leonhard's popular café and computer training center at the recently opened Fisherman's Way Business Center where peanut butter lovers can buy Woody's latest product, a natural delicious tasting peanut butter that he is

producing from organic peanuts grown in the north of Thailand.

"I can't seem to stop myself from creating new projects," he smiles.

There is no good news about a plan to solve the traffic problems at Chalong Circle, but there is light even without confirmation of a new tunnel.

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The old master loses a step

Books

By James Eckardt

ELMORE Leonard is an institution. In his latest novel *Raylan* (William Morrow, New York, 2012, 263pp), a whole page is devoted to listing in two columns his 48 works of fiction. Nearly a quarter are Western pulp fiction that he wrote in the 1950s. Many became classic movies. Then he turned to crime. His sharp dialogue gained high-brow literary fans from Saul Bellow to Martin Amis.

At 86, he's still at it, pumping out a novel a year. In *Raylan*, he returns to Raylan Givens, Stetson-wearing US Deputy Marshall, native of Harlan County, Kentucky, hero of two previous novels and of the popular television series *Justified*. His code is that if he draws down on you, you'd be dead. He kills a lot of people, but they're all bad guys.

Over the past two decades, Leonard has slipped from his peak – *Stick, Glitz, Gold Coast, The Switch* – but is still capable of condensed narrative brilliance, as in this introductory paragraph about a new bad guy running a team of three strippers who rob banks: "A former convict named Delroy Lewis ran the show: hired Floy, an eighteen-year-old street kid who stole cars he sold to chop-shops – good-looking expensive ones, Mercedes and BMW, Floy's favorites – picked up mostly from big shopping mall lots using tools took him twenty seconds to jimmy the door, a half minute to start her up. Sometimes he'd settle for a Chrysler or

Buick, the big Honda lately, a roomy car that gave the girls space to relax and smoke a doobie on their way to work."

The novel opens with Raylan Givens holding a federal warrant for "a man in the marijuana trade known as Angel Arenas, forty-seven, born in the US, but 100 per cent of him Hispanic".

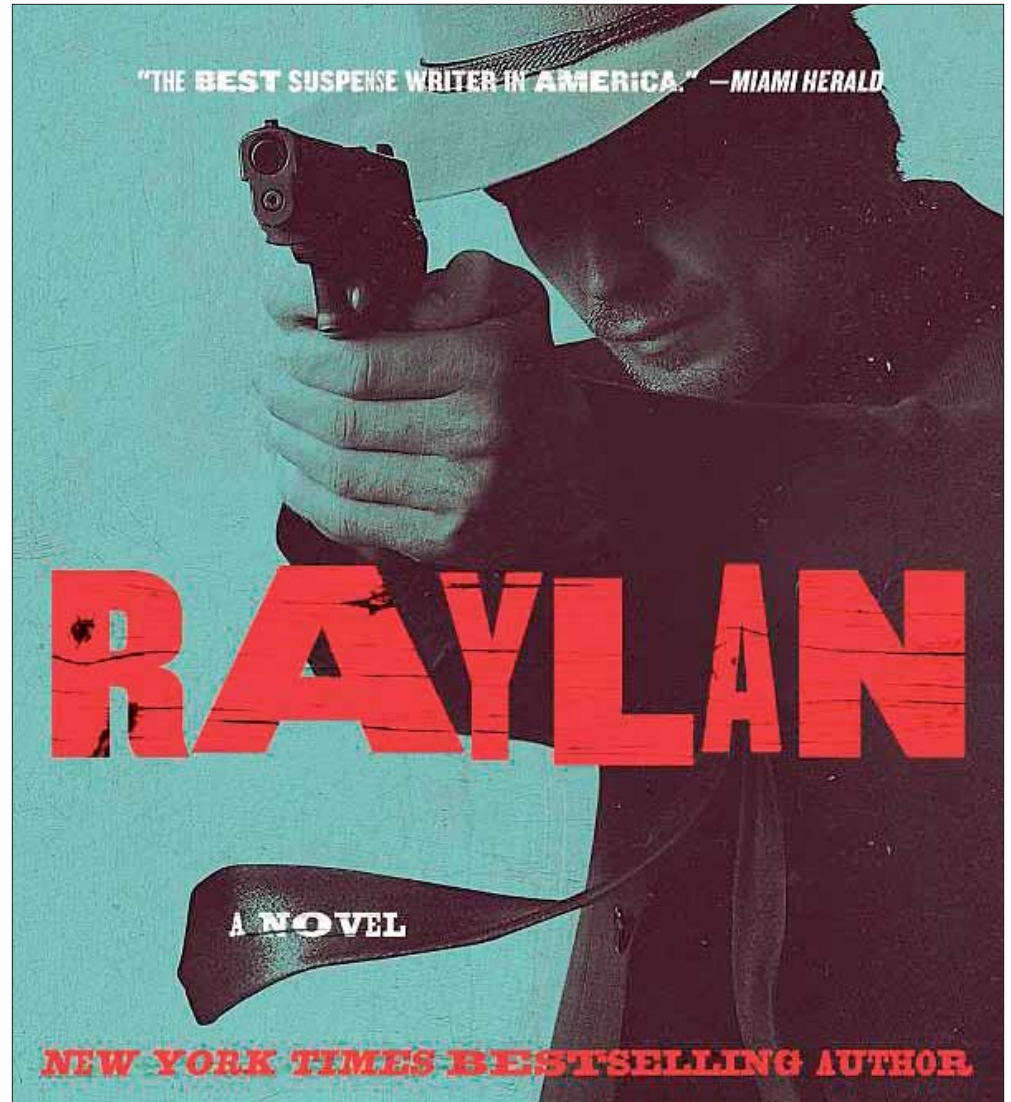
He finds Angel Arenas in a hospital missing his kidneys. He had been in a motel room making a dope deal when he woke up without them in a bathtub filled with ice. He gets his kidneys back with a bill of US\$100,000. By the time Raylan cracks the kidney smuggling case there are bodies all over the stage, like the last scene in *Hamlet*, but it's only page 102, with more than

two thirds of the novel to go. Now he's up against Carol Conlan, the coal mine company executive who is not above casual murder in her crusade against obstreperous miners. Raylan, a former coal miner himself, is on their side, but in a town hall meeting he is assigned to protect Carol Conlan. He makes his feelings known in the parking lot outside the town hall and a company goon confronts him: "I'll meet you out here after, you want.

Teach you respect for the company." "You don't see me right away," Raylan said, "practice falling down till I get here."

Before the novel is over, Carol Conlan gets her comeuppance in a very satisfying way at a nursing home where her murder victim's widow is confined. This happens off stage, which is just as well, since Elmore Leonard's shootouts have become formulaic.

There is a third and final woman in Raylan's life, Jackie Nevada, a college senior whose stepfather is a bookie and who



JUSTIFIED: US Deputy Marshall Raylan Givens shoots to kill, but only the bad guys.

supports herself playing Texas Hold 'em. She's suspected of being one of the stripper bank robber trio, but is guilty only of walking out of an arraignment for a busted poker party. She is taken in hand by the wealthy horse breeder and gambler Harry Burgoyne.

Jackie Nevada wins a final grand slam poker hand and is worth a million dollars.

She falls for Raylan Givens. She tells him, "I might as well tell you now, because I know I will later. I've got a

serious crush on you. I'm excited by how cool you are. You carry a gun and've used it." Before they consummate their love, Raylan goes to the Two Keys Tavern and polishes off Delroy Lewis.

It's not emotional depth you look for in an Elmore Leonard novel, just fast entertainment. Unlike in his peak years, the octogenarian Elmore Leonard shows painfully awkward patches nowadays. But he's still worth the ride.

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Lead Actors: Julia Roberts, Lily Collins, Armie Hammer, Nathan Lane

Director: Tarsem Singh
Genre: Fantasy

Release Date: March 16, 2012

Hollywood gets to the core of Snow White

Film

MIRROR Mirror is the first – and the more family friendly – of the two Snow White movies coming out in 2012.

Starring Julia Roberts as the Evil Queen and *Abduction* star Lily Collins as Snow White, this is a more colorful, comedic adaptation of the classic princess story (unlike the darker, more violent version, entitled *Snow White and the Huntsman*, starring Charlize Theron and Kristen Stewart released later in the year).

Expect the familiar fairy tale to include villainy (after all, the queen does want Snow White killed), some double-meaning humor, and swoony romance with the prince (Armie Hammer). Many tween and teen girls will definitely want to see one of their most beloved stories of all time coming to life.

A fresh and funny retelling of the Snow White legend, *Mirror Mirror*, directed by Tarsem Singh, also features breakout star Lily Collins (*The Blind Side*) as Snow White, a princess in exile, and seven courageous rebel dwarfs who join forces with Snow White as she fights to reclaim her birthright and win her Prince. The film also stars Armie Hammer (*The Social Network*) as the Prince, and Nathan Lane (*The Birdcage*) as the hapless and bungling servant to the Queen.

With *Mirror Mirror* and *Snow White and the Huntsman* both determined to be the dominant Snow White film of spring/summer 2012 will your grandchildren discuss the Great Snow White-off of 2012 in the same way as people compare the two versions of *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo*?

You will need to see both films to decide. – *Phuket Gazette*

Raksapong Khumkhanjum

AS A young project manager, the then 27-year old Raksapong Khumkhanjum was thrown into the deep end when he was sent from Bangkok in the early 1990s to oversee the ambitious property development project initiated by one of Thailand's giant property ventures L H Muang Mai, otherwise known as Land and Houses (L&H).

At what is now the present site of the Land and Houses Park on Chao Fah Road, Raksapong was astounded by the vastness and beauty of the 400-rai terrain that used to be a mining site. "The plot was huge, full of large, shady trees and beautiful lagoons. We decided to keep most of the trees and created different green areas around them. I was excited about the project but at the same time apprehensive. At the time I considered Phuket to be another provincial Thai town and I asked myself who would spend money on upmarket houses such as these," Raksapong recalls.

As it turned out, Raksapong's fear was ill founded: the first 70 housing units sold very quickly thanks to his clever marketing ploy to focus on the high income earners – doctors, hoteliers and the like – and also the tight network of the Phuket community whose word of mouth helped to spread the Land and Houses brand.

Asked about this phenomenon, Raksapong, who is now the GM of

THAI gallery

By Nanthapa Pengkasem

L&H, explains: "What I didn't understand was that Phuket had a buying power. Together with the branding that we offered, it was a perfect partner. The trend was to buy into brands, and after us many brands followed suite and opened up in Phuket successfully."

From those initial 70 units, L&H has expanded to include over 900 houses at Land & Houses Park alone, and 88 Land & Houses Home Offices on Chao Fah Road. More development projects are in the offing and keep this GM constantly on his toes. But Raksapong never loses his cool nor perspective. He finds challenge in managing property services, a field to which Land & Houses gives very special attention, because he likes "interacting with clients even when they complain."

From a personal perspective, Raksapong says he enjoys living in Phuket because it offers a kind of lifestyle quite different from anywhere else in Thailand. "It's such a special place with its own distinctive identity and culture. I just love being part of festivities like the vegetarian festival. I equally enjoy the

modern side and culinary richness Phuket has to offer. My favorite pastime is sipping coffee at a beach-side café and people watching."

Although Raksapong works hard he seems to exude an air of insouciance. This, he says, is because he practices Buddhist meditation daily, a discipline he started two years ago which has helped him to focus at work and have a positive outlook in life. During his free time he works as a mentor to newcomers to meditation at the Phuket Institute of Meditation.

Raksapong, who describes himself as a family man, is married to his ex-colleague Thanradee Arajmetapongse, whom he remembers as having made an impression on him with her "poise, beauty, and diligence." He, himself hails from Thonburi and graduated with a degree in marketing from Thammasart University and a MBA in business administration from the University of Wisconsin.

A firm believer in the allure of Phuket, Raksapong thinks the island still has a lot of capacity to grow. "Phuket is a great place which offers its inhabitants a wonderful lifestyle with distinct culture and a cosmopolitan scene. It has managed to avoid the clutches of many national disasters and political unrest. I believe it still has a lot of room to prosper," says the 47-year old Raksapong.



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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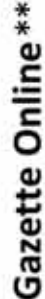
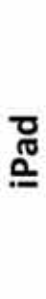
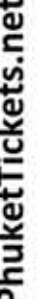


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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

March 24-25, 5-9pm: Boat Lagoon Weekend Market at Phuket Boat Lagoon Marina, Koh Kaew

Come along and buy or sell or even barter! Whether you have home made goods to sell, boat parts to barter or are simply looking to pick up a bargain, this is the ideal location to spend a few weekend hours. Clothing, Jewelry, Crafts, Household Goods, Boat Parts, used goods, Car Boot & Garage Sale, Food & Beverage and lots, lots more, including a live entertainment & bar area. Conveniently located in the Boat Lagoon, with easy access, toilet facilities and lots of free parking. Individual covered booths with electric power available for rent in dedicated zoned areas. Only 100 baht per day. Contact 088-876 0471. The Boat Lagoon Weekend Markets are proudly sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*.

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

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

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

March 28, 7:30-11pm: Skippers Pub Quiz at Royal Phuket Marina

Join our Wednesday Quiz Nights at Skippers Pub, Royal Phuket Marina. Every last Wednesday of the month. Happy Hour prices, no entrance fees, prizes for the winning teams. Here are some teasers to get you going. 1) Who was the oldest person ever to win the Olympic gold medal for the 100 meters race? 2) Sequence: The Descendants, The Ides of March, The American, Up in the Air, _?_ 3) If you sailed directly west from Phuket, which country would you hit first? For further information, contact 085-691 7250.

March 29 – April 1, 11am-8pm: Phuket International Boat Show (PIMEX) 2012 at Royal Phuket Marina

Now in its ninth year, PIMEX is an established and successful event in the marine and leisure calendar. PIMEX 2012 has big plans for 2012 as the on-water displays increase and the exhibition hall includes a greater diversity of displays from as far afield as China, Australia, Italy and France. Like its location, PIMEX is a relaxed event where participants celebrate the boating, leisure and luxury lifestyle in an ideal tropical destination. The show is more than boats on display, but also an opportunity to see the latest luxury cars, properties and engage in some Phuket hospitality. More details at www.phuketboatshow.com. The Phuket International Boat Show has been sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and *PGTV* since its launch nine years ago.

March 30, 6-10pm: Phuket AustCham Sundowners at Skippers, Royal Phuket Marina

Phuket AustCham Sundowners at Skippers, Royal Phuket Marina to tie in with the Phuket Boat Show.

SIX OF THE BEST



SIX of the top chefs from Phuket's premier luxury resorts and restaurants will create six amazing courses, paired with six beautiful wines.

The Paresa Resort, Amanpuri, Banyan Tree Phuket, Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket, Joe's Downstairs and the Trisara Resort have all donated the expertise of their chefs as well as food and wine from their top suppliers.

Starting at 6pm, with cocktails at the stunning Paresa Resort located on Kamala's Millionaires Mile. Last year, this was a 'sell out' event! 4,500 baht per person with every penny donated to charity.

March 3, 4 to 11:30pm 'Six of the Best' at Paresa Resort

This business and social networking event will be preceded by an open seminar on the marine industry at 4:30pm in the function room next Les Anges at RPM. A panel of 6 local Aussies working in different aspects of the marine industry will give short presentations which will be followed by an interactive Q&A session. For more details, contact Harry Usher on 081-273 1740.

The Phuket Boat Show is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and *PGTV*.

March 30, 7-10pm: Special Indian Feast Promotion at Les Anges, Royal Phuket Marina

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 30, 7-11pm: Curry Fridays at the Navrang Mahal Indian Restaurant, Karon Sea Sands Resort & Spa

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. For reservations, please call: 076-286464, ext 4.

March 31 – April 1, 5-9pm: Boat Lagoon Weekend Market at Phuket Boat Lagoon Marina, Koh Kaew

See March 24-25 entry on left.

March 31, 8:30-11pm: Royal Phuket Marina Salsa Night

Dance the Cha-cha, Bachata, Samba & Rumba – Live on the Boardwalk outside Les Anges with the sounds of DJ Miscaro. Date: 31st March. Entrance: free. Dress: colorful. For reservations & enquiries, please contact Anna & Didier on 084-306 2016, or Mr Murat (Events & Group Manager) on 081-797 3364. And don't forget to visit www.phuket-dance.com.

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, 1-3pm, at the Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. Sponsored by Woody's Sandwich Shoppes and the *Phuket Gazette*.

March 28, 1-3pm: at the Sandwich Shoppe Chalong

Contact at 076-282403,
Woody@KhunWoody.com or visit KhunWoody.com

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SPECIAL GUEST: Pamuke Achariyachai (right), President of Kata Group Resorts Thailand and his wife, Phuket Senator Thanyarat Achariyachai, recently hosted a dinner at Beyond Resort Khaolak, the new upscale beach resort launched by Kata Group in Phang Nga province to welcome Professor Rapee Sakrik (second left), a nationally revered Thai horticulture expert, and Editor-in-Chief of LIPS magazine, Sakchai Guy (left).



ART BIS: To celebrate the grand opening of the BIS IB Visual Arts Exhibition, which runs until April 27, graduating art students and their teacher offer Ajarn Pranee a bouquet of flowers. From left to right: Orn Siriwangsan, Rapeepong Suwannakarn, Anita Pardoe, Ajarn Pranee, Sarida Scott, Neil Richards (Headmaster), Krittaporn Suttichan and Yoonji Kim.



A LISTED: Khun Nijjaree 'Sherry' Cammu, Resident Manager of A2 resort (right) greets Khun Sanya Khunakorn the famous TV host from *Teenee Mor-chit* who stayed at the A2 Resort while shooting a show in Phuket.



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YOUR Phuket



COMMITTED AND COMMITTEED: The Annual General Meeting of the Phuket International Women's Club (PIWC) was held on March 15th at Le Meridien Resort & Spa to elect the 2012-2013 committee for the PIWC. Front row: Jurewan Smulders, First VP; Carole Dux, President; Maggy Wigman, Second VP; Wipa Tanmanatragul, Scholarship chairman. Back row: Lyn Carthew, Fundraising; Karen Ellison, Secretary; Sue Arnulphy, Treasurer; Maria Kranker, Membership.



RUNNING FOR FUN: QSI's 10th Annual Fun Run was held recently. QSI parent Brad Kenny (back right) is seen here with QSI students, local media and members of the Youth Football Home and Home Life Project.



CULTURE CULTURES: From left: Lori Ashton, Art and Culture magazine; Marie-Laure Fleury, GM of Boathouse; Kathy Manthei Coulson, Artist; and Bernt Moehle pose in front of Kathy's latest collection of mixed-media paintings and encaustic work at the Boathouse.



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There is a single connection between all the quiz answers. Can you get it before the last question?

1. Which of the following stations does not feature on a standard Monopoly board? Charing Cross, Kings Cross or Fenchurch Street?

2. Alec Guinness played Sid Stratton in *The Man in the White Suit* in a film made as part of which famous studio's comedy classics.

3. In which 1955 film does Frank Sinatra play Nathan Detroit?

4. What is the first bridge that the boats pass under in the Oxford – Cambridge boat race?

5. King Tutankhamen's tomb was discovered in 1922 in what location near Luxor in Egypt?

6. What is the capital of Jamaica?

7. New York is made up of five boroughs – Manhattan, Staten Island, Brooklyn, The Bronx and which other?

8. What is the capital of Jersey?

9. Of which regal title is Princess Anne the seventh holder?

10. What is the medical connection between the previous nine answers?

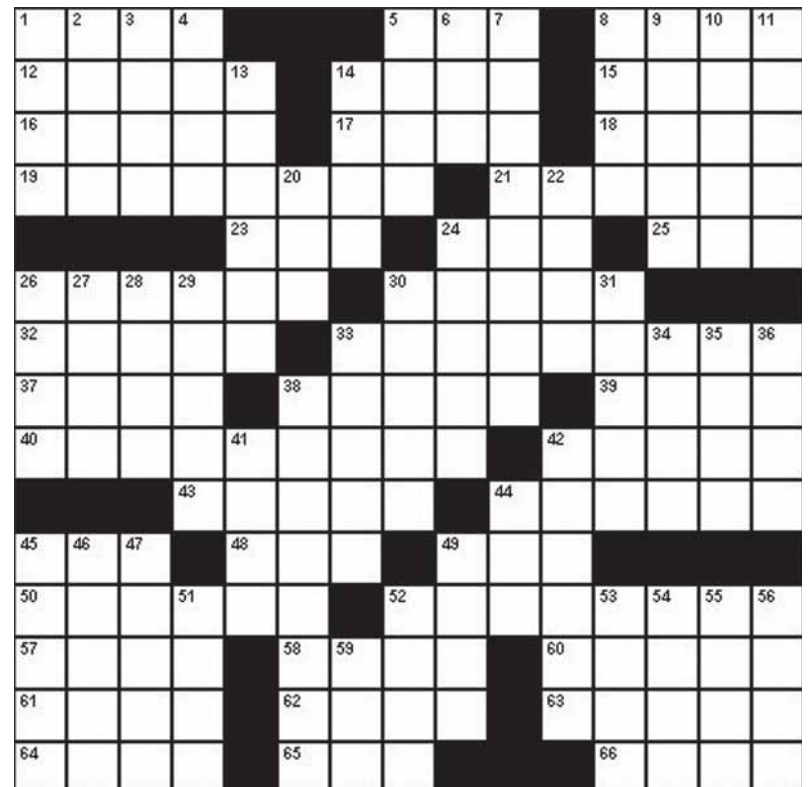
Quiz answers on page 41

Across

1. Authenticating mark
5. Actor Stephen
8. Attempt
12. Spanish Mister
14. Woman who killed Sisera
15. Illustrious warrior
16. Singer Lopez
17. Eye layer
18. Holly
19. Seclusion
21. Steep-sided valley
23. Article in *Le Monde*
24. ___ Darya (Asian river)
25. Aries or Taurus
26. Stage plays
30. Of Thee ___
32. Competitor
33. Lying flat
37. *Et* ___
38. Person of exceptional holiness
39. Roman poet
40. Whitening
42. Strong string
43. Actress Verdugo
44. Tree
45. Nabokov novel
48. Small island
49. Essen article
50. Expose as being false
52. Franco foe
57. Fall
58. Antlered animal
60. Stuffed savory vine leaf
61. Slightly
62. Mrs Chaplin
63. Marner's creator
64. Wood: prefix
65. Ed.'s pile
66. Falls behind

Down

1. Fast fliers
2. Architect Saarinen
3. Deep blue
4. Actress Anderson
5. Pan's opposite
6. Shoebox letters
7. Chicken Little, for one
8. Switchblade
9. Tending to a definite end



10. Boxing venue
11. Prizefighter
13. Established procedure
14. Book of the New Testament
20. Young ___
22. Em, e.g.
24. For ___ (cheap)
26. Cheerless
27. Small brook
28. Converse competitor
29. Lobster state
30. One of Chekhov's Three Sisters
31. Adult

33. Enamel
34. Ardent
35. Fork feature
36. Biblical garden
38. Abu Dhabi, e.g.
41. Extended family
42. Vehement speech
44. *Conquest of Space* writer Willy
45. Pale antelope
46. Bowler hat
47. Bubbling
49. David Copperfield wife
51. As far as
52. Optical device
53. Lounge
54. Bones found in the hip
55. L.A. haze
56. Makes lace
59. Aurora's counterpart

*Provided by BestCrosswords.com
Puzzle solutions on page 38.*

ARIES (March 21-April 20):

The last week of March is a steady time for Aries. After some ups and downs earlier this month, the stars predict a good balance this week. Those with a birthday in the coming days will take more control over their future in the year ahead. This weekend you have reason to believe that it's the thought that counts where romance is concerned.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):

Taureans are forecast to see more clearly this week. If this relates to a confusing situation at work, there are signs that you will have access to more information. Regarding finances, this is not an auspicious time for risk-taking. Playing the money game with your usual cautious approach is recommended. In the realm of romance, Tuesday and Wednesday are positive days to express your feelings.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

Geminis are advised to make fun a priority this week. After a busy few weeks at work, there are signs that pressure is easing and you are entitled to relax some control. A water sign is ready to help you

find new ways of letting off steam this weekend. Money is well-starred, with the spotlight on an end-of-month financial surprise. Romance with earth and other air signs is well starred.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

Issues of honesty and trust are highlighted for those born under the sign of Cancer this week. The stars indicate that a fire sign work colleague is likely to let you down at the last moment. Where personal relationships are concerned, another water sign may disappoint you over a money-related matter. Romance is well starred – a relationship that was slow to get going becomes more serious after a heart to heart talk this weekend.

LEO (July 24-August 22):

Leos searching for answers are forecast to be satisfied this week. If your quest has been related to work, an air sign should be able to tell you what you need to hear. On a personal level, a troubled romantic relationship can become smoother when a partner's problem is solved. Lucky days for finances are Monday and Tuesday. Wear the color amber to encourage productive thinking.



VIRGO (August 23-September 23):

Virgoans who have been treading a tricky path at work should see some improvements this week. Better understanding of another earth sign's situation should enable you to see why this person has been rocking the boat. There are hints that agreements can be more easily reached concerning legal issues during the last week of March. Romance sparkles this weekend – expect to be showered with attention by a water sign.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23):

Work is well-starred during the days ahead. Your creative talents are forecast to be in high demand in the week ahead. Librans looking to spread their energy should have choices by the end of this month. Affairs of the heart may require a serious decision this weekend. Lucky days for finances are Monday and Tuesday.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22):

Scorpios continue to benefit from auspicious astral conditions this week. Beware another water sign cashing in on your lucky streak. Be clear in your agreement before committing to a financial loan. The stars suggest that those considering moving house may find what they're looking for this weekend. Lucky days for love are Wednesday and Thursday.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21):

Results at work may not be quite what you were expecting this week, but April promises to be more productive. A trip down memory lane could prompt you to try to turn back time. The stars advise that this could involve some sacrifices. Where romance with an air sign is concerned, the outcome probably won't be as rosy as you hoped. The most fortunate day for finances is Monday.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20):

Waiting for another earth sign to make up their mind could test your patience at work this week. Capricorns who need a green light before they can move

forward should bide their time. The stars indicate a positive result is within sight. As the end of March draws near, your luck in love improves. Commitments are highlighted, particularly regarding long distance relationships.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19):

A last minute change of heart by an earth sign could cause headaches this week, but your ability to think on your feet should prevent too much stress. The stars suggest that your social life may have to be put on hold until the end of March while work responsibilities are pressing. In the realm of romance, a water sign partner's plans clash with yours this weekend.

PISCES (February 20-March 20):

You might be sensitive to criticism this week. The stars advise turning the other cheek, rather than flying off the handle. Reducing contact with other water signs during the next few days could be in your best interest. Finances remain low key until the end of March. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, your way with words impresses a fire sign this weekend. Wear the color cinnamon to encourage a more grounded outlook.

PROPERTY Gazette

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Bluepoint Condos win at Asia Pacific awards



MAKING AN IMPRESSION: The award-winning Bluepoint louvre façade.



RHYTHM AND BLUES: An evening view of Patong from the condos.

ORGANIZERS and the judging panel for the Asia Pacific Property Awards 2012 have announced that Bluepoint Condos is among the winning companies.

The boutique condominiums in South Patong were entered into the competition for categories titled Architecture Multiple Residence and Development Multiple Units.

The Asia Pacific Property Awards are part of the long established International Property Awards and its award winners' logo is recognized as a symbol of excellence globally throughout the industry. Bluepoint Condos faced strong competition from within the highly competitive Asia Pacific property arena and achieving one of these awards is evidence of their growing profile.

Successful entrants have been invited to attend a gala presenta-

tion dinner at the JW Marriott Hotel in Kuala Lumpur on April 27, where the official announcements will be made. Following the success of last year's event in Shanghai, the organizers will also be hosting a two-day Property & Hospitality Summit on April 26 and 27 at the same venue.



CANADA COOL: Bluepoint Condo's architect Mr Paul Raff.

The Summit is open to all industry related companies and suppliers in addition to award participants.

Later this year, the highest scoring winners from the Asia Pacific Property Awards will compete against other winning companies from Europe, Africa, the Americas and Arabia to recognize the 'World's Best' in each category. The Asia Pacific Region has an enviable record of achievement at international level, having scooped an unbeaten total of 13 World's Best Awards in 2011.

The judging panel consists of approximately 70 professionals including Fiona Nixon, chairman of the Australian Institute of Architects; Patrick Grove, co-founder of IPGA Ltd; Peter Bolton King, group chief executive of the National Federation of Property professionals; David Dalby of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS); and Mike McNamara of the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS).

Stuart Shield, president of the International Property Awards, says, "We received a record number of entries for the Asia Pacific Region this year and the standard was extremely high. Any company to win one of these awards has shown exceptional levels of professionalism and competence in their respective field."

Bluepoint Condos overlook Patong Beach and the Andaman Sea, and are located in one of the last available sea view plots on Phuket's western coastline. The property is surrounded by beaches including the quiet southern tip of Patong, the tranquil Tri Trang, and Paradise and Freedom beaches.

For more information visit BluepointCondos.com.

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Checking into the big sleep



GRIN AND BEAR IT: An intrepid traveler in North Korea with the two guards blocking the door to South Korea. Photo: Stefan Krasowski



I AM a big fan of film noir and even more so those Raymond Chandler novels that became Hollywood classics, such as *The Big Sleep*. There are a million stories in the naked city, and these day's Phuket is certainly taking on a noisy urban feel.

When you scan the crowd of expatriated persons at any restaurant, bar or local gathering, the tendency is to gravitate towards familiar faces. Though in certain cases, it might also call for heading right out the door and not looking back.

But that's an entirely different story and not for this column, which is starting to inch its way across my MacBook screen like some sort of North Korean utilitarian political chant. Tidy as it seems, beneath the characters

lays another layer.

From my day gig as a hospitality consultant, it's bright to note the vast upside potential tourism market for "the other Korea." That one with no k-brand boy or girl band's, cutting-edge hairstyles and all that emerging Asian glitz.

Once the frenzy of Chinese and Russian tourists have moved on, yes there is an entirely untapped market there. They won't be too needy, a family of four in a bed and a meal a day would certainly top whatever is on tap at present.

But this article is not about those goofball dictators, past, present or future, but more about those familiar expatriate faces here and about the island.

The United Nations has nothing on Phuket and a vast array of nationalities coexist here in paradise. Sure you have a small or large circle of friends whose hometown name you might recall, or football side they support.

It's almost like a snooze mode

when a new arrival starts to recount their journey, listing off the countries they've lived, loved and worked. At some point you start to fade off, if just for a moment. Daydreaming away to the hum of the expected.

But there are occasions when you actually remain alert and hear extraordinary tales of people's lives past and what motivated them to move away from families and a comfort zone out into the wild, wild east – or west, depending on the route.

I'm often amazed about these travelers' diaries of brave people who more often than not didn't come from an affluent background. Armed with only a healthy discontent and fire in their eyes, they struck on for parts unknown.

So many people remain content to stay near to the safety of where they grew up, close to family and only one thing for certain – a long steady decline into

the oblivion of those who went before and more to follow. An ant army stuck in a rut.

What does it take to go out your front door one day and just keep on going?

It's hard to put your finger on the precise inspiration: escapism? An ability to reinvent or else a healthy curiosity of what lays out in the whole wide world? Perhaps.

In the old days when international phone calls cost an arm and a leg and letters took weeks to connect with those back home, it was much harder to take the leap. Thanks to Facebook, Skype and of course email, the far corners of the Earth keep getting nipped and tucked. Yet, like cats, the lion's share of people tend to become watchers rather than doers and seem to be domesticated to the point of sleepwalking.

Living abroad remains one of the last great adventures. It's not for everyone. If it were the queues at Phuket International Airport would be even longer, as if that were even possible.

All that's really required is a bit of imagination, getting up off the seat and laying to waste a belief that a blind acceptance of one's fate cannot be tempted or changed.

Destiny sounds nice in a romance novel, but the best place for that overloaded waste of pages is the nearest trash bin.

Collective lifestyle – thank goodness – remains an obscure theory. Perhaps those marching in line in North Korea might have an opinion on that. Despite our lives in the year 2012, there remains some extraordinary stories here on this little island in Asia – if only you take the time to get past the word: "Hello."

Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks and can be contacted through W: C9hotelworks.com.

In brief...

IHG's new brand for the Chinese market

GLOBAL chain InterContinental have launched a new China specific brand Hualuxe.

Aimed at the domestic mainland market the upscale offering is initially targeting first, second and third tier destinations.

A brand cornerstone is a strong emphasis on traditional Chinese values and customs.

As Phuket continues to see strong growth in the rising demographic it will be interesting to see how resort products evolve for the new market.

Thai billionaire joins Forbes List

THAILAND'S Krit Ratanarak has hit the Forbes list of the world's richest people with an estimated worth of US\$1.2 billion.

Reported in The Nation newspaper, Krit's empire spans shareholdings in Bank of Ayudhya, Ayudhya Allianz, Eastern Star Real Estate, Siam City Cement and Bangkok Broadcasting and Television.

BBC: Global high-end housing market strong

ACCORDING to a report by the BBC News the "super rich continue to spend eye-watering sums on new homes."

This is a good thing for Phuket's ultra villa market.

Highlighted in the perspective is the recent US\$ 88 million sale of a New York penthouse condo to a Russian billionaire. While the global financial crises shut down the party with a mounting period of uncertainty, "wealth watchers" say it has bounced back with a vengeance.

Locations mentioned by the BBC include India, the Hamptons, and another Russian in the news – Yuri Milner's US\$100 million Silicon Valley purchase of a mega property.

It's interesting to note the trend which is that many of these transactions are not for primary homes but second, third, fourth or simply investment driven.

AirAsia dumps Singapore for Macau

THAI AirAsia has announced the end of direct flights between Chiang Mai and Singapore as of May 21.

A new route between the Northern Thai city and Macau will commence the following day.

AirAsia has commented that the new route will reinforce its development of Chiang Mai as another hub with access to the China market. – Bill Barnett

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Community recycling center re-opens at the British International School

By Marc Mulloy

WE'VE all been there. The two small batteries in your television remote control have died and need replacing.

On the way home you buy two new batteries and then replace the old. Now what? Having learned that you should never throw them in the bin as they will leak toxic elements into the environment, you'll probably stick them in a drawer or plastic bag waiting for that day when you get a chance to dispose of them properly.

Fortunately for Phuket, the British International school (BIS) has re-opened its recycling center which not only accepts those pesky batteries, but all sorts of other waste.

Disused electronic devices, such as broken mobile phones, are known as e-waste, and are also known to contain a wide variety of toxic or otherwise hazardous components that may constitute a serious risk for human health and the environment.

For example, e-waste contains a wide range of heavy metals, such as lead, cadmium and mercury, and also persistent organic compounds, such as brominated flame retardants (BFRs) and phthalates.

In a compositional breakdown of e-waste, compiled by the Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Testing and Research, it was estimated that e-waste on average contains 2.7% pollutants. However, it should be noted that many of these pollutants are not present

as pure compounds, but are constituents of complex materials, such as flame retardants in plastics or mercury in switches, and are therefore difficult to isolate and separate from the other components.

This makes the recycling of e-waste complicated and costly, although it is obvious that it is necessary from an environmental point of view.

E-waste can also be considered as a resource, as it contains many valuable components that actually may be beneficial to recover. For example, it usually contains substantial amounts of copper (often 5-20% by weight), and also relatively high levels of several precious metals, such as gold (0.1%), silver (0.2%) and palladium (0.005%), which are included because of their resistance to oxidation and superior conductivity.

The Community Recycling Center at BIS has a purpose built facility inside gate number 4 with eight separation areas to accommodate the following items:

- White Paper
- Colored paper
- Cardboard
- Plastic
- Newspaper/Magazines
- Metal/Cans
- Electronic waste
- Batteries

CAS (Community and Service) Recycling students then take the waste and make sure



WE WANT YOUR WASTE: BIS students awaiting recyclables at the eight separation areas of the The Community Recycling Center. Photo: BIS

that it is properly recycled but, due to the danger of getting cut, no longer accept glass.

IT's a win-win situation as all the money via the CAS Recycling Fund goes to charity.

So the next time your TV remote needs new batteries, remove the old ones, hunt down any others you have hidden away in drawers and make your way to the BIS Community Recycling Center.

Your charitable act will help the students, the environment and clear your drawers of toxic waste.

EASY HOW TO USE GUIDE:

1. Collect your recyclables.
2. Rinse them out.
3. Sort them into black plastic bags.
4. Put the bags into the labeled bins ready for pick up and sorting.
5. Please take care to leave your recycled items clean, neat and tidy.

For more information contact Kathy kcoulson@bisphuket.ac.th.

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Blooming plumerias: A top tropical shrub



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

IN AN email both quirky and perceptive, a fellow contributor to the *Phuket Gazette* recently confessed to dealing with Phuket's 35 degree heat by gardening at night, and thereby, and unsurprisingly, incurring the curiosity of his neighbors. Personally I haven't tried it...

But, I entirely concur with his subsequent reasoning that because the island's soil is so difficult to work and so impoverished, it helps to explain why locals use so many pots. In this way, they can control the conditions (for example, by using better quality soil or moving pots around) in which their container plants can flourish.

Of plants that can cope with Phuket's clay marl, our emailer singled out two, of which one was the *plumeria* or *frangipani* (the other was bamboo), giving me an excuse to laud its virtues in print.

Yes, the *plumeria* is a real toughie, putting up with dry as well as semi-arid conditions underfoot. And although it is another American native, it has adapted to life in the tropical fast-lane everywhere in South East Asia.

Let's pursue a metaphor for a moment. Take the

Chalong motorway to nowhere (actually Rawai), take one of the signed turnings left off Wichit Road, and near the sea you will find a Muslim cemetery decked out with numerous graceful, white-blossoming *plumerias*, trees which seem to flower all year round with little if any attention.

Coincidentally, the reason why Thais are sometimes reluctant to cultivate this shrub is because of its association with graveyards. They have even changed the old-fashioned name of *lam-tom*, a word redolent of sadness, to the bright and breezy sounding *leelawadee*.

But for your "*farang*" garden, the *leelawadee* is a must. It has an exquisite scent, and the flowers are borne in dense clusters which may contain as many as a hundred blooms. They are initially tubular in appearance, but expand into a "pinwheel" of five petals that average two to three inches in diameter. Most commonly white, or pink, the blooms may also be red, yellow or, in the case of some hybrids, possess multiple colors.

The large leaves, which grow mostly near the ends of branches, are usually glossy green, but may be a dull green; they are generally ovate, but may be blunt-tipped (*obtusata*) or pointed (*rubra*).

Obtusata cultivars tend to



GRAVEYARD: White frangipani trees (*Plumeria rubra*) in the Christian graveyard of Saint-Leu (Réunion island). This type of trees is seen in Muslim graveyards on Phuket. Photo B.navez



White blooms By: Forest and Kim Starr

retain their foliage all year round, while the deciduous types drop their leaves for part of the year, giving the shrub a rather forlorn appearance.

Plumerias can be produce by seed, but they are better grown from cuttings. Like many members of the *apocynaceae* family, cuttings, which should be one foot or more in length, produce a milky sap which is toxic, and can irritate the skin. As with *euphorbias*, it is best to allow the cut end to dry out or 'cure' for up to two weeks before inserting it in potting mix or barely moist soil. Do not over-water while the cutting is taking root, otherwise, it will rot. Quick growers, established *plumerias* can reach ten to twelve feet in six years, given adequate fertilizer (an ideal blend is 10-30-10) and moderate moisture. It is a common practice among com-



Pink blooms By: Forest and Kim Starr

mercial growers, who use the flowers for leis(garlands), to prune the canopy in order to keep it low, and to encourage branching and flowering.

Left to its own devices, most varieties will develop an open



Light pink blooms By: Maciej Soltynski

crown with relatively few branches. Ideal if you want to grow smaller plants in its sparse shadow.

Oh, and by the way, you don't have to plant your *plumeria* cuttings by the light of the moon...

Tip of the week

Biennials typically complete their life-cycle in two years. During their first year they grow from seed into leafy, but non-blooming plants. However, those grown in nurseries usually flower and set seed the same year.

Normally biennials need a cool period, so there are relatively few in the tropics. *Echium pininana*, which produces tall rosettes of long leaves followed by blue flowers is one that will grow here.

Bulbs have specialized roots or

stem bases that store nutrients and energy for the plant's growth. Choose bulbs that are plump and firm (as with onions).

In most soils, true bulbs and corms should be planted about three times as deep as the bulb is wide. They will need water while they are actively growing. For most, growth begins after planting and continues until the flowers or foliage dies back. Use a nitrogen-rich fertilizer to replenish depleted nutrients.

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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

Lambert Brothers

Insurance Broker (Thailand) Co., Ltd.



20/13 Moo 2 Thepkasattri Road, Tambon Kohkaew, Amphur Muang, Phuket

MARKETING EXECUTIVE

Interact with clients, negotiate insurance placements and claims, and liaise with all types of insurance companies. Work is varied and interesting and always rewarding.

We demand honesty, self-motivation and professionalism together with a strong client service approach.

Good command of written and spoken English

Tel: 076-273385
info@lambertbrothers.co.th
www.lambertbrothers.co.th



MY STORAGE

Secure, Clean & Cost Effective Self Storage

MY STORAGE – Thailand's No.1 Self Storage facility located at Jungceylon Shopping Center, Patong, Phuket – is seeking a well organised and enthusiastic Facility Administrator / PA.

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.

Submit your CV with recent photo and a covering letter in English to hr@mystorageasia.com or call 076 29 29 09 for further information.

Want to know more about MY STORAGE? Visit mystorageasia.com

ASSISTANT MANAGER IN PHUKET

- Bachelor's degree
- Good English
- Thai National
- Female 25-28 years old

Please send resume, photo & expected salary to
svcp@svensonhaircenter.com or call 076-249657-8

Life Home Project Foundation
Located on Phuket Area.
Has a vacancy for the following position

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Requirements:

- Male or Female age between 25-30 years old
- Thai nationality
- Bachelor's Degree
- Good knowledge of admin work, fundraising work
- Good knowledge of accounting is also an advantage
- At least 3 years of experience
- Proficiency in English communication and computer literate
- Multi-tasking skills
- Customer-oriented with a service mind
- Able to drive a car licensed

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
Tel: 076-614060

SALES MANAGER

Property Sales Consultant. Thai national, 3-5 years experience. Good Thai and English, proactive and organized. Computer literate, have own car and laptop. The Charm residence. Tel: 076-344499. Email: info@thecharmphuket.com

NEW SALES OPERATION

Experienced sales persons to join an existing successful sales company. Top commission rates on offer. Professional sales environment in a new office setting. English speaking, Finnish speaking required. Please send details of CV to salesphuketrecruit@gmail.com

OPC/SALES

OPC'S wanted/sales. Very good pay. Thais only, must speak good English. Some liners, needed. Tel: 076-344160, 080-1452854 (English). Email: sxsi_x69@yahoo.com

PROGRAMMER

ASP.net c#, MSSQL, HTML, CSS, JQuery, Javascript, etc. Contact Noi. Tel: 080-8873603. Email: noi@lepep.org For further details, please see our website at www.lepep.org

BARTENDER REQUIRED

Full-time position. Good salary and great fun. Accommodation if needed. Thai national only. Please call Russell: 089-587 9112. Email: sunsetbarphuket@yahoo.com

RUSSIAN STAFF NEEDED

Russian staff with good English needed for position of Guest Relations and wakeboarding instructor. Experience not required, free training provided. Tel: 082-329 3207 (Russian).

MANAGER IN FOOD SHOP

Thai nationality, English, computer skills. Salary 15,000 baht. Tel: 088-838 3242, 082-427 0155 (English). Email: zxigor.n@gmail.com

ASSISTANT CAR RENTAL

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

SALES AND MARKETING

Ezstays Ltd located at the Baan Yuree Resort and Spa requires outgoing smart enthusiastic people wishing to live and work in Phuket. We have positions available for in-house hotel marketing staff to generate clients for our holiday club. Good commissions and work permit. We are also seeking sales consultants, excellent earning potential. Tel: 076-341241. Email: clientliaison@ezstays.com

PRIVATE DRIVER / HANDYMAN

Manual and automatic driver familiar with Island and basic English. Good pay + bonus. Tel: 089-005 0700. Email: toddplay@hotmail.com

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Highly creative and experienced graphic designer for web, print and branding. Tel: 081-668 4819. Please submit CV to boat@socialwithwoulfe.com.

ASSISTANT SALES MANAGER

To join the team of a leading yacht charter company located in the Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket. Thai native, fluent in written and spoken English, proactive and well organized. Daily correspondence with agents and clients by e-mail and online booking program; welcome walk-in clients; prepare charter contracts, etc. Please contact for more info. Tel: 076-273476, 081-968 4188. Fax: 076-273476. Please send your CV to jurg@phuket-yachts.com

PLAYGROUP NEEDS

English speaking, Russian/English speaking, Thai/English teacher. Tel: 084-442 3671.

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.

GUEST HOUSE STAFF

Need 2 maids. Work in nice environment, good benefits. Tel: 086-902 8566 (Thai), 085-159 7400 (English). Email: dshumny@yahoo.com

Club Tropical
www.clubtropicallifestyle.com
Urgently needed.
Club Tropical is expanding and requires experienced Sales Executives for their sales venue in Phuket. Great remuneration packages. If you are looking for an exciting career send your CV to richard@clubtropical.asia or call 084-1889928.

ADMINISTRATOR

Must have good command of English and good computer and internet skills. Tel: 076-324184, 082-255 7507 (English & Thai). Email: om@imarketingonly.com

SECRETARY/ PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Tropical Properties is looking for Thai national with good knowledge of English, internet & MS Office. Handling general office admin, good communication skills. Accurate reporting & working independently is required. Tel: 087-882 2856 (English). Email: luc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com

BARISTA/CAFE MANAGER

1-2 persons needed for April start, at the re-opening of the Trees Club Resort Cafe. English speaking required. Tel: 086-268 3238. Email: billyanthony6@hotmail.com

ARABIAN NIGHT RESTAURANT

Needs Thai staff: cook, bartender, waiters/waitresses. Contact Mr. KK. Tel: 084-899 0125.

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

WEBSITE PROGRAMMER REQUIRED

Cybernok are looking for website programmers (preferably Joomla) with good English skills. Tel: 076-323218. Please send your CV to: info@cybernok.com

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



www.clubtropicallifestyle.com

Urgently needed.

Club Tropical is expanding and requires experienced Sales Executives, TO's, Admin and BU/FU/Collections Staff for their sales venues in Phuket and Koh Samui. Great remuneration packages. If you are a native Chinese (Mandarin) and proficient in English and looking for an exciting career send your CV to richard@clubtropical.asia or call 084-1889928

MOUNTAIN BIKE TOUR LEADER

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

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

RUSSIAN MANAGER

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

WANTED: PROJECT MANAGEMENT

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

THAI MASSAGE NEEDED

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

English speaker with good Quickbooks, Microsoft Office skills and references. Send CV: info@techworx-projects.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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, T. Koh Kaew
A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-273555 Fax: 076-615240

KOHLER

Kohler Thailand, manufactures and distributes Kohler, Karat, and Englefield branded products. We are seeking dynamic, strong leaders and team players who are looking for a place that they can explore all of their competencies and grow up for being number one together in the following positions.

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.hanpalangitsuk@kohler.com

Kohler (Thailand) Public Company Limited

16th Floor, Jasmine City, 2 Soi Sukhumvit 23, Sukhumvit Rd., Bangkok 10110
Tel: 0-2204-6000 Mobile: 084-5550338 www.kohlerthai.com



Assistant to Managing Director (full time)

A unique opportunity to join this pioneering wealth management boutique in Phuket. We are looking for a highly-motivated employee, who has a passion for client service and the investment profession. Candidates will grow with our company and must be able to multi-task numerous projects. The role involves regular contact with our high net-worth clients around the world.

Remuneration: thb 15k - 18k / month + annual bonus

Working Place: Office in Laguna

Applicants must:

- ◀ be female and of Thai nationality;
- ◀ speak and write excellent English;
- ◀ have a university degree;
- ◀ have a minimum of two years' experience;
- ◀ have strong PC skills, in particular MS Excel.

The role is a general administrative role and will focus on supporting our Managing Director. A dynamic and positive work ethic is essential.

Please send your curriculum vitae to:
Passaporn Voragul, mas@securewm.com

www.secure-wealthmanagement.com

"Independent advice for the new financial era"

British International School, Phuket

British International School, Phuket is looking for candidates to fill positions in the following areas:

• Asst. to Head of Refectory [F&B and Kitchen Product]

Qualifications

- Thai nationality/aged 28-42 yrs
- Bachelor's Degree in related field
- 5 years experience in hotel
- Outstanding personality and has service mind
- Hard working, diligent, enthusiastic, honest person
- Willing to work as a team, has a positive attitude
- Has a supervisory and leadership skill
- Ability to communicate in English, Computer literacy and good people skills
- Able to coordinate with other department

• Macbook Technician

Qualifications

- Thai nationality, Bachelor's Degree in related to computing
- Must have experience in Macbook
- Experience in IT Support and Network
- Good command of spoken and written English
- Enjoy working with others in a team atmosphere
- Have a "customer-service" orientation

• A/R Accountant

Qualifications

- Thai nationality, Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or Finance
- Good/strong Command of written and spoken English Computer literate
- At least 1 year experience in accounting
- Customer relation skills and service mind are essential
- Knowledge in AccPac operate would be an advantage

Benefits: uniform, group insurance, provident fund and etc.



British International School, Phuket (BIS)

59 Moo 2, Thepkasattri Road, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200

Tel: 076-335555 # 2113, 2110 Fax: 076-335573

E-mail: patcharakorn@bisphuket.ac.th or sirirats@bisphuket.ac.th



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
- ▲ Customer service orientated

Baan Yuree Resort & Spa 12/1 Petchakut Road, Patong Beach
Kathu, Phuket Thailand 83150 Tel: + 66 76 364 703-8,
Email: hr@baanyureeresort.com www.baanyureeresort.com



RAMADA
RESORT
KHAO LAK

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@ramadakhaolak.com

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

KARON HILLSIDE HOTEL

is looking for staff. No English is required for the following positions: Chef, kitchen helper, Housekeeping staff, handyman. For the following positions English is required: Bar and restaurant service staff, Reception staff, Night reception. Good starting salary and SC. Only Thai nationals. Please contact K. Sandy on 082-281 4394 or email: info@karonhillsidehotel.com

Employment Wanted

FARANG HANDYMAN

Communicate effectively, get the job done properly. No job too big or small. Own pickup truck. Professional, on time. Hard working. Tel: 081-787 9767.

EXPERIENCED PROGRAMMER

I am looking for employment or long term projects. PHP, Java, jQuery, Linux etc. Tel: 076-314289, 085-073 9994 (English). Email: jan.faroo@gmail.com

MBA STUDENT PART-TIME WORK

I am an Australian MBA Student living in Phuket looking for part-time work. My background is in hospitality and mining with senior managerial experience in accommodation, administration, catering, housekeeping and facilities management. Tel: 090-701 2183. Email: annika_pm@hotmail.com

Gazette Online Classifieds –
10,000 readers every day!

Articles For Sale

CHINESE TEA

Quality Chinese tea for sale. Contact Peter to arrange a free tea tasting. Tel: 082-278 1575.

HIX HEAT PRESS DUAL PADS

I am selling my Heat Press Made in USA, very little used (about 60 t-shirts), like new. I bought it in Bangkok. Paid 125,000 baht, selling 60,000 baht. Tel: 076-283004, 086-742 3437. Email: joelvdo@hotmail.com

FURNITURE AND MORE

Furniture, sofa, TV and bookcase, chairs, lamps and more. All in good condition. Call or email for photos. Khun Arno. Tel: 087-827 4991 (English). Email: arnyfirst@hotmail.com

FURNITURE AND OTHER ITEMS

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

PLARFSKIN 2.8

Top version with snood tracks, USB and proton neutralizer. Used correctly in combination with infrared and a keypad blaffer, ASCII text is quickly converted to clean, crisp JPEG files hi-speed transmission. Original, made in Switzerland. Only 2 months old. Paid 13,500 baht; will sell for 9,500 or nearest pork basket.

TABLE

Long 6-8 seat table, dark wood, 6 matching chairs, 12 months old. Cost: 16,000 baht. Will sell for 8,000 ono. Tel: 082-283 8902. Email: IIBC.Web@gmail.com

AIR PURIFIER "AMWAY"

Good condition, 3 years old. Sale 20,000 Baht. Tel: 087-026 1362. Email: chumapkt@gmail.com

NEW INVICTA WATCH FOR SALE

Very large Invicta Men's 6913 Corduba Collection Interceptor Chronograph Blue Polyurethane watch, comes with box and guarantee. Tel: 076-319699. Email: sun parasol@gmail.com

Articles Wanted

EXTENSION LADDER WANTED

Used, 20 to 24 foot (6 to 7 meters). Wanted to either rent or purchase. Tel: 081-797 2110. Email: iolare@yahoo.com

Audio/Video Equipment

GERMAN STEREO SYSTEM

Soken AMP & 5 Speaker Surround Sound, Solid Bass. Cost 16, sell 8000. Tel: 082-283 8902. Email: IIBC.Web@gmail.com

HI-DEFINITION MEDIA PLAYER

Digital home entertainment just took a giant leap forward. Internet, Android and a Media Streamer on your TV. Bursting with features that allow you to engage with social media, Android apps, online streaming, and casual games, movies and music. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-248698, 081-895 7097 (English & Thai). Email: hdmedia.phuket@gmail.com

SOKEN SURROUND SYSTEM

Amp + 5 powerful speakers, crisp treble & solid bass. Paid 15,000 baht, sell 7,500 baht. Tel: 082-283 8902. Email: IIBC.Web@gmail.com

STAGE-SOUND / LIVE MUSIC

Stage-Sound system (Live Music) for sale Incl. ALL audio components, made by Behringer. Tel: 076-486118, 086-942 5244. Fax: 076-443137. Email: info@siam-interact.com For further details, please see our website at www.siam-interact.com/soundsystem/

Bar & Restaurant Equipment

USED KITCHEN EQUIPMENT

Refrigerators, freezer, fryer, pasta cooker, fry top, etc. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-343019. Email: info@casajip.com

Bulletins

Alcoholics Anonymous

If you want to drink that is your business
If you want to stop that is ours
Daily Meetings

Patong, Phuket Town, Chalong, Surin, Karon & Cape Panwa

081-895 4763

081-956 4031

email: phuketaa@yahoo.com

Google AA Phuket

ZUMBA FITNESS

Come to experience Latin-inspired, calorie-burning dance fitness party. Class timetable: Palm Breeze Resort: Mon 6.30pm, Wed 6pm, Thu 7pm, Fri 9am. Chalong GreenMan: Please contact: tiina@firstbuddy.fi

SPONSOR A CHILD

The Phuket International Women's Club is a volunteer organization raising funds for educational scholarships. We rely on the goodwill of donors and sponsors – small and large. If you would like to put something back into the community in which you live, contact us to find out more about giving a prize or being a sponsor. Please contact K. Carol (Tel: 087-417 8860) or K. Sue (Tel: 087-277 6948). Email: info@phuketiwclub.com

Business Opportunities

FOR SALE MASSAGE SHOP

In Patong, 4th floor, in front of the beach. 1.5 million baht. Tel: 088-532 9944.

RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Patong, 70sqm, near Simon Cabaret, C&N resort. Many Russian people. Tel: 086-275 9673, 086-686 2349.

SEAVIEW RESTAURANT IN PATONG

Fully equipped restaurant with room for living including 2 fridges, 1 freezer pizza oven, gas stove, TV, HiFi etc. Ready to take over from day 1. Must be seen. 450,000 baht. Tel: 082-272 0609 (English), 087-265 0560 (English & Thai). Email: tobbeemelinder@gmail.com

CHEAP BAR BANGLA ROAD

In Soi Crocodile. Lease paid for another 33 months. Asking price 1.6m baht only! Want to sell quick for family reasons. Tel: 087-284 2031 (English & Thai). Email: tomarell@hotmail.com

DREAM BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

In Phuket. Looking for partner for excursion and party boat w/ up to 60 pax. Company, work permit, etc exist. Capital req: ca 2.6 million baht. Tel: 084-063 4619 (Ger/Eng). Email: ulibis.singer@hotmail.com

NAI HARN RESTAURANT

For sale. Best restaurant deal. With fully equipped kitchen. Rent 8,000 baht/month. Price: 2.8 million baht (neg). Tel: 081-891 3740.

SPORTS BAR KOH PHI PHI

2 Unit Sports Bar/Restaurant for sale on Phi Phi Island. Includes 2 bedroom apartment above. The only dedicated Sports Bar on Phi Phi has been established for over 10 years. The Sports Bar brand has long been associated with great food and a great atmosphere. A fantastic opportunity for a potential buyer to start trading immediately. Tel: 080-827 7541, 080-080 1770, 081-088 8347 (English). Email: joe.meakin@hotmail.co.uk Website at www.facebook.com/sportsbarkohpp

PATONG BAR FOR SALE

Popular bar, open air. Beer bar in busy tourist area. Urgent sale: 2 million baht. Tel: 081-550 7379.

BAR FOR SALE - KATA

Bristol Sport, Patak Road. Price: 500,000 baht with furniture. Tel: 084-677 3120.

URGENT RESTAURANT FOR SALE

For sale: Poolside restaurant in Bang Tao inside a condominium with 56 apartments. Tel: 080-143 5541. Email: pabloblatmann@hotmail.com Website: www.slideshare.net/danielphuket/poolside-info-11668724. Email: pabloblatmann@hotmail.com

PROFITABLE BAR FOR SALE

30 meters off beach road one of the few bars making a profit. Many loyal customers. Good size, offering pool table, surround sound music system, 50" HDTV with true vision package, security shutters and good stock. Great looking bar with very low running costs. Bar is as good as new (100% ready for new owner and comes with lady). 1.7 million (quick sale) Tel: 080-530 7798. Email: lyntoncraig@gmail.com

BAR FOR SALE

In OTOP Market, Patong. Complete with pool table, sound system, TV, fridges, kitchen, toilet, office/bedroom, stock, etc. Rent 23,000 baht per month. Sale at 1.8 million baht. Tel: 080-719 3819 (English & Thai). Email: tara@networkly.com.au

WORK FROM HOME, NO STAFF

Earn min 50,000 baht per month in hand, 30 minutes a day. No overheads. 7 years history of income to show, growth assured. Perfect small business. No experience needed. Tel: 081-370 3181 (English). Email: tollfreethailand@yahoo.com

Would you like to keep up on what's happening in Phuket - the good, the bad and the bizarre?
Let us share it with you - every week!

TO: The Phuket Co Ltd, 79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd
T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang, Phuket 83000

YES, I want to receive the PHUKET GAZETTE for a full year - 52 issues!

I hereby authorize payment against my Visa ☐ / Mastercard ☐

☐ Thai Baht 1,560 for Phuket Special Delivery (Phuket Island only!)

☐ Thai Baht 2,800 for a domestic subscription (outside Phuket)

☐ Thai Baht 9,000 for an overseas subscription (any country outside Thailand)

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Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Issuing Bank: _____ Country: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

E-mail address: _____

Please Deliver To:

Street address _____

City _____ State or Province _____ Zip Code _____

Country: _____



SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES

Crossword puzzle:



| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|----|---|---|---|
| 1 | S | E | A | L | | | | | 5 | R | E | A | | 8 | S | T | A | B | | | | |
| 12 | S | E | N | O | R | | | 13 | | 14 | J | A | E | L | | 15 | H | E | R | O | | |
| 16 | T | R | I | N | I | | | 17 | | 18 | U | V | E | A | | 19 | I | L | E | X | | |
| 19 | S | O | L | I | T | | 20 | U | D | E | | 21 | | 22 | R | A | V | I | N | E | | |
| | | | | | | 23 | | 24 | U | N | E | | 25 | | A | M | U | | 26 | C | A | R |
| 26 | D | R | A | M | A | S | | 30 | | I | S | I | N | G | | 31 | | | | | | |
| 32 | R | I | V | A | L | | 33 | | 34 | P | R | O | S | T | R | A | T | E | | | | |
| 37 | A | L | I | I | | 38 | | 39 | | S | A | I | N | T | | 40 | O | V | I | D | | |
| 40 | B | L | A | N | C | H | I | N | G | | 42 | | | | | 43 | T | W | I | N | E | |
| | | | | | 43 | | E | L | E | N | A | | 44 | | L | I | N | D | E | N | | |
| 45 | A | D | A | | 46 | | A | I | T | | 47 | | 48 | | D | E | R | | | | | |
| 50 | D | E | B | U | N | K | | 52 | | L | O | Y | A | L | I | S | T | | | | | |
| 57 | D | R | O | P | | 58 | | 59 | | D | E | E | R | | 60 | | D | O | L | M | A | |
| 61 | A | B | I | T | | 62 | | 63 | | O | O | N | A | | 64 | | E | L | I | O | T | |
| 64 | X | Y | L | O | | 65 | | 66 | | M | S | S | | 67 | | L | A | G | S | | | |

Gazette Connect Quiz answers:

1. Charing Cross
2. Ealing
3. Guys and Dolls
4. Hammersmith
5. Valley of the Kings
6. Kingston
7. Queens
8. St Helier
9. Princess Royal
10. They are all Greater London Hospitals. Charing Cross Hospital, Ealing Hospital (NHS Trust), Guy's Hospital, Hammersmith Imperial College Hospital, King's College Hospital, Kingston Hospital, Queen's Hospital, St Helier Hospital (Sutton), Princess Royal Uni. Hos.

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International Sport

Welsh grand slam the Six Nations

By Dean Noble

WALES took the Six Nations title and their third Grand Slam in eight years beating the French 16-9 in a closely fought battle at the Millennium Stadium.

Emotions were running high before the start with a minute's silence observed for former Welsh Grand Slam winning captain Mervyn Davies, as well as Jock Hobbs, the ex-All Blacks skipper.

The Dragons have to thank Alex Cuthbert and his moment of individual brilliance when he carved his way through the French defensive line to give Wales the advantage 7-3, after Dimitri Yachvili had put the first points on the board for "Les Bleus".

Leigh Halfpenny converted Cuthbert's try and added a penalty, before Yachvili kept France in touch with another three points.

Whilst Rhys Priestland and Halfpenny both



WELSH MAGIC: Alex Cuthbert sidesteps French back Clement Poitrenaud to score. Photo: AFP

had kicks come back off the uprights, it was Halfpenny, probably player of the tournament, whose 52-yard penalty took the game away from the French for Wales to run out

Grand Slam victors.

England had their best win of the competition with victory over Ireland 30-9, secured by the domination of their front row.

| RBS SIX NATIONS TABLE | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|-----|-----|
| TEAM | P | W | D | L | PD | Pts |
| 1 Wales | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 51 | 10 |
| 2 England | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 27 | 8 |
| 3 France | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 27 | 5 |
| 4 Ireland | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 15 | 5 |
| 5 Italy | 5 | 1 | 0 | 4 | -68 | 2 |
| 6 Scotland | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | -52 | 0 |

Scotland's failure at the Stadio Olimpico, losing 13-6, as Giovanbattista Venditti's try separated the teams, collected the Wooden Spoon for the first time since 2007.



GOOD START: Jenson Button leads Sebastian Vettel and Lewis Hamilton. Photo: AFP

Button dominates F1 opener

JENSON Button of McLaren reveled in his "dream start" in the opening race of the 2012 Formula 1 season at the Albert Park Lake street circuit in Melbourne.

Sebastian Vettel of Red Bull managed to gain second by making good use of the safety car on lap 37 to pit, and emerged ahead of Lewis Hamilton, who finished 4.075 seconds off the pace in third.

"I thought I would be in a good position to have a go at Jenson but two corners and he was gone," said Vettel.

Hamilton started in pole position, however during the "launch phase" suffered from lack of traction and

his team-mate passed him to remain in the lead throughout the entire race.

"It wasn't my day," said Hamilton. "I just have to keep my head down and my day will come."

Mark Webber, in front of his home crowd also suffered from a poor start and dropped to ninth, however the second Red Bull driver managed to fight back to gain fourth spot at the finish.

Fernando Alonso took fifth for Ferrari, though only after Williams' Pastor Maldonado touched the artificial grass and crashed into the wall after harrying the Spaniard for eight laps.

This weekend the action moves

to the Sepang circuit in Malaysia, with the race due to start at 15.00 Phuket time.

The track is one of the most demanding on the F1 calendar with tight cornering and long straights, providing drivers with ample opportunity to overtake.

It is expected that McLaren and Red Bull will contest the podium with Button and Hamilton relishing the opportunity to build upon last week's result.

It is thought Sepang will also show the shortcomings of Ferrari's car. More importantly for many is will Kylie Minogue show.

— Phuket Gazette

Derby heats up the race

TOTTENHAM Hotspur's match with Chelsea at Stamford Bridge is the pick of action this weekend, and will give the Blues' caretaker manager Roberto Di Matteo his first major test in the Premiership.

Fernando Torres finally broke his 24-match dry spell with two against Leicester as they advanced in the FA Cup, and if he can continue to find the net it will be a huge bonus to Chelsea in the scramble for that vital fourth spot.

Whilst Chelsea are in a good vein of form after the departure of Andre Villas-Boas, Spurs are not.

Harry Redknapp has offered counselling to his players following the incident at Bolton.

At the foot of the table QPR, Wigan and Wolves all have difficult away matches and will probably be happy for a point in their respective battles to avoid relegation.

Bolton Wanderers, who are just one point above the drop zone, will face Blackburn Rovers who are in 16th, five points ahead.

Owen Coyle will see the game as a must win for Bolton in their own bid for safety, and it will take all of his managerial experience to pick his side up following last weekend's sad incident concerning Fabrice Muamba.



STAR LINE-UP: The players who will determine the race to safety or the vital fourth position.

| PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Chelsea vs Tottenham | |
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| 19:45 | |
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| Bolton VS Blackburn | 22:00 |
| Liverpool VS Wigan | |
| Norwich VS Wolves | |
| Sunderland VS QPR | |
| Swansea VS Everton | |
| Stoke VS Man City | 00:30 |
| SUNDAY, 25 MARCH 2012 | |
| West Brom VS Newcastle | 23:00 |
| MONDAY, 26 MARCH 2012 | |
| Man Utd VS Fulham | 03:00 |

SPORTS briefs...

CRICKET: India's Sachin Tendulkar finally secured his 100th international century to become the first player to reach this historic milestone, after being in the nineties twice since March last year.

To put the record into context, the second leading century maker is Ricky Ponting, on a 'lowly' 71.

He scored the record-breaking run against Bangladesh with a single off Shakib Al Hasan, and was eventually dismissed for 114.

Tendulkar has scored 15,470 Test runs and 18,260 in the one-day game.

TENNIS: Swiss superstar Roger Federer is setting his sights on more Grand Slams, after winning his third-straight tournament in Indian Wells.

The 16-time Grand Slam winner had to fight off a cold and a strong field to capture his fourth Indian Wells title.

Federer said after beating John Isner 7-6 (9/7), 6-3 in the final that his biggest wish this year is to win a gold medal at the London Olympics and to reclaim the World No 1 ranking. Many were starting to write Federer off when he turned 30 and his game dropped off a bit.

FOOTBALL: Bolton Wanderers midfielder Fabrice Muamba collapsed and was rushed to hospital following a heart attack during the FA Cup quarter-final tie against Tottenham last weekend.

Muamba, only 23-years-old, was born in the DR of Congo, though represented England in the Under-21s, making 33 appearances.

Medics spent six minutes trying to resuscitate him on the field after he fell to the ground.

His condition is now stable, and his family have offered thanks for all the support and prayers given.

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She's 'Dear' to the heart of Indigo Pearl



EXTENDED FAMILY: Indigo Pearl GM Kelly Lewis with his wife Cristy and Dear (center). Photo: Dean Noble

By Neil Quail

TENNIS played well at any level is an enviable pursuit. Those with the physical skill and coordination required to pick a ball traveling in excess of 100 miles per hour, then chose a shot before returning the two and a half inch diameter projectile over a three foot obstacle and land it accurately within a 27ft by 39ft area deserve admiration. To do it repeatedly over an hour or two requires abnormal focus and to become a world champion simply defies belief.

Sumitra "Dear" Basnyat is such a talent. This Phuket tennis prodigy

presents herself with a grace and maturity that belies her 15 years of age while her focus and intelligence when she speaks of her chosen sport is a joy to absorb.

Dear and her 'adopted tennis family' kindly arranged to speak with the *Gazette* over the sumptuous Sunday Brunch at Indigo Pearl recently to help highlight her quest to be a tennis professional. Indeed, it is Indigo Pearl's GM Kelly Lewis, his family and staff who are championing young Dear in her endeavors.

"Dear's coach Darran Ferre came to work for the resort and brought her to train at our tennis

facility After seeing her play we knew she could do well and decided to offer support," Kelly said.

Living near Phuket Town, Dear makes her way to Nai Yang on a daily basis to go through her drills with Darran and when possible helps out at the resort with kids coaching and has even been known to take on a few guests at the resort who are willing to pay for the pleasure of being soundly defeated by the young tennis star.

Speaking to Dear, she certainly has a mental toughness that top modern sports players require. Her words are deliberate and exude a strength that originates from playing a game requiring a belief in one's own ability.

"I try not to think about things in the game I can't control. Unproductive worries we call it. Off court, I meditate and keep my mind clear and try to master the game. I don't mind losing a game physically, but to lose a game mentally is more damaging to me," Dear said.

"Patience is very important. For me it's about who is more willing to do the right thing. Who can keep it together for the match and I try to put my strengths against my opponent's weakness. I reckon I'm more of an adaptive player than others who just try to dominate the competition," she added.

Darran Ferre, Dear's coach offered more insight into his charge's background and future, beginning with how their relationship began.

"Dear came through a community based program set up shortly after the tsunami. She was initially part of a large group who I taught regularly and then became part of a more select group once my involvement with Indigo Pearl started," he said.

Once Darran had seen her play and Dear herself realized that while

her friends had tired of the sport she was still interested and becoming quite good at tennis.

"I have been teaching 20 years and simply put she has more self-motivation and drive than anyone I have taught. She is willing to make the necessary sacrifices and has the determination to succeed. This is what set her apart," Darran said.

As with Dear's attitude, Darran believes her physical strength will develop, but now is the time to reinforce her mental abilities.

"It is currently time to focus on learning how to handle pressure and keeping things simple when on the court, and to not get distracted," Darran advised.

All young players have their role models or idols and Dear indicates that Novak Djokovic is a player she admires. However, Darran suggests Dear is reminiscent of Chris Evert.

"Like Evert, she has nice balance, solid ground strokes coupled with very good control. A creative all-court game and, unlike many girls her age, she also plays excellent doubles," Darran enthused. Dear's intention is clear and that is to be a great tennis player, but as with all sports hopefuls the road is long and arduous, but made a little smoother with support from family and friends.

"Having the backing from Indigo Pearl gives her a feeling of security



Sumitra "Dear" Basnyat

and that is a great feeling to have when you are that young. It is vitally important as we go through each stage of her development that Dear feels unconditional support and that then relieves any possible pressures. Indigo Pearl over the years has become like extended family," Darran said.

It was important for Kelly to also add that while Indigo Pearl are doing as much as possible, Dear still needs as much financial support as possible.

"We provide as much as we can for Dear and we will continue

to drive and support her. Head is her sponsor for equipment and we provide clothes and a training facility, but it comes down to money for travel to tournaments. That's why we reached to the *Gazette* to see if we can generate interest in Phuket

to promote her career," Kelly said.

As many as there are worthy causes around the island, Dear's may not be the most needful, but here is a talent that deserves to go far. And wouldn't it be magic to see a genuine Phuket homegrown sports talent push through the ranks and win at Wimbledon?

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Mydeen knocks first ACG ton

By Neil Quail

RECOVERED from their recent defeat at the hands of Laguna CC, the Village showed no mercy to Phuket's youth development cricket team in dishing out a 235 run demolition of the Leopards.

This season's 15th match of the Island Furniture League became batting practice for several of the Village players while the Leopards were hoping to gain valuable match practice prior to their participation in the National Youth Cricket Championships, from March 23 to 28 in Chanthaburi.

In a devastating display, the Village posted a new record for runs scored at the ACG with 352 scored off their 40 overs, which also included the ACG's maiden century by Divan Mydeen as well as its first seven wicket haul by Martin Foster. The Leopards posted a total of 117 runs in reply which included a very courageous 65 from their captain, Pao.

The Village batted first looking to post a big score and reached 50 runs before the loss of their opener Martin Foster (13) in the ninth over, clean bowled by Bank. They pushed on to 77 runs when fellow opener, Kevin Quilty (34) also fell.

Tom Gordon (32) played an aggressive innings until Pao skittled his stumps with the score on 135 runs in the 16th over. James Firth's inning's was decidedly brief. And the Village captain will see his name on the 'wall of shame' after being bowled for a golden duck from Pao's. This breakthrough gave the Leop-



CENTURION: Divan Mydeen (above and top right) is the first to hit 100 at the ACG.

ards some hope, but an 89 run partnership by Divan Mydeen (retired 101 not out) and Justin White (29) ended any thoughts of success. White eventually fell in the 27th over with the score on 224. Mydeen and Martin Platts (17) then put on another valuable partnership of 83 runs before Platts' lack of mobility was punished by an lbw decision against him



SEVEN-UP: Martin Foster (above) claimed the ACG's first seven-wicket haul in the match.

with the score on 313 in 34th over. Mydeen retired from play to save his energy and averages, while Chris Gordon (19) and Greg Heenan (12 not out) managed to push the score along to a record 352 runs for 8 from their 40 overs. The Leopards could have contained the score had they managed to hold onto several catches. Pick of the bowlers for the Leop-

ards were First (2 for 42), Pao (2 for 43) and Pan (2 for 28).

After lunch, the Leopards went out to face a daunting task of chasing down the huge target of 353 runs. A steady start gave way in the fourth over, when Martin Foster struck, first dismissing Pup (4) and then immediately sent Mac (0) packing for a golden duck. Foster missed his hat-trick, but claimed a third wicket in the over after clean bowling Jay (0). After another wicket in Foster's next over the Leopards were four wickets down for 25 runs, and the youngsters were on the verge of a collapse.

However, a determined 83 run partnership by Pao (65) and Bank (24) saw the Leopards reach 108 runs, much to the delight of the pavilion, before Bank was bowled. Pao followed soon after, stumped while playing forward to a leg-side delivery. The rest of the Leopards failed to show any resistance and they were bowled out for 117 in the 21st over. Martin Foster (7 for 34) and Tom Gordon (1 for 9) were the Village's claimed the best bowling figures for the day.

Man of the match was Divan Mydeen, with Martin Foster taking second and Pao picking up third place.

The Village picked up maximum points to advance to the top of the league table.

On March 25 Patong take on Thanyapura Tigers in a must win match for both teams to keep their finals hopes alive.

The Phuket Gazette is the local media sponsor of the ACG.

Ray shines again



HIGH FIVE: Jaray 'Ray' Jearanai at the Leam Mae Phim Triathlon Thailand Championships & International Championships which was held on March 18 at Leam Mae Phim Beach, Rayong. The event was organised by the Triathlon Club of Thailand and featured an Olympic-distance race (15km swim-40km bike-10km run) and a sprint race (half Olympic). Jaray finished the Olympic-distance event in a time of 2:13:14. He was the first Thai finisher and the first in his age group (M30-39). He finished 5th overall in the field of 79 – one place behind his coach and triathlon legend Jurgen Zack. The race was won by Ho King Fun of Hong Kong in 2:06:26. Jaray is pictured above receiving his trophy for 'first Thai finisher' from Mr Vijit Sitthinavin, president of the Triathlon Association of Thailand. Photo: Courtesy of Laguna.

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Phuket Gazette

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Pulsating play in round six of PSSSL

By Neil quail

PITA Bar Phuketeers and Eden FC got the ball rolling for round six of the Phuket Super Six League (PSSL) on Wednesday evening at Headstart's Football Island.

Phuketeers grabbed an early 2-0 lead when Yannik Christll tapped in after Fabian Kleiner Scniedelmann's shot was spilled by the goal-keeper. Christll doubled his team's advantage with a fine solo effort before Joseph Arimathea pulled a goal back for Eden to make it 2-1 at half time. The second half continued to be tight and scrappy, but Phuketeer debutant Ben Keiley carved his way through the Eden defense to open his PSSL account and reinstate the two-goal lead.

Eden piled on the pressure and again reduced the deficit to a goal from a Kittichart Naunsri strike, but the Phuketeers could not be tempted into giving up three points and held on for the win. Schniedelmann was awarded Man of the match after an outstanding performance. Pita Bar Phuketeers v Eden FC 3 - 2.

Table toppers Shakers FC and Ristorante Rugantino were next on the pitch in a game that was to become the most intense PSSL battle so far Rugantino arrived with a full squad and the disciplined Shakers youngsters knew they were in for a tough ride. The game exploded into action with neither team giving any quarter. Shakers broke the tense deadlock with a Ross Robinson goal, but was canceled out by Jacopo Jajo's mazy individual run. Shaker's were back in front after Mikael Lundin cheekily found the near post and from there the game rocked back and forth at a dizzying pace, leaving it 3-4 to Rugantino at the break.



CLEAR THE LINES: Pita Bar Phuketeers clash with Eden FC in the Super Six league.

With adrenaline coursing through the players, the second half continued in the same vein. A Stig Edvardsen 'cannonball' gave Rugantino a two-goal lead, before Shakers replied with two goals by Axel Jehangir and Lundin to level the scores at 5-5. Outstanding defensive work by Ryan Meihart neutralized many of the Rugantino attacks, but with time running down, another Edvardsen drive put Rugantino in front. Despite the obvious fatigue in both teams, Rugantino managed to consolidate their lead with Jajo polishing off the games scoring. Shakers FC v Ristorante Rugantino: 6 - 8.

The third game of the evening started out

as an exciting affair, which unfortunately had to be called off in the second half due to unsportsmanlike conduct by players on both teams. The game was called off on the result 3-3, and both teams will be awarded a single point. Aladdin Friends v The Lounge 3 - 3.

Morning Star received a three-goal walk-over for the fourth match. Morning Star v Babynoname: 3 - 0.

In the last game of the evening Nanai Boys played a slightly under-powered Phuket Serenity Villas (PSV). Although the game was quite even in terms of play, Nanai Boys showed much more efficiency up front.



Phuket Super Six League

| Pos | Team | P | GD | Pts |
|-----|------------------------|---|-----|-----|
| 1 | Morning Star | 5 | 23 | 13 |
| 2 | Nanai Boys | 5 | 11 | 12 |
| 3 | Ristorante Rugantino | 6 | -1 | 12 |
| 4 | Pita Bar Phuketeers | 6 | 14 | 11 |
| 5 | Shakers FC | 5 | 16 | 10 |
| 6 | Phuket Serenity Villas | 6 | -6 | 9 |
| 7 | Eden FC | 6 | -19 | 6 |
| 8 | The Lounge | 5 | -5 | 4 |
| 9 | Aladdin Friends | 4 | -10 | 1 |
| 10 | Babynoname | 6 | -25 | 0 |

Standings after 6 rounds of the PSSL.



Rugantino defend against Shakers FC.

Nanai Boys Sunny Gulati continued his goal spree, and showed class by hitting several early goals past the PSV keeper. Although PSV played organized football, they seldom broke through Nanai Boys defense, commanded well by Ryan Adekoya. Although Gulati ended up scoring five goals in this game, he couldn't steal the show entirely as 18-year-old Russian talent Sadulla Saipov scored two quality goals including a back-heel and a volley to assist Nanai Boys in a comfortable victory. Nanai Boys v Phuket Serenity Villas: 9 - 1.

For more information visit PhuketFootball.com.



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Sport

ITF finals beckon

By Neil Quail

THAILAND'S number two ranked player Noppawan Lertcheewagarn is making progress towards the ITF Women's Circuit single's final being held at Thanyapura Sports and Leisure club, as this paper went to print.

On Tuesday, she easily disposed of French qualifier Irina Ramialison 6-2, 6-0 in the first round of the US\$25,000 professional tournament.

Noppawan is competing in her season's second home event since playing the WTA Pattaya Open.

Noppawan commanded the court and her French opponent set up a second round meeting with Aiko Nakamura of Japan.

"I was serving well and gave her a lot of pressure from the baseline. She tried to counter-punch with

me, but she missed her shots and lost confidence," said Noppawan.

The Thai will now be seeking to avenge the first-round defeat she suffered against Nakamura at the Pattaya Open five years ago which has been their only other meeting to date. Like Noppawan, the former world number 45 hits double-handed to both sides.

"Sometimes it's a bit difficult to play an opponent who hits with two hands as they can read my shot direction [better]," said sixth seed Noppawan.

"But I had a close match with her when I was young so I hope I can give her a tougher match this time," she added.

Compatriot and wild-card Peangtarn Plipuech joined Noppawan in round two after a surprise win over Ayu-Fani Damayanti of Indonesia 6-

2 6-2. Countrywoman Nudnida Luangnam, a qualifier, lost to China's Han Xinyun 6-3 2-6 6-4. Erika Sema, the tournament's number one seed from Japan, has also moved forward after defeating Chin-Wei Chan of Taipei in her first round match. However, Chan is still going strong in the doubles competition with her playing partner Saisai Zheng. Noppawan and Sema partner each other in the doubles competition and the number three seeds will have to defeat Russians Natela Dzalamidze and Marta Sirotkina to make the semis.

The finals are due to be played on Saturday March 24 at 10am which will be followed by a tennis clinic with ITF players on Sunday March 25 at 4pm.

For more information visit Thanyapura.com.



THAI STAR: Noppawan Lertcheewagarn is playing at TSLC this weekend.

Plans for Rassada futsal pitch benched

RASSADA residents scored a goal by benching the plans for Rassada futsal field in Phuket's Kanjanapisek Park until a public hearing can be scheduled.

A letter of complaint was filed by local residents against the development of the Rassada futsal field to Rassada Municipality Administrative Office (*OrBorTor*) Chief Dechakanee Leelanont yesterday.

"We will have less area for exercising because the field will be for futsal players only, which is in conflict with the original goal for the park," said Keharassada Phuket Credit Cooperate Ltd Manager Chainarong Nhujeenseng.

"The residents in Rassada Moo 7 were not notified about the project until we heard

that it was about to be built," he continued.

Mr Chainarong praised the Rassada municipality for focusing on a project concerning people's health, but felt the best way to invest tax-payer's money was to incorporate their opinions and needs.

"The project should come from the requests of residents, otherwise it will cause arguments within the community.

"We should be part of the decision making process because the money being spent is from our taxes," Mr Chainarong said.

"The project will be held back. Then we will have a public hearing for it," *OrBorTor* Chief Dechakanee concluded after having received the letter.

— Warisa Temram



Chainarong Nhujeenseng submits the letter of complaint to *OrBorTor* Chief Dechakanee Leelanont.



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| | PG907 | 14.35 | 16.00 |
| | PG274 | 16.10 | 17.35 |
| | PG278 | 19.10 | 20.35 |
| | PG280 | 22.10 | 23.35 |
| BKK-HKT | PG271 | 08.05 | 09.30 |
| | PG275* | 10.00 | 11.25 |
| | PG924 | 12.20 | 13.45 |
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Papers, please!

By S Layne and P Choksakulpan

ENERGETIC "Hulk" fans have won great praise for their loyal and vociferous support through an arduous journey and uneventful scoreless draw in following FC Phuket's Thai Yamaha 1 League (TPL Division 1) season opener on Saturday evening against JW Rangsit FC.

The evenly matched contest was played at Rangsit's temporary ground, Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy Stadium in Nakhon Nayok province, 70 kilometers northeast of Rangsit.

Rangsit's planned home pitch for this season will be at North Krungthep University, but the Phuket Gazette has learned that the stadium is currently unavailable due to ongoing construction upgrades.

Despite a ruddy and a scoreless draw, the winners from Saturday's affair were surely Phuket's travel-weary cheer squad. A crowd of about 500 spectators were dominated by a group of about 70 die-hard fans, who had spent up to 40 hours on a bus from Phuket to enjoy the start of a new season.

And despite not being sated with any goals, fans remained cheerful throughout – ever thankful that their team has survived to play at least one more season in the first division following the financial squabbles that struck the team late last season.

Coach Milos Joksic, from Serbia, was critical of his charges first game.

"At first, I had prepared certain tactics for this game. But I had to change at the last minute because papers for two players are not ready. Overall, I wasn't particularly satisfied with the team's performance," Joksic told the *Gazette*.

"The weak point was that my midfielders and two central defenders, who were too relaxed and made many mistakes. Next week, I must work harder with them to make them play faster and not to lose the ball so easily like today which was dangerous and could have cost us a goal," he added.

"Most of the players are new to this team, as am I, but they have to know that football is very tough game and I will train them to be better players in the next match," Joksic said.

But it wasn't all doom and gloom for Phuket. New Ivorian import, Ibrahim Kanoute received much praise from Phuket fans in response to his strong performance.

"I am satisfied with the result because we did not

lose," Ibrahim Kanoute told the *Gazette* after the match.

"Now I will keep trying to improve my game so we can win," he added.

Having previously played for PTT Rayong, and on loan from Muangthong United, Ibrahim showed that he will certainly be an asset for the season with his

attacking flair and strong physical presence on the pitch.

Ibrahim can look forward to reinforcement from fellow countryman and midfielder, Bamba Messi, as well as the likes of star Thai forward Watcharapong Jun-Ngam and pacey former K-league midfielder, Kim Won Sup.

Another treat for Phuket fans was the new Brazilian goalkeeper: Alonso Jose Carvalho da Silva, who made a number of critical saves to foil Rangsit's rasping drives and counter attacks.

After the match, Alonso told the *Gazette* that he was not disappointed in the result.

He admitted that he is still feeling some regret for having to leave his former Premier league side, Chiang Rai United.

"After losing only four matches of the 25 I played with Chiang Rai, I had begun to gain many fans in Chiang Rai. It is sad, but I must look on."

"I want to win, and I think we have a very strong team in Phuket with many good players. I'm looking forward to winning and playing in Phuket," he said.

However, another new star Brazilian import for the Southern Sea Kirin Marcio Santos was not fielded on Saturday.

He explained that his transfer from the Myanmar league champions, Yangon United, was not officially finalized in time and had to sit this first game out.

"My transfer should be complete soon. I believe I will be able to play the next game," he said.

An integral part of Phuket's new midfield reinforcement, Marcio viewed the match from the stands alongside Korean teammate Seonwong Byeon, who was also a spectator for the same reason.

With Alonso now in command of the 16-yard box, Phuket's back line is still led by Nenebi Tre Sylvestre, the only non-Thai player



BACK OFF: Midfielder Kittitach Kraithong pushes past the Rangsit defense. Photo: Pimwara Choksakulpan



FC Phuket's Poramut Krongborisut loses out to Rangsit's keeper. Photo: P Choksakulpan

to be retained by the club from last season.

Fans will get their next chance to see the entire new-look FC Phuket this Saturday, as they begin their home fixtures schedule at Surakul Stadium against Rajpracha FC.

Notably, three other Southern Thai sides were victorious in their league openers.

Other TPL Yamaha 1 results over the weekend were as follows:

Krabi FC 2 – 1 Bangkok FC
Songkhla FC 2 – 0 Chanthaburi
Bangkok United 2 – 4 Pattalung FC
Rajpracha FC 1 – 3 Ratchaburi FC
Khon Kaen FC 2 – 1 Saraburi FC
Korat FC 2 – 1 Air Force United
Suphanburi FC 2 – 0 Sri Racha Suzuki

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