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All change in Patong

One-way system to reverse traffic flow in June

By Atchaa Khamlo

A LONG-awaited plan to reverse the direction of the one-way traffic flow in Patong should go into effect in June, as soon as public hearings and a new roundabout is built at the north end of the beach road, local officials say.

Phunsak Naksena, Patong Municipality Chief Administrative Officer (*Palad*), said initial indications from the required public hearing needed to approve the project revealed that most residents were in favor of the change.

Patong Municipality policy and planning officer Pimpha Sukluang said that data gathered through the public hearing process was "still under computer analysis". Final results should be available around the middle of April.

"Right now, we can tell that approximately 70 per cent of the public canvassed agrees with the project," she said.

Under the current system that went into effect in 2007, traffic heading south is routed along Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Road, while northbound traffic travels along the Thaweewong Road, known to



Town clerk Phunsak Naksena

many as "the beach road".

Completing the loop, Prachanukhro Road at the south end of Patong was made one-way toward the beach, while Prabaramee Road remained two-way.

The system, put in place for a three-month trial period, created a great deal of initial confusion.

About two weeks after its inception, about 100 tuk-tuk drivers protested at Kathu Police Station that the system was forcing them to drive further to get passengers to their destinations.

Despite this, it was not until



Foreigners ride through the Laem Petch intersection, where a roundabout will be built. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

current Patong Police Superintendent Arayapan Pukbuakao took up his post in March 2010 that the issue re-emerged.

Col Arayapan pledged to end Patong's infamous one-way traffic system, "which not only confuses people, but is also in violation of current Thai traffic law".

The violation he referred to is that on some roads connecting the two major arteries drivers are re-

quired to "keep right" in order to make the system work.

Reversing the flow to make Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Road southbound and Thaweewong Road northbound would do away with this problem.

With public approval reportedly imminent, the only remaining obstacle will be the construction of a new traffic circle at Laem Petch Junction, the three-way junction

on the beach at the south end of the road to Kamala.

Palad Phunsak said Tripong Company has already been contracted to do the project at a cost of 4.2 million baht.

"The contractor for the new roundabout project is ready to start work, but has to wait for existing electric power poles to be moved.

Continued on page 2

Tunnel to be complete within 6 years

By Chutharat Plerin

THE chief of the Express Authority of Thailand (EXAT), under the Ministry of Transport, has announced that he expects the Patong tunnel project to be complete within six years at a cost of about 6 billion baht.

"The planning should take no longer than two years and the construction no longer than three years," EXAT Governor Ayyanat Tinapai told the *Gazette*.

"I haven't seen the study commissioned by Patong Municipality, but we will con-

tact them and look into the work that has already been done.

"Transport Minister Jarupong Ruangsuwan said he did not want any loans taken out to complete the tunnel, so we are looking at using foreign investors for the project. Our agency has been called on because it is likely we will introduce a toll fee for motorists using the tunnel," he added.

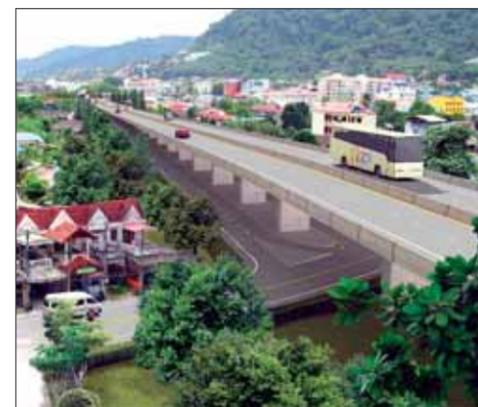
Patong Deputy Mayor Chairat Sukbal said, "We don't mind if the government builds the tunnel themselves or passes the project on to foreign investors to complete.

We already have contacts with foreign investors from China, Korea and even Austria.

"We spent more than 30 million baht on a study, which has now passed its public hearing requirement.

"Our consultant has advised that the best route [for the tunnel road] is from the Go-Kart track in Kathu to 50 Pi Road in Patong, then continue by overpass over Baan Mon and joining Phang Muang Sai Kor Road," said Mr Chairat.

"I think Cabinet will use the plans we have. There is no need to start over," he added.



An artist's impression of the tunnel road exiting into Patong onto an elevated road.

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Threat of crackdown looms for illegal taxis

By Atchaa Khamlo

PHUKET Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada has called for authorities to crack down on illegal taxi drivers in Phuket with a sustained campaign to start after Songkran, the Thai New Year festival, to be marked with public holidays from April 13 through April 17.

"Right now 'black taxi' [illegal] drivers operate above the law and it seems we have been previously unable to do anything about them. Now we must take serious steps in managing them," he told a meeting of high-powered officials this week.

V/Gov Chamroen called for a "soft warning" to be issued immediately after Songkran, then stronger measures be taken to bring the illegal taxis under regulation.

To ensure success this time, he called on all relevant agencies to join forces and support each other.

V/Gov Chamroen said one of the first steps to be taken was to determine the scale of the problem. "I would like officers to



Vice Governor Chamroen

examine every taxi rank, such as those in front of hotels, and count exactly how many of them there are and how many taxis are illegal," he said.

However, the high-ranking officials at the meeting could not agree on an estimated number of illegal taxis operating in Phuket.

Teerawat Namad, an officer at Kathu Municipality, said his office had counted more than 900 taxis operating on the streets of Patong – and all of them were registered with the Phuket Land Transportation Office (PLTO) as

commercial passenger vehicles.

Yet, Pirayut Karajadi, a deputy commander of Phuket Provincial Police, said he was informed of only 346 registered taxis operating in Patong.

PLTO Deputy Director Wanta Phummararossukon said that his office had recorded about 100 taxis as registered to work in one area in Kata. "But when our officers checked further, they found more than 500 vehicles being operated as taxis there," he said.

Col Pirayut highlighted how violence was hindering police efforts.

"The drivers at many of those [hotel] taxi ranks do not allow taxi drivers from 'outside' to pick up hotel guests. If the 'outside' taxi driver ignores them, they attack him. When police ask the victims to file a complaint, so we can take action, the victim doesn't want to report it," he said.

"To solve this problem, we need to target the trouble-makers, not all of the taxis.

"People will think the police are being unfair to the good taxi drivers if we punish them all," Col Pirayut said.

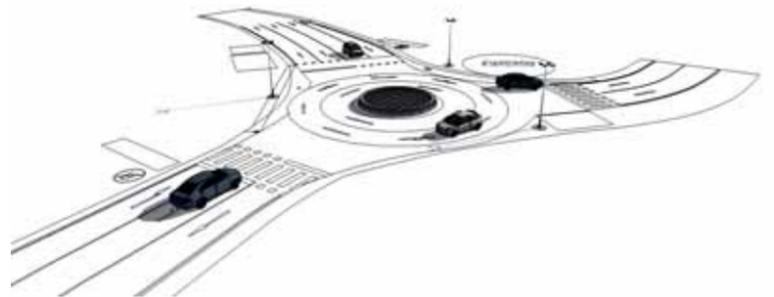
Patong to reverse traffic flow

From page 1

"The Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority office in Patong has already been contacted and asked to move poles," he said.

A Patong Public Works officer told the *Gazette* that the new circle will greatly improve traffic flow and safety in the area, which has been the site of many accidents since the current one-way system went into effect. It would also let large vehicles such as 18-wheeled trucks negotiate turns there.

"Some sections of the roads that connect with the new circle will be changed. Phrabaramee Road, will be a two-way, four-lane carriageway. The Kamala-Kalim Road will be three lanes, one lane heading northbound off the circle and the other two lanes carrying southbound and eastbound traffic into it," he explained.



A plan of the traffic flow around the Laem Petch roundabout.

Another public works officer told the *Gazette* that painted arrows would indicate the direction of flow to all approaching motorists. These would remain covered until the new one-way system goes into effect.

There are as yet no permanent plans for the centerpiece of the traffic circle.

Tuk-tuk driver Rachen Kawiket who collects fares at a prime lo-

cation on Thaweewong Road near the Bangla Road junction, was unaware of the planned change.

The 24-year-old said he was had not heard of any public hearing process underway and was opposed to any change in the existing system, which he said "worked fine".

Another 40-year-old tuk-tuk driver on Thaweewong Road said that he also did not join in any public hearings.

Return of lifeguards lost in sea of red tape

THE Phuket Lifeguard Club on Tuesday recalled all of its lifeguards and will hand in its life-saving equipment by the end of the month.

The news comes as the club's contract with the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) to provide lifeguard services expired on Monday.

"I have yet to be informed when we will be back on duty. That depends on the *OrBorJor* and the new contract," said Uten Singsom, head of the Phuket Lifeguard Club unit stationed at Kata and Karon beaches.

Club President Prathaiyut "Nut" Chuayuan told the *Gazette*, "According to the contract, we must return all equipment to the *OrBorJor* in order to get our one-million-baht deposit back. We will check all the equipment and have it all returned to the *OrBorJor* by the end of this week."

An officer at the *OrBorJor* Tourism Department said that not a single company placed a bid to provide lifeguard services in the recent tender for the contract.

A second round of bidding will be held soon, the officer said.

– Chutharat Plerin



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Phuket Airport director Pratuang Sornkham said security checks at the airport have been stepped up.

Police 'firm but polite' in security boost

POLICE this week were asked to be "firm, but polite" in conducting security searches in the wake of the Yala and Haad Yai bombings last Saturday.

"Tourists have learned from the media that Haad Yai is in Southern Thailand, and may think that because Phuket is also in Southern Thailand that there may be problems here, too. This will probably affect tourism in Phuket.

"Even though we have never had such an attack here, we need to step up our security measures to make sure that nothing bad happens," Phuket Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada told a meeting attended by Phuket International Airport Director Pratuang Sornkham, Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Peerayut Karajedee and officers of Phuket's three District Offices.

"Officers need to check places that are at risk of bomb attacks and search groups from 'different places' [sic] coming into Phuket," V/Gov Chamroen said.

"Officers searching people and their vehicles should be polite," he added.

V/Gov Chamroen asked Deputy Commander Peerayut to coordinate with police from every station in Phuket to boost security in public places and to coordinate with private businesses such as supermarkets, shops and tourist venues to set their own firm security measures.

Officials send B182mn of pirated goods up in flames

THE Phuket Town incinerator last week reduced to ashes counterfeit products valued at more than 182 million baht as part of the Intellectual Property Department's (IPD) crackdown on copyright infringement across the country.

A total of 79,524 items were destroyed in the incinerator.

"Intellectual property infringement is illegal, so these items must be destroyed," said Deputy Commerce Minister Bhumi Saraphol, one of the VIPs at the event.

"The destruction [of such goods] must be shown to the public to make this clear, and to assure the owners of those intel-

lectual properties that the confiscated items will not be exported abroad or resold at the markets," explained Mr Bhumi.

Bags, CDs, DVDs, watches, sunglasses, shoes, caps and clothing items were all included in the burn-off, held on March 29.

Among the items torched were 2mn baht of counterfeit goods seized by the Kathu Police in Patong the previous day.

The mass burn-off was the result of a coordinated campaign by the Intellectual Property Department, the Royal Thai Police and their Department of Special Investigations, the Customs Department and the Ministry of Finance.



Pirated goods valued at more than 182 million baht were shoveled into the Phuket Town incinerator. Photo: Orawin Narabal

New incinerator to burn off overflowing landfill

By Orawin Narabal

PHUKET's second trash incinerator at the Saphan Hin facility is almost fully complete and is expected to be operational by May.

Prachum Suriya, chief of the Phuket City Municipality Environment Office, told the *Gazette* that construction of the second waste incinerator is now 95 per cent complete.

"The remaining five percent includes office accommodation and surrounding environment. At present, the staff is checking the new incinerator system. They will begin a burn test in a few days," he said.

"Right now the incinerator burner is running, but we haven't loaded trash into it yet. It needs time to heat it up to 400 C, after which we will start loading trash for the test.

"The new incinerator will be tested for about a month, then we will start using it for real," said Mr Prachum.



At 960 million baht, the new waste incinerator is due to come on line in May to start dealing with the overflowing landfill. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

Project contractor PJT Technology spent 960 million baht on construction of the new burner. The Environment Office applied to Cabinet at the meeting in Phuket last month to approve 89mn baht for back-burning the landfill and

renovating the area for the future use, Mr Prachum explained.

"When the new incinerator is operational, the old incinerator will be shut down for renovations. That should take about 20 months. We are just waiting for the budget

allocation," he added.

The current landfill at the site is full and there is currently more than 600 tons of trash arriving each day to be burned.

Completion of Klong Koh Pee overpass, which was recently approved by Cabinet, will facilitate the faster delivery of waste, as most trash delivered comes from the western route, he added.

"We will start burning off the landfill as soon as the new incinerator is fully operational," Mr Prachum said.

Phuket City Deputy Mayor Thaworn Jeeraphat in 2010 told the *Gazette* that contractor PJT is bound by the terms of the tender to burn initially at least 300 tons of trash a day, as well as any excess it can from the landfills.

Phuket City Municipality will also implement a program to reclaim whatever recyclable materials can be salvaged from the landfills before trash is taken for incineration, Mr Thaworn added.

Alcohol ban 'requested' for royal cremation ceremony

PHUKET night entertainment venues are not required to adhere to the "suspension law" during the royal cremation of Her Royal Highness Princess Bejaratana Rajasuda Sirisobha Pannavadi from April 8 to 10, the Phuket Governor secretary has confirmed.

"The closure of night entertainment venues and suspension alcohol sales during the royal cremation ceremony is effective only in Bangkok," said Manus Nukhao.

"All nightlife venues [in Phuket] can operate as normal. However, those who would like to pay their respect to HRH Princess Bejaratana are welcomed to suspend their businesses during that period," he added.

Businesses are asked to fly flags at half-mast during the period and April 9 will be a public holiday.

Meanwhile, Phuket will face an islandwide ban on the sale of alcohol on April 7-8 for local elections.

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By Chutharat Plerin

A REPRESENTATIVE of Phuket's Tiger Group of entertainment and nightlife venues has publicly lashed out against an onslaught of allegations made by MP Chuwit Kamolvisit.

The entertainment group is even considering legal action, said Thamrongsak Boonrak, legal counselor to the Tiger Group management.

The threat of legal action follows Kathu Police on March 28 conducting surprise raids of businesses run by the Tiger Group in Patong, following a slew of recent allegations by MP Chuwit that "the largest casino in Southern Thailand" was being operated in one of their establishments, which was also allegedly involved in prostitution.

The raids, led by Patong Police Superintendent Arayapan Pukbuakhao, followed shortly after officers saw outspoken Rak Prathet Thai (Love Thailand) Party leader and party list MP Chuwit on Thai TV Channel 7.

Mr Chuwit earlier that afternoon complained to national and Police Region 8 officers that the Tiger Group was operating a casino out of one of their entertainment complexes in Patong that had a daily turnover of 100 mil-

Tiger roars back

Phuket's Tiger Group threatens legal action over MP Chuwit's allegations



The top floors of Tiger Discotheque are still under construction.

lion baht, said the televised report.

Another gambling den located in Thung Thong Police District turned over 70 to 80 million baht a day, he alleged.

Both venues were allowed to operate thanks to payoffs to high-ranking police officers, who were also involved in an underground

lottery racket, said MP Chuwit.

With these allegations in mind, Col Arayapan led the media and Kathu District officers on a tour of some of the properties allegedly involved.

At one of them, the new Tiger Disco on Bangla Road, he met Thamrongsak Boonrak, legal



Thamrongsak Boonrak

counselor to the Tiger Group management, who ruled out MP Chuwit's allegations.

"First of all, Mr Chuwit's allegations against us were not only completely out of line – they were rubbish. He said we have a daily turnover of 100 million day from operating a gambling den upstairs.

That is not true at all.

"In fact we are still under construction. Look around and you will see equipment all over the floor and technicians working. We are installing a 57-million-baht light and sound system," Mr Thamrongsak said.

Mr Thamrongsak also refuted another allegation, recently made by Mr Chuwit, that Tiger Group was one of many Phuket businesses involved in prostitution.

"I'm willing to meet Mr Chuwit in front of the media – anytime, anywhere. Our design theme here is to have boutique stucco art to show foreigners. We are not in the prostitution business.

"It is true we have a disco and beer bars downstairs, but our dancers are not prostitutes," he said.

"What he [Mr Chuwit] said could really ruin our reputation and business. What will financial institutions think of us?" he asked.

"Police inspected both Tiger Discotheque and Tiger Live Band. We are now considering legal action against Mr Chuwit," said Mr Thamrongsak.

"From what I have observed they run beer bars downstairs and upstairs is still under construction.

"These are the facts I will include in my report to the provincial police commander," Col Arayapansaid.

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Locals point finger at fishy emissions



Tourists unload at the docks near the fishmeal plant. Photo: Stephen Fein

A GROUP of residents in Rassada have filed a complaint against the Saeng Aroon fishmeal factory, claiming its emissions are causing health problems, but the plant management says it complies with all industry standards.

About 20 people gathered at Provincial Hall last week to file the complaint. In addition to health problems, emissions from the plant were affecting business at a nearby shipyard that employs community members, the complaint read.

Its emissions leave yellow stains on the vessels that are difficult to remove. This, and the powerful smell, was driving business away from the shipyard, which often works on foreigners' vessels, they said.

The problem continues to worsen, indicating that the factory is not operating to proper pollution control standards, they said.

An office worker at the plant said she was aware of the complaint, but had no idea who was

behind it.

"This factory was established more than 30 years ago, when the whole area was just a mangrove forest. Currently, there are three fishmeal factories in the same area," she explained.

"Those who are not used to the smell can find it intense – some even pass out. But people who live in this area have never complained to us about it," she said.

The factory runs intermittently depending on the supply of fish and tries to run the machinery at night to save on electricity, she said.

Inspectors from both the Phuket Industry and Livestock Offices had recently toured the facility and found nothing amiss, she said.

"Dumrongtham Center has yet to contact me regarding the complaint," she told the *Gazette*.

The company does its best to eliminate bad odors and has a three meter-long filter installed in the smokestack, she said.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

Rental operators lead car hunt

By Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai

A HOST of Phuket car rental agents are calling for more police action in recovering vehicles stolen from them.

The move follows the recovery of 17 stolen cars from a "car pawn yard" in Nakhon Sri Thammarat last week.

The group claim that at least 14 more cars have been stolen by the alleged scam artists, identified as Sukanya Janthanarak, 40, and Supaluck Krutmanee, 44.

One Phuket rental car agent's Toyota Fortuner was caught by Customs officials at Mae Sai as three men tried to take the car out of Thailand and into Myanmar.

Another rental operator said she had lost eight cars to the scammers.

Yet another rental agent said she was told by Sukanya to deposit 300,000 baht into a Government Savings Bank account if she wanted to get her car back after Sukanya claimed she lost it to a casino over a gambling debt.

Speaking at the Phuket Press Club office at Phuket Provincial Hall, Anan Jutamas said he rented his car out through his friend's business, Phuket Kuya Car Rent.

"My friend told me that customers wanted to rent my two cars. I found out later that the customers were Sukanya and Supaluck, and they rented the cars on March 19," said Mr Anan.

"I installed GPS on one car [a Toyota Fortuner] and I kept checking the signal to see where it was. Then when I checked again, the signal said the car was at Mae Sai, in Chiang Rai province, so I thought something was wrong.

"The GPS system I installed allows me to shut off the ignition from home. So I did that and reported my car as stolen to the Mae Sai Police," he added.

"By the time they found my car, it had been impounded by Customs officers who seized it from three men trying to take it into Myanmar. They didn't have the ownership book to prove they owned the car, so they were arrested and now my car is being held by Mae Sai Customs, which is asking 500,000 baht for it to be returned to me.

"Meanwhile, my other car has no GPS installed and it is still missing," Mr Anan said.

Mr Anan's friend Kuya Kumuda, who owns Phuket Kuya Car Rent, also had cars stolen.

"Miss Sukanya and Miss Supaluck said they wanted to rent three cars for their foreign customers. Since I had GPS installed on all three cars, I wasn't scared to rent them out," he said.



Group claims that at least 14 more cars than was first reported were stolen. Photo: Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai

Two of the cars were recovered from the raid on the Nakhon Sri Thammarat "pawn yard", but his Fortuner is still missing.

Lakana Omchompu, owner of Ice Fashion car rental in front of Surakul Stadium, said she lost eight cars to the pair.

"The first time Sukanya rented a car from me was in August last year. She said she wanted to rent my cars to other people and that I would have guaranteed monthly income if I rented cars to her.

"I trusted her because she gave me 30,000 baht in advance plus 30,000 baht as a guarantee deposit, but after paying this money she never came back. I never thought about installing GPS in any of my cars, but I might consider it now," she added.

Ms Lakana said another woman had recently rented a car from her, and that she was wary of being caught out again.

"Another person came to rent another car. She identified herself as Ms Janthip Saeheab. I think they are all related," she added.

Kwanjai Kaewsapab, who so far has lost a Toyota Fortuner and a Proton sedan to the scam, has likely had the most success in tracking down the tricksters.

"On March 6, a friend contacted me saying a woman wanted to rent a car from me. So I met this woman at the Tesco Lotus store in Cherng Talay. The woman identified herself as Miss Duangporn Suwan," she said.

"I agreed to rent my Fortuner to her at 45,000 baht a month, from March 6 to April 5. Two days later she called me back and said she wanted to rent my Proton at 18,000 baht for one month, from March 8 to April 7.

"On March 10, I called her just to tell her that the registration sticker

was in the glove box, but she didn't answer my phone," she said.

Sensing something was wrong, Ms Kwanjai double-checked the photocopy of the ID card she was given by "Miss Duangporn" and then returned to the Tesco Lotus in Cherng Talay to check CCTV footage of the day she met her.

"That's when I realized that the woman I met and rented my car out to was not the Miss Duangporn Suwan I have the photocopy of the ID card for.

"I reported this to Cherng Talay Police, and while I was literally sitting in the police station, this woman [Sukanya] called me and told me that

both of my cars were at a casino.

"She said she had lost them gambling and had to leave the cars there. She also said that if I wanted my cars back, I would have to transfer 300,000 baht to her bank account," Ms Kwanjai said.

Ms Kwanjai handed the phone over to a police officer, who pretended to be a bank teller.

"She gave the number of her account at the Government Savings Bank, then the police officer and I went to the bank. The branch manager printed out a copy of the ID card provided to open the account and that's when I learned that the person I dealt with was Miss Sukanya Janthanarak," she added.

Ms Kwanjai may have come up with a photo and ID card of the wanted scam artist, "but I still haven't got my cars back," she said.

Taxi driver Jeerasak Kakate also lost a Fortuner to the scam.

All car rental operators present last night said they wanted the media to raise this issue with the public since the police officers have not been able to find their cars.

"We will be back to file a complaint about this to the Phuket Governor," Ms Kwanjai said.



SUSPECT: Sukanya Janthanarak

the sixth phuket

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QUEER news

Phone snatch for quick sex

A SUDDEN outbreak of horniness got an unemployed man in Hat Yai in serious legal trouble last week.

So strong was 28-year-old Sinpakorn Khongkert's need for sex that he went into a local beauty salon and snatched a shop assistant's cellphone.

Mr Sinpakorn then pawned the device, using the proceeds to rent a prostitute and a hotel room.

Mr Sinpakorn said the romp made him feel better – until the police came knocking at his apartment.

He told Hat Yai's Khahong District officers that he was lying on his bed on March 21 when he suddenly started thinking about sex.

Mr Sinpakorn left his apartment and went to the Nutra Clinic beauty-center, since he knew the assistant who worked at the counter was usually standing on her own and would not dare to resist him.

He entered the beauty-center and snatched Prakaidao Chamruenrak's phone out of her hand.

He then ran out and pawned the Blackberry for 2,000 baht.

His next stop was a local brothel, where he paid for the services of one of the girls and took her off the premises.

He spent a couple of hours with the woman in a local love-motel before returning home.

Unfortunately for the horny culprit, the theft was caught on CCTV, and the police were able to trace his steps.

– Siang Tai

Phi Phi bar manager 'may not recover' from attack

By Orawin Narabal

THE 31-year-old Finnish tourist charged with causing serious bodily harm to a Thai female bar manager on Phi Phi Island earlier this month has been released on 300,000 baht bail.

Mr Petri was involved in a bar fight on Phi Phi Island on March 9. The altercation left 29-year-old Ms Saen Chinno, the manager of the nearby Breakers Bar, unconscious with a serious head injury.

She was rushed to Bangkok Hospital Phuket in Phuket Town, where she was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). Ms Saen underwent surgery and was later moved to a general recovery room at the hospital.

However, the lawyer representing Mr Petri on March 29 approached the *Phuket Gazette* to explain details of the fight on March 9 that led to Ms Saen being hospitalized.

Many of the details provided in Mr Petri's initial statement to police do not concur with the initial media report, said Mr Chadchol Tanawatpaisarn.

"Mr Petri was at the Slinky bar with his girlfriend, Ms Jannina, and his friends at about 2am, when he saw Ms Saen push Ms Jannina's shoulder. So he pushed her back. His friends saw the situation and stopped him and Ms Saen walked away," said Mr Chadchol.

However, that incident was just the beginning, he said.

"A few minutes later, all of his friends returned to their hotel and it was just Mr Petri and Jannina at the bar. He saw Ms Saen and her



Doctors are unsure if Ms Saen will ever fully recover. Photo Facebook

friends walk towards them and then Ms Saen hit him on the head with a bottle," said Mr Chadchol, citing Mr Petri's initial statement to police given on March 9.

In his statement, Mr Petri said, "I pushed Ms Saen away and then I realized that my head was bleeding, so I walked away.

"Ms Saen followed me and when I saw her, I was afraid she might hurt me again, so I defended myself by punching her in the face one time and when she fell down, I sat on her and hit her head on the cement floor several times.

"My girlfriend came in and stopped me and we started walking back to my place, but Ms Saen's friends followed me. I was afraid they would hurt me, so I

ran away," Mr Petri said.

Ms Jannina called Mr Petri and he agreed to go to the police station with the police officers who arrived at the scene.

"I confessed to the charge and was sent to assist police officers in conducting their investigation," Mr Petri said.

"I did not use any weapons to hit Ms Saen and I hit her because I was drunk and I was afraid she might hurt me again. All I wanted to do was defend myself," Mr Petri said in his statement.

"At that time I didn't realize how hurt she was or that she was unconscious," he added.

Although released on bail, Mr Petri must present himself to Krabi Provincial Court every 12 days

until his case is heard in court.

"Mr Petri told me to tell the *Gazette*, 'I am very sorry for what has happened and I will pay for all of Ms Saen's medical bills'," Mr Chadchol said.

So far that amount is 325,237 baht, Mr Chadchol confirmed.

Mr Chadchol explained that Ms Saen is now fully conscious and starting to remember some details about herself.

"However, she still can't remember much about the situation involving Mr Petri," he said.

Ms Saen's sister Wassana Chinno told the *Gazette* today that Ms Saen has been discharged from Bangkok Hospital Phuket.

"She was unconscious when she arrived at Bangkok Hospital. She regained consciousness about an hour later, but was kept in the ICU for about six days.

"She had to undergo an operation to stop the bleeding in her brain. The doctors had to remove a section of her skull. The operation was successful and she was discharged from the hospital on March 22," she said.

Ms Saen is now staying with her aunt in Phuket.

"She can talk and move, but her memory is affected. She can remember her family and she remembers most of her friends, but she cannot recall their names.

"The other day I gave her an apple and told her it was an apple, but the next day I gave her banana and asked her what it was... And she said 'It's an apple.'

"Her doctor said she needs to rest for six months, but is not sure whether or not Saen will ever fully recover.

Bangkok Hospital Phuket opens new specialist Spine Center

GOOD news for sufferers of back pain and other spine-related conditions came with the opening of a new Spine Clinic at Bangkok Hospital Phuket last week.

The clinic, the first of its kind in Phuket, is accredited by the Bangkok Spine Academy (BSA), which is certified by the US-based Joint Commission International.

Bangkok Hospital Phuket director Dr Narongrit Havarungsi, who presided over the opening ceremony on March 31, accepted the BSA accreditation certificate from BSA microscopic surgeon Dr Chaiyuth Suteerayongprasert.

Dr Narongrit, also an orthopedic surgeon, said the number of spine-related complaints appears to be on the rise. These have a number of underlying causes ranging from work-related injuries, aging, congenital conditions and microbial infection.



Spinal clinic staff demonstrate specialist micro-surgical equipment

The Spine Clinic, established jointly by the Bangkok Hospital Phuket Orthopedic Center and the BSA, offers a range of cutting-edge services and technologies, increasing new treatment options for spinal patients.

Dr Chaiyuth, a Bangkok Hospital Phuket microsurgeon, said the Spine Clinic offers minimally-invasive surgery that is safer, less

painful and produces smaller wounds, allowing patients to heal faster and carry on with life.

The Spine Clinic also offers special injections to relieve pain in patients with compressed nerves.

The Spine Clinic is now open daily from 8am to 5pm. For more information call the hospital call center on 1719.

– Stephen Fein

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Bomb blasts target shoppers

AROUND THE nation

IN ONE of the worst days of violence in Thailand's restive Deep South, suspected separatist insurgents launched three coordinated car-bomb attacks in Yala, Haad Yai and Pattani last weekend, killing at least 14 people and wounding hundreds more.

The explosions appeared to target civilians doing their shopping, prompting fears that the insurgency may have entered a dangerous new phase.

Just before noon on Saturday, a truck bomb tore through restaurants and shops in Yala Town center.

Twenty minutes later, a second car bomb went off in the same area. The explosion hit the crowd of civilians and officials who had gathered around the initial bomb site, causing scores of injuries.

Soon afterward in the city of Haad Yai in Songkhla province, a bomb went off in the underground

car park of the Lee Gardens Hotel, which is popular with tourists.

Three people were killed in the attack and hundreds of tourists were trapped in the upper floors of the 33-storey building.

The explosion triggered a fire and damaged several fast-food outlets, including a McDonald's and a Sizzler.

At least 230 people were injured in the attack, most from smoke inhalation.

Many suspects in the bombing have been named with security sources alleging Sahudin Tohjehmae carried out the attacks in Yala, with the help of Saifulloh Sahfru.

Security analysts said the attacks showed a level of ambition and sophistication not seen in attacks in the region in some time.

"It is a significant escalation in terms of the scale of the attacks, with three car bombs and one motorcycle bomb [targeting a policeman in a restaurant in Mae Lan District, Pattani province] in one operation," Anthony Davis, a Bangkok-based security analyst with IHS-Janes, told *The Christian Science Monitor*.



PM Yingluck Shinawatra visits a woman injured in the bombing of Lee Gardens Plaza Hotel. Photo: The Nation

The Haad Yai and Yala Town bombings were unprecedented in their ruthlessness because civilians out shopping on a busy Saturday afternoon were targeted.

The attacks will likely do serious damage to Haad Yai's tourism industry. Around 60 per cent of hotel bookings in the city were canceled following the bombing.

The Isara News Agency, a local media website, suggested the

attacks may have been prompted by ongoing negotiations between Thai state agencies and separatist groups based abroad.

Representatives from the National Security Council and the Royal Thai Army have met with some leaders of the movement in Malaysia, attempting to broker a cease-fire.

However, there is skepticism among many analysts that the lead-

ers are able to control the insurgency. They are believed to be among an "old guard" of separatists who do not command the current generation of insurgents.

The insurgency, which until the Haad Yai bombing had generally confined to the provinces of Yala, Pattani, Narathiwat and four other districts of Songkhla, has claimed at least 5,000 lives since it flared up in 2004.

'Mob banker' nabbed in Thailand

A FUGITIVE banker suspected of laundering millions of US dollars for the Sicilian Mafia was arrested at Suvarnabhumi Airport, Bangkok last week after decades on the run.

Vito Roberto Palazzolo, 64, was implicated in the infamous "Pizza Connection" drug and money laundering trial.

Prosecutors alleged Mr Palazzolo was a member of the Cosa Nostra crime family and part of a scheme that saw heroin and cocaine smuggled into the United States with New York pizzerias used as fronts.

In 2009, Italy's highest court upheld a 2006 conviction and nine-year sentence against Mr Palazzolo for Mafia association.



INTERPOL has praised Thailand for the capture of 'mob banker' Vito Palazzolo. Photo: INTERPOL

The former Swiss banker denied the charges. He claimed he was made a scapegoat in the case as he was the only Sicilian working at a bank suspected of involvement with the mob.

However, he admitted to returning about US\$ 6 million (about 185 million baht) to the Mafia in 1982, but claimed he had been blackmailed into it.

Mr Palazzolo, who had changed his name to Robert von Palace

Kolbatschenko, had been living in South Africa, which refused an Italian request to extradite him.

Investigators were able to identify him through his Facebook page. They informed the Thai police, who arrested him when he arrived at the Bangkok airport.

MMA fights banned

THE Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT) has banned mixed martial arts (MMA), claiming the fledgling sport is "too brutal" and could damage the image of Muay Thai.

SAT officials met last month and decided that it was illegal under the 1999 boxing act to stage an MMA event in the country.

SAT deputy governor Sakol Wannapong told reporters that MMA would "hurt the image of Muay Thai".

"Organizing MMA events here could mislead the public into believing that Muay Thai is brutal," he said.

The ban is not expected to affect the availability of MMA training offered at camps around the country.

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Only one way to solve Patong's problems

THE *Phuket Gazette* applauds a long-overdue plan to reverse the flow of the one-way traffic system in Patong, but sees little hope for salvaging what remains of the town's attractiveness to tourists until a genuine public transport system is introduced.

No other topic has been the subject of more futile editorializing in this space over the years than the island's public transport, or lack thereof.

While this is an island-wide problem, in no part of Phuket is it more evident than on the streets of Patong, where scores of tuk-tuks line the streets, are parked on sidewalks and even block resort entrances, creating a traffic nightmare.

While the atmosphere that prevails may present a novelty experience to first-time visitors, it is one that wears off very quickly under the steady onslaught of persistent touting by taxi drivers, tailor touts, trinket sellers, prostitutes and many others who make their living on the street by annoying and even accosting passersby.

It may be difficult, but imagine the myriad of problems Patong is facing that would be overcome if there were reasonably-priced "baht buses" or similar conveyances running a ring route around the town. Traffic would be drastically reduced, parking would become available to tourists, the number of violent confrontations between tourists and tuk-tuk drivers would drastically drop, air quality would improve, fewer tourists would be forced to rent motorbikes and take to the streets, often drunk and unfamiliar with the road network and local driving habits. The number of people, Thais and foreigners, maimed in road accidents there each year would plummet.

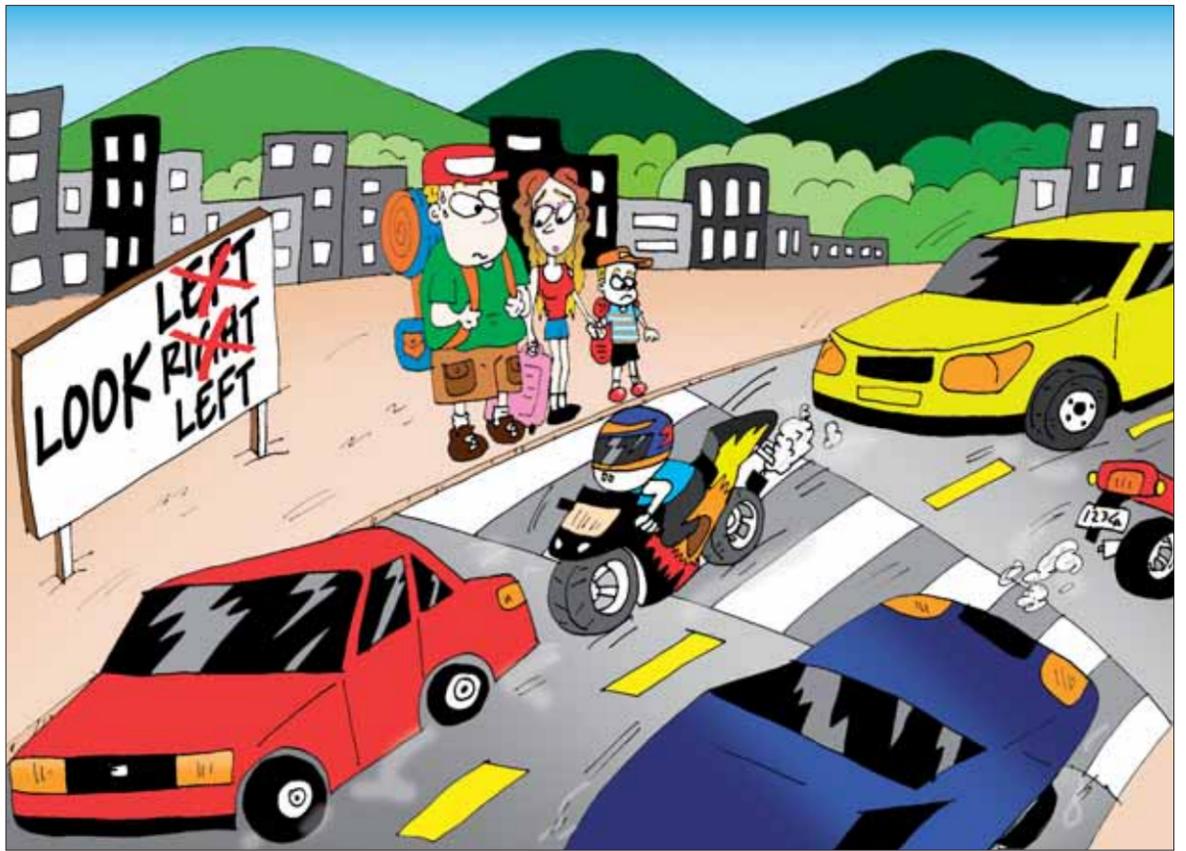
The list is far too extensive to detail in full here, but the benefits would accrue to the vast majority of Patong residents and business owners, as well as the tourists they rely on to make a living.

It wouldn't take a master urban planner to figure out the optimal public-transportation route, as it could just follow the one-way system, allowing tourists to get on and off at their convenience anywhere along Thaweewong Road or Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi roads.

Yet, despite the current situation in Patong, it was recently announced by the director of the Expressway Authority of Thailand that his agency has been assigned and funded by the Cabinet to build a tunnel and toll road under Patong Hill, making vehicular access to the town easier.

It is truly a pity that the Cabinet did not force Patong Municipality, a long-time proponent of a tunnel, to first introduce a real public transport system as a proviso for approval of this project.

Now the very ugly prospect of a Patong choked with even more tuk-tuks is all we are left to imagine.



Phuket turns tourists away

It is amazing to read in two consecutive issues of the *Phuket Gazette* about the efforts of the Tourism Authority of Thailand to promote tourism and at the same time, hear from friends, who were to arrive with a big cruise ship at Patong on March 27, that their visit was cancelled.

Immigration officials wanted to see all passengers who wanted to go ashore eye to eye, a process that would take five hours.

Instead the cruise ship went from Penang to Langkawi and all the trips and tour buses in Phuket were cancelled, a loss to the economy and the good name of Phuket.

At Bangkok all the passengers got off without any problems and had a great time visiting all the attractions there.

Kars Paulus
Rawai

On your marks, get set – it's a start!

Re: *Gazette online, Speed cameras, booze buses in Phuket for Songkran, March 27*

We can all see the pitfalls, but I think it is a great effort, as you have to start somewhere.

Soon, the rental companies will actually start to check their clients and ask to see licenses, and the registration of vehicles will be checked more.

It is definitely a step in the right direction!

Tinkerbelle
Gazette forum

Man goes 'ape'

Re: *Gazette online, Man survives high-tension drama in Phuket, March 27*

The fact that no social workers were contacted to help this man

Letters to the Editor

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

"gone ape", for a lack of a better way of putting it, is unbelievable.

We live on a stunning island where, though not a daily experience, it is not unusual to see a multi-million-baht Lamborghini snaking through traffic, yet there was no attempt to help a man who clearly is in need of more than a ladder.

These sorts of social-economic discrepancies and the lack of the social fabric needed to catch these far flung individuals is disgusting.

I am sincerely thankful that the man was coaxed down from his precarious perch, but feel like it was really a short-sighted, quick fix.

Andy Churt
Patong

One-upping Earth Hour, by request

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket Earth Hour – 'I will if you will', March 31*

Thank you so much for the reminder. It felt a little ironic that I used half a tank of gas to get to my camp site, but I took the "plus" part of the 60+ minutes and just shut everything in the house off besides the refrigerator and headed into the great outdoors.

I had no idea that Earth Hour had only started in 2007.

I was looking at old photos of Earth hour as seen from space and I must admit I was disappointed. I hope this year we had a more impressive blackout.

Trevor Green
Rawai

Snow White beauties

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket model crowned Miss Thailand World 2012, March 26*

The idea of beauty which dominates in Thailand and most of the rest of Asia is: white skin, western-looking face, 170 cm height (at least) and, possibly, 'luk-kreung' genes.

Just think of some of the slogans for commercials of whitening cosmetics you hear on Thai TV channels: "dark skin is unhealthy", "dark skin is bad" and so on. It's 24/7 brainwashing.

So yes, 99 per cent of Thai beauties do not look "Thai".

Hugo
Gazette forum

Blind look for wood

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket Andaman News: Police raid illegal Phang Nga logging camp, March 28*

Incredible, take a drive out from Phang Nga around the back of Khao Lak. The whole district has been, and continues to be, raped.

Wagonloads of timber are constantly on the move and it takes a tip-off with photos to get them to do anything.

You would have to be blind not to see what has happened. Whole mountains are stripped, all the way to Khao Sok.

Andre
Gazette forum

Gunning for Songkran

With Songkran just a week away, I've started stocking up on cheap Hawaiian-style shirts.

Last year's five gallon bucket is ready to go and the arsenal is being stocked – hasta la vista, baby.

Michael Coons
Patong

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Turtles throw in the towel for Mai Khao

FIRST PERSON

THE sea turtle situation in Phuket is very worrying. There has been a long history of sea turtles laying eggs on Mai Khao Beach, but that stopped abruptly.

More than 10 sea turtles used to lay eggs on Mai Khao Beach every year, but the last time we saw turtles nesting there was before the tsunami struck in 2004. That year we saw only two leatherback turtles nesting. We have not seen a single sea turtle egg hatching on that beach since.

According to our records, before the tsunami there were green, olive ridley and leatherback sea turtles nesting on Mai Khao Beach. Since then, all we have seen are dead sea turtles washed ashore.

We coordinate with JW Marriot and the Mai Khao Marine Turtle Conservation Fund to launch campaigns and educate children about sea-turtle conservation.

We teach children what is affecting sea turtles and stage beach cleanups.

It is illegal for anyone to fish within 3km of national park waters, but we don't have the equipment or the authority to enforce these laws as a way of protecting sea turtles.

We used to file complaints with the Phuket Provincial Fisheries Office and Sirinart National Park when we witnessed people encroaching on protected areas. They did great work on shore, but were not very successful on the water.



Manot Saytong, 55, was born and raised in Mai Khao. Today he is a village headman in Mai Khao and has been the head of the informal Mai Khao Sea Turtle Conservation Club since 1997. He joined the club in 1987. Here he talks about the disappearance of sea turtles from Phuket beaches.



Young turtles released in May 2009 in Phang Nga. Photo: Gazette file

We asked them to ban dragnet and lure fishing near the coast during nesting season. But the fishermen never stopped fishing.

We believe the dead turtles that have washed ashore were killed by fishermen after they became stuck in their fishing nets. The fishermen kill them and throw them into the sea because it's illegal to bring them back to shore and they don't want to take responsibility for their actions.

Also, people's beliefs about sea

turtles have changed. It used to be taboo to eat turtles, because doing so would bring you bad luck. When people believed this, they liked to let the turtles go unharmed, believing that it would improve their own lives.

Now, some people believe that eating parts of sea turtles is good for their sexual prowess.

Although all sea-turtle products are illegal, the prices they fetch are so high that it is tempting for some people – money is the only thing some people care about.

We can't do anything about these people while at sea; but we can do our best on shore to help the turtles.

During the nesting season, we have teams guard the beaches to prevent people from catching turtles or stealing their eggs. We also coordinate with the police and national park officers.

When we are working with the officers and we see someone tampering with turtles on the beach, we have the authority to arrest them.

My only wish is that sea turtles nesting on Mai Khao will not become just another a legend for our next generation.



PARTY BUS: The best seats for a safe drive home after a night on Bangla, too bad they aren't available. Photo: Tradalaj

Booze buses or bust

Island View

By Damian Evans

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

THIS simple idea of venues providing booze buses for drunken patrons to get home during the Songkran holidays should be seized upon and championed until it becomes a "normal" part of Phuket's nightlife.

I am so tired of hearing *farang* complain about the Phuket police, constantly whining about how inept they are. So now the police have come up with a good idea, where is all the support?

How many more drunk-driving deaths do we have to read about before action is taken? Not to mention the additional safety the project would provide for women tourists who, out enjoying themselves while on holiday in Phuket, are faced with the potentially horrific consequences of trying to get back to their hotel rooms safely.

Thailand's roads have for years been gaining a reputation around the world for being notoriously dangerous, and kudos to the *Gazette* for publishing so

many stories about road accidents that it is impossible for even the most ignorant of people not to make note of how dangerous they can be.

And here, the police are trying to get a scraping of influence over Phuket's public transport – operated by one of the most influential cartels on the island – and I am not hearing a murmur of support.

Shame, Phuket. Shame.

The least we can do is voice our support for this. The *Gazette* could even offer a free listing of all the businesses offering a booze bus service over Songkran so tourists and islanders alike can choose to enjoy their Songkran party venue knowing that they will at least have a better chance of getting home alive.

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

Propagating solutions for post office problems

Delays in postal delivery service

Our postal delivery service has been really slow since November or December last year, and it's getting worse. Sometimes the bills we receive are already overdue. Credit card statements, which we were supposed to have received at the beginning of the month, are delivered around the middle of the month or nearly at the end of the month.

Yuvanart Kanta-opas
Phuket Town

Officer of Phuket Provincial Post Office Ms Jarawan Eiatduong replies:

Starting last August, we have been receiving complaints about postal delivery delays from people living in Moo 2 and Moo 6, along Thepkrasattri Road in Rassada. The delays are only occurring



POST: Getting things sorted at Rawai postal office. Photo: Isaac Stone Simonelli

in the Rassada area.

We are having delays in that area because the postman who was responsible for that region resigned, and we have not been able to find an appropriate person to

fill the vacancy. We are trying to fix this problem, and hopefully we will be able to make everything better soon.

For more information contact us by phone at 076-212 026 dur-

ing our working hours (Monday to Friday, 8: 30am to 4: 30pm).

Redirecting post office box mail

My friend left Thailand last week after living here for more than 30 years (he is 85 years old). He has had a Post Office box (PO box) at the Phuket Town Post Office for all of this time.

He did not redirect his mail to his address before he left.

He has now ask me to go to the Post Office to check his mail and have the post office redirect his mail to new address for him. I know his PO box number, but I do not have his box key. Is there any way to help him? What do I need to make this work for him?

David Bullard
Chalong

An officer at the Phuket City Post Office replies:

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

You will need to bring in a Power of Attorney (POA) as well as a copy of your friend's passport for us to help in this situation.

Since we do not know the exact amount he left as a deposit I cannot specify how much money you will get back, but we will have to charge for the 'lost key'.

Please feel free to visit our office at 158 Montri road, Phuket City during office hours, 8: 30am to 4: 30pm, Monday to Friday. You can also contact us by phone at 076-211 010.

Fairline Boats: building the best brand in yachting



Fairline motor yachts are built to withstand rough conditions at sea.

By Steven Layne

STANDING out from among the jaw-dropping lineup of luxurious marine vessels displayed last week at the 2012 Phuket International Boat Show (PIMEX) were three signature 'Built-in-Britain' motor yachts.

Complementing an exclusive interview with Fairline Asia's president Bryan Jones, the *Phuket Gazette* was given a guided tour of the single-helm Targa 38, and the double-helm, flybridge Squadron 42 and 78 custom.

"You get what you pay for," summed up Bryan, who could talk all day about the "over-engineered" production qualities and exquisite craftsmanship that Fairline yachts are known for.

"Many boats here look real nice on the inside, and some buyers might be swayed by a cheaper price tag," he continues, "but when those boats are stretched to their limits out in rough seas, buyers will wish they had paid more for the better boat."

Bryan went on to outline the underlying core of Fairline's claim to superiority.



SALES DRIVEN: Bryan Jones sits at the flybridge helm of the Squadron 78.

"For us it's about dedication to quality, which starts with the design of the boat. Our boats are not just made to sit in the marina and look pretty. We want people to go out and actually use them and [for the boats to] be reliable in rough conditions and seas.

"Our boats are over-engineered to last the test of time and live up to our name and reputation. If you came to our factories in England, you would see why our product is better.

"What goes into the design, engineering and production of our models is far more important than big televisions, refrigerators and beds, which anybody can do," he said.

Though secondary to design and engineering, interior finishings are certainly not neglected. Close attention to fine details are a key characteristic of any premium product, and Fairline is no exception.

One example Bryan points out is

the grain consistency and continuity seen on separate, adjacent interior wood panels that have been cut and matched to perfection.

"The main difference with us is we listen to our clients. While some aspects of the design and engineering process cannot be compromised, the transaction goes beyond buying and selling," he said.

"For example, buyers of our larger models are invited to our in-water test facilities in the UK to undergo thorough systems training and handover," he noted.

All in, Fairline has 12 production lines across two shipyards in the UK, each producing a dedicated model, which are marketed in 45 countries through 65 retail locations worldwide, including Phuket.

Since opening a regional office in Singapore in the last quarter of 2008, sales in the Asia Pacific region – including China, India and the Oceania region – have grown by 600%, and amount to just under 30% of the company's overall turnover.

Indeed, Fairline is in a good position to continue to cash in on the upward trend of yachting in Asia.

The company didn't start with

seagoing yachts, Brian notes.

The company's humble beginnings go back to the 1960s when boat builders were just starting to utilize glass reinforced plastic, or fiberglass.

"Founder Jack Newington began refitting and customizing 19-foot river cruisers at an inland marina he had formed by flooding disused gravel pits off the Nene River," he notes.

"Word about his boats, characteristic of a graceful or fair line in the hull shape, spread and demand grew rapidly," he continued.

By the early 1970s, Jack's son, Sam, a Harvard MBA, joined the business and realized that the future was in seagoing boats, Bryan recounts.

The rest is history. In terms of output, volume and sales, business has doubled every decade, Bryan notes.

For more information about Fairline yachts in Thailand, contact their authorized dealer, Derani Yachts: W: derani-yachts.com or W: fairline.com

B6mn market upgrade a fresh new start

RESIDENTS in Phuket Town now have one more cheap, clean and modern market to source fresh produce and other daily use items, following the official opening of the Thawee Saman fresh market.

Located at the entrance of Soi

Panieng, at 30/98 Pracha Uthit Road in the Rassada subdistrict of Mueang district, the market is commonly known to locals as the Soi Panieng market.

Having been in operation as a small flea market for seven

years, the market was upgraded using a budget of five million baht.

Teerawat Thaweesaman presided over the grand re-opening ceremony on March 31, with Phuket MP Raywat Areerob, as well as a number of other senior police officials.

Mr Teerawat, head of Chok Thawee, the limited partnership that administers the market, also used the occasion to donate a police box, some land and other amenities to the provincial police, an estimated value of one million baht.

"The community around Soi Panieng and Sam Kong area has grown a lot and is getting more congested. A cleaner, more modern and standard market will better



CUT TO THE CHASE: Influential figures attended the ceremony.

accommodate the growth of the community," he said.

Sitting on a plot of just over two rai (3,200 square meters) the market features a total of 120 merchant stalls and parking spaces that can accommodate up to 40 cars.

The stalls, available in 3x3 and 3.5x3 meter sizes, will be separated

into the following zones: fresh food, dry food, processed food, clothes and appliances and tools.

The market's hours of operation will be from 5am to 10pm.

Mr Teerawat stressed that the market will emphasize standards in terms of cleanliness, hygiene, convenience and safety, with Closed Circuit TVs (CCTVs) monitoring the premises.

The addition of a police box will increase confidence of security in the area, which has been the site of numerous incidents in the past.

"With the police station so far away from here, police couldn't be dispatched in a timely way, but now this won't be an issue," he said. – K Mueanhawong

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Local SMCEs hold goods fair

A NEW street market featuring items produced under the Ministry of Agriculture's "Small and Micro Community Enterprise" (SMCE) program was held in Phuket Town last weekend.

Kanda Pantong of the Department of Agricultural Extension, Phuket Office (DOAE-Phuket) in Phuket Town told the *Gazette* that similar street markets will be planned for the last weekend of every month.

The street fair was held in front on the DOAE-Phuket office at

the east end of Narisorn Road, and featured over 60 producers displaying products in 30 tents.

Vendors sold a wide variety of products including Phuket pineapples, organic vegetables, goat milk, pearl jewelry, batik garments, fresh and packaged food, potted plants, sweets, spa products and life jackets.

All were produced by small community groups in Phuket under the SMCE program, explained Ms Kanda.

SMCE producers who suc-

cessfully develop their products can apply for further investment funding under the larger One Tambon One Product (OTOP) scheme, she noted.

Purchasing agents from local hotels and restaurants are especially encouraged to attend to develop contacts with promising local suppliers, Ms Kanda said.

For more information call the DOAE-Phuket at 076-216565.

– Stephen Fein

'I see incredible things'

An indepth look into the commercial future of artificial reefs in Phuket waters

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

IN THE tourism game creating memories is everything, explains the Head of Development at Reef Worlds, Dave Taylor.

"If you can create a tourism memory then you have won your game. You have won everything, because that's a memory that never leaves a potential client, and they always come back to it," Taylor told the Phuket Gazette in an exclusive interview.

Reef Worlds was established three years ago with the goal of working alongside resorts to create sustainable artificial reef systems that help reduce tourism pressures on natural reefs. Reef Worlds are fully monetized discrete mini-marine "protected areas" within the resort's own footprint, allowing them to brand the signature underwater experiences of their guests, explained Taylor.

"It's something NGOs [non-government organizations] have been trying to do for years; engage developments to take stake in their oceans. Reef Worlds combines conservation with tourism to get the best out of both worlds," he said.

We now have the technology, interest and mass tourism to allow for a company like ours to come to the fore and really blow out traditional perceptions of what an artificial reef is, Taylor added.

The company, based in Los Angeles in the United States, targets mass tourism across the globe. Reef Worlds has already visited Phuket to talk with two potential clients and is now in the concept stage for those projects.

Taylor pointed out that despite the good work being done by many artificial-reef-building NGOs there is little tourism value in what they do – and tourism drives the economy, especially true in places such as Phuket.

"What we are trying to do is build iconic forms underwater. Forms that people will approach and know from a distance...then when they get really close, they are truly blown away," Taylor said.

Reef Worlds is attempting to create a moment for tourists akin to when Doctor Howard punched through the Valley of the Kings and shined his light inside. When asked what he saw, he whispered back, "I see incredible things".

"We've got a great team. There are guys (with us) who worked on Avatar, Lord of the Rings, you name any Hollywood blockbuster that was really unique and eye popping (and they worked on it)," Taylor explained.

During the design phase of a project, Reef Worlds looks at what iconic design forms are used at the resort and then works with those themes to create a "seamless transition from land to ocean," Taylor said.

However, Reef Worlds is balancing it's revolutionary push into the world of artificial reef construction with the essentials of sustainability.

By using crushed rock, from ancient coral beds, and low PH concrete for their structures they create a "super platform" for wildlife, such as corals to adhere to. These in turn attract the charismatic mega fauna like sharks and manta rays that tourists want to see, explained Taylor.

Taylor admitted Reef Worlds has turned down several projects due to the sites being unsuitable, as the potential clients had asked them to build on "A-class" reefs.

"(We were asked to build on) a beautiful staghorn coral forest, and they were like 'let's just move it'", Taylor said.

"They were missing the whole point," he continued.

What Reef Worlds is looking for are white-



REEF-IVING MARINE TOURISM: A rendering of what an iconic artificial reef might look like.

sand bottoms or crushed coral flats that are denuded of life.

"We promote 'do no harm tourism'," Taylor said.

As part of their "do no harm tourism" Reef Worlds provides 10 years of follow-up analysis for their reefs.

Reef Worlds is confident that their pieces, weighing between 4,500 to 18,000 kilograms are not going anywhere and guarantees them against category five hurricanes.

"If they actually come off the bottom we'll replace them at our cost," Taylor said.

Each individual piece can be stamped up to five times allowing a resort that only has ten designs to have fifty shapes put into the water.

"We design it to be cost effective for the resorts," Taylor said.

A three acre site might cost US\$ 100,000 and a project with all the bells and whistles from a kiddy tide pool to baited monoliths could cost up to US\$ 1 million .

The reefs are a marketing tool, as each

site will be completely branded to the resort with its own name and back story, explained Taylor.

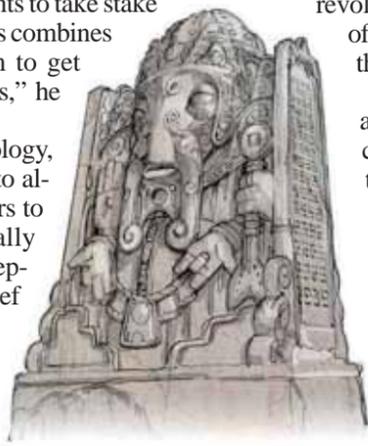
"You need a little vision," admits Taylor, "I've had conversations with folks who don't dive and have been in the resort business for so many years, and they just look at us blankly – wait there is something beyond the hide tide mark? "

After serious coral bleaching and the amount of pressure on reef systems, wildlife is on the move, and people are going with it, Taylor said.

"We are trying to hold down the fort by giving folks what they want to really interact with," he added.

"A Reef Worlds artificial reef is the ultimate marketing tool, because no one else has it. Holiday memories are being created and branded to you [the resort].

"And guests are going to take videos and images and put them up on social media sites, which gives exposure in a way you just can't get to yet," he said.



A sketch of an underwater warrior.

Inflated menu prices a pressing concern

THE Phuket office of the Ministry of Commerce's Department of Internal Trade (DIT) will encourage local food vendors to drop their prices.

Pramarn Urawoon, from the Phuket DIT office, said: "We want to set maximum prices for 'standard Thai dishes'. They shouldn't cost more than 30 baht at any local eatery. Vendors at food courts in shopping malls should not be charging any more than 35 baht per dish."

Phuket DIT officers conducting random price checks have consistently found vendors charging higher prices than this.

"We have already distributed a list of recommended prices for standard dishes, which were calculated using the cost of the ingredients used in making each dish.

"Any complaints of restaurants overcharging for food will be investigated and we will warn the vendors to reduce their prices to the recommended prices on our list," Mr Pramarn said. – *Atchaa Khamlo*

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Yet more scams – be careful out there!



Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

LAST February I wrote about a reader who placed an ad in the *Gazette*, and was strung along by a scammer. The scammer had a long, contrived story that ended with a demand that the person who placed the ad actually send money to the scammer, with threats from PayPal, Western Union and the FBI.

About a month ago, another reader placed an ad in the *Gazette* and was approached by a different scammer. This second reader graciously allowed me to step in, to see if I could figure out how this guy was operating, and perhaps put an end to it.

Here's what happened.

The scammer used a Gmail account (paulweasley01@gmail.com) to send a message asking for details about the boat our reader was trying to sell. The reader immediately smelled a rat, contacted me, and I wrote back to the scammer explaining that the reader was out of the country, but perhaps I could help.

The scammer and I went back and forth about the boat and the sales price, and then he said that he would have a shipper coming from the UK to pick the boat up. "I will be paying the PayPal charges from my account and I will be paying directly into your PayPal account without any delay, and I hope you have a PayPal account."

It just so happens that I have a PayPal account, several of them, so I sent the scammer a dormant PayPal account, listing the shipping pickup address as that of the Kathu Police station. He shot right back: "I have just completed the Payment and am sure you have received the confirmation from PayPal regarding the Payment. You can check your PayPal e-mail for confirmation of payment. A total of US\$ 25,982 was sent, US\$ 24,728

for the item and the extra US\$ 1,200 for my shipper's charges, which you will be sending to the address below via western union (sic)," and he gave me a bogus name with a legitimate address in Devon, UK.

Of course, he hadn't sent anything to anybody, much less PayPal, and a quick check of the account verified that he was spewing smoke. So far, everything had been done via Gmail, so there was no way to trace the guy.

Then I got a message from "Service-Intl.PayPal.Com (notification.verification@consultant.com) saying that, using the PayPal Service Option Secure Payment system, the money would be sent to my PayPal account as soon as I sent the US\$ 1,200 to Western Union in Devon.

I checked the web site consultant.com and it's pretty lame, a database of help wanted ads, with very few ads. So I ran "@consultant.com" through Google and bingo! The email address is being used in scams all over the world. Finally, I checked the email header – the technical stuff at the beginning of the message that you never see – and found that the email itself originated in Lagos, Nigeria.

Checking an email header is a rather arcane pastime, but it's pretty easy to do. In Gmail, click the down arrow next to the message header

and choose "Show Original". The part at the beginning, before the message itself, is the header. You can do the same thing in Outlook with a free add-in called PocketKnife Peek, (found at xintercept.com/peek/pkpeek.htm).

When you have the header, go to the IPTracker web site (iptrackeronline.com/header.php), paste in the header, and it will tell you where the message came from. (There are ways to trick the header, but they're pretty difficult, and most scammers aren't up to the challenge.)

In the end, the scammers sent me three email messages all

```
Registration Service Provided By: LUFEM SYSTEMS LIMITED
Contact: +234.12707067
Domain Name: AMROPRO.COM
Registrant:
Amro
Omoh Asekome (omohasekome@yahoo.com)
12 oia ayeni str
ikeja
lagos, 01
NG
Tel. +234.0705905021
Creation Date: 11-Mar-2012
Expiration Date: 11-Mar-2013
Domain servers in listed order:
n3.hihostnow.com.ng
n4.hihostnow.com.ng
```

The Network Solutions lookup page verified the site is registered in Nigeria.



WATCH IT: 419 scams are the second largest industry in Nigeria worth billions of dollars. Photo: Don Hankins

claiming to be from PayPal (one invoking the name of the FBI), all of which originated in Lagos, Nigeria.

So I now had a couple of email addresses, a physical address in Devon, and an IP address in Nigeria. Even if the physical address was completely bogus, it would be trivial for Western Union to track money being sent to this specific person at that address, and bring in the police if the mule showed up to collect.

That's what I thought. Here's what I found.

I checked the Western Union web site. They have acres of information about scams. But they don't have an email address listed: you have to call them (as if I could read out an email header over the phone). It looks to me like Western Union doesn't really care. Or they're so overwhelmed with scams they can't keep up.

So I went to the PayPal web site, and it was like a breath of fresh air. Lots of warnings, with the PayPal notification email address prominently available. I sent PayPal a copy of the message from Nigeria, header and all. I got a nice reply, "Thanks for forwarding that suspicious-looking email. You're right - it was a phishing attempt, and we're working on stopping the fraud. By reporting the problem, you've made a difference!"

I wrote back to them, to explain it wasn't a phishing attempt, it was a scam attempt, and en-

closed a copy of a different message. In reply, I got the exact same message I received the first time. In all, I mailed PayPal three times, and I doubt that a human being ever read any of the messages.

So I tracked down the Internet Service Provider that "owns" the IP address the scammer was using: MTN Nigeria. The people there were helpful, but the message is disheartening: "all of our 3G network subscribers now sit behind a small number of IP addresses. This is done via a technology called Network Address Translation (NAT). In essence it means that one million subscribers may appear to the outside world as one subscriber, since they are all using the same IP address."

And without a court order, MTN Nigeria couldn't trace down the source of the messages. They did, however, forward my complaint to the local police. I won't hold my breath.

It isn't just the *Phuket Gazette*. This is a variant on the Nigerian "419" scam that's hit Craigslist and just about every online advertiser worldwide. It's so big that some people claim 419 scams are the second largest industry in Nigeria. No joke. Billions of dollars.

Last week I received a message from another reader who's been approached by someone who claims to be interested in buying their condo. The buyer is in the UK, and is willing to buy the condo in Phuket sight unseen. The scammer directed our reader to go to a specific site on

www.amropro.com and fill out a banking form, so ABN-AMRO could transfer the money to them. If you go to amropro.com, you'll see a site that looks like an ABN-AMRO Premier Services location.

But appearances can be deceiving, eh? A quick check on the Network Solutions lookup page verified that the site amropro.com is registered to a Mr Omoh Asekome in...wait for it...Lagos, Nigeria, with domain servers hihostnow.com.ng, also in Nigeria.

I've notified ABN-AMRO, although it's unlikely they'll be able to take the site down, unless they have a branch office in Nigeria. I've also contacted the scammer, who now says he's interested in buying my townhouse in Patong.

Let's see what happens.

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

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



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Avoid being an orphaned client

I HAVE recently run across a number of orphaned clients and it got me thinking that there might be quite a few out there who are frustrated and don't know what to do. An orphaned client is one who has set up some sort of investment policy which is not being managed by their original advisor, and they

Retirement Years

By David Mayes

are thus left on their own. Often they simply just stopped hearing from their advisor or he stopped returning calls, sometimes they have fallen out or had some misunderstanding, and the client communicates that they wish nothing further to do with them.

There are many reasons why some accounts do not get serviced properly, and this often leads to a bad opinion of the product provider who the original advisor recommended. Usually it is not their fault, as they are simply platform providers and do not actually give any advice on suitable time frames for money placed into their structures, the underlying investments and so forth.

The money management industry tends to draw quite a large number of unscrupulous characters who often take their commission check and then abandon their clients. I won't spend a great deal of time on what I think of these types of advisors or their practices, rather I would prefer to offer some tips on what you can do if you are in this situation yourself.

If this has happened to you, you are prob-

ably well aware that the offshore providers all seem to have policies of providing horrible customer service when dealing directly with their end clients. On the surface this seems like bad business and I personally feel it really is. However, the reason they do this is simply because they are afraid of being seen as giving advice, any advice, because they are afraid that would leave them exposed to lawsuits.

Often the provider will provide the names of alternate advisors if you request them. Please keep in mind that the names they give will mainly be a function of loyalty to advisors who send a lot of business their way, and not really a measure of the credibility of the advisor. Keep in mind that most companies would probably not knowingly pass on the name of someone they are aware is mis-selling their products, but who knows if they turn a blind eye to their biggest bread winners.

A good way to find a decent advisor to handle a policy you hold (which is not being serviced to your satisfaction) is to simply ask a few of your friends or colleagues if they know of a good advisor who has done well for them over a reasonable time period. Also ask for fund recommendations and if they show you something with a good history over two years (but has not been consistent over a long time period), you should run. The bulk of advisors love to put people into funds which



EVER SO LONELY: Having acquired stock you need a good advisor. Photo: Manu Manohar

did well yesterday. This will almost always lead to under-performance. If you are ever unsure of a fund allocation given to you, I am always more than happy to give my two thoughts on a suggested portfolio.

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.

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S9	3,XXX,XXX	S10	3,XXX,XXX	S11	3,XXX,XXX	S12	3,XXX,XXX	S13	4,XXX,XXX	S14	4,XXX,XXX	S15	3,XXX,XXX	S16	3,XXX,XXX	S17	3,XXX,XXX

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Saving Thailand's mangroves

A special report from Krabi about initial plans by the Mangrove Action Project and the Global Nature Fund to rehabilitate Thailand's mangrove habitats.

By Neil and Hal Wallis

"CONSERVING the mangroves may not be as sexy as saving the rainforest, but it's arguably even more important for the environment," says Udo Gattenl hner, Executive Director of the Global Nature Fund (GNF).

The non-profit, independent foundation is facilitating an international project designed to rehabilitate lost mangrove forests in Thailand, India, Sri Lanka and Cambodia.

Funded by the German government, the collaboration between NGOs in the four Asian countries aims to rehabilitate a hundred hectares of damaged or destroyed mangrove forest while creating a network to enable effective knowledge transfer

between the partners.

Jaruwan Kaewmahanin, Field Coordinator for the Trang-based Asia branch of the Mangrove Action Project (MAP) which hosted the initial project meeting in Krabi said, "Mangrove forests are a really important habitat and nursery ground for fish, plants and many other organisms, and around 40% of the World's mangroves are located in Asia.

"While they're one of the most productive, they're also amongst the most threatened ecosystems on Earth. Half of the world's

mangrove forests have been destroyed and the rate of destruction has been fastest in the last 30 years," Jaruwan said.

Local people living around the coasts or near tidal areas are becoming increasingly aware of the benefits of retaining intact mangrove forests, which can ensure a sustainable source of income from the

harvesting of fish, crabs, wild shrimps as well as other animal and plant sources of food, fuel and medicines. They also provide a defense against coastal erosion,

storm surges and even catastrophic events such as the Boxing Day tsunami of 2004.

Bang Don, a community leader in Ban Lang Da village on the Krabi estuary, has been a consistently supportive advocate of efforts by MAP and Wetlands International to restore lost mangroves near his village. He says that many of the local mangroves have been destroyed during his lifetime and that he has observed first-hand, as a result, the decline in wild fish

and other species in the area.

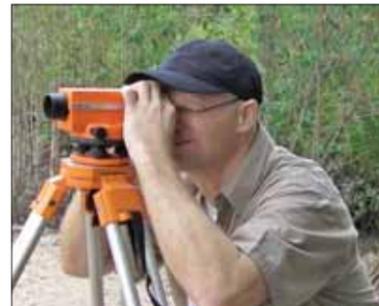
GNF's Udo Gattenl hner says that any efforts to rehabilitate lost mangroves must engage with, and support, local interests. Local communities must be fully involved and supportive, he says, and they must see tangible benefits from the results of mangrove rehabilitation.

At a restoration project near Ban Taleh Nok, close to Ranong, Nipa Palm was chosen as one of the main species to plant in consultation with local people as it provides a direct economic value to their community. However, the choice of mangrove species to plant is highly dependent on factors such as water salinity, depth and flow. Potential economic value has to consider whether local conditions will enable plants to thrive.

The GNF project partners will utilize the principles of Ecological Mangrove Restoration (EMR) which is being promoted by MAP as the best method to rehabilitate mangroves. During the meeting in Krabi, representatives of the partner organizations received training in EMR techniques which offer a more holistic approach to mangrove restoration incorporating consideration of the wider

'Conserving the mangroves may not be as sexy as saving the rainforest, but it's arguably even more important for the environment.'

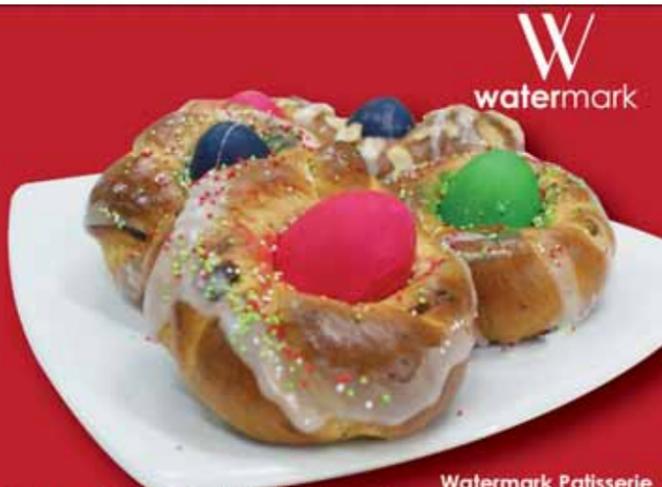
— Udo Gattenl hner



Udo Gattenl hner doing survey training at GNF meeting.



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TAKING OVER: Shrimp farms have replaced much of Thailand's mangrove habitat. Photos: Neil Wallis



MAPPED OUT: Jaruwan Kaewmahanin at the mangrove restoration project.

ecosystem and including the interests of local people.

The EMR approach starts from the premise that mangrove forests may recover naturally without the need for extensive planting efforts, and recommends that inhibiting factors such as blocked waterways are first corrected. Restoring the natural hydrology is a key element of the EMR approach to mangrove rehabilitation, returning water flows to their original courses where this is possible. Planting is only utilized when the level of mangrove recovery doesn't meet the objectives of the project.

One of the difficulties associated with efforts to restore mangrove habitats in Thailand is the existence of regulations which forbid the use in mangrove areas of heavy machinery which can be very helpful in restoring the original tidal exchange patterns, breaking down former pond walls and performing other heavy earth moving functions.

While commercial shrimp ponds in places like Ban Taleh Nok have been created by removing mangroves (and often without legal right to use the land) with tractors and other large machines, those attempting to restore them may not be allowed to use similar machinery to rehabilitate them without going through the bureaucratic and often time consuming process of obtaining a permit. While the regulations have been designed to protect mangroves, in some cases their effect may be to hamper efforts to restore them.

Jim Enright, MAP's Asia Coordinator, explains that having arranged a contractor with heavy machinery for rehabilitation work at Ban Taleh Nok, the NGO waited almost five months for official permission to go ahead. Becoming frustrated with the delay as project funding was only for a one year period, MAP proposed an alternative approach and succeeded in motivating the local villagers to clear the drainage channels and reconfigure the former shrimp ponds equipped with only spades, specialized buckets and shovels.

Enright said, "This actually turned into a win-win situation. The work was done in a reasonable amount of time and having been so engaged in the activity, the community now has gained full stewardship for the restoration site and will make sure a healthy mangrove area is maintained here."

Experts have calculated that Asia has around 250,000 hectares of abandoned

shrimp ponds which were previously mangroves. Much of this area is capable of being returned to healthy mangrove through restoring the hydrology and allowing natural regeneration to take place without the need for planting. Doing so should ensure a return to the biodiversity of the original mangrove forest over time.

An important goal of the GNF programme is the establishment of an international network for the protection of mangroves, which will meet



CONCERNED: Global Nature Fund (GNF) meeting participants near Ban Lang Da on the Krabi estuary.

regularly to discuss activities and exchange experience and knowledge. One of the outputs from the project will be the publication of a guidebook to help inform restoration efforts elsewhere.

Partners in GNF's Mangrove Restoration in Asia project

include: The Nagenahiru Foundation and EMACE Foundation, Sri Lanka; Center for Research on a New International Economic Order (CRenIEO), India; Fisheries Action Coalition Team (FACT), Cambodia and the Mangrove Action Project (MAP), Thailand.

For more information on the Mangrove Action Project visit MangroveActionProject.org
For more information on the Global Nature Fund visit GlobalNature.org



Replanted mangroves.

Half of the world's mangrove forests have been destroyed and the rate of destruction has been fastest in the last 30 years.'

— Jaruwan Kaewmahanin

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The *Lady Kathryn*, constructed in China by Sunbird Yachts, displayed in London and refurbished in Thailand.

By: Steven Layne

IN LIGHT of global, financial and economic uncertainty, demand for competitively priced luxury assets is skyrocketing in the Thai Andaman coastal region, the Riviera of Asia. Established recently in Pa Klok on Phuket's east coast, Moreton Bay Co Ltd are positioned well to meet swelling demand for competitive day and overnight yacht charters.

"People come to Phuket to see and experience the beautiful sea and islands nearby. There's no better way to see it all," Moreton Bay director Perry See Hoe told the *Gazette* during an exclusive interview and tour of the company's prized offering, *Lady Kathryn*. Built by Sunbird

Yachts in China in 2008, the 80-foot (23.8 meters) boat was initially on display in London.

The vessel was finally acquired by Moreton Bay last year, brought to Phuket and completely refitted at its new home at Ao Po Pier. "She was initially designed for the European market and so was built for rough [weather and sea] conditions.

We refurbished her specifically for the Phuket market, which calls for more of an indoor, open-air and outdoor experience" explained Perry, an Australian national with a background in the fishing industry. Having cost US\$ 300,000 (9.2 million baht) to refurbish in Thailand, the *Lady Kathryn* is fitted with all the modern comforts, conveniences and amenities expected of a luxurious

vessel of its size.

With three decks, the yacht's interior is tasteful, with warm, gleaming cherry wood paneling combined with soft white leather furnishings. Capable of comfortably hosting up to six guests overnight (not including crew), the lower deck's living quarters features two spacious double staterooms with ensuite bathrooms, and two ensuite twin guest cabins.

All the bedding is from Pasaya, a Bangkok based high-end brand, while the cushions are from the renowned Jim Thompson brand. Aside from this, *Lady Kathryn* is also fitted with things that you won't find on other vessels. Ivory white, ultra-soft bamboo carpet, for example, is fitted throughout the entire lower deck. Perry relays how he stumbled upon such a unique furnishing one day in Bangkok.

"I'd never even heard of bamboo carpet but was taken away by its softness and beauty. The lady in the rug shop didn't speak English, and the supplier didn't have a website but I found out that the carpet was produced in a large factory in Khon Kaen.

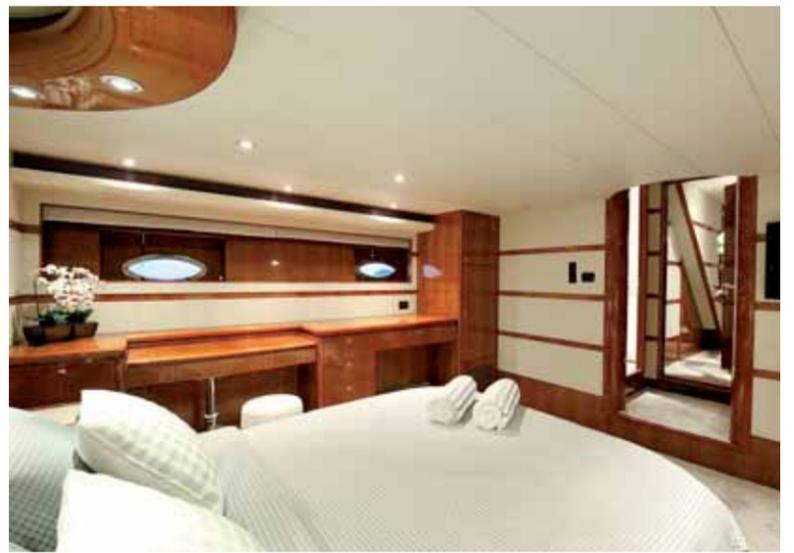
"They dealt mostly with clients in the Middle East," he recalled, "I flew up to Khon Kaen to meet the owner and visit the factory . . . they sent a team down to Phuket to fit our boat and we are quite pleased with the result."

As for the state of the local charter market, Bruce Parker, a shareholder in Moreton Bay, emphasized that demand for Asian built, Asian-fitted boats is growing.

"Clients are realizing that they can get the same level of luxury, quality and service at a fraction of conventional prices. "Singaporeans and Russians are two key markets right now, but I think the demand for more competitive offerings is growing across all market groups," he said.



TEAK A LOOK: A view of the interior of the *Lady Kathryn*.



Jim Thompson cushions, Pasaya bedding and white bamboo carpeting.



Perry See Hoe (left) and Bruce Parker (right) of Moreton Bay.

Speaking on future plans for the business, Bruce said, "We are also looking at offering fractional ownership and would like to hear from anyone who may be interested in buying a share of both a yacht and its income. "Right now, our main focus is charters, and we plan to expand our fleet with more boats over the next few years. This will benefit the local economy because all the finishings would be

done here. There is a lot of market potential here," he said.

Indeed, Asia's yachting industry is on the up, and with its relatively lower production overheads, coupled with a growing reputation for and emphasis on service, Thailand, and particularly, Phuket, stands to gain.

For any enquiries - please call Perry on 08-0562-6731 or visit: thailuxurycharters.com



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If music be the food of love, let's rock on!

On the Menu

By Marc Mulloy

THE imposing, iconic, neon guitar in front of the Phuket's very own Hard Rock Cafe (HRC) in Patong is a welcome beacon to many aficionados who love the rock memorabilia and the music. Here they can also purchase an official Hard Rock Cafe - Phuket t-shirt to add to their wardrobe and enjoy familiar comfort food or signature cocktails.

What many don't realize is that the menu changes four times a year and that the word 'cafe' does not really do credit to the quality of the food here, which rivals some of the finest restaurants on the island.

The month of April heralds the latest new additions, which this year are surprisingly healthy. The focus is on salads, lean meats and fish, perhaps indicating that the "baby boomers" of yesteryear are now more health conscious and that a 'rock and roll' lifestyle today includes raw vegetables and other fresh ingredients that Hard Rock have a free hand in choosing.

Old school rockers, however, will be pleased to know the classics are still there; such as the legendary 10 Ounce Burger or the Hickory-Smoked Barbecue Ribs (both 599 baht), but what is less known is that the 283 gram patty is fresh ground Australian Angus beef and that the ribs are lovingly prepared in the restaurant's - there I've said it - very own in-house smoker using imported hickory



The new Greek Salad.

wood. This is the comfort food mentioned earlier and as one rocker once sang "I Know It's Only Sausage Roll But I Like It"

But what of the new menu items? Given the quality already apparent in these classics, the process of adding new items gets even more attention to detail and passes rigorous tests all along the way.

First up is the large Greek Salad (399 baht) served along with lean, grilled chicken and bursting with taste. They use real Feta cheese, fresh peppers, sweet onion and grape tomatoes together with the freshest mixed greens from Chiang Mai. This is currently their "number one hit" and it is easy to see why.

For a more Asian-tasting starter, the HRC Chicken Lettuce Wraps (299 baht) give a nod to the Vietnamese sandwich in which crisp iceberg lettuce leaves are used to envelope your own hand-made cre-



Lemon Caper Chicken.

ation using the other fresh ingredients which include marinated cucumber, red pepper salad, raw carrot strips, fresh bean sprouts, crisp wonton noodles and diced roast chicken breast served with sautéed mushrooms, garlic, ginger and toasted sesame seeds. Once the touchy-feely process is complete there are two dips; sweet and sour and Asian peanut sauce which I am told by Chef "Ice" (the coolest chef in Phuket) uses peanut butter as its base - quite a cool idea.

Another new entré (excuse the pun) is the fantastic Blackened Swordfish Sandwich (699 baht). Again locally sourced, the underrated swordfish is cooked to moist perfection over a fire grill and served on a toasted bun with dill mayonnaise and another of those huge crunchy, healthy salads. Chef Ice knows exactly how long to cook this fish and only accepts medium rare to medium on



COOL: Chef 'Ice' with a HRC burger. Photo: Christian Mouchet



IT'S A WRAP: Healthy chicken lettuce wraps with a distinctly Asian touch.

this order as the delicate flesh can get tough if overdone. "Well done" would only be a term used to describe the achievement and not how long it is cooked.

The fourth and final new dish featured is the Grilled Lemon Caper Chicken (499 baht). A marinated boneless chicken breast grilled and served over garlic infused pasta with Romano cheese, spinach and mushrooms topped with a tangy lemon caper sauce. Delicious.

Although not a new item, another Asian fusion delight worth a mention is the Thai spaghetti *Kee Mao* (599 baht) which features fresh seafood and basil leaves cooked in a spicy oyster sauce over spaghetti. New Zealand mussels, scallops, prawns and squid all vie for attention, and this dish is another that remains popular with Asian palettes.

Having eaten a salad, you could now be forgiven for ordering a dessert which also come in smaller health conscious sizes called "bites" with a choice of Chocolate Mousse,

Strawberry Cheesecake, Crème Brûlée and Chocolate Peanut Butter Pie (119 baht each, any 3 for 499 baht or all four for 599 baht).

So if you have ever wanted to check out the popular nightly show at the Hard Rock Cafe, bear in mind they have free valet parking and some of the best tasting food around - the makings of a memorable evening and you can even buy the souvenir glass you used.

Also bear in mind that they have introduced a number of new cocktails with names like *The Hurricane*, *Riders On The Storm* and *Pickled Tink* all of which contain at least two generous ounces (59 ml) of alcohol per drink. Sipping on a delicious *Exotic Margarita* at eleven in the morning, I realize that the Rock 'n' Roll lifestyle is alive and well and living at Hard Rock Cafe Patong.

Hard Rock Cafe Phuket is at 48/1, Ruamjai Road, Patong across from OTOP Market and is open daily from 11am to 1am. T: 076-366-381 W: hardrock.com/phuket

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In memory of Chakri Day

Looking Back

By Anand Singh

APRIL 6 is Chakri Memorial Day in Thailand. It marks the day on which Chaophraya Chakri ascended the throne of Siam and became King Buddha Yodfachulalok, establishing a new dynasty that would rule the kingdom to this day.

King Buddha Yodfachulalok (Rama I) was born in 1737 to a Siamese official and his Chinese wife. He was named Thong Duang. When he was eight years old, Thong Duang was admitted into the royal palace and became a page to Prince Uthumphon. As he grew up he served the prince until King Boromakot's death.

When King Boromakot of Ayutthaya died, a succession crisis ensued. The late king had not clearly designated a successor before passing away. This left Prince Uthumphon and Prince Ekathat both ambitious to succeed their father. Although Prince Uthumphon later stepped aside and allowed Prince Ekathat to ascend to the throne, the crisis was witnessed by the Burmese as a sign of internal weakness. The Burmese seized the opportunity and launched an attack on

Siamese territory.

Siamese provinces in the west fell to the Burmese invaders without much resistance and by 1760, the large Burmese army led by King Alaungphaya had reached the walls of Ayutthaya, the capital city.

King Alaungphaya ordered his troops to lay siege to the Siamese capital and bombard it with gun fire. After severely damaging Ayutthaya with their firepower, a Burmese cannon exploded near the Burmese king, which severely injured him. King Alaungphaya died a few months later and the Burmese army re-

from the west and north. Siamese troops failed to stop the invasion from both directions. City after city, village after village fell to the pillaging Burmese troops. The Burmese finally laid siege to Ayutthaya and after two years, the invaders broke through and captured the capital city. In 1767 Ayutthaya was pillaged and utterly destroyed.

The fall of Ayutthaya had dire consequences for Siam. Before the war, Siamese towns and cities were ruled by governors who swore allegiance to the king of Ayutthaya. Now that the central authority had been destroyed, many cities that had not been conquered declared independence. In the south, the governor of Nakhon-Si-Thammarat declared himself absolute ruler and governed in his own right.

It was during this period of turmoil that Taksin, the governor of Tak province took control and rallied Siamese troops in the east in order to counterattack the Burmese. Taksin was becoming more prominent amongst the Siamese as a liberator and a daring general. Realizing his potential as a leader, many of Ayutthaya's officials, including Thong Duang and his brother Bunma joined Taksin's army. In the months that followed Taksin and his generals managed to liberate Siam from the Burmese occupiers.

Although Taksin had freed Siam from Burmese invaders he could not return to the old capital. According to legend, Taksin dreamed that the former kings of Ayutthaya did not want him to live in the old capital. Moreover, the charred city had been completely destroyed by the Burmese. Little remained of its former glory. The fortifications would have been difficult to rebuild and the untended land would not have been able to feed the population. Taksin knew that it would be easier to head south and start a new capital altogether. Taksin founded a new capital on the western bank of the Chaophraya river and named it Thonburi. He then crowned himself King of Siam and started a new dynasty.

King Taksin's reign was marred by military campaigns and the king spent most of his time trying to piece his kingdom back together. The Burmese had retreated earlier but they soon returned to test the prowess of the new Siamese army. Taksin also had to fight the local lords and governors who had



The ruins of Ayutthaya as seen today. Photo: Wikicommons CYPHE



KING RAMA I: On April 6, 1782, Chaophraya Chakri was made king and the new 'Chakri' dynasty was started. Photo: Wikicommons Sry85

declared themselves independent in the aftermath of Ayutthaya's fall. During this period, Bunma and Thong Duang fought side by side with King Taksin and became his two favorite generals. Both were fearless generals with an uncanny ability to win wars. Each time they won a campaign, Taksin promoted them to a higher rank. By 1770, Thong Duang had already gained the rank of Chaophraya Chakri, a rank equivalent to the king's prime minister.

In 1781, Chaophraya Chakri was on a campaign to subjugate a rebellion in Cambodia. Back home in Thonburi a rebellion was brewing within the capital itself. King Taksin had been accused of irrational behavior and was deposed in a coup d'etat by his nobles. When Chaophraya Chakri heard of the developments in the capital, he ordered a march back to Thonburi to reinstate order.

There was a power vacuum after Taksin was deposed and by this

time there was no one who could challenge the authority of Chaophraya Chakri. The general entered Thonburi and immediately took full command. On April 6, 1782, Chaophraya Chakri was made king and the new 'Chakri' dynasty was born. One of his first decisions as king of Siam was to relocate the capital to the east side of the Chaophraya river, which could be used as a natural defense barrier in case of future Burmese invasions. Merely 15 days later, the city pillar was laid for a new capital that would be built on the eastern side of the river.

The site of the new capital city, formerly occupied by a small village named *Ban-kok*, was renamed *Krung-Thep*, or the 'City of Angels' and was built into a splendid city with a network of canals, fortifications, trading quarters and palaces. Out of the ashes of Ayutthaya, a new era was born and Siam flourished and entered into a period of rebirth again.

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Junk Fashion Show at QSI

By Bruce Stanley

MAKING a fashion statement using materials found around a school would be challenging for most of us but at the island's QSI (Quality Schools International) campus, it has become an annual event.

Last week, Ruangnapa "Noi" Hirunroj, the school's art teacher organized a fashion event where students from five to eighteen years old, showed off wardrobes made of paper, plastic, wrapping paper and items normally found in the trash. Khun Noi has been teaching art at the school since it was established 18 years ago.

"At QSI we have a Success Orientation

program which offers our students milestones in responsibility. Our annual fashion event falls into our aesthetics appreciation area where we hope to inspire all our students into the potential of creating beauty all around by using locally found used materials," explained Rachel Geary, QSI's resource coordinator.

While the younger students had help from Khun Noi at putting together their fashion statements, the older students were left free to design and wear whatever their imaginations could create.

QSI currently has an enrollment of around 100 students from around the world who follow an American diploma program.



HAND ME DOWNS: Ruangnapa "Noi" Hirunroj, the school's art teacher (below right) welcomes guests to the fashion show with a difference.



Design Technology gets out of the box

WE LIVE in a world where we are dependent on technology, however the majority of users know very little about it. The drive and motivation for me personally, and especially for the students, is the end product and the realization that what we have developed didn't exist before.

The importance of Design Technology (DT) in the modern world cannot be overstated, and yet it is not a subject that can be found in all schools, and rarely in International Schools. Why should this be? Is it because of its connotation with manual work, or does it evoke memories of old woodwork classes in another age? Perhaps the cost of running such a resource-based program is considered prohibitive for most schools?

Fortunately, the British International School in Phuket, has been committed to this subject since its foundation 16 years ago and is distinguished by the excellent facilities it offers students as well as the exposure they receive from industry professionals. BIS Phuket remains one of only a handful of schools to offer DT in Thailand, and the only one in the southern provinces.

Design Technology is a highly creative and fast-moving subject, where solutions that are valid today become quickly obsolete for tomorrow; society's needs are constantly changing. The courses on offer at BIS are designed to develop stu-

dents' confidence, competence and responsibility through the design and production of a vast range of items. This in turn requires a constant evaluation of needs and an ability to identify opportunities.

To build on our reputation as an educational leader in the field of resistant materials and graphical representation, the school has further invested in new textiles equipment, offering students the chance to expand the scope and breadth of their designing creativity.

The activity in the BIS Design and Technology department is dynamic and exciting, and attracts more and more students each year into its courses. Walking around, you will see the younger years developing skills in predetermined creative projects, while in our more senior classes the students will be found investigating a wide range of design problems and occupying themselves with both theoretical and practical experiments, from making small changes to standard everyday items (incremental design) to whole new eco-concepts in cooling and energy generation.

At many other schools you would witness students making a variety of boxes, but at BIS we think and design 'out of the box'.

In Design Technology we strive to create 'Innovators of Tomorrow'. In our projects we

never fail, but occasionally do discover ways how not to do it.

- Jeff Craigen

The author is a Design & Technology Teacher at BIS Phuket.



BIS students get ready to use new sewing machines for the first time with textiles teacher Yuphin Craigen and Headmaster Neil Richards.



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The great Nile River obsession

Books

By James Eckardt

THE mad drive to discover the source of the Nile River that obsessed the great Victorian explorers of Central Africa Livingston, Stanley, Burton, Speke, Grant, Baker only baffled the Africans. It's only water, as one chief explained. But for the Victorians, this was their version of the 1960s race to the moon.

The headwaters of the Blue Nile in Ethiopia had been discovered by two Spanish Jesuits early in the 17th Century. Two centuries later, the source of the much longer White Nile remained a mystery.

But between 1856 and 1876, the White Nile would at last yield up its secrets to an idiosyncratic group of exceptionally brave British explorers, who would solve the mystery of the source, bit by bit despite many illnesses, including loss of sight and hearing, and in one instance, for a time, the use of both legs, writes Tim Jeal in *Explorers of the Nile* (Yale University Press, New Haven and London, 2011, 510pp). They also suffered the ravages of flesh-eating ulcers, malaria, colonic haemorrhage and deep spear wounds. Ironically, after their journeys were over, almost all would disagree profoundly about which one of them had won the crown.

Subtitled 'The Triumph and Tragedy of a Great Victorian Adventure', Jeal's tome is a fresh appraisal of the period, using many new sources, since the appearance half a century ago of Alan Moorehead's seminal *The White Nile*. Jeal comes down foursquare on one side or the other of the numerous explorer controversies. For instance, he favors John Hanning Speke's version of events against his nominal superior Richard Burton in their desperate 1854-1856 expedition. He notes that a half dozen biographies have been written about the colorful Richard Burton, but only one of Speke who was the first to cross Lake Tanganyika and the first to sight Lake Victoria, the true source of the Nile. While Burton spent much of his time nattering in Arabic with slave traders, Speke did much of the work of actual exploring during the expedition.

Jeal also speedily dismisses the canard that Speke, on his second African expedition with James Grant, left his subordinate behind in order to grab the solo glory of observing the source of the Nile: the outflow of the northern part of Lake Victoria. The truth

was that ulcerated legs left Grant incapable of further travel.

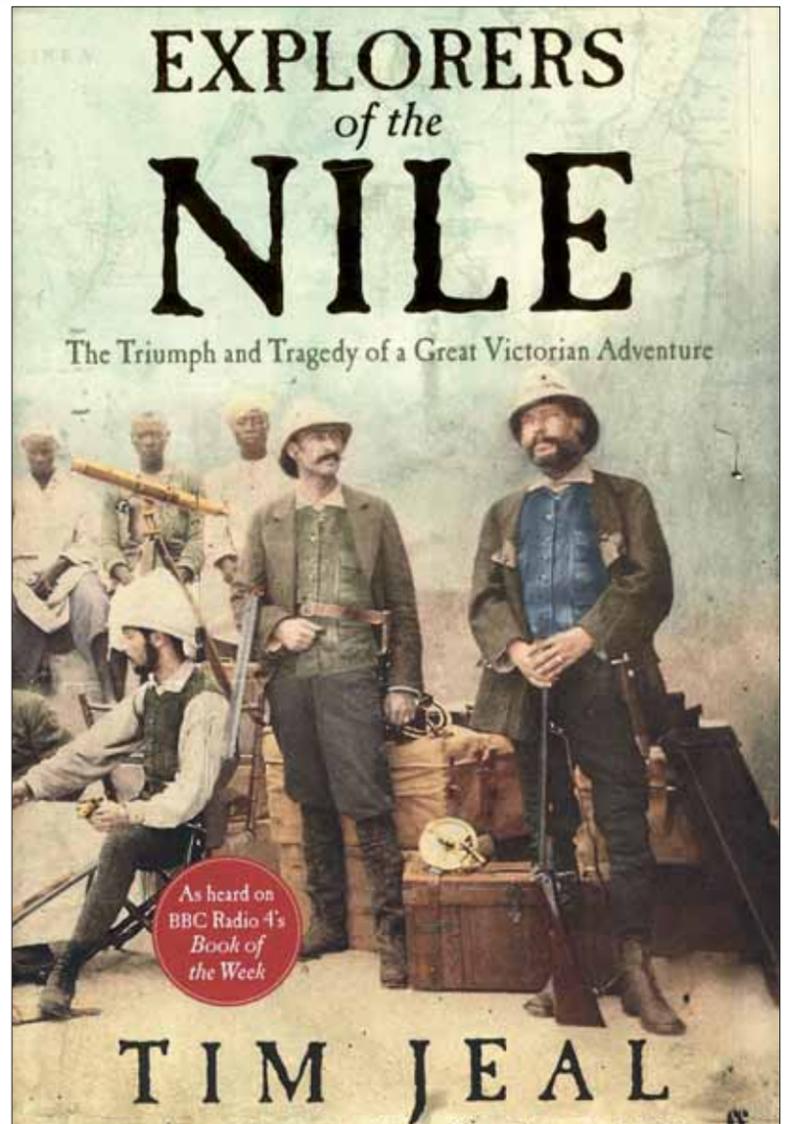
The early explorers led no armies and depended on the kindness, and curiosity, of strangers. They entered a chaotic region where rapids and swamps had kept out intruders since Roman times, where tribes were in constant warfare, while slavery and ritual murder were endemic. Still, the band of explorers persevered. In less than a quarter of a century, a small group of exceptionally brave explorers, and their remarkable African porters, guides, translators and servants, had solved the greatest geographical mystery on Earth, covering many thousands of miles in the process, mainly on foot.

They had risked their lives repeatedly, had been detained for months at a time by chiefs and kings, and had survived by judging when best to be long-suffering and when to be assertive. Rarely, when exploring, had they found themselves in a position to impose their will. Their joint efforts lifted the veil on one of the planet's last great puzzles, Jeal writes.

The ultimate hero of the whole saga of exploration was Henry Morton Stanley, who by the simple



STANLEY IS THAT YOU? No one really knows what greeting was exchanged.



INTREPID VICTORIANS: Between 1856 and 1876 a group of brave British explorers would solve the mystery of the White Nile's source.

expedient of bringing his own boat was able to circumnavigate both the Tanganyika and Victoria lakes to settle the controversy once and for all over the source of the Nile. Previous explorers had been stymied by a lack of available canoes.

Finally, Jeal shows how the actions of the early explorers had severe modern day consequences, tracing to them the murderous Bantu-Nilotic tribal divisions in Uganda and the north-south civil wars in Sudan.

Still, the author maintains his admiration for the ideals of the Victorian explorers. He concludes: "The courage and vision of this small group is not less praiseworthy because the next century did not bear out their hopes for the future of the regions they had revealed with so much difficulty and hardship. Nor have the ideals of nineteenth-century humanitarians lost their value because later governments in Europe and Africa did not live up to them."

Kathy expo at the Boathouse

THE recently relaunched Boathouse in Kata is continuing its tradition of supporting the arts with the first of a series of Art Exhibitions. This first exhibition features mixed media and encaustic works from talented Phuket-based artist Kathy Manthei Coulson.

Her stylized work is strongly inspired and influenced by the sea and sky of the Andaman coast and her native California.

Kathy has recently specialized in encaustic, a technique in which wax and pigments are applied and then fused under high temperatures. While still hot she then etches in lines to accentuate the ever-changing luminescent light reflected from a multitude of vantage points on each canvas. The predominant tur-

quoise pigments and copper colors also add a natural oxidized look which, in some pieces, is further enhanced by the mixed media of copper plates used as a backdrop blurring the definitions of sea, sky and heaven.

"I enjoy constantly experimenting with different materials and the natural or chemical reactions caused by their interaction. Getting lost in melding and layering acrylic paint, iridescent mediums, oxidizing solutions, Chinese ink, metals, wood, paper, copper and gold leaf is pure magic," says Kathy who is also known on the island as an Art teacher at BIS and as an active volunteer with local charity Life Home project, a shelter for HIV positive



Mixed media including driftwood.



CIELO: Kathy in front of her work.

women and their children in Phuket. Kathy Manthei Coulson also exhibits her work internationally, and has attracted private and corporate collectors throughout Asia, and the world. These newest pieces, which form the *cielo* series are for sale during the exhibition.

The Cielo exhibition will run at The Boathouse until April 16 and entrance is free.

More information can be found at the websites mantraART.com or BoathousePhuket.com.

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Duangkhae Leonhard

THAI gallery

By Nanthapa Pengkasem

AS A young girl growing up in Surat Thani, Duangkhae 'Aad' Leonhard often helped her mother in the kitchen making *kanom* (confectionery) not because she liked it but as an excuse for not having to work in the family's farm. She never thought that one day she would be the owner of a baking business and proprietor of two successful cafes in Phuket.

As a hotel and tourism management student trainee in Chonburi, Duangkhae was sent to work at the Marriott Hotel in Pattaya. The experience has inspired her she and decided to become a pastry chef.

A short stint in hotel work followed and she quickly realized that the industry's hierarchical system didn't suit her independent spirit. When Starbucks opened its first locations in Thailand she joined their staffing team. Within two years, she rose to the rank of supervisor and became manager to Starbucks' first branch in Phuket.

Instead of painting herself as a hard worker, Duangkhae gives all the credit to the company: "I owe my career to Starbucks. Apart

from introducing brewed coffee as an alternative to the instant type so prevalent here, they do care about the community and donate parts of their profits to a good cause. I am very proud to have been part of it. I also like (the) *farang* working system where people are rewarded by their merit and not seniority nor by whom they know. It suits my personality."

It was while working at Patong Starbucks that she met her future husband the writer and columnist Woody Leonhard. According to Duangkhae, he was the 'grande latte type' who always had time to stop by and chat. When she made him a New York-style cheesecake, it was Woody who suggested that she started her own bakery business.

For Duangkhae it meant leaving Starbucks but her sense of loyalty to the company was strong and only after much consideration did she finally resign from Starbucks. From a tiny kitchen in her home, Duangkhae made delicious cakes and cookies and supplied many businesses on the island. She eventually became the sole supplier to Starbucks in Phuket.

In 2005 the couple opened their first Sandwich Shoppe in Patong, and later added another branch in Chalong. "We were the first to open this type of gour-

met sandwich bar, long before Subway came to Phuket. The difference is our ingredients – we use real hams and not substitute meat, and freshly baked bread. Judging from the customers we receive, I think we are hitting the right mark. Of course, I have my husband to thank for that. He has been my inspiration and my valued adviser. He works behind the scenes."

Duangkhae is now the proud mother of a one-year old toddler. She admits that her perspective has changed after her son was born. She is not working as hard now and prefers to spend time with the family. "I love watching my son grow and having him has taught me to relax," she admits.

She still helms the Sandwich Shoppe business but is more of the brains behind it now. Part of the work is watching the market carefully and keeping up with the trend, which, she says, now swings towards healthy eating.

"We would like to open more branches of Sandwich Shoppe. Just give me a few years till my child is of age. I'd like to add more to my bakery repertoire. For example, I'd like to specialize in wedding cake decoration. This will happen when the time is right. For now I have made a living out of what I love and I am very happy."



About Thai Gallery

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








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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

April 7-8, 5-9pm: Phuket Boat Lagoon Weekend Market at the Phuket Boat Lagoon Marina, Koh Kaew

Buy, sell, barter on an extensive and ever expanding variety of goods and food, etc. Or simply relax and enjoy the vast assortment of other fun stuff we are putting together for all ages, whether you are 3 or 30, 6 or 60, 9 or 90. Nobody has more fun than at the soon-to-be No.1 Weekend Market & Meeting Place In Phuket! We're located within the conveniently situated Boat Lagoon, with easy access to toilet facilities and lots of free parking. Individual covered booths (2m x 2m) with electric power are available for rent in dedicated zone areas at the introductory rate of just 100 baht per day. Contact 088-768 0471 for more information. The Weekend Market is proudly sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*.

April 8, 1-9:30pm: Easter Sunday Egg Hunt and Party at Friendship Beach Resort, Rawai

Phuket Easter Egg Hunt. 1-2pm. Special Performance by "Coco The Clown", 2: 30-4pm. Prizes for Lucky Egg Hunters, Free Easter Treats for all the children, Live music from 6: 30-9: 30pm and Easter Dinner Specials. Children must be accompanied by adults (not exceeding two children per adult). Discounts not valid for this event.

April 8, 6:30-11pm: Easter Sunday BBQ Buffet at the Casuarina Beach Restaurant and Pub Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket

Looking for the perfect place for your Easter dinner celebration? Why not check out the Casuarina Beach Restaurant and Pub beachside restaurant at Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket. Offering a delicious Barbeque buffet including a lineup of carved meats, fresh sea-

food, smoked salmon, poached eggs and a selection of gourmet salads. Be sure to save some room for our decadent desserts, including an assortment of Easter cookies, pastries and chocolate mousse. Live music and entertainment will ensure that you hop along with the bunnies. Priced at THB 1,390+ + per person. 50% off for children aged 6-12 years. For further details visit our website dusitthanalagunaphuket.dusit.com or call 076 362 999.

April 9-12, 8am-12:30pm: Easter Adult Stroke Clinic at Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club

Calling all triathletes and adult freestyle improvers – a specific swim course designed to improve technique, efficiency and speed. Days 1 and 2: Comprehensive freestyle technique clinic Day 3: Involves incorporating the technique into training sets. Day 4: Challenge swim session THB 1,500 per person per day. THB 5,500 per person for 4-day course.

April 9, 6pm-1am: Surf night at Two Chefs Kata Beach

Every Monday we are setting up a great BBQ-Buffet. Filled with loads and loads of food. There will be juicy steaks directly from the BBQs, a big variety of sauces and much, much more. There will be nice and pleasant live music performed by one of the members of the Two Chefs house band. The best with this is that it only costs 495 baht for all of it. For more information please visit us on the website TwoChefs.com.

April 13, 7-11pm: Curry Fridays at Navrang Mahal Indian Restaurant, Karon

Here is your chance to enjoy an



You and whose army?

April 13-15: Songkran Festival

Songkran (Thai New Year). Also known as the Water Festival. Held during the driest months in Thailand, Songkran is celebrated by Thais throughout the country by pouring – traditionally only a little, but these days a lot – of water on other people to wish them good luck for the New Year.

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 Free Afternoon Computer Clinics, hosted by Woody Leonhard and Seth Bareiss. Bring your computer. Bring your questions. Bring your sense of humor and let's see if we can solve your PC problems. Second and fourth Wednesday of every month. Sponsored by Woody's Sandwich Shoppes and the *Phuket Gazette*.

April 11, 1-3pm at the Sandwich Shoppe Chalong

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SPLASHING OUT: Centara Grand West Sands Resort & Villas Phuket and Splash Jungle Water Park recently organized their very first "Mai Khao Community Day" to support local people and students from Baan Mai Khao School, maintain Mai Khao Health Promoting Hospitals and to educate local communities about the environment. Pictured at the back from left to right are: Pakorn Thongsakliang, Financial Controller; Wasan Arsanee, Chief Engineer; Bryan Yang, Assistant Water Park Operations Manager; Dechanont Wangthong, Executive Assistant Manager; Andreas Korf, General Manager and Manoch Saithong, Village Headman.



FOR PETE'S SAKE: After many years on Phuket fronting *The Punchline Comedy* shows Pete Harris (in orange) has decided to return to the UK for a spell. Some of his many friends said goodbye at Central Festival.



FAMILY VALUES: Centara Grand Beach Resort Phuket Executive Chef Sandro Aguilera proves that Sunday is a family day during their Sunday brunch.



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Mood Indigo

Indigo Pearl played host to an exclusive launch party to celebrate the unveiling of their new spectacular Private Pool Villas, designed by the renowned designer Bill Bensley. The pool-side event culminated in a mesmerizing *Haute Couture* fashion show by the famous Columbian designer Carlos Arturo Zapata (far right).



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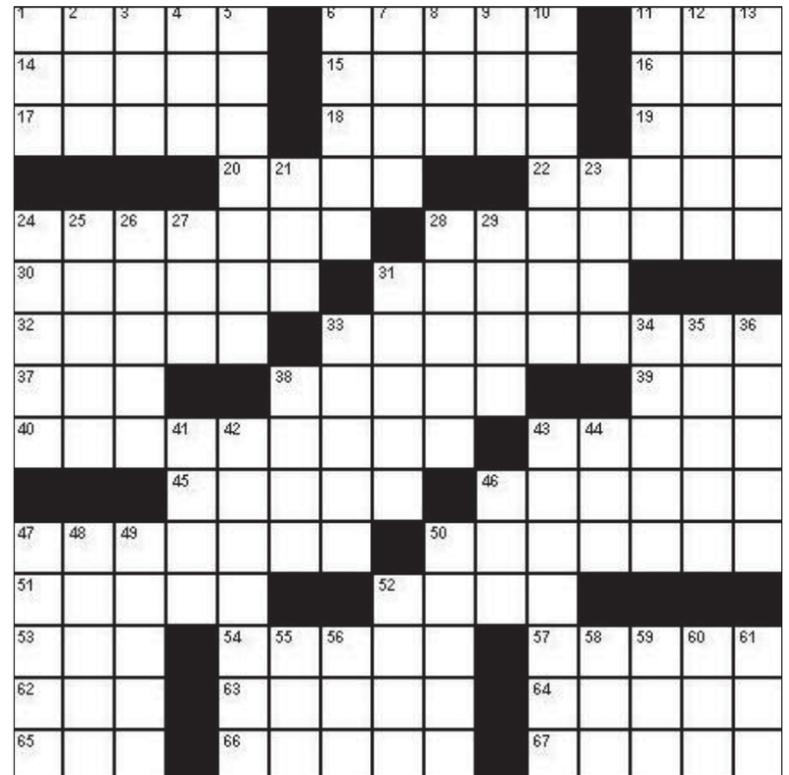


There is a single connection between all the quiz answers. Can you get it before the last question?

- Phil Collins played drums with which band?
- “With or without you” and “I still haven’t found what I’m looking for” appear on which U2 album?
- Who was the last woman executed in the UK?
- Who wrote the poem “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner”?
- What links Cheryl Cole, Dannii Minogue, and Sharon Osbourne?
- What is the name of CS Lewis’ seven book fantasy series?
- Name the TV series about FBI agent Don Eppes and his mathematical genius brother Charlie
- Epiphany is known by what other name in some countries?
- Who founded ChildLine and presented That’s Life?
- What connects the answers to the previous nine questions?

Quiz answers on page 41

- Across**
- Autocratic Russian rulers
 - Make less tense
 - Lotion letters
 - Person of exceptional holiness
 - “A Passage to India” heroine
 - Acapulco aunt
 - China’s Zhou _ _ _
 - Parlor piece
 - Aardvark morsel
 - Flutter
 - Spoil
 - Capital of Nova Scotia
 - Smokers receptacle
 - Standards of perfection
 - Cleft
 - Simpleton
 - Aural
 - Obtained
 - Adjusted pitch
 - “Hollywood Squares” win
 - Gullet
 - Tocher
 - Organization
 - Matador’s red cloth
 - Situated at the bottom
 - Pertaining to the shoulder
 - You _ _ _ right!
 - Splendor
 - Junior
 - Stopwatch holder
 - Bay
 - Absorb, as a cost
 - Bellows
 - Frighten
 - Madrid Mrs.
 - Disgusting
 - Wished
- Down**
- Half a fly
 - Japanese honorific
 - Afflict
 - Genetic material
 - Rigidly
 - Plant root
 - Prepare a book or film for release
 - Monetary unit of Bulgaria
 - According to
 - Having a yellowish color



- Flight of steps
- Flipper
- Containing fat
- Part of UNLV
- Westernmost of the Aleutians
- Pivot
- “Farewell!”
- Slow, musically
- Author Fleming
- _ _ _ ; ski
- Lost traction
- Dawn
- Prophet
- Bring down

- Artery that feeds the trunk
- Pertaining to a sovereign
- Cheerio!
- Pitchfork-shaped letters
- Slavery
- Depressed
- Cheer for Manolete
- Silent
- Diamond corners
- Bellowing
- Actress Berger
- Equine
- Enliven
- Acknowledgment of debt
- Brit’s raincoat
- Cpl., for one
- One circuit
- Afore
- A Kennedy

*Provided by BestCrosswords.com
Puzzle solutions on page 41*

ARIES (March 21-April 20):

 The astral atmosphere allows Arians to feel more connected with what is going on in their lives this week. Work is well-starred until the middle of the month and your strong focus should mean that results will soon be seen. Those celebrating a birthday during the days ahead are forecast to enjoy more financial gain in the coming year. Romance becomes interesting when another fire sign gets under your skin this weekend.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):

 Your charm and wit work wonders on difficult people this week. Those born under the sign of Taurus who have been experiencing problems with an air sign friend or colleague will see this situation turn around. The social scene is sparkling this weekend – someone is ready to repay your generosity in a way that will take you by surprise. Romance with another earth sign can be the real deal.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

 The stars suggest planning your actions carefully this week as making impulsive moves could land you in an undesirable situation. Geminis who have been waiting for an earth sign to prove their

worth at work could be disappointed. Money matters become better starred by the middle of this month – your ability to spot a lucrative opportunity comes in useful. Golden days for romance are Sunday and Monday.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

 Opportunities abound for Cancerians until the middle of April – dreams can come true for those who want to leave an unsatisfactory work situation behind. The stars indicate that a long standing family dispute can be resolved when you accept that not everyone shares your opinions. Affairs of the heart are mixed; another water sign is predicted to show that romance is not on the cards, but an air sign thinks you’re the bees’ knees.

LEO (July 24-August 22):

 The stars suggest that your earning power will increase towards the middle of April. But taking time out before agreeing to a work proposal is recommended. A water sign with their own interests at heart appears keen to rush your agreement. Single Leos could aim for on an air sign. Those already committed should be over the moon when they hear news from a partner this weekend.



VIRGO (August 23-September 23):

 Virgoans could be throwing caution to the wind this week. The astral atmosphere should encourage you to be more carefree and ready to enjoy life in the moment. Finances are forecast to receive a boost by the middle of the month – treat yourself by splashing out on something you’ve wanted for a long time. Special days for romance are Tuesday and Wednesday – a water sign is ready for a serious relationship.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23):

 Librans who have been keeping their true talents under wraps will be inspired to show what they can do this week. The stars hint that another air sign has the right contacts to help you climb the career ladder. Where personal relationships are concerned, clearing the air with an earth sign friend is forecast to brighten your weekend. Wear the color gold to encourage better luck with money.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22):

 A business proposition or job offer may be too good to be true this week. Those born under the sign of Scorpio who are anxious to leave their current situation are advised to wait until later this month before making new commitments. Finances are affected by uncertain astral conditions until the middle of April – making loans is not recommended at the moment. Romance with another water sign becomes sweeter this weekend.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21):

 The stars advise Sagittarians to take gossip with a grain of salt this week. Something you hear in the world of work may prompt you to take the wrong actions – it would be more sensible to wait until the middle of the month when the astral atmosphere clears. Where romance is concerned, the stars are smiling on your attempts to be noticed by an air sign this weekend.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20):

 Your luck in business is less well-starred this week. The stars indicate that Capricorns waiting for another earth sign to keep their promise are barking up the

wrong tree. This is a time to rely on your own strengths and play it safe where money is concerned. Love with an air sign could be blind, but taking the time to get to know another earth sign will be rewarding.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19):

 Aquarians see that knowledge is power this week. Information that you gathered earlier this year should now prove useful in the world of work. Changes are highlighted for later this month. Romance is well-starred – flattering a fire sign should get you where you aim to be. Those already spoken for will be relieved when their partner makes the right decision. Lucky days for money matters are Wednesday and Thursday.

PISCES (February 20-March 20):

 Pisceans are predicted to have a fairly non-eventful week. Luck with money is moderate until the middle of the month. The stars suggest that a fire sign’s powers of persuasion could be stronger than your ability to resist making a new financial commitment. Romance with another water sign can be recaptured if this is what you want. However, the stars advise that you listen carefully to your heart.

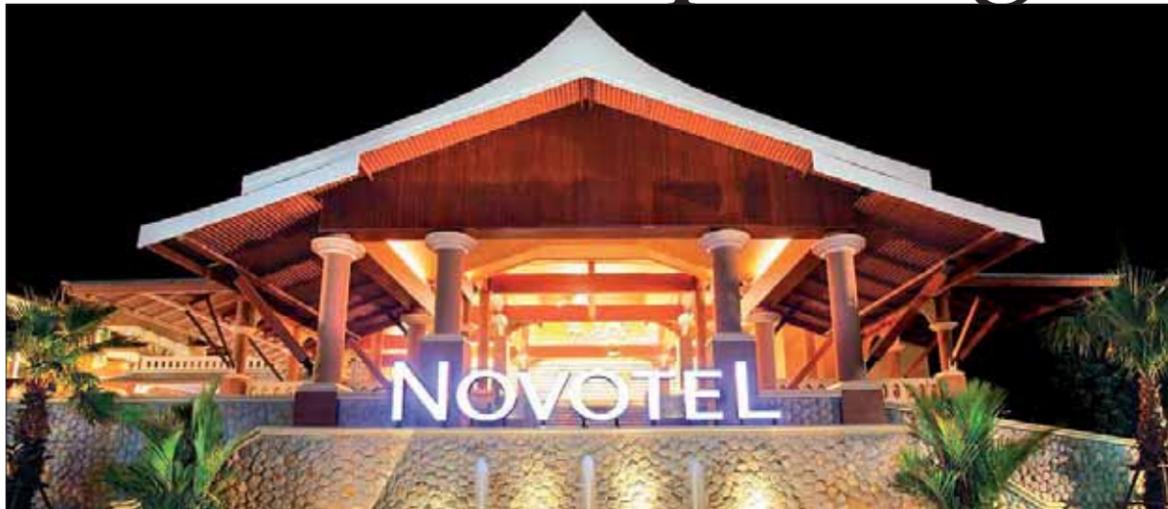
PROPERTY Gazette

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Novotel hosts Vintage Park's soft opening



A rendering of a Deluxe Twin room at the Novotel Phuket Vintage Park.



NEW AND VINTAGE: Novotel's latest offering is situated right in the heart of Patong.



A FAMILY AFFAIR: Novotel Vintage Park owners Boonchai and Kannika Jivavisitnon with their son Pobchai Jivavisitnon who is the Managing Director.

NOVOTEL Resorts, has just announced the soft opening of its Phuket Vintage Park located 3 minutes walk from Patong Beach. Novotel Phuket Vintage Park and Novotel Phuket Resort CEO Kannika Jivavisitnon said, "We held a soft opening for media agents in Phuket. We'll have the grand opening in August."

Vintage Park General Manager Mr Herve Duprat said, "We invited around two hundred people to show them the resort. There is a lobby, spa, restaurant, ballroom and bedrooms."

Situated in the heart of Patong, Novotel Phuket Vintage Park is a 4 -star resort featuring a mixture of contemporary and traditional Southeast Asian architecture with modern amenities. The hotel is near major shopping centers and Patong's lively night life. It is approximately a forty minute drive from Phuket International Airport.

"This resort will appeal to guests who seek comfort and serene relaxation yet it is just a few steps away from the lively activities of the Patong area. The resort is a perfect choice for both busi-

ness and leisure travelers." Said Herve Duprat

Novotel Phuket Vintage Park also offers a wealth of varied activities from water-based fun in the 2,000 square meter swimming pool to aerobic classes and from Thai cooking classes to batik painting. The new hotel has 303 rooms: 207 Superior, 74 Deluxe, 14 Pool Access, 7 Family rooms and 1 Suite.

Novotel Phuket Vintage Park is located at 89, Rat U Thit 200 Pee Rd Patong Beach. T: 076380555 E: H8099@accor.com

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Burma on my mind



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

BEING politically correct is not exactly my strong suit, as anyone who knows me would willingly say. "Shoot now, pay later and damn the consequences" could be a suitable epilogue for a day in my life.

Today's article is about to take us over the border to the country of Myanmar or Burma. Frankly speaking, Burma is firmly etched in my mind scape. Is this just a colonial overtone, sign of age, or have I been living here too long?

For clarity and because "B"s are easier to type than "M"s I'm opting for Burma at the moment.

But let's face it; the name game is just one of the many contradictions this emerging country faces.

History has been made this past week as Aung San Suu Kyi and her pro-democracy party has swept the elections like an overly efficient "dust buster".

Which brings us to two "P"s – politics and property. Do we dare

utter these two words in the same sentence? A few weeks ago I headed up to Bangkok to attend a seminar, held by *The Nation*, Colliers International Thailand and Universal Link Services, on the opportunities and challenges facing Burma.

For a Friday morning, the turnout of over 200 well-dressed businesspeople, made me wish I had worn one of my A-list black t-shirts rather than the everyday island variety but the number demonstrated the rising buzz and sentiment surrounding Burma.

I've been in Asia for nearly three decades and seen emerging nations both roll out and roll up their red carpets and democracies emerging in Indonesia and the Philippines after years of muscled one man rule. Then of course there's the curious case of the communists: China and Vietnam.

I've seen all manner of mayhem, from bicycles to Bentleys, and agriculture to iPads, in the march towards capitalism. Certainly there still remain works in progress such as Cambodia, Laos

"I've been in Asia for nearly three decades and seen emerging nations both roll out and roll up their red carpets."

– Bill Barnett



END OF AN ERA: These Dawei farmers will see great changes with the Dawei Special Economic Zone. Photo: Jeff McNeill

or Sri Lanka.

But it's Burma that now has the region's ears, after some fifty years of isolation and confusion.

Comparing changeovers in other South East Asian nations, where coups and conflict have erupted in the past (Thailand take note), historically the military controlled countries have only seen transitions between powerful generals.

In terms of property opportunities, at present foreigners in Burma are restricted to a lease or rental term of 30 years. There is a renewal provision for two 15 year terms, subject to approval. This was highlighted by Collier's Tony Picon at the seminar. The new investment law is expected to roll out soon which will provide reforms for foreign ownership, fast-tracked approvals and tax and employment provisions.

Tony and Colliers are perhaps the most significant resources at the moment on real estate trends in the Burma market and have pub-

lished some excellent market research. Some market quirks came up in the session, such as the distinction between what are referred to as "condos" and "apartments" in the local context.

Legally, there are no condos but locals refer to "condos" as structures that have elevators and other multistoried walk up units as "apartments". Bizarrely, ground floor units have the highest selling prices and rates decline as you go upward, unlike the opposite trend in most cities. This is due to the fact that high floor units require an elevator and these rarely work in the mechanically challenged current environment.

Office and commercial rates are in key demand with pricing expected to push up to US\$ 50 per square meter and ultimately could rise above US\$ 100. Many NGOs and representative offices have traditionally been housed in hotels where low occupancy attracted rental by any means.

Now, average room rates are skyrocketing and hotel room demand is unable to cope with the limited supply.

Looking forward, the natural synergies of Burma with key neighbors such as India, China and Thailand tend to favor the latter. Overland access favors this country with early projects, such as the Dawei Special Economic Zone that is being undertaken by ItalThai, being fast-tracked.

Tourism of course will come but for now the natural resource-rich country, which counts timber, gas, petroleum, gold and copper amongst its many assets, is on the radar screens of the world's heavy industrial hitters.

What is clear for any observer is this country is headed in only one direction at the moment, which is up.

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

In brief...

Krabi's airport capacity upstages Phuket

KRABI Airport has opened a new terminal effective from April 1.

The existing facility is dedicated to international passengers and all those on Thai Airways, while the new terminal will house domestic travelers including Thai AirAsia and Bangkok Airways.

Airport capacity has been effectively increased from 4.38 million up to 8.76 million.

The stated capacity for Krabi at the moment is actually higher than that of Phuket International Airport which is 6.5 million.

While Phuket falls under the AoT (Airports of Thailand), Krabi is administered by the DCA (Department of Civil Aviation).

One key advantage Krabi has over say, Koh Samui is the length of its runway which is three kilometers long and able to land widebody aircraft.

Charter flights from China

and Russia favor these type of planes and the restriction in Koh Samui continues to be a marked limiter to demand.

Novotel sale is the largest Asian hotel transactions since GFC

JONES Lang LaSalle Hotels Singapore have announced the sale of the Novotel Nathan Road Kowloon Hong Kong, on behalf of its owner LaSalle Asia Opportunity Fund II, to Hong Kong based Gaw Capital Partners and CSI Properties.

The hotel transaction was for a total of HK\$ 2.368billion (US\$ 305mn), representing the largest single hotel sale in Hong Kong in over 10 years and in the wider Asian region since the Global Economic Downturn.

Since undergoing a complete refurbishment and rebranding in 2008, The 389 room hotel experienced occupancies in excess of 95 per cent and became one of the most popular hotels in Hong Kong.

LaSalle Investment Management are well known in Phuket as

the entity behind the redevelopment of the Karon Villa into the Crowne Plaza which was ultimately sold to become the Moevenpick Resort and Spa.

Jungceylon upgrades

LEADING retail shopping mall Jungceylon will undergo a 50 million baht renovation program according to the owning group Phuket Square.

The Patong landmark which has nearly 70,000 square meters of commercial space averages a daily footfall traffic of between 40,000 to 50,000 people.

A larger marketing budget will also be rolled out to promote the new entry of well-recognized branded offerings.

Architect Bill Callahan opens Island Space

BILL Callahan, who was based in Hawaii and Bangkok has opened the new Phuket-based design studio named Island Space and is targeting resort, residential and commercial work.

– Bill Barnett

Laguna

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4 Laguna Cove THB 23 M



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5 Laguna Homes THB 42 M



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Selling property successfully

Property Legal By International Law Office

WHEN considering the sale of a property in Thailand, sellers often start negotiating with a potential buyer on the terms of the sale before actually having checked whether they are in possession of all relevant documentation, which is typically required to be provided to a buyer in connection with the intended transaction.

Locating the relevant sales documentation at an advanced stage of a transaction causes all too often unnecessary delays, whereupon a buyer may lose interest in the property and further decide not to proceed with the purchase.

For obvious reasons, a seller wishes to avoid losing a sale due to unnecessary delays and therefore should have all documentation which a buyer may reasonably require for review in connection with a due diligence performed on the targeted property before commencement of the sales negotiations.

Such documentation may include title deeds, official documents issued by the land offices at the time a seller has taken on registered title to the property for sale, construction permit and house registration book. In case that a property is held through a corporate structure, then all relevant company documents should be held on file for a buyer's inspection. Furthermore, proper receipts of all payments made in connection with the property for sale should have been collected and provided to the buyer if required.



(BE) FOR SALE Prior to negotiating a sale, sellers should prepare any and all necessary documentation. Photos: Imagesofmoney

Last, but not least, carefully drafted and self-explanatory sales contracts providing for fair and balanced terms should be produced for discussion with a buyer and his legal team.

If a seller is unsure what documents may be requested by a potential buyer, then consultation with a law firm having the required expertise will certainly help. In addition, potential tax implications should be discussed with a tax advisor. This shall allow a seller to have a feasible legal structure underlying the proposed transaction already before commencement of the official sales negotiations with the buyer and his advisers in place.

In order to achieve a timely and smooth completion of a property sale, all parties involved should be aware of their responsibilities and duties.

The seller and his legal representative should provide all documentation which a buyer may reasonably request and make the necessary disclosures to the buyer performing his searches. Transparency and a cooperative approach will certainly provide a buyer with all the necessary comfort and faith in the intended investment required for a successful completion of the sale.

In case some documentation requested by a buyer's lawyer is difficult to locate, an experienced agent might be able to assist and keep the ball rolling. Assistance through an agent will certainly be appreciated by the parties and their legal representatives, however, it is important to understand that the

parties' legal representatives are subject to client confidentiality and represent their respective clients' interests only.

As a rule of thumb, a seller when preparing the sales documentation for his buyer's review should try to put himself in the position of a reasonable buyer and prepare all such documentation as he would expect to receive from his seller. The buyer will be appreciative and a swift completion of the sale ensured.

This article has been written by International Law Office Patong Beach Co, Ltd, a Phuket based law firm for informational purpose only. For enquiries, please contact Michael Greth, Consultant, by email (michael@ilo-phuket.com) or phone (+66-(0) 76-222 191-5).



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Over on the shady side of the street



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

LAST week I attempted to answer a reader's questions about the choice of shade trees for a new one rai plot.

In two important respects however, my account was incomplete. I conveniently ignored the request for 'indigenous' trees, and did not mention how to get them. So, Jim, here is more specific information. I imagine, by the way, that some readers will need information about trees from the Americas and Africa as well as Southeast Asian varieties, so I trust last week's labors are not entirely in vain.

Anyway, the native trees I mentioned last time around as suitable subjects for treatment are listed again below, together with their

Thai names so they can be more easily identified in garden centers. I have also added some more to the list. The originals included: champaca (*champak*), mango (*mamuang*), fiddlewood or *citharexylum* (*bungaa saa rii*), and Pride of India or *lagerstroemia* (*intani*). Some avocados (*persea*) apparently come from Asia, though most are from Central America. Surprisingly, the tamarind is an import from Africa.

I am now adding further shade-enhancing, indigenous ornamentals: ironwood *ornesia ferrea* (*bun-naak*), a substantial evergreen shade tree with yellowish-pink young leaves and yellow centred, perfumed, daisy like flowers; the Indian Cork tree or *millingtonia* (*biip*), a popular road tree, also evergreen, which is less dense and produces small delicate clusters of white hanging blooms. Other choices might include the

cochlospermum or butterfly tree (*supani khaa*), a deciduous, yellow flowering tree which blooms from bare branches and provides light shade; *mimusops elengi* or Spanish cherry (*phi-khuun*), a large tree with fragrant white blooms and dense evergreen shade named the yellow poinciana *peltophorum pterocarpum* or (*non sii*) which is popular both for its shade and spikes of golden flowers, and the anan or *fagraea* (*kan grao*) which is a striking tree and may have been the symmetrical one referred to in Jim's email. Another possibility is the pyramidal Norfolk Island Pine (*son chat*) which looks like an overgrown Christmas tree but which is, self-evidently, not indigenous to Thailand or Southern Asia. *Peltophorum dasyrachis* (*araang*) is mostly evergreen (though leaflets from mine do drop in the pool), a fast-growing, red bark,



FLAMING BEAUTY: The Golden Flame Tree. Photo:Tatiana Gerus



Mesua ferrea. Photo:Scott Zona



Pride of India. Photo:Tatiana Gerus

tree with bi-pinnate leaves. The new foliage appears at the same time as small yellow spikes of flowers. It is particularly tolerant of salt-laden winds.

As for obtaining saplings, I offer the following advice. If you visit a plant nursery – and there are many – go armed with a decent book which has pictures, preferably color photos, of each species. And try to remember the Thai name of the plant you are after. *A Field Guide to Tropical Plants of Asia* by Engel and Phummai (Marshall Cavendish) has the inestimable advantage of giving common, botanical and Thai names. Not always accurate, but very useful. And don't forget the Thai word *eton* – it means tree!

Alternatively most of these trees can be propagated from hard-

wood cuttings or seeds, drupes or stones. My two avocados came from stones, as did the mango tree and both yellow oleanders (*thevetia*). Plant the seeds/stones in containers where you can keep a careful eye on them.

If you are able to beg, borrow or steal cuttings, put them in decent potting mix with some moisture and some shade. Applying a rooting compound to the cut end may assist germination.

The whole process takes longer and is more uncertain than buying a container plant, and you will not be entirely sure what you will end up with – half the fun of gardening.

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



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Tip of the week

Biennials and bulbs



TROPICAL EXCEPTION: *Echium pininana*. Photo: Amanda Slater

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* (above) 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 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 three times as deep as the bulb is wide. They will need water while they are 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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for sale. Location at Layan. Tel: 081-787 4383.

6-BEDROOM POOL VILLA RAWAI



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PATONG; 2BEDS CONDO



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SALE: 1MB RAWAI BEACH



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TOWNHOUSE IN KOH KAEW



Corner unit, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished. 3.5 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118.

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

PHUKET VILLA SUAN LUANG

Urgent sale. 65/474, 67.5sq wah, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, car park. Price: 4.9 million baht. Tel: 081-536 5755, 089-729 6244.

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

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

REDUCED PRICE HOUSE



7.5 million baht. 3 beds 3 baths, swimming pool with jacuzzi and lake view. Prime location at Anuphas Golf Ville in Kathu. Fully furnished and ready to move-in. View now. Tel: 081-273 3975 (English), 084-293 7923 (Thai).

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Starting 6 million baht per rai. Location at Layan. Tel: 081-787 4383.

CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

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

BARGAIN LAND RAWAI

Walled level, plot 620sqm. 4.3 million baht. 100m from Nai Harn Rd. Tel: 085-782 7551.

SOI SANSABAI 2-BED CONDO

Outstanding location, G/F, Foreign freehold, 80sqm. 4.25 million baht. Tel: 086-075 6715. Email: chalky@netvigator.com For further details, please see our website at http://bjparkcondo.weebly.com/

RAWAI: 480SQM OF LAND

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SINGLE HOUSE FOR SALE



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

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

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Near Jungceylon, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, 2 aircons, free cable TV, fully furnished. Tel: 081-676 7709.

POOL VILLAS RAWAI
2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished. Price: 4.5 million baht. 100% finance. Tel: 083-641 9327. Email: rawaipoolvillas@hotmail.com

NICE PLOT FOR SALE



Near Layan Hill Estate. (Manik-Bang Tao area). Ready to build housing/pool villas. Chanote title. Price: 7.2 million baht. Neg. Contact owner on 080-520 2989. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

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2-STOREY HOUSE IN PATONG



Sea view. 50 Pi Road, 49sq wah. 4 bedrooms with balconies, 2 bathroom, aircon, fully furnished. Chanote. Price: 17 million baht ono. Tel: 087-270 9093. Email: a.pueng@gmail.com

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BAR HOTEL RAWAI BEACH



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HOUSE IN KAMALA



For sale. 2 houses on land. 1 ngan 89sq wah. Chanote title, near mountain, peaceful and safe, 10 minutes from the beach. 7.5 million baht direct from owner. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: yaris.vios@gmail.com

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HOUSE IN PATONG



Newly built 40sq wah, near Sea Pearl project, Patong. 2 stories, 3 beds, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, 2 aircons, kitchen with hood, refrigerator, dining room, living room, hot water, cable TV and internet. Tel: 089-469 1813.

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2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished, cable TV, WiFi. 10 minutes to beach. Cleaning lady, 15,000 baht per month minimum 3 months. Start from April 15. Tel: 084-716 0502.

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En l genhet 3rok och en 2rok uthyres fullt m blerade. Karon bakom Centara Hotell, 15 min prom. till stranden. Tel: 087-125 9505 (English). Email: tommy.ericsson@phuketsemester.se

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

THALANG VILLA

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PATONG

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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, Thepkrasattri Rd, T. Koh Kaew
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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.

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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: pornnipa.hanpalangjitsuk@kohler.com

Kohler (Thailand) Public Company Limited

16th Floor, Jasmine City, 2 Soi Sukhumvit 23, Sukhumvit Rd., Bangkok 10110
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Assistant to Managing Director (full time)

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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

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

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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
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Front Office Manager

Qualifications:

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- 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@ramadakhaoлак.com
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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

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

MANAGER-SWIMMING POOL CO

Service Manager, Thai national, required by Phuket's leading swimming pool management & maintenance service company. Experienced in: swimming pool maintenance & installation, ability to manage 30 plus staff, spoken and written English with a dynamic personality are all essential. A rewarding opportunity. Salary is not a factor for the successful applicant. Tel: 076-620193, 081-797 5545 (English & Thai), 081-958 6754 (English). Fax: 076-620194. Email: info@mobilepooldoctor.com

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www.clubtropicalifestyle.com

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

DATA ENTRY STAFF NEEDED

2 new staff needed for travel company in Kathu. Good computer skills needed and must be able to speak & read English. Training will be provided. Wages are from 15,000 - 20,000 baht. Tel: +61-2-9569 0811. Email: angelog@honeymoon.com.au

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

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English speaker with good Microsoft Office skills and references. Please email CV to adrian.j.simpson@gmail.com

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

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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:

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- ▶ 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 Pornniwa, Assistant Manager-Classifieds, at Jeab@PhuketGazette.Net

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Ocean Resort Group

is currently seeking for the following positions:

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Contact Human Resources Department
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www.sunwingphuket.com

ASSISTANT MANAGER IN PHUKET

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

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Elite Yachting in Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket in looking for a Thai national with a bachelor degree and min 2 years experience. You need to work accurately with numbers (e.g. confirm payments to clients) and general office admin. Ability to write and speak English is required. Tel: 081-978 6086 (English). Please send your CV to jurg@phuket-yachts.com.

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For Trading Company in Kamala. We seek an experienced Senior Accountant. Must know Express software, English, and understand the import business. Salary starts at 25,000 baht + transportation+ accommodation+ BUPA health insurance. Work 6 days a week. Tel: 076-322663, 086-773 4538 (English). Fax: 076-322664. Email: skgf@skgf.asia

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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

RESTAURANT STAFF WANTED

Kitchen Manager/Sous Chef: Hotel experience preferred. Must speak and write English. Kitchen Staff: Thai/European food. Hotel experience preferred. Cold Kitchen, Hotline, Dishwasher, Counter/Wait Staff: English speaking. Tel: 076-367071, 081-832 2519 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-367071. Email: jude@tigermuaythai.com

EXPERIENCED ACCOUNTANT

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Work at HolyClothing, an internet fashion retailer. Tel: 085-789 9249. Email: info@holyclothing.com Details here: <http://bit.ly/zySLXo>

ACCOUNTANT

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Waiters or Waitresses	3 Positions

All above position should be able to communicate in English
Please send your CV to Human Resources Department

222 Moo 7, Paklok Sub-district, Thalang District, Phuket 83110
Email: annie@campbellkane.com
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MANAGER-SWIMMING POOL CO

Service Manager, Thai national, required by Phuket's leading swimming pool management & maintenance service company. Experienced in: swimming pool maintenance & installation, ability to manage 30 plus staff, spoken and written English with a dynamic personality are all essential. A rewarding opportunity. Salary is not a factor for the successful applicant. Tel: 076-620193, 081-797 5545 (English & Thai), 081-958 6754 (English). Fax: 076-620194. Email: info@mobilepooldoctor.com

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Photoshop, Dreamweaver, InDesign, html coding experience - Php a plus. Must have good command of English (Thai national only). Tel: 076-324184, 082-255 7507. Email: orn@imarketingonly.com Pleass send CV to orn@imarketingonly.com

E-COMMERCE MANAGER



Serenity Resort & Residences in Rawai is an upscale private resort with 62 suites and residences. We are now looking for a qualified e-commerce manager to be part of our management team. Candidates must be fluent in English and have experience in on-line marketing, PPC campaigns and possibly SEO. This position enjoys a very attractive salary with benefits. Candidates should currently hold a similar position in another hotel or in the on-line travel industry. Please email CV with photo. Only short-listed candidates will be notified. Tel: 081-8469981 (English). Email: ursaebi@gmx.net For further details, please see our website at www.serenityphuket.com

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4 x 4s

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2 HONDA CLICK

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NISSAN MARCH 2010

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- Charter or private.
- A phinisi with detail.



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- Price reduced for a quick sale.
- Kept in excellent condition by professional crew.



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- Upgraded sound system.
- Joystick control.



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- Every option for long distance sailing included.
- Single owner boat.



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- 50hp Bow and Stern thrusters
- Twin MTU 475hp mainstems
- ABT stabilizers with STAR
- Wireless remote system
- Twin Village Marine wat



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Corsair C37RS (2009)
\$250,000 USD



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SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES

Crossword puzzle:

1	T	S	A	R	S	6	R	E	L	A	X	11	S	12	13				
14	S	A	I	N	T	15	A	D	E	L	A	16	T	I	A				
17	E	N	L	A	I	18	D	I	V	A	N	19	A	N	T				
						20	F	L	I	T		22	T	A	I	N	T		
24	H	A	L	I	F	A	X	28	A	S	H	T	R	A	Y				
30	I	D	E	A	L	S		31	S	P	L	I	T						
32	N	I	N	N	Y		33	A	U	R	I	C	U	L	A	R			
37	G	O	T			38	T	U	N	E	D		39	O	O	O			
40	E	S	O	P	H	A	G	U	S		43	D	O	W	R	Y			
						45	S	E	T	U	P		46	M	U	L	E	T	A
47	B	A	S	I	L	A	R		50	H	U	M	E	R	A	L			
51	A	R	E	S	O			52	P	O	M	P							
53	S	O	N		54	T	I	M	E	R		57	I	N	L	E	T		
62	E	A	T		63	R	O	A	R	S		64	S	C	A	R	E		
65	S	R	A		66	Y	U	C	K	Y		67	H	O	P	E	D		

Gazette Connect Quiz answers: From page 26

- ROBIN Williams (Rockin' Robin)
- Big BEN (Ben)
- BEAT IT (Beat It)
- The THRILLER in Manila (Thriller)
- BILLIE JEAN King (Billie Jean)
- EARTH (Earth Song)
- The Good, The BAD And The Ugly (Bad)
- DIANA (Dirty Diana)
- The BLACK And WHITE Minstrel Show (Black Or White)
- Connection: Michael Jackson hit songs

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TECNAM P-92

-Price: 1.5 million baht
 -Registration: U-B08
 -Year of Manufacture: 2002
 -Equipment: Full standard equipment
 -Engine: Rotax 912-80HP 350hrs.

Aircraft is based at Klong 15

Please contact for more information.
 Tel: 081-840 8418.

Rockwell Commander 114 HS-AWS



Built: 1976

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

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

Specs:

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

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

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

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International Sport

London is ready for the World

THE International Olympic Committee (IOC) Coordination Commission for London 2012 concluded its 10th and final visit to the host city with the message that London is ready to welcome the world's best athletes and Olympic and Paralympic fans this summer.

"With only 100 plus days to go until the Games begin, London is ready to welcome the world this summer," said Coordination Commission Chairman Denis Oswald "London presented us with a strong vision in Singapore seven years ago and, while many details will need to be finalized between now and July 27, they are well on track to deliver an outstanding event," he added.

With dozens of successful sports test events already completed and as organizers put the final touches on preparations for the Games, anticipation is building in Great Britain and around the World thanks to a multitude of cultural, educational and sports programs, which are bringing the Olympic spirit to the whole of the country and beyond. This includes the Olympic Torch Relay which

will travel the length and breadth of Great Britain, after reaching the UK from Greece on 18 May.

A Cultural Olympiad known as the London 2012 Festival has been running since 2008, and having reached 16 million people around the UK, it offers something for everyone: musical performances, artistic performances, film screenings, and much more.

The London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) also told the Coordination Commission that "You can really sense the growing excitement for the Games. As they draw closer, the numerous activities that London 2012 and its partners are putting on for the public are really helping to build anticipation.

"The World expects a lot from London but we know you're ready and we know you'll deliver."

LOCOG Chairman Sebastian Coe said, "We are obviously delighted with the IOC verdict that we are on track to deliver a great Games and welcome the World in 17 weeks' time. We couldn't have a better or more com-



Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park main stadium and Orbit tower. Photo: BaldBoris



Sebastian Coe. Photo: UKTI

mitted team of people, not just at LOCOG but all over the UK, delivering on the promises we made when we bid for the Games."

The Prime Minister reinforced his government's full support for the Games and the great legacies they will deliver. These include Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and

the rejuvenation of the East End (where six of the eight permanent venues already have post-Games tenants); volunteerism; job creation; upgraded transport infrastructure; economic benefits and an increase in young people's participation in sports activities.

- Phuket Gazette

The top and bottom of it

Manchester United gave themselves a five point cushion over their main title challengers, Manchester City with a two-nil away win against relegation threatened Blackburn Rover, with only seven games remaining.

Despite dominating play with an incredible 70% of the possession during the match, both goals came in the last nine minutes.

Antonio Valencia opened United's account with a drive from the edge of the box that fizzed past Paul Robinson out-stretched hand.

Ashley Young, who had not long replaced Paul Scholes, settled matters four minutes later with a sharp turn and finish, also from outside the penalty area.

Alex Ferguson has stuck by his goalkeeper David de Gea, who now appears to have settled in his role after problems at the start of his tenure. Fergie rightly praised his number one who made two saves of high quality before the break. He did have one moment of anxiety

making a hash of Morten Gamst Pedersen's free-kick, though with no Rover player on hand to punish the error, it seems luck is as usual on the Red Devils' side.

Manchester City on the other had to come from behind, twice, to grab a point 3-3 against Sunderland, losing their 100% home record.

Roberto Mancini had to rely on his wayward striker Mario Balotelli to salvage the point, and openly criticized his players for their lack-luster performance. City have attempted mind games in the press when really they should concentrate on the playing.

Perhaps Mancini's prediction that the title will be decided on April 30 will be right, yet all his others have failed to come true.

Whilst Tottenham and Chelsea both got back to winning ways, Arsenal stalled in their pursuit of securing a top four finish.

The Gunners, who remain in third by the virtue of one goal

better difference over Spurs, lost 2-1 at the hands of London neighbours, QPR away.

The win, combined with Blackburn Rovers' loss, leapfrogged the Hoops out of the relegation zone due to their superior goal difference.

QPR have a frightening run ahead in their battle for Premiership survival, facing four of the top five outfits.

Mark Hughes believes taking Arsenal's scalp after beating Liverpool in their previous home match, that they can and what would be worthy of Houdini, escape relegation.

Bolton's fortunate 2-3 win at Molineux, thanks to suspect refereeing, almost certainly has consigned Wolverhampton to Championship football next season. Wolves, with no win at home in 2012, are six points adrift of safety and have the worse goal difference in the league.

- Dean Noble

PREMIER LEAGUE TABLE				
TEAM	P	GD	PTS	
1 Man Utd	31	49	76	
2 Man City	31	50	71	
3 Arsenal	31	21	58	
4 Tottenham	31	20	58	
5 Chelsea	31	17	53	
6 Newcastle	31	4	53	
7 Everton	31	0	43	
14 West Brom	31	-7	36	
15 Aston Villa	31	-9	33	
16 Bolton	30	-24	29	
17 QPR	30	-19	28	
18 Blackburn	31	-21	28	
19 Wigan	31	-26	28	
20 Wolves	31	-35	22	

PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES			
SATURDAY, 07 APRIL 2012			
Sunderland vs Tottenham	19:45		
Bolton vs Fulham	22:00		
Chelsea vs Wigan			
Liverpool vs Aston Villa			
Norwich vs Everton			
West Brom vs Blackburn			
Stoke vs Wolves	00:30		
SUNDAY, 08 APRIL 2012			
Man Utd vs QPR	20:30		
Arsenal vs Man City	23:00		
MONDAY, 09 APRIL 2012			
Everton vs Sunderland			
Newcastle vs Bolton			
Tottenham vs Norwich			
Aston Villa vs Stoke	00:30		
Fulham vs Chelsea	03:00		
TUESDAY, 10 APRIL 2012			
Blackburn vs Liverpool	03:00		
WEDNESDAY, 11 APRIL 2012			
Man City vs West Brom			
Wigan vs Man Utd			
Wolves vs Arsenal			
QPR vs Swansea	03:00		

ARSENAL FIXTURES			
Arsenal vs Man City	Sun 8 Apr	23:00	
Wolves vs Arsenal	Wed 11 Apr	02:45	
Arsenal vs Wigan	Mon 16 Apr	03:00	
Arsenal vs Chelsea	Sat 21 Apr	19:45	
Stoke vs Arsenal	Sat 28 Apr	22:00	
Arsenal vs Norwich	Sat 6 May	19:45	
West Brom vs Arsenal	Sun 13 May	23:00	

TOTTENHAM FIXTURES			
Sunderland vs Tottenham	Sat 7 Apr	19:45	
Tottenham vs Norwich	Mon 9 Apr	23:00	
Bolton vs Tottenham	Sun 15 Apr		
Postponed - new date to be confirmed			
QPR vs Tottenham	Sat 21 Apr	24:30	
Tottenham vs Blackburn	Sun 29 Apr	23:00	
Bolton vs Tottenham	Wed 2 May	03:00	
Aston Villa vs Tottenham	Sun 6 May	21:00	
Tottenham vs Fulham	Sun 13 May	22:00	

CHELSEA FIXTURES			
Chelsea vs Wigan	Sat 7 Apr	22:00	
Fulham vs Chelsea	Mon 9 Apr	03:00	
Arsenal vs Chelsea	Sat 21 Apr	19:45	
Chelsea vs QPR	Sun 29 Apr	20:30	
Chelsea vs Newcastle	Wed 2 May	02:45	
Liverpool vs Chelsea	Sun 6 May	21:00	
Chelsea vs Blackburn	Sun 13 May	22:00	

NEWCASTLE FIXTURES			
Swansea vs Newcastle	Fri 6 Apr	23:30	
Newcastle vs Bolton	Mon 9 Apr	22:00	
Newcastle vs Stoke	Sat 21 Apr	22:00	
Wigan vs Newcastle	Sat 28 Apr	22:00	
Chelsea vs Newcastle	Wed 2 May	02:45	
Newcastle vs Man City	Sun 6 May	21:00	
Everton vs Newcastle	Sun 13 May	22:00	

SPORTS briefs...

F1: The next grand prix will be held April 13-15 in Shanghai, China. Designed by Hermann Tilke, it features his trademark long back straight followed by a hairpin turn. The circuit starts with a very long 300 right-hand bend that's fast, but slows before a sharp left-hand turn. The track boasts the longest straight in Formula 1, at 1.2 kilometers, where cars typically surpass 300 km/h before entering the right-hand hairpin. It is a circuit that is extremely hard on engines, and tyre management will be a major factor.

BOXING: Legend Sugar Ray Leonard has called on Floyd Mayweather and Manny Pacquiao to resolve negotiations and fight, for the sake of their own legacies. Leonard believes that by not coming to a deal they will suffer. "This is for history, for people to say 'I remember when'. It's beyond money." Mayweather and Pacquiao, regarded as the best boxers pound for pound, have been in talks since 2010. Discussions fell apart when Mayweather asked for random drug-testing during the training period, which was rejected by Pacquiao.

FOOTBALL: Barcelona and Bayern Munich both reached the semi-finals of the UEFA Champions League, with comfortably wins over AC Milan and Marseille, respectively. Barca's Lionel Messi scored two penalties to become the third highest scorer in the competition. The ease of the win over the Serie A leaders 3-1 should concern the remaining competition. Bayern Munich will also feel confident following their 4-0 aggregate win, and would certainly enjoy reaching the final, to be played at their own stadium on May 19.

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FC Phuket suffer first defeat

By S Layne and P Choksakulpan

FC Phuket got their first taste of defeat for the 2012 Thai Yamaha 1 league, succumbing to a solid Bangkok United side 0-3 on Sunday evening at Surakul Stadium in Phuket Town.

The result of the season's fourth fixture was officially credited to Bangkok's Sompong Soleb, who scored a hat trick with strikes in the 24th, 60th and 72nd minutes.

The goal deficit could have easily been higher, however, with the visitors demonstrating an unmatched attacking dominance throughout much of the match.

Shadowed by an unfavorable injury list, Phuket were without key striker Watcharapong Jun-ngam and defender Nenebi Tre Slyvestre.

Also hurt were midfielders Nirun Panthong and Suwit Najumroen and defender Arwut Nuchet.

Equipped with a healthy and rounded arsenal, Bangkok showed little sympathy on the pitch.

Smooth offensive coordination, particularly between Sompong and

Frenchmen Romain Gasmis scattered Phuket's defenses, allowing for limited counter strikes.

Phuket's Kim Wonsup and Ivorian Ibrahim Kanoute fruited a few scoring chances, but had difficulty penetrating Bangkok's Brazilian backs led by Gilson Dias and Rian Marques.

Phuket's goalkeeper Alonso Jose Carvalho da Silva made a number of commendable saves, but the visitor's sustained attacking proved too much for the Brazilian.

"I am very sad with the result. We all are tired from much travelling and tight schedule with three matches in one week.

"And also playing under the sun at 4 pm made us exhausted.

We still need fans to understand our situation, support us and cheer us till the end of the season. We promise to be better," he said.

As expected Phuket's Serbian Head Coach Milos Joskic was quite disappointed with the result.



STRETCHED OUT: Sompong Soleb (right) scored a hat trick on Sunday against Phuket. Photos: Peerapat Rattana

"Six key players were injured from the game against Nakhon Ratchasima last Wednesday. Substitutes played poorly and we lost without any fight. I expect our next match to be better with four of the injured players to be back.

"This game, we lost the ball too easily. I hope this was the last we played like this... We must fight for every point..."

Bangkok move up into 9th place with 6 points, while Phuket remain in 12th place with five points from one win (against Korat FC on March 28) and two draws.

Meanwhile, Pattalung FC remain

undefeated this season after beating Sri Racha Suzuki FC 2-1 on Sunday evening in Pattalung Town.

As a result, the Swiftlets maintain a 2nd place standing with 10 points, trailing league leaders Ratchaburi FC on goal difference.

Krabi also were victorious on Sunday, beating JW Rangsit 1-0 at home and moving up to 7th place with 7 points from two wins, a draw and loss.

Songkhla FC, however lost their top of the league standing after a 2 nil away-defeat on Sunday to PTT Rayong, putting the Southern fighting bulls into 5th place with 7 points.

All four southern sides in the league

have away fixtures this weekend.

The Southern Sea Kirin are in Isaan, set to play 13th placed Khon Kaen FC on Sunday evening at Khon Kaen Stadium. Kickoff for that match will be at 6pm.

Meanwhile, Krabi will play Rajpracha FC at 4pm, Songkhla to play Bangkok FC at 5pm, while Pattalung will play Saraburi at 6pm.

Phuket's next scheduled home fixture will be against Suphanburi FC on Saturday April 21.

For all the latest FC Phuket and Southern Thai Yamaha 1 league news and results, check the *Phuket Gazette* website.

Four teams up for Super Six champs

PHUKET'S Super Six League played out its penultimate round of matches last Wednesday at Headstart's Football Island with Pita Bar Phuketeers and Ristorante Rugantino first into the fray in a fiery encounter.

Early Phuketeer's pressure put their opponents on the back foot, but they went behind first after failing to capitalize on scoring chances. Carl Brain plundered an equalizer for Phuketeers moments after Rugantino had finished celebrating, and from there both teams traded goals with Rafa Sans, Ding Yama and Aaron Birchler pouncing for the Phuketeers while Jacopo Jajo and Scandanian Stig Edvardsen each scored for Rugantino, ending the first-half at 6-4 to Phuketeers.

Second-half action was dominated by a fevered Rugantino attack that produced just one goal



FIREWALL: Phuketeers stare down the barrel of a Rugantino free kick.

for the Italian side while Phuketeers absorbed the onslaught and hit back on the break with three goals, two of those coming from Yannik Christl. Pita Bar Phuketeers v

Ristorante Rugantino: 9-5.

Game two delivered a feast of goals when both Aladdin Friends and Phuket Serenity Villas (PSV) opted to attack and forfeit any defensive cares. As a result, the game hung in the balance as scorelines flitted in favor of both teams until Aladdin Friends stepped up the pace and polished off a fine performance with several late strikes. Aladdin Friends v Phuket Serenity Villas: 10-7.

Although not in contention for the title, both Eden FC and the Lounge were on the hunt for points in game three to help move away from the lower end of the table. The Lounge grabbed the lead with a goal by Tim Real, but Eden's Joeseph Arimathea quickly canceled out the advantage. This set the game's tempo with the Lounge going ahead and Eden equalizing until the score stood at

Phuket Super Six League				
Pos	Team	P	GD	Pts
1	Morning Star	7	38	19
2	Pita Bar Phuketeers	8	25	17
3	Shakers FC	7	30	16
4	Nanai Boys	7	14	15
5	Ristorante Rugantino	8	1	15

IT'S NOT OVER YET: The top four teams are still in contention for the title.

3-3 with just over five minutes of play remaining. But Eden FC broke the routine with a goal in the dying minutes to claim victory and all three points. The Lounge v Eden FC: 3-4.

Babynome felt the full impact of Shakers FC's desire to stay in touch for league honors during the evening's fourth game. No quarter was given as Shakers annihilated their inexperienced opposition by a margin of 13 goals. Shakers FC v Babynome: 15-2.

Morning Star and Nanai Boys duled to become favorites for the title in the last match. As expected, the game was an intense affair, but a hungry Morning Star claimed first blood with a goal from Pedro Carrera. Inventive football from Nanai Boys deserved reward, but a resolute Morning Star team allowed nothing through and managed to increase their advantage with goals from Simon Smith and a second from Carrera to lead 3-0 at half-time.

Piling on the pressure from the start of the second half, Nanai Boys took the game to Morning Star, but

solid defending, good goalkeeping and a drizzling of good fortune kept Nanai Boys at bay. James Saunders and Karl Ward combined to edge Morning Star further ahead and the pair each added to the scoreboard as Morning Star stamped their authority on the game. A late goal was little consolation for Nanai Boys as Morning Star put one hand on the inaugural PSSL trophy. Nanai Boys v Morning Star: 1-6.

At the time of going to press, the final round of PSSL matches were due to be played. Morning Star and Shakers FC are scheduled for a head-to-head game that will likely decide who becomes the first PSSL champion. Nanai Boys and Phuketeers are still in the running and could steal the crown if either of the current table-toppers fail to get three points.

The final report on the Super Six League's first season will appear in the *Gazette* on April 14.

For more information on the PSSL visit PhuketFootball.com.

- Neil Quail

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Laguna put one foot in the final

By Neil Quail

ONLY one game remains for Laguna CC in the Island Furniture cricket league following their victory over Liquid Lounge Lizards at the ACG last weekend and a place in May's final is almost assured.

Laguna won the toss and decided to bat, placing trust in their lineup to post a total that the Lizards would have trouble chasing.

Damien Clowes (21) and Val Guiraud (33) produced decent knocks before losing their wickets within minutes of each other, Clowes caught off Neill Culpan's bowling and Guiraud run out by Nifty Catts.

The league's leading batsman, Andrew Cole, came in at number three and again showed his tenacity for keeping his wicket intact with a well worked 61 off the 58 deliveries he faced.

While Cole diligently anchored the Laguna innings, four of his team mates came and went. After a slight hiccup in the middle order with Shane Gleeson and Arron Reading unable to reach double figures, the next three wielded the willow in venomous contempt for the opposition bowlers.

A quick fire 29 off 18 balls from Bruce Whitehead frustrated the Lizards, especially as he was dropped on 13 by Culpan, before being trapped lbw by Donovan Armstrong. More anguish was to follow when Mario Piazza was dropped on 19, but he made the best of his good fortune by adding another 14 runs until Patrick McEnvoy safely secured a second catch offered by the number seven batsman.

Laguna's captain Stuart Reading has had a somewhat erratic season with the bat, but

on this occasion against the Lizards he crafted a thunderous innings reaching his 60 in under half the time it took Cole to reach his, which included two 6s and seven 4s.

Michael Ayling replaced Cole and helped himself to 22 runs while partnering his skipper, and was there to see Reading's stumps tumble from a delivery by Catts. With two balls left, Sameer Khan took a single off the first to leave Ayling the strike and an opportunity to raise his average. However, Catts claimed bragging rights by bowling Ayling with the last ball of their 40 over innings.

Catts topped the Lizard's bowling figures with three wickets ahead of Culpan and Jamie Blake, who took two each.

Chasing 319, the Lizards needed a positive start. But early optimism was rocked with the very first ball when opener Ian Lenton was dropped at cover. While Lenton recovered to forge a stand of 25 runs, his opening partner, Blake, couldn't contend with the pace of Laguna's Guiraud and was bowled in the second over for a duck.

Dave Kelleway (48) and Lenton's partnership pushed the score along to 53, but a 50 minute spell of devastation from Khan ground down any possibilities of a Lizards' win. After taking the wickets of Lenton and Kelleway, he then assisted Whitehead with a catch to dismiss Culpan and finally clean bowled Catts (18) to leave the score at 132 for 5.

Although Armstrong stepped up for 22, it was in effect a solo mission. With his team crashing down around him, and he himself dropped twice before reaching double figures, the Lizards could only add another 43 runs before their 10-man ef-



NEARLY THERE: Sameer Khan celebrates.



SOLID: Khan shows form with the bat.

fort burned up at 175 all out.

Guiraud and Khan each took three wickets while Reading added a brace to his captain's innings.

The victory reclaims first place in the league for Laguna on 26 points, who now lead the Village by a single point. Patong sit in third place on 23 points, and all three teams have played five of their six scheduled games. Island CC are in fourth place on 17 points, but have a game in hand.

A maximum of seven points is available from every game which gives each of the top four teams a chance to make the final. Realistically, Laguna need not concern themselves with bonus points. A win and five points against the Tigers on April 29 will secure their berth.

The next two games that will decide

Laguna's opponents are Island CC against the Village (April 8) and Patong's encounter with the Lizards (April 15). Should the Village fail to secure six points and Patong claim maximum points, Patong would leapfrog the Village by virtue of a better run rate.

However, Island CC have beaten Laguna this season, so victory against the Village is not beyond them and a very real possibility of bagging a maximum against the Leopards could earn them a chance to win the title should Patong drop points against the Lizards.

Outcomes aside, Phuket's cricket fraternity is in for an exciting few weeks with a great day out at the ACG for the final a guarantee.

The Phuket Gazette is the ACG's local media partner.



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Dream teen diver

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

NICOLE Christin-Hartmann is 15 years old and has set her sights on becoming one of the youngest Thai Dive Masters in the world, having already completed 55 dives.

A student at Satee Phuket School, she has been racking up dive experience with Nick Fawcus-Robinson of ScubaNicks when not buried in her books.

In an exclusive interview, the *Phuket Gazette* got a better idea of the challenges this young diver has overcome and what's driving her to take plunge after plunge into the Andaman waters.

"I started diving because I wanted to learn about nature and the sea," Nicole explained, before talking briefly of the damages from Phuket's coral bleaching and the recent signs of recovery.

Nicole's first dive was in December, 2010 when she dove Racha Yai which she admits was quite a daunting experience.

Since then, Nicole has been hard on the throttle of achieving as many diving credentials as possible and quickly completed her PADI



TANKS VERY MUCH: Nicole with a couple of even younger divers at the Fun Start Children's Activity Center, who hope to follow in her flipper steps.

Openwater, Advanced and Rescue Diver certifications. She also got an Emergency First Responder certification and has completed a handful of diving specialty certifications, such as Deep Diving, Navigation and Enriched Air Diver.

There were some difficult moments during her rescue diver course, most notably when she had to lift her 85 kilogram instructor, Nick, out of the water.

"It was very hard," Nicole confided. "The boat boys had to help me because I'm so small," she added.

Nick has helped see Nicole through all the difficulties that becoming a diver presents and is clearly very proud of his young charge.

"Her biggest challenges were to clear her mask with confidence and completing the Rescue Diver course," Nick said. "To see her grow as a diver is such a huge reward for me personally."

Nicole also volunteers with Fun Start Children's Activity Center already giving back knowledge and experience she has gained in so a short time to the local dive community

"It is fun helping the eight to 10 year olds learn about diving and introducing them to the underwater world," she said.

However, not all of her time is spent underwater or in the school classroom. Nicole plays tennis and the guitar, and like all teenagers, she likes to hangout with her friends when possible.

She also speaks English, German,



SEA OF SMILES: Nick and Nicole.



DARLING OF THE DIVE COMMUNITY: Nicole Christin-Hartmann is gunning to become one of Thailand's youngest Dive Masters. Photos: ScubaNicks

Mandarin and she's currently learning Spanish. This certainly gives Nicole the opportunity to be an instructor in dive locations anywhere around the globe.

"She is a most accomplished and mature diver. Seeing her genuinely assist adult divers facing underwater issues without having to be prompted is truly amazing. And her underwater awareness in general is exceptional. Nicole is a diver of the

at Chalong Pier, she will have to wait until she is 18 to get her Dive Master certification, said Nick. However, when that time comes there is little doubt that she will bring a great deal to the table.

Nicole's next adventure is six days in the Similans. She's got all the famous mega-fauna on her to-see list: whale sharks, manta rays and giant naplean wrasse.

We wish Nicole all the best for her future as a diver and the *Gazette* will keep its readers informed of this prolific young talent's progress and future endeavors.

For more information please visit ScubaNicks.com.



Nicole in the depths.

future!" Nick said.

Despite being a popular face

Golf Guru by Martin Platts

FOR most golfers the start of the Masters is the beginning of the golf season.

The PGA Tour last week was in Houston, Texas for the Shell Houston Open, where Hunter Mahan came up trumps with a score of 16 under par to win his second tournament of the season. The victory leaves him US\$ 62,760 short of US\$ 3 million in prize money for 2012. We say, keep banking the money Hunter, let the Europeans win the Majors.

The Masters is the brain child of Bobby Jones one of the most famous golfers in the world having a visionary layout of the golf course and Clifford Roberts who had the finance. The Masters tournament has many appeals including a stadium-type golf course that keeps the players and crowds up to date with leader board changes and occurrences. The golf course has a big say in how things will unfold, with the ever used cliché of 'the tourna-

ment doesn't start until the back nine on the last day'. Who knows what twists and turns they will have for the players this year?

The European Tour was in Sicily at a beautiful seaside course, allowing the elements to play their part on the last day of the Sicilian Open. Thorbjorn Olesen got the job done with a score of 15 under par.

Phuket: Lindsay Renolds made another cut on the Asian tour. Keep the Phuket flag flying Lindsay.

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Rocks and fires



DEEP-WATER SOLOING: Climbers from around the world plunge into the ocean after peeling off the unique overhang walls of Krabi. Photo: Jackie Duemler

THE world-class rock climbing walls in Railay Beach, Krabi across the bay from Phuket, will be the playground for seasoned and novice climbers alike at the Rock and Fire International Contest 2012 from April 28 to 29.

The government and private sector joint venture aims to promote and publicize rock climbing as a sport to tourists, both Thai and foreigners, to the region.

Featuring high, steep limestone cliffs standing over the waters of the Andaman Sea, Railay Beach is composed of challenging climbing walls and more than 600 rock climbing routes.

This year, the contest is divided into two categories: Lead Climbing Marathon and Deep Water Soloing.

In addition, there is also the Fire Contest in Open Free Style category.

In the past years, Krabi's Rock and Fire International Contest has received a good response and is well-known to national and international competitors.

For more information call Jane Railay Rock Climbing Club at 081797 2517; Krabi Tourism Association at 075 623 944; or Tourism Authority of Thailand, Krabi Office at 075 622 163. - *Gazette*

PYC will live on



OUT WITH THE OLD: PYC's former base was an ideal environment for sailors of any standard

PHUKET Yacht Club (PYC) officials recently announced that after nearly half a century based at Ao Yon Bay, circumstances have forced them to weigh anchor and move on.

The club has been unsuccessful in attempting to secure the lease on the club house premises for over a year and with a 40% increase on the lease amount this means that the club is forced to relocate.

Club possessions have been moved to the Ao Chalong Yacht Club's base in Chalong with thanks to Commodore Grenville Forham and Vice Commodore Mick Kealy for giving the club a temporary home.

PYC started as a non-profit organization designed to bring like-minded members of the sailing community together and to encourage participation in the sport of sailing, club racing and other water activities.

The club has a history of providing opportunities to unprivileged Thai children or

many years in teaching children from Ko Sireh village to swim and more recently assisting the children from the Sunshine Village in learning to sail.

It is difficult to establish how long the yacht club has actually been at Ao Yon Bay. Records are hazy, but according to long term residents and ex-commodore David Ratcliffe, the club house was there well before 1992. Ao Yon Bay has been a wonderful base as it is a secluded, all weather bay - ideal for children and adults to learn to sail and a great place for socializing.

The future of PYC looks bright and the committee and members look forward to another 40 years on Phuket.

If members or would be members have questions please contact the Phuket Yacht Club on phuketyachtclub@gmail.com or visit PhuketYachtClub.info.

- Phuket Gazette

Aikido: Come to your senses



Founders of Aikido of Phuket David Bare and Gerald Tuckwood present their Shodan Certificates recently awarded to them by the World Aikido Headquarters.

Aikido is a Japanese martial art founded by Morihei Ueshiba and is based on the fighting arts of the Samurai.

Aikido of Phuket is located on the Yaowawat Road opposite Bangkok Phuket Hospital. To register for training visit AikidoofPhuket.com.

Stick to it and keep your eyes on the prize.



I KNOW AIKIDO: Sensei David Bare (left) and Sensei Gerald Tuckwood (right) .



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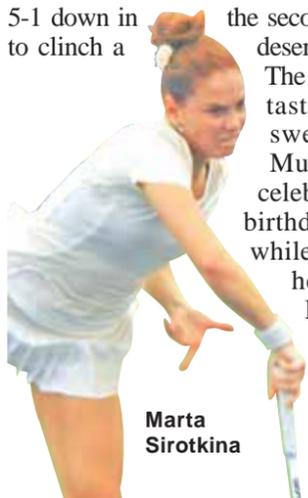
Sirotkina doubles up

MOSCOW MADE: Sirotkina eyes up her opponent before serving. Photos: Neil Quail

By Neil Quail

A STYLISH and gritty performance earned Marta Sirotkina Phuket's second SAT-Chang ITF Women's Pro Circuit tennis title after coming from behind to defeat number four seed Claire Fleuerstein of France 7-6, 7-6 (8-6) in the singles final last weekend.

Played at Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club, an expectant crowd were treated to an enthralling finale of the US\$ 25,000 tournament in watching Sirotkina of Russia fight back from 3-1 and 5-3 down in the first set, and from 5-1 down in the second set tie-break to clinch a deserved victory.



Marta Sirotkina

The straight sets win tasted a little bit sweeter for the Muscovite after celebrating her 21st birthday on Phuket, while also avenging her defeat by Feuerstein in the quarter-final of the Bath US\$ 25,000 UK event in March, 2011. Speaking



ALL TOGETHER NOW: ITF organizers and officials pose with Feuerstein and Sirotkina.

exclusively to the *Gazette* after the final, Sirotkina described her efforts as satisfactory.

"The conditions were tough out there today. It was very hot and humid, but the surface is perfect – not too fast or too slow. I thought the match was going to a third set, so I concentrated on every point and changed tactics to not play over aggressively," she said.

It was a successful fortnight for Sirotkina, who with her partner and compatriot Natela Dzalomidze won the first women's ITF doubles final played on Phuket last week.

"The semi-final was on my birthday and we won 6-0, 6-0 before beating the number one seeds [Chin-Wei Chan and Saisai Zheng] in the final. It's been a great birthday for me,"

a delighted Sorotkina added.

Having won an ITF US\$ 25,000 tournament in Bangkok last June, and now with two Phuket titles under her belt, Thailand has become a good hunting ground for the Russian.

After losing the singles final in week one, Thailand's Noppowan Lertcheewakarn partnered Saisai Zheng to claim the second doubles title beating Xinyun Han and Sheng-Nan Sun 6-3, 6-3 on Friday.

For information on upcoming ITF events on Phuket visit Thanyapura.com.



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