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Phuket Gazette

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GAME ON!



Phuket Games 2012

An estimated 20,000 athletes, fans, spectators, supporters and coaching staff are expected to arrive in Phuket this week for the 28th Thailand National Youth Games, to be held across Phuket from May 26 to June 5.

Phuket's own "Dome The Star 8" and "Silvy The Star", a finalist from last year's series of the hit TV show, will stage a free concert from 6pm to 8pm during the opening ceremony on May 26, to be held at Surakul Stadium, on Wichit Songkhram Road.

To read more details about Thailand's top annual sporting event for youngsters, see:

- Let the Games Begin, page 2
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- National Youth Games to boost local economy, page 12
- Yes, it's a Game, page 46

Back on the beaches

Two tourists drown as lifeguards wait for lifesaving equipment

By Chutharat Plerin

IN THE wake of two swimmers drowning along Phuket's shores beach-goers will take heart in the news that the Phuket Lifeguard Club will have its equipment back for beach patrols this weekend.

"The Phuket Lifeguard Club will collect the equipment from the *OrBorJor* [Phuket Provincial Administration Organization] on Friday," Prathaiyut "Nut" Chuayuan told the *Gazette* on Wednesday.

The most recent victim of Phuket's unguarded beaches and rip currents was a Frenchman, Stephane Dacosta, 33.

The body of Mr Dacosta, was recovered from the waters off Freedom Beach on Monday.

Mr Dacosta was reported missing at about 5pm the day before by friends who had attempted to save him, with the help of local fishermen, after seeing him struggle to swim in the current.

"We checked the location where Mr Dacosta was last seen and found that a rip current crossed that area. We assume that Mr Dacosta was taken out to sea by the current," said Karon Municipality Sea Rescue Center officer Supachai Janphet.

Officers from the Royal Thai



Tourists struggle in the strong surf at Nai Harn. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

Navy and the Tourist Rescue Unit launched two boats to search for Mr Dacosta on Monday. After more than an hour of searching they found and recovered his body.

"It would appear that Mr Dacosta walked to Freedom Beach from Patong with seven friends, who were on holiday with him. On arrival at the beach they

crossed a fence to gain access to the shore. At that time of day they and two local fishermen were the only people on the beach," he said.

Mr Dacosta's death came two days after another Frenchman drowned and a Thai woman narrowly escaped a similar tragedy after being caught in strong surf at Karon Beach on the preceding Friday afternoon.

Uten Singsom, head of the Phuket Lifeguard Club unit at Kata-Karon, told the *Gazette* that a lifeguard pulled a Thai woman, aged about 30, from the surf in front of Karon Circle at about 2pm that day.

"She was caught in a rip current, but she was pulled out of the water by a volunteer lifeguard," he said.

Very soon after, a tourist pulled a French national, named by Chalong Police as Angelo Piazza, 53, from the water about 200 meters to the south.

"The tourist said he first saw [Mr Piazza] floating face down in the water. The tourist pulled him up onto the beach and volunteer lifeguards ran to provide assistance there," Mr Uten said.

A Kata-Karon Municipality ambulance rushed Mr Piazza to Patong Hospital. A French woman, believed to be the man's partner or wife, accompanied him, Mr Uten said.

Sadly, Mr Piazza was pronounced dead at the hospital, he added.

Despite the news that the lifeguards will have their equipment this weekend, Mr Uten said his main concern was not whether or not his lifeguards had the equip-

Continued on page 3

Bangla street touts warned: 'Keep your hands off tourists'

PATONG Police have warned touts plying Phuket's renowned Soi Bangla that they are not to touch tourists whilst soliciting.

"And they are not to drink alcohol while they are working," said Patong Police Deputy Superintendent Akanit Danpitaksat.

The new rules for working the streets of Patong are the orders of Patong's new police chief, Sermpan Sirikong, Lt Col Akanit told the *Gazette*.

The news also follows a meeting

of bar owners and their staff held last week.

"We are going to make Soi Bangla better so tourists feel safer and are given a better impression of Phuket as an international tourist destination," Lt Col Akanit explained.

"Street vendors and walking touts, such as flower hawkers, are no longer allowed to work on Soi Bangla," he said.

"Employees tempting tourists into bars with menus and signs are not allowed to touch tourists, and all

promotional signs being carried by employees must also clearly establish which bar they are associated with," he added.

Lt Col Akanit urged anyone who sees any hawkers breaking the new rules to report it to the police immediately.

"We will be strict in enforcing these rules. If anyone violates them they will be promptly arrested," he said.

Four police officers will be on duty on Soi Bangla every night to ensure compliance, he added.



Police have warned Bangla street touts: 'Hands off tourists, and no drinking on the job'. Photo: Kritsada Meuanhawong

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This Week



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FC Phuket survives Airforce United's strike force. **Page 47**

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Sunday



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Monday



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Wednesday



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Thursday



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Let the games begin

PHUKET Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa last Thursday opened a "coordination center" to act as an information kiosk and souvenir shop for the Thailand National Youth Games 2012, dubbed the "Phuket Games 2012".

An estimated 20,000 athletes, fans, spectators, supporters and coaching staff expected to arrive in Phuket during the coming week for the event, which will run from May 26 to June 5.

Located at Saphan Hin, near Phuket Town, the center offers programs of the scheduled events to be held throughout the games as well as souvenirs.

"Phuket has been ready for the 2012 Phuket Games for quite a while," said Wirat Patee, Director of the Sports Authority of Thailand Phuket office.

"Equipment and personnel need for the games is ready to go. And now we have the games' coordination center," he said.

"I believe the Phuket Games will be as good as we expect," he added.

Mr Wirat explained that 20,000 souvenirs of the official mascot 'Hai Leng' have been prepared.

"Half of them are for sale to the public, and the other half will be



Vice Governor Sommai meets Hai Leng, the Games' dragon mascot.

given as gifts to the athletes," Mr Wirat said.

"There are also shirts with 'Phuket Games' printed on them and other kinds of souvenirs. I hope these will be enjoyed by the athletes and visitors," he added.

Mr Wirat also reminded those present for the opening, including representatives from the Tourism Authority of Thailand Phuket of-

fice and other organizations, that Phuket's own Dome and Silvy of the nationally televised singing contest The Star will be performing a free concert at the games' opening ceremony.

The opening ceremony will be held at Surakul Stadium, on Wichit Songkhram Road, on May 26.

The free concert will be from 6pm to 8pm.

American drug, lewd show fugitive faces deportation

By Chutharat Plerin

AN AMERICAN man arrested in Phuket May on 18 faces deportation to the United States, where he is wanted by the California Supreme Court on drug charges and involvement in lewd shows.

Phuket Immigration Police moved in and arrested 46-year-old Michael Anthony Matos at 6pm at an address on Nanai Road in Patong, renowned worldwide as Phuket's party town for adults.

This week, Phuket Immigration Police Superintendent announced the arrest and presented Mr Matos to the press.

"We received an order from the Immigration Bureau [headquarters in Bangkok] to locate and arrest Mr Matos. He is a suspect in cases



American Michael Matos, 46, now faces deportation to the United States. Photo: Golf - Thai Rath

involving drugs, specifically cocaine, and adult shows. An arrest warrant was issued by California

Supreme Court," said Col Panuwat.

Mr Matos has been charged with illegally entering Thailand under Section 12 of the Immigration Act (B.E. 2522), which prohibits suspects wanted by foreign courts on serious charges from entering the country.

"Mr Matos has been hiding in Thailand since August 28, 2010, living with his Thai girlfriend in Patong," said Col Panuwat.

"At the moment, he is charged with illegally entering into the Kingdom. When we have finished processing this charge against him he will be deported," he added.

Mr Matos was transferred to the Immigration Bureau in Bangkok for further questioning, Col Panuwat told the *Gazette*.

Luxury buses head to Hua Hin

PHUKET now has a new luxury bus service to Hua Hin. The "Yellow Bus" to Hua Hin will depart Phuket at 7am daily.

The Roong Reuang Coach (Mukdahan) Company, also known as the "Yellow Bus", has been in operation since 2005 and has maintained four routes stretching the length and breadth of Thailand.

"We launched the first Phuket to Hua Hin route on May 19," Yellow Bus Marketing Manager Attaporn Kompipatpong.

The yellow buses are luxury services that will travel along the company's existing routes, including Hua Hin.

The buses have 30 first-class massage seats and individual entertainment systems, he explained.



To Hua Hin in luxury.

"To promote the new route we are offering a 15 per cent ticket discount until the end of July," added Mr Attaporn.

The fare to Hua Hin is 617 baht, a price set by the Department of Land Transportation, and tickets can be purchased online at www.thegreenbus.co.uk.



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CENTARA GRAND BEACH RESORT PHUKET

Somjai opens canvassing for Phuket City Mayor election



Somjai Suwansupana opened canvassing for the June 16 Phuket City Mayor election.

SOMJAI Suwansupana was the first to register her candidacy this week in the upcoming Phuket City Municipal election on June 16, marking her attempt for re-election to her third consecutive term as Phuket City Mayor.

Given the favorable voting ballot number 1, Ms Somjai led her Khon Nook "Young Turks" party in registering their candidacies for the 24 council seats up for grabs.

All other potential candidates had Friday, May 25, to register at Phuket City Hall.

The only non-Young Turk to register his candidacy May 21 was independent Anan Kormongkoltharakul, contesting Phuket Town Ward 3.

Tawatchai Thongmung, Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) at Phuket City Municipality, said he expected about 70 per cent of the 46,521 eligible voters to turn up and cast their ballots.

"We will conduct a public relations campaign to make sure every community in Phuket Town knows the election is on," he said.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

Youth bag-snatcher gang targeted holiday tourists

By Atchaa Khamlo

A JUVENILE bag-snatch gang responsible for at least 17 thefts that targeted Phuket tourists was captured by Patong Police on Monday evening.

Chaiprasit 'Jew' Boonyok, 20, was identified as the leader of the seven-strong gang by Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Pirayut Karajadi, at a press conference held at Patong Police Station on Tuesday.

The gang members arrested comprised two 15-year-olds, two 16-year-olds, a 17 year-old and a 20-year-old. One of the gang members evaded arrest, and has reportedly returned to his home in Satun Province.

"We had been tracking the gang for two months," said Maj Somsak Tongkiliang of the Patong Police.

"According to our intelligence the gang members responsible for the string of recent tourist-targeted thefts around Patong, Kata and Karon Beach have tattoos of carp and devil faces," he said.

The police got their break in the case when they received a report of a bag-snatch having taken place near Banzan Market in Patong at 10pm on Monday, May 20.

A search of the area found Mr Chaiprasit acting suspiciously. He was interviewed by the police at the scene.

The police noticed a tattoo of a carp on his back, and deemed him worthy of further questioning back at the station.

During the interview at Patong Police Station, Mr Chaiprasit confessed that he and the rest of the gang had committed 17 similar robberies in Patong.



Police suspect that all the members of the young bag-snatch gang had carp or devil face tattoos (inset).

He told the police that following a successful crime they would sell the loot to the Delta shop at the Big C supercenter near Phuket Town.

Acting on that information, police then arrested Kittu Kasirak, 28, a Delta employee working at the shop's mobile phone counter.

Police are to question the owner of the shop to ascertain if he were aware of Mr Kittu's actions, or indeed, actively a part of them.

Mr Chaiprasit told the *Gazette* that he had been committing robberies for more than two years and had been caught three times.

He said that he spent the money on "loafing around" and buying such things as mobile phones and clothes, whereas the others used the proceeds to buy drugs.

As a result of the police operation, police seized two cameras, 10 mobile phones, two motorbikes and two gold rings from the boys' houses in Kathu and Phuket City, as well as from the Delta shop.

All six boys were charged with theft and Mr Kittu was charged with accepting stolen property.

"They used motorbikes to snatch bags from unwary tourists who were either walking along the street or driving motorbikes," said Col Pirayut.

"We believe there are about 40 other suspects currently involved in similar criminal activity. We are collecting evidence to effect their arrests," he added.

"These events are ruining Phuket's tourism image," he added.

Lifeguards back to help prevent more drownings

from page 1

-ment. Rather, it was the strength of the surf at high and low tide.

"It's dangerous. When the tides change – at every high and low tide – it is very dangerous.

"Our lifeguards will be working freely as volunteers and they will be manning our six lifeguard towers over the weekend, with three lifeguards at each station," Mr Uten said.

The news also comes ahead of the new contract between the OrBorJor and Phuket Lifeguard Services Co Ltd coming into effect on Monday, May 28.

Kanyarat Senrungs, an officer at the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor) Tourism Department, said the contract between the OrBorJor and the Phuket Lifeguard Club was signed Tuesday morning.

The lifeguards will be back on

the beaches on Monday, she said.

"There will be 33 lifeguard stations, just as there used to be, and the lifeguards will be on duty from 9am to 7pm," she explained.

However, Mr Prathaiyut told the *Gazette*, "I agreed to sign the new contract with the OrBorJor because nobody else wants to do it. This is hard work with no profit.

"Regardless, public safety is our priority. So we have agreed to sign the new contract," he said.



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Florist stabbed and robbed at home



Mr Sommart named his attackers.

A LOCAL flower shop owner early Wednesday morning survived a brutal home invasion by three men who left him wounded after stealing his safe containing all his valuables.

The victim, Sommart Chokekuea, reported the incident to police after receiving medical treatment at Mission Hospital in Rassada.

A police check of the victim's two-storey home in Chalong showed evidence that a violent struggle had taken place there.

According to Mr Sommart's statement as recorded in the police logbook, three men entered his home and stole his safe by threatening him at knifepoint, then rode off on motorbikes.

The safe, which the thieves were unable to open on the premises, reportedly contained valuables worth 200,000 baht.

Mr Sommart told police he could identify all three assailants.

According to one report, the 40-year-old victim is the owner of the Bloom Bloom flower shop in the south of the island.

About five years earlier he had an affair with one of the assailants, a 27-year-old that he identified by name, said the report.

— **Orawin Narabal**

Thalang 'quake ready'

Emergency services stage full-scale earthquake rescue drill

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

EMERGENCY personnel from across Phuket joined local officials in Thalang District on Wednesday to conduct an earthquake rescue exercise.

The drill was based on damages from a hypothetical 5.0 magnitude earthquake centered in the area of Srisoonthorn subdistrict, which sustained the greatest damage on April 16, when a 4.3 Richter quake shook Phuket.

"Thalang is in an earthquake-risk zone, so there is a possibility that an earthquake could happen there again in the [near] future," explained Dr Sak Tanchaikul, chief of the Phuket Provincial Public Health Office (PPHO).

The drill involved a coordinated effort by the PPHO, Thalang Police, Kusoldharm Rescue Foundation first-responders, the Chong Talay Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) and Chong Talay Municipality.

Present to oversee the exercise was Phuket Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa.

The drill was aimed at reassuring Srisoonthorn villagers of local rescue services' capabilities and to train workers in what actions to take, should another earthquake strike, Dr Sak said.

"We want to train health officials and officers from other related organizations in providing medical assistance to injured people, including the handicapped, children and the elderly," he added.

During the exercise, residents were evacuated from the area and a triage center was set up.

Ambulances rushed people with



Rescue personnel set up a triage center on site to designate the severity of the 'injuries sustained' in the drill.

simulated injuries to various medical facilities on the island.

Those marked with "small" or "middle" injuries received first aid on site and taken to Tambon Srisoonthorn Promoting Hospital nearby.

Those marked as having "severe" injuries were sent to Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town.

The event also included a seminar and an exhibition to educate people and local public health volunteers so that they will be able to take the initial steps to deal with the situation on their own, Dr Sak explained.

The drill on Wednesday followed Central Festival Phuket staging an evacuation drill on May 17.

That exercise was carried out



Emergency rescue personnel outside Central Festival Phuket during the evacuation drill on May 17. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

with assistance from the Phuket office of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation.

"Every day there are many tourists, local residents and people from other provinces nearby who

come to shop at the mall, so it is important to reassure them of the mall's safety and emergency rescue systems," said Central Festival General Manager Wilaiporn Pitimanaaree.

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Drunk monk runs amok

A MONK has been defrocked in Phuket and is being held by police after a violent and possibly drug-induced incident at a cremation ceremony on May 19.

At about 10am Anusit Kulphonmuang, 52, from Udon Thani, reportedly leapt from a wall at Wat Saensuk temple in Phuket Town and seized a 12-year-old girl by her neck.

Mr Anusit was reportedly seen drunk near the temple earlier that morning.

"He jumped from the wall and came directly at my daughter," said Thawatchai Pongpetchwiset.

"It looked like he was going to strangle her, but she managed to run away," he said.

Mr Thawatchai and his cousin, Teerapat Chidchiew, moved to protect the young girl, but Mr Anusit allegedly fought back and kicked Mr Teerapat.

Mr Anusit was restrained until the Phuket City Police arrived.

Police held Mr Anusit at the



Phuket City Police attending the incident at Wat Saensuk had to calm Mr Anusit down before taking him into custody.

temple until he calmed down.

The abbot of Wat Saensuk defrocked Mr Anusit before the police took him to the Phuket City Police Station.

"Mr Anusit isn't from this temple, he came from Northeastern Thailand more than three years ago," said one of the monks at the temple who asked to remain anonymous.

"This man is always drunk and probably uses drugs," he added.

Witnesses who also asked to remain anonymous have confirmed to the *Gazette* that they could smell alcohol on Mr Anusit's breath.

At last report Mr Anusit was being held at Phuket City Police Station pending further action.

Boy stabbed with screwdriver

POLICE arrested a man on May 19 after he stabbed a 7-year-old boy in the head with a screwdriver while the child was playing with friends in Phuket Town.

Still in tears and shocked by the attack, the boy's mother, Chareerat Naksri, told the *Gazette* that the stab wound narrowly missed the right ear of her son, Krittamet "Best" Kingsaiyut.

"I was not with him when it happened. I was at a parent-teacher meeting at Bangneaw School. I left him at my friend's telephone shop.

"My friend said Best was playing with three friends when a man came from nowhere and started trying to stab people on the street.

"But the people pushed the man away, and then he saw the children. He stabbed my boy, then ran away," Ms Chareerat said.

Police received a report of the incident at about 1:30pm.

Lt Col Akkaradet Pongprom arrived at the scene with fellow officers and Kusoldham Foundation rescue workers, who rushed Best to Vachira Phuket Hospital.

"Witnesses said the suspect was a man about 40 to 50 years

old, wearing denim shorts and a white shirt. We soon found a man matching that description. He had a knife and a screwdriver in his hands," Lt Col Akkaradet said.

"But when he saw us, he suddenly charged us – chasing the police officers with the weapons he had," he added.

Officers soon overpowered the man and placed him under arrest.

"We took him to the police station for questioning, but he has not given any statement. So we have yet to learn who he is and where he is from," Lt Col Akkadet said.

"At this point we believe the man is deranged. Some residents said they saw him lying on the ground in front of shops at the Bangneaw intersection. He is being held at the station because we are concerned he may attack somebody else," he added.

Ms Chareerat said she had yet to confirm with doctors the extent of young Best's injuries.

"I do not know how deep the wound is. I asked him how he felt and he said it hurt to swallow," she said.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong



RANDOM ATTACK: Chareerat Naksri looks over her son Krittamet 'Best' Kingsaiyut. The screwdriver narrowly missed the boy's right ear. Inset shows the penetrating wound to Best's head. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

Hotel receptionist denies raping German tourist

PHUKET resort worker Sakchai Thongseedam, charged with raping a German tourist during the early hours of May 17, has denied the police allegation saying the incident was of "mutual consent".

Mr Sakchai a receptionist at the Centara Karon Resort Phuket, was arrested later the same day and charged by Chalong Police after a German woman in her 20s staying at the resort filed a complaint.

Chalong Police Superintendent Sirisak Wasasiri on May 19 confirmed to the *Gazette* that Mr Sakchai has not confessed to the rape of a young German tourist in Phuket on May 17.

The woman, whose name is being withheld, said in her police statement – recorded in written Thai by special case officer Detective Nucharee Longkaew – that the incident occurred shortly after she returned to the hotel at about 7am on May 17.

She had returned from a night out with at least one "friend", the statement read. As the statement to police is written in Thai, it does not clarify whether the "friend" comprised one or more persons.

Unable to wake her travel mate who was asleep in their hotel room, the German woman asked one of her "friends" who had accompanied her back to the resort to fetch another key card from the hotel reception.

Mr Sakchai, on duty at the time, brought a key card to the room, but then asked the victim's



Col Sirisak Wasasiri confirmed that Mr Sakchai had denied the charge of rape.

friend, or friends, to leave the hotel premises because they were not registered guests, according to the woman's statement.

However, the young woman said she was still unable to open the door with the new key card.

Mr Sakchai then asked the woman to return the key card to him, claiming that it "must be the wrong card".

He then used the card to open the room across the hall, and dragged her into the room, pushing her onto the bed, the woman alleged.

After raping her, he fled the scene, said the report.

Col Sirisak noted that the woman and her travel mate, who arrived in Phuket together, intended to continue their travels as originally planned.

"Although the young German woman will not need to attend



As Phuket's only 'special cases' officer, Capt Nucharee was tasked with taking the victim's statement.

court at a later date, due to the court already having her statement, she has been asked to undergo a medical examination, the results of which are to be included as evidence," said Col Sirisak.

It is believed that the alleged victim and her traveling companion left Thailand on May 20.

– Orawin Narabal

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National ID database fail felt in Phuket



The issuance of identity cards and the registration of births and deaths across the country halted on May 17-18, when the national database server failed.

THE system crash of Thailand's Department of Provincial Administration central database in Bangkok over May 17-18, which affected local administration offices nationwide, has been attributed to a "server problem".

Phuket City Municipality was informed on May 17 by the Region 8 Bureau of Registration Administration in Surat Thani of the problem. Some of the database system's services were temporarily unavailable, the agency said. Services suspended included issuance of national identity cards and registration of births and deaths.

Luksana Apiratipunya, Chief of the Central Processing Unit in Bangkok, told the *Gazette* the next day that the system was once again functional and normal service has resumed.

No reason for the server error was provided, nor whether or not the crash caused a loss or corruption of data.

— Orawin Narabal

Drug warriors perk it up

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

IN A marked departure from the usual line in tackling drugs on the island, Phuket Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada on May 17 took time out to sit down with local village leaders and discuss the drug problem over a cup of coffee.

Joined by Col Jirasak Siemsak of Cherg Talay Police Station and Cherg Talay Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) Vice President Siri Yokthong, Vice Governor Chamroen sat down at a coffee shop in Bang Tao, on Phuket's west coast, with local village headman, an imam and government officers in the area.

V/Gov Chamroen explained that in the past six months, provincial authorities had tallied 1,637 drug cases: 734 of those cases involved *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine), 564 involved *ya bah* (methamphetamine), 140 cases involved dry marijuana and the remaining 36 cases involved "other drugs".

Those cases resulted in the arrests of 1,810 suspects, said V/Gov Chamroen.



A NEW LINE: Vice Governor Chamroen is taking the drug war to village leaders. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

"But in order to solve the drug problem, we need the cooperation of local people," he said.

"We are launching a project 'Government Officers Meet Local Leaders'". We will send officers out to villages to meet lo-

cal leaders and the people so they can listen to the problems and come up with solutions together.

"We expect this to be effective in suppressing drugs because only local people know how severe the drug problem is in their areas," V/

Gov Chamroen said.

"We will send officers to investigate the area and encourage local officials to work with residents in the area and brainstorm solutions to the drug problem," he added.

Drug camp hailed 'great success', time for round two

FOLLOWING the successful drug rehabilitation camp in Koh Kaew at the beginning of this month, organizers are now planning a second one in Wichit for June.

"The Koh Kaew drug rehabilitation camp was a success, with 67 of a total of 80 subjects participating," Phuket's Muang District Chief, Supachai Pochanukul, told the *Gazette*.

"The 13 who missed the camp will receive warning letters telling them to join the next camp or face disciplinary action," said Chief Supachai.

Wichit Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) is the next *OrBorTor* to host the camp, because they have the funds to

support it, Chief Supachai explained.

The program, which aims to turn drug users lives around, is part of the "One *OrBorTor*, One Drug Rehabilitation Camp" initiative.

"The camp costs about 3,500 baht per participant," Chief Supachai said.

Although the Koh Kaew camp has finished, a close eye will be kept on its participants. From June onwards, they will have to report monthly to Koh Kaew Hospital for an entire year, he added.

Koh Kaew *OrBorTor* has the budget to support their participants, should the participants want to setup a group activity to help the community, such as arranging sports clubs or

cleaning up the parks in Koh Kaew, he added.

"If any of them fail a drug test again they might have to rejoin the drug rehabilitation camp or we might decide to take legal action," he said.

Chief Supachai told the *Gazette* that all three district offices in Phuket offers drug testing and seminars for hotels and schools to educate staff and students about the disadvantages of drug use and how to take preventive measures.

"If any hotels or schools are interested, contact the district office in your area," he added.

— Orawin Narabal

Old bank to become museum

THE old Standard Chartered Bank building on the corner of Phuket Road and Phang Nga Roads in Old Phuket Town will become home to a museum to remember Phuket's Peranakan heritage.

Thailand Peranakan Association President Kosol Tang-utai announced the news at a photography competition at the old bank last Saturday, held to highlight Phuket's Baba-Nyonya influence in local cuisine.

Baba-Nyonya is one of the local names used to describe Peranakan Chinese communities, also known as Straits Chinese.

The museum will become a central location for learning about Peranakan culture and networking with other organizations dedicated preserving Peranakan heritage in other countries, Mr Kosol said.

Through Associate Professor Pranee Sakulpipat, who was also present at the event, Phuket has long maintained positive exchange relations with Peranakan heritage



The old bank will become a center for preserving Peranakan heritage.

associations in Penang, Malaysia.

At the event last Saturday three experts in Peranakan culture gave presentations: Associate Professor Yongthanit Pimonsathien PhD and Ajarn Jarunee Pimonsathien, both from Thammasat University, and local expert Mongkol "Khun

Lung" Rattana.

Following the seminar Mr Kosol and Phuket MP Anchalee Vanich Thepabutr bestowed the top prize for the photography competition to Anucha Deeviset (see Your Phuket, pages 26-27).

— Chutharat Plerin

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Rescue efforts fail to save dolphin

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

THE striped dolphin (*Stenella coeruleoalba*) rescued off Kata Beach last Sunday has died.

Veterinarian Patcharaporn Kaewmong confirmed the dolphin died at 6am on Tuesday.

Fears mounted for those involved when it was confirmed that the young female dolphin had a serious infection and only a 10 to 30 per cent chance of survival.

Kata Beach Resort workers spotted the weak dolphin floundering offshore at about 9am.

The Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) was notified and sent a team to investigate.

After going into the sea to check on the female dolphin's condition, the team decided to take her back to the center's Marine Endangered Species Unit (MESU).

At the time of capture, PMBC biologist Kongkiat Kittiwattana-wong said that an initial examination revealed no external wounds. He did, however, observe some bruising on the dolphin's head and a parasitic infection on her tail.

Mr Kongkiat estimated that the female dolphin was about 2 years old and in a very weakened state, possibly suffering an internal injury of some sort. "She is able to swim, but swims on her side," he said at the time.

Before transferring the sick dolphin to the MESU center, the PMBC team administered a sedative to prevent the dolphin from going into shock.

"In the past we have had dolphins that had eaten plastic rubbish, which caused digestive tract blockages and internal damage," he explained.

"This dolphin was probably separated from its pod because it was weak and couldn't deal with the strong current.

"This kind of dolphin is often dismissed from its pod and swims close to shore to prevent the rest of the members from getting the disease," he explained.

A blood test conducted by staff at the MESU revealed an unidentified infection in the dolphin's bloodstream.

MESU veterinarian Patcharaporn immediately started a course of broad-spectrum antibiotics, as they had yet to grow a blood culture and identify the invading pathogen.

Ms Patcharaporn said that officers had been taking care of the 34-kilogram dolphin 24 hours a day, including assisting her as she swam, to prevent her from becoming stressed.

In addition to needing assistance just to swim, the young dolphin also needed to be fed by a rubber tube.

Soon after the dolphin's arrival



With a 10 to 30 per cent chance of survival, the stranded dolphin did not seem to be getting any better. However, Dr Patcharaporn and the MESU team did their best to save her. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

at the MESU, Ms Patcharaporn was pessimistic about the animal's chances of survival.

"There is only 10 to 30 per cent chance that stranded dolphins will survive because most of them are already seriously sick when they become stranded," she added.

Despite the best efforts of MESU staff, the young dolphin did not survive her illness and

died nearly two days after being rescued from Kata Beach.

"We want to know the cause of death sooner rather than later. We will conduct a post-mortem examination to determine it," said Ms Patcharaporn.

Striped dolphins are often found along the west coast of Phang Nga and Phuket, with usually 50 individuals comprising a pod.

According to PMBC biologist Kongkiat, seven dolphins had been found dead along Thailand's coastline this year.

However, the death of this latest dolphin found in Phuket is the first striped dolphin to have died this year, bringing the total to eight.

The previous deaths were humpback and Irrawaddy dolphin sub-species.

Woman, 21, killed in morning pileup



The front of the car was damaged when it struck the motorbike.

A 21-year-old woman was killed on May 20 when a rear-end collision on Thepkasattri Road in Koh Kaew caused a car to spin out and hit her motorbike.

Thalang Police Duty Officer Patiwat Yodkwan was notified of the accident at 9:15am.

At the scene, about 300 meters south of the Tah Reua Temple, Capt Patiwat, fellow police officers and Kusoldharm Foundation rescue workers found 21-year-old local resident Amanee Dor-ngor lying dead on the road.

"She had just picked up some laundry from the Yee Teng estate, which she normally did as part of her job," said Capt Patiwat.

Anirut Ubongkaw, 33, told po-

lice he was driving his Honda City car northbound from Phuket Town to the airport when his car was struck hard from behind by a pickup truck with a converted refrigerator unit on the back.

"He said the truck slammed hard into the back of his car, causing him to lose control of his vehicle and hit Ms Amanee's motorbike," Capt Patiwat said.

All three vehicles were at the scene when police arrived, together causing a long tailback on the busy road.

"Both drivers have been taken to Thalang Police Station for further questioning," Capt Patiwat added.

- Thawit Bilabdullar

Rain arrives, with 2 car crashes in 24 hours

AS THE annual heavy rains arrived last weekend, two accidents occurred along Phuket's notorious Thepkasattri Road last week.

The first incident, shortly after midnight on May 15, involved a modified Isuzu D-Max pickup which struck an electricity pole on Thepkasattri Road near the Tesco Lotus shopping center in Thalang.

Kusoldharm Rescue Foundation workers and Baan Nai Khlam volunteers attended the scene. However, with the exception of a spilled load of frozen chickens, there were no injuries.

One of the rescue workers at the scene reported that the driver had fallen asleep at the wheel while driving the Surat Thani-registered vehicle.

The second accident occurred about 23 hours later. At 11:15pm, Thalang Police Duty Officer Patiwat Yodkwan was informed of an accident on Thepkasattri Road, north of Thalang Town.

Police, Kusoldharm Rescue Foundation workers and Baan Nai Khlam volunteers were dispatched to the scene, where they found a white Toyota Hilux pickup truck with its hood ripped off by low-hanging telephone wires.

Capt Patiwat explained that the Hilux was being driven by Sanga Kalasang from Phang Nga, who had travelled with his wife to collect his two-month-old niece.

- Thawit Bilabdullar



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Ancient beads spark 'eco-grab'

VILLAGERS in Krabi, across Phang Nga Bay, have ravaged an archaeological site in a mangrove forest in hopes of making it an eco-tourism attraction.

A variety of colorful beads were uncovered by local fishermen in Tambon Klong Thom Tai, just south of the large rural town Khlong Thom, about a month ago, said Teerapong Sithisak, a 43-year-old resident of the area.

After hearing the fishermen's stories about the beads, other locals went to the nearby canal and unearthed more beads, he said.

The villagers believe the beads are similar to "Klong Thom beads", antique beads previously found behind Klong Thom Temple about kilometer from the canal.

"Although we know the beads are valuable, we won't sell them because we would like the area to be set up as an eco-tourism attraction," Mr Teerapong said.

"There have been many inves-



Villagers started digging up the beads after fishermen in the area first discovered them.

tors invading parts of Klong Thom Tai. We want the government to take action and preserve this mangrove forest, because the forest is still healthy and the people in the area benefit from it," he explained.

No museum is currently prepared to take possession of the new find.

All concerned are now waiting for officers from Fine Arts Department in Bangkok to inspect the beads and provide an assessment.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong



The villagers believe the beads are valuable, but they refuse to sell them in hopes of using them as the base for creating an eco-tourism attraction. Photos: Kritsada Mueanhawong

Underpass will worsen traffic: poll

RESULTS of the latest online poll reveal that a majority of *Phuket Gazette* readers are pessimistic about the 450-million-baht underpass to be built at the Bang Khu Intersection in Koh Kaew.

By a wide majority, readers in all three demographic groups believe the project will make traffic flow in the area worse.

The poll, launched on May 7, asked readers: "The final design for the Bt450mn underpass at the Bang Khu Intersection in Koh Kaew has been approved. Although Thepkrasattri Road will be widened to eight lanes in the area, southbound traffic will still have to wait at a stop light before accessing the bypass road. How will this project affect traffic flow in the area after it is completed?"



A scale model of the underpass.

Overall, five times as many voters (68.6%) thought the project would worsen traffic than those who thought it would improve it (13.2%).

The most popular replies were "drastically worse" (36.6%) and "significantly worse" (32%).

In stark contrast, only 3.4% of those taking part thought the project would cause a "great improvement", while just 9.8% thought the project would cause

a "significant improvement".

Almost one-fifth of voters overall (18.2%) thought the project would have no significant impact on the traffic situation in Bang Khu.

In a breakdown by demographic, Thais were the most likely to answer that the project would have a negative impact. Four-fifths of Thais taking-part (80%) thought the project would worsen traffic in the area compared to just 15% who thought it would improve flow.

Almost half (45%) of those identifying themselves as Thai predicted the project would result in a "drastic" worsening.

This was also the most popular choice among expats (35%) and tourists (34%).

Dog 'Nin' saved by rescue workers after 8-inch slash

A TEAM of emergency response officers are calling for donations to help a stray dog that was discovered with an eight-inch wound to its stomach.

"We took him to a veterinarian at the Rattanahebet Phuket Hospital in Wichit," said Sampawat Wannasangkam, of the Patong Municipality Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM-Patong).

"I was told that he was attacked by a drunk foreigner," he added.

Contributions from staff at DDPM-Patong and other donors already tally about 9,000 baht, said Mr Sampawat, but it's not enough.

Ms Aom, a veterinarian at the clinic said her top concern was that



Dr 'Aom' is worried about infections. Photo: Sampawat Wannasangkam

the wound was not closing properly and Nin is likely to develop a deep infection in his abdominal cavity, which could prove fatal.

"If anyone is interested in helping, even just food, please contact us at 076-213464," she added.

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Neighbor grabs lady's beloved pooch and turns it into chewy beer snack

A LAMPANG man is being prosecuted for theft after stealing a neighbor's dog, killing it, filleting it and eating it as a beer snack.

Sawat Ariyakhrua, 49, told police he stole and ate "Khero", a Viking-breed dog belonging to Chamnan Srimuang, 45, because he "thought it was a stray".

He used Khero to make *nuea daet diao*, a kind of local jerky usually munched on while drinking alcohol, he said.

Mrs Chamnan, who lives in the village of Baan Srikam, said she loved Khero like her own child. She described her beloved dog, who was one year and five months old when he met his demise, as "clever" and "timid".

She first realized something was wrong on May 5, when she noticed Khero had disappeared.

Days later, when Khero had failed to reappear, Mrs Chamnan thought he had run off with the



sand delivery man, who loved Khero very much.

But when she saw the sand man, he told her he hadn't seen the dog.

At this point she became very worried and feared she would never see Khero again.

On May 8, a neighbor came to see Mrs Chamnan, telling her that Mr Sawat had caught a dog that looked very much like Khero and had tied it up at his home.

She went straight over to Mr Sawat's house and confronted him. Mr Sawat denied ever seeing Khero.

However, Mrs Chamnan even-

tually got Mr Sawat to confess to killing Khero and hiding the body behind the house.

Mrs Chamnan went behind the house and was confronted with a grim scene: the head, skin and skeleton of her favorite dog.

She almost fainted.

She then asked Mr Sawat where the rest of Khero was. He told her he had hidden the flesh inside his house.

Shocked, she went home to try and come to terms with what she had just witnessed.

At first she decided that she would not make an issue of the incident, since Khero was already dead. But that night she could not sleep and when she got up the next day she went straight to the police to report Mr Sawat.

Police charged with Mr Sawat with the theft of the dog, which he has confessed to.

— Sanook.com

Thaksin urges reconciliation over justice

AROUND THE nation

EXILED former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra told a crowd of tens of thousands of red-shirt supporters that they should put aside demands for social and legal justice in the name of national reconciliation.

Mr Thaksin was speaking via video link to about 45,000 red shirts gathered at Ratchaprasong in Bangkok on May 19 to remember those who died during a bloody army crackdown on protests at the same site two years earlier.

The former premier's words angered many of the protesters, who fear elites on both sides of Thailand's political conflict have come to a cozy accommodation that will leave their demands for political reform unaddressed.

The "red shirt" political party, the United Front for Democracy against Dictatorship (UDD), has called the justice for the deaths of at least 92 people killed during



The reconciliation bill Mr Thaksin supported during the red-shirt gathering offers immunity for all those charged in relation to the political crisis over the past few years. Photo: Nicholas Altstadt

the 2010 protests, which lasted for about two months.

So far, not one person has been prosecuted for the killings. In a report published last year, New

York-based rights watchdog Human Rights Watch concluded that the military used excessive and unnecessary lethal force and that armed elements within the UDD

known as "black shirts" engaged in attacks.

The call for clemency comes as the government is trying to push a reconciliation bill through

Parliament that would offer immunity for all those charged in relation to the political crisis over the past few years.

The move is opening divisions between Mr Thaksin and the Pheu Thai-led government led by his sister Yingluck, and the red-shirt movement that helped bring it to power.

Human Rights Watch is demanding the government shelve the bill, which it says would help perpetuate a state of impunity for abuses in Thailand.

"Despite well-documented atrocities that took place in the full view of cameras and witnesses, no Thai soldier or official has been held accountable," said Brad Adams, Asia director at Human Rights Watch.

"The military should not be above the law. The government needs to prosecute all those responsible for crimes, whatever their political affiliation or official position, to provide justice for the victims and end the cycle of violence and impunity," he said.

Mr Adams noted that 16 of at least 92 known deaths had been sent by the Department of Special Investigations to the prosecutor to launch post-mortem inquests.

Brit man held for possessing golden human fetus corpses

A BRITISH citizen was arrested in Bangkok last week after he was found in possession of six human fetus corpses wrapped in gold leaf.

Thai police said the fetuses showed between two and eight months of development.

Chow Hok Kuen, a British national of Taiwanese origin, told police he planned to smuggle the fetuses to Taiwan to sell, as some ethnic Chinese believe such corpses can bring those who possess them good fortune.

Mr Chow told police he bought the corpses days before his arrest for around 30,000 baht each. He bought the bodies from hospitals, temples and clinics that illegally performed abortions, mostly in Samut Prakan, police alleged.

They could fetch at least six times the sum he paid for them on the market on Taiwan, he said.



Chow Hok Kue (center) was caught with six fetus corpses. Photo: The Nation

Worship of the fetuses in Thailand is a Buddhist-animist practice called *kuman thong*, meaning "golden baby boy".

The Institute of Forensic Medicine is conducting tests to search for signs of respiration, which could lead to murder charges. If

that is not the case, it will be an abortion-related case, said a police general who heads the Institute of Forensic Medicine.

Abortion is illegal in Thailand, except in cases of incest, rape or when the pregnancy poses a threat to the mother's life.

Thai sex trips spreading HIV to Oz

SEX tourism in Thailand is leading to a dramatic rise in the number of HIV cases in the Australian state of Queensland, according to a report in *The Australian*.

In 2010, there were 206 new HIV cases reported in the state of Queensland, a steep rise on previous years.

Most cases involved homosexual men, though the number of infections of other groups was also rising, the report said.

The report claimed that Australian men were contracting the

lethal condition during sex trips to Thailand, where the rate of HIV infection is 13 in 1,000, as well as during trips to Indonesia and Papua New Guinea.

Dr Richard Kidd, president of the Queensland branch Australian Medical Association, said the increase in cases was probably due to the mining boom in the state.

"Young men, isolated from their families, earning lots of money – and whether they are going to Thailand and having sex

with prostitutes or whether prostitutes are coming in from other countries, the data doesn't quite tell us," he explained to *The Australian*.

HIV was first reported in Thailand in 1984. By 2008, 1.1 million people had been reported as infected with the virus, with nearly 600,000 recorded deaths.

In the 1990s, the Thai government introduced a "100% condom use in brothels" policy that was highly successful in reducing the HIV infection rate.

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Let the Phuket Games begin

STARTING this weekend, Phuket will host the 28th Thailand National Youth Games, an event expected to bring more than 2,000 student-athletes to the island along with an estimated 14,000 people including coaches, parents, supporters and fans of over 30 different sports and pastimes.

Gracious hosting of these games should be a point of pride among all islanders, Thais and expatriates alike. Phuket is being put on show not to the rest of the world, but to highlight to the rest of the country what Phuket has become in the span of two short decades. Now that the opportunity is here, we need to show one and all that there is far more to Phuket than beaches covered with beer-swilling foreigners, Soi Bangla and overpriced taxis.

The influx of people for the games will surely put Phuket's infrastructure to the test. To ease the stress on local accommodation establishments, nearly all schools administered by Phuket City Municipality will serve as dormitories for visiting athletes and their support teams.

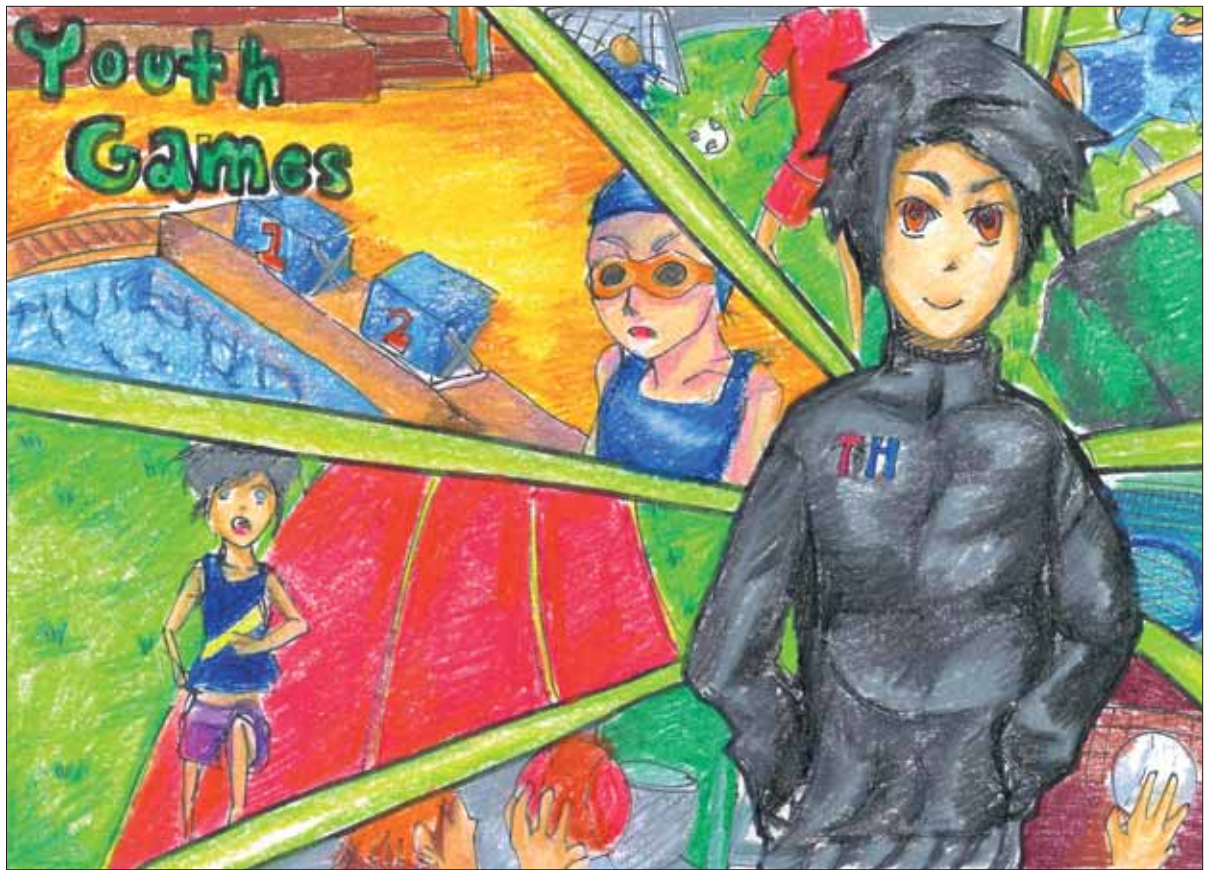
An increase in traffic is likely to become an issue. Fortunately, the new bus station in Rassada is up and running, offering low-cost transport around most of the greater Phuket Town area via the island's pink *Poh Tong* bus service. Hopefully, locals will be on hand to assist new arrivals in its comprehensive-yet-confusing route system.

To make the Phuket Games possible, the Sports Authority of Thailand has poured money into upgrading several important public sporting facilities in Phuket. To overhaul the swimming pool at Saphan Hin to the standard Thailand's future sport stars deserve took nearly two years. As a legacy of the games, Phuket residents will for years to come be able to enjoy the new international-standard indoor stadium built expressly for this event.

Now that much of the heavy lifting has been accomplished, it is time for all Phuket people to step up and show some real Thai hospitality, even if means taking a break from the kind of profiteering that has harmed our reputation among domestic tourists just as badly as among foreign visitors. Let's show the entire nation what we have something to offer our youth – instead of yet-another drug crackdown.

Knowing that the world's best athletes will be arriving in London for the Olympics is proving to be a source of inspiration for people living in one of the great capitals of the world. The Phuket Games should provide the same inspiration for all of us, albeit at a national level.

Phuket should be proud to have been chosen to host these games. Let's show them why we choose to call this island home.



Phuket: Heart of glass

Re: Gazette online, French tourist drowns as Phuket surf danger season begins, May 19

Why in the world does this happen? All of us who live in Phuket know when the surf becomes dangerous.

Maybe this next contract period should run until December 31, and then renewed annually. That way when the Phuket Administration Organization (OrBorJor) wants to hang the lifeguards out to dry over contract negotiations, there would not be tourists dying, as the sea is like glass [at that time of the year].

me
Gazette forum

First taste of the sea

Re: Gazette online, French tourist drowns as Phuket surf danger season begins, May 19

Many tourists have no concept of the sea and its dangers.

I had a Canadian girlfriend who was amazed on her first time in the ocean that the sea was salty. She was not stupid; she had just never been in the sea.

The waves look fun, but can be deadly. Hotel and tour operators have a duty of care to advise guests of the dangers.

Ian
Gazette forum

Police action a 'gem'

Re: Gazette online, PHUKET GEM HEIST: B5mn in jewelry still missing, May 16

So nice to see recognition of the fact that the Thai police actually can do good work when motivated to do so. Maybe some of the "old lady" expat whingers here will be disappointed to see this success, but I'm delighted with it.

Bill Freeman
Gazette forum

Letters to the Editor

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

All quiet on the Eastern Front

Re: Gazette online, Mexican, Malaysian suspects named in Phuket gem heist, May 15

Good that it finally appears... no Russians were among them!

Otherwise, some people would have jumped at the opportunity to oil their fingers and to point at Russians as the cause of all their – and Phuket's – problems.

RussianInPhuket
Gazette forum

Hands-on Solos, keep starblazing

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Election: Aroon Solos re-elected Rawai Mayor, May 14

Congratulations Aroon. Your contribution to the Rawai municipal area has been invaluable for so many years.

Your efforts have indeed made Rawai one of the most desirable destinations to live in Phuket. Please keep up the good work.

Happy Farang
Gazette forum

Doing the Bangla shuffle shuffle hop

Re: Gazette online, Phuket's Bangla street touts warned: 'Hands off tourists', May 18

Really? I am going down tomorrow just to check. Does this include the monster with the little monkey, and the one with the marmoset? During the 20 years

I've been here, every new chief has made this announcement – and nothing has changed at all.

Andre
Gazette forum

Making waves

Re: Gazette online, Heavy rains prompt Phuket flood, landslide warning, May 17

Dear Phuket Gazette: Keep putting stories only like this in the paper and soon we'll have nobody here anymore.

After the Bangkok flood, the terrorism alert, the closing of the bars at 2am, the tsunami warnings, the Phuket will go under on 28 April and so on...

It's actually very normal that it rains and that the waves are higher because it's rainy season. Please stop making a drama [out of it].

Marc
Gazette forum

Driven to courtesy

A few weeks ago, I experienced something so rare that I passed it off as pure coincidence. Then last week the same thing happened and I can no longer ignore it: a tuk-tuk driver in Patong was polite in asking me if I wanted a ride.

It has been years since a tuk-tuk driver in Patong has asked me politely whether I wanted a ride anywhere. Now the drivers based at the back of Jungceylon [on Phang Muang Sai Kor Road] seem to have learnt some manners.

Without a drip of cynicism, can we please pass this message along to the management at Jungceylon so these drivers at least get some credit for their behavior?

Perhaps the TAT [Tourism Authority of Thailand] was correct in its prophesy that 2012 would be the "Year of Miracles".

Damian Evans
Chalong

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Wrapped up in monks' beauty

FIRST PERSON

I AM aware of monks wearing traditional monk clothing and regalia in a way that is contrary to Buddhist practices, in that it is related to outward beauty, such as "high-fashion" and sexuality. However, there are more than 200,000 Buddhist monks in Thailand and only very small percentage would do something so discordant with Buddhist doctrine.

In Buddhism, there are 277 precepts for monks, 210 for nuns and 10 for novices. They concern the "do not's" of life, such as taking a life, be it human or animal, stealing or speaking falsely.

Then there are the precepts that forbid sexual misconduct, dancing, singing and partaking in events that ruin harmony. Buddhism also prohibits the drinking of alcohol or other fermented substances that affect good judgment and eating at night.

Lastly, there are those clauses that deal with living; such as not lying on a high or luxurious bed, not owning earthly possessions and not accepting payment in the form of money or other valuable objects.

The recent news about a Buddhist monk's posing on a Facebook page in a way that it looks like a woman and is sexually suggestive is not okay. In my personal opinion, Facebook is a good website if you use it in the



Chatpawit Jinapong, 57, is the Director of the Phuket branch of the National Office of Buddhism. He has a Master degree in Education Administration from Thaksin University. Mr Chatpawit speaks about beauty through Buddhist eyes in light of the recent 'inappropriate' images of monks in Buddhist regalia appearing on the internet.

right way. In case of Buddhist monks or novices, I think we can best use it to share Buddhist values and educate people to the established principles of the Lord Buddha.

The opposite of what is being demonstrated as beauty in those photos is true, because beauty is not on the outside. It is the physical and mental calm within us. The beauty of a Buddhist monks is the beauty of Vinaya Pitaka, which is one of the three Tripitka scriptures and the foundation of monastic life for monks, nuns and novices.

I think the general public should also concern themselves with the beauty of the mind. A beautiful mind enhances your appearance. After all, your good-looks will fade with age. A good mind will last forever.

The media is very important in the modern, socially-networked world. Information from around the world can be accessed in minutes.

Television can show teenagers

both Thai and foreign celebrities. We should be concerned about the marketing methods used in the media. These celebrities look good because it's their jobs, but Thai teenagers try to emulate them without thinking whether or not it's appropriate to do so.

Thai teenagers absorb everything without analysis. They just take what they see. This is a serious problem, as cultures are different. If we only accept other cultures, then we forget our own. That will only decrease the beauty of our own culture.

The new Thai generation must be encouraged to analyze and adapt the new in a way that fits comfortably into Thai culture.

The very few Buddhist monks who have behaved inappropriately, as we have witnessed lately, will be warned by their masters, or worse. The worst punishment of the Buddhist monkhood is dismissal from the order.

I say sawasdee krab, you say hello krab

THERE'S really no need to learn Thai in Phuket, it simply isn't necessary. However, the lack of motivation to learn tends to let you down right when you need it most.

I, like so many foreigners on the island, can only say a handful of words, none of which are able to communicate anything. I wouldn't be able to explain in English to your average Thai living on the island. On top of this, most Thais that I do attempt to speak with usually are either unimpressed (which is understandable) or uninterested in my attempts.

If my ability to communicate effectively isn't enhanced by trying to learn Thai (I know I must give it more time), nor is the effort appreciated – then really, what is the point?

When I first arrived in Phuket I was thrilled with the idea of learning Thai. I have always believe it important to show cultural sensitivity to the people of any country you are visiting by learning the very basics of their language, and since I was planning on staying in Phuket for some time, I figured I'd get cracking and actually become conversational in Thai.

But now, eight month later, I find myself in a lull. Elsewhere in Thailand, I think necessity would fill my sails and provide motivation, but here in Phuket, I find myself languishing. After work, I come home eat and really don't see the point of studying

I have my "How to Learn Thai" books, Rosetta Stone, Pimsleur and even a tutor, but the whole process seems more like a hobby, like doing Sudoku, rather than a worthy pursuit.



Struggling to uncover the meaning of Thai. Photo: Charles Kremenak

Island View

By Alex Stone

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

When I go to pay for things about 85 per cent of the time the price is given to me in English. Only when I find myself in unusual circumstances on the island, such as when I have lost my phone, do I find it necessary to be able to communicate on a level that surpass my 10-word Thai vocabulary and many local Thais' English abilities.

I know there are enormous areas and aspects of Phuket that my lingual-ignorance has left me unaware of. But the relative comfort and ease provided by so much of Phuket has pacified me – making me blissful in my ignorance.

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

Panning for golden on Phuket's white beaches

I have a few questions regarding gold panning on the beaches of Phuket, especially around Ao Yon Bay, near Cape Panwa.

Is a non-Thai National allowed to keep the gold that he or she has panned on the beach? If they are not allowed to keep the gold, but are allowed to pan for it, which official organization should the gold found be given to?

Do you need a work permit for gold panning? Can you pan for gold after sunset?

Chris Jongerius
Wichit

Phuket Provincial Industry Office Industrial Technician Racho Sawatdisan replies:

To my knowledge, there have never been any large gold deposits found on Phuket. However, even if there are gold deposits at Ao Yon it is illegal to extract it.

The Phuket Provincial Industry Office has never issued a

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

certificate for gold panning. Only those locals who are very poor and have no other job can obtain an ore panning certificate.

If you are a foreigner, or hold another job, it just isn't possible to buy a panning certificate.

Geologist Umpai Thongpinyochai, Department of Primary Industries and Mines Phuket Office, replies:

There are trace gold deposits in every region of Thailand, either primary or secondary ore. Pri-



GOLD FEVER: 'Pancake' gold nugget, found in Australia. Photo: Rob Lavinsky

mary ore is found in veins and in situ, while secondary ore is usually found in alluvial deposits.

There are laws about panning for gold and other minerals in Thailand. A Thai version of the law with an English translation can be

found at www.dmr.go.th/download/law_minerals/minerals_act_v_thai_english.pdf. Most of the answers to your questions can be found on page 48, which deals with "Mining on Small Scale and Mineral Panning".

Nightmare neighbor

I rent an apartment in Patong along a dead-end street. While I was away, my neighbor had construction work done in his apartment and used my water.

I just came back to discover he had some of his workers setting up camps in my carport. He took over 30 square meters of common land to extend his deck.

What can be done? He does not care [about my objections].

jpbuffon
Patong

Orawan Pueak-khao, Administrative Officer of Patong Municipality, replies:

Because the area is private, it is the owner's responsibility. You have to inform your landlord of these problems. Patong Municipality is responsible for those houses and accommodation in public areas only. But if you tell the owner and he or she still ignores you, then you can file a complaint to us at Patong Municipality.

National Youth Games to boost local economy



Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa cuts the ribbon at the opening of the information center for the 28th National Youth Games to be held across Phuket. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

AS THE 28th annual Thailand National Youth Games gets set to kick off, the *Gazette* takes a look at the economic impacts the games will have here in Phuket.

Dumrong Chaisena, of the Sport Authority of Thailand's (SAT) Phuket Office, spoke with the *Phuket Gazette* about the government's projections for total revenue being brought in by the Phuket Games to be

played from May 24 through June 6.

"We expect to generate at least 300 to 500 million baht during the Phuket Games. We also anticipate that many spectators from Phuket, as well as other provinces, will come here to watch the games. Currently we estimate the number of spectators to be around 20,000 or more," said Mr Dumrong.

Mr Dumrong went on to highlight specific industries that are likely to see direct benefit as a result of the games – the largest of their kind in Thailand.

"One industry that will directly benefit from the games is the hospitality business. Many restaurants and hotels, especially in the Phuket Town area, are expecting to earn a lot during this period," he added.

Mr Dumrong elaborated further on the hotel occupancy rate in Phuket Town for the upcoming event.

"It is true that we provide free accommodations for all athletes who are participating in the games. But, athletes for the youth games do not usually travel alone. They travel with their family members and they are the ones who need places to stay. We have been informed that many hotels in Phuket Town are almost fully booked," he said.

The games will host events that include 40 sports during a period of fourteen days to be held across the island.

"I believe Phuket province will earn a lot of benefit from this event," he ended.

For a schedule of events and list of venues see story on page 46.

– *Phuket Gazette*

Smart phone sales soar in Q1

THAILAND'S rapidly expanding smartphone market recorded nearly 70% growth in the first quarter of this year, according to GfK research group's Thailand retail audit findings, which compare quarter on quarter revenue performances.

Heightened consumer demand has brought about a surge in sales volume of over 80% reaching 758,000 smartphones sold in the first three months of 2012 (Q1).

Consumers in Thailand bought 3.8 million mobile phones in the opening quarter of this year, of which, only 20% were smartphones. Though feature phones are still largely used by Thais, their popularity has been waning as smartphone sales are on the rise. First quarter results of feature phone volume sales reported a decline of 12% over the same quarter a year ago.

"Feature phones are still dominating Thailand's mobile phone market in terms of sheer volume, but when it comes to revenue sales, smartphones' contribution to the overall value of the industry has surpassed feature phones," said Dr Wichit

Purepong, General Manager of GfK Thailand. "Takings for smartphones had already overtaken feature phones in the last quarter of 2011 when they reached 53% of total sales contribution. The latest quarter one report showed that it has escalated further to hit 60%."

Retail audit findings revealed that the average price of feature phones in the country has been dwindling in the last five consecutive quarters to reach a low of US\$52.

In comparison, the average price of smartphones has remained generally consistent, hovering between US\$300 – 329 during this same period of time.

Although smartphones in the least expensive range of US\$150 - 250 are the most saleable, with over one in two smartphones in the country sold coming from this segment, the pricier models above US\$500 have managed to maintain their market share of 18% in the latest quarter, translating to almost 40% in the country's smartphone sales.

Another smartphone trend in Thailand is the increasing penchant towards Android smartphones. As with most other markets in the region, popularity of such phones has been on an upswing. From its market share of 16% in Q1 last year, volume sales of Android smartphones have skyrocketed to reach 59% in the latest quarter.

"Smartphone penetration level in Thailand is considered low when compared with some of the other markets in the region like Singapore and Malaysia where a larger proportion of the population have already converted from their feature phones," observed Dr Wichit.

"This presents huge potential for smartphone manufacturers and we can expect the rate of adoption to accelerate when telecom operators in the country fully roll out their 3G services in the very near future. It is predicted that the Thai smartphone market will more than double in value and volume in 2012," he concluded.

– *Phuket Gazette*

Consumer Reports

Titan Helmet reviewed by Publius



PRODUCED by S.Y.K. Autopart Import-Export Co Ltd, the "Titan" is the most expensive helmet available for purchase in Tesco Lotus at 650 baht. This helmet is comfortable and well padded. It covers your entire head (except your chin) and has a good locking mechanism on the chin strap. On the negative side, the glue binding parts of the helmet has come undone on me – after only two weeks and it has a crack now. Overall, I would say for the money you might be better off with a BMX-style model.

Affordability



Durability



Overall Rating



Kin Dee instant Pad Thai reviewed by Siamerican



World famous Pad Thai in five minutes.

PRODUCED by J.D. Products Co Ltd in Samut Sakhon province. Overall a good value for quick bite alternative to instant noodles. Available in Phuket at Villa Mart. Strategically priced at 20 baht per serving, slightly higher than commercial instant cup noodles.

Simple to prepare with just hot water, also microwavable. Seasoning is accurate and portion of noodles and dried shrimp is filling for price. Great snack or light meal but no replacement for the real thing. The paper box can be reused for nursery gardening.

Price Value



Export Potential



Packaging



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In brief...

THE Southern Trade and Organic Fair 2012 wrapped up last week in Phuket. Commercial officials from 14 Southern provinces, Surat Thani Commercial Director Mrs Yukunton Pongsupaponkit and local residents attended the event.

Mrs Yukunton said, "The Southern Trade and Organic Fair 2012 was held to support those projects associated with organic agriculture for tourism. The Government's aim for hosting this event was to expand markets and to lift the economy."

There were 250 booths, including Southern OTOP and SME booths, OPOP (One Province One Product) booths from Nakhon Pathom, Saraburi and Mae Hong Son as well as organic food booths. The event also held traditional performances from each region of Thailand.

Cultivating an organic hub

With the 2015 Asean Economic Community fast approaching, Thailand pushes to develop and centralize a number of its sectors. High on the list are agriculture and health, and Phuket is well positioned to reap the benefits. The *Gazette* reports:

SUPPORTING the latest drive to promote the country as a regional wellness and retreat hub, Piramol Charoenpao, the commerce deputy permanent secretary was in Phuket earlier this month.

Mrs Piramol, accompanied by Yukuntora Pongsupaphongkit, the director of the regional office of commercial affairs in Surat Thani, was heading a delegation tour of health-business operations in Thailand's South.

"Some hotel and resort operators have branded themselves as green hotels and resorts by investing in green energy, waste management and waste-water treatment," Mrs Piramol remarked, "but these establishments can be dubbed organic hotels and resorts only when they use organic products from local networks."

One of their stops was the shop of Pura Organic Foods, the island's principal organic food supplier located on Thepkasattri Road in Thalang district.

Martin Smeters, Managing Director of Pura Organic Foods Ltd, told the *Gazette*, "This [visit] is a testament to the sincerity of the Thai government to make Thailand an organic hub by 2015."

Martin was invited to speak at the Organic & Natural Asean Expo 2012 in Bangkok this weekend. (See right sidebar)

"We've been collaborating with the government for the past year and a half. They approached me to discuss Pura's potential support in developing marketing and distribution channels."

Pura Organic is recognized for being the exclusive distributor of products from the award winning and fully-certified Thanyamundra Organic Farm and Resort near Khao Sok National Park. It offers produce from another 70 organic suppliers from across Thailand. Its organic food range comprises up to 1,000 products.

"150 to 200 of these are fresh produce, including vegetables, dairy and poultry products. The remainder are dry products such as sugars and butter," Martin noted.



A CLEAN AND GREEN FUTURE: Commerce deputy permanent secretary Piramol Charoenpao (left) discusses marketing strategies with Pura MD Martin Smeters.

"Many are surprised to learn that quality organic food is already widely available in Phuket. Pura strives to make organics accessible to the masses and some of its produce is cheaper than the chemical alternatives," he said.

While a bulk of Pura Organic's clients are hotels and resorts, Martin went on to reveal plans to penetrate a new market:

"As of July 1, we will launch a home delivery service to supply organic food directly to private homes, and for the

large group of healthy minded people residing on Phuket, we will start offering a line of health product brands like Superfoods and Chia, for example," he said.

"There is a lot of potential in the retail market. Many people in Phuket want quality organic food, but it hasn't always been convenient for them to access it," he noted.

For more info, see *W: puraorganic.org* where you can subscribe online to Pura's weekly newsletter.



FINE LINE: There is a noticeable difference between organic (right) and non-organic.

Iconic Thai spirit to rebrand, re-emerge

AFTER withdrawing from the Thai market years ago, Mekhong, the 70-year-old spirit brand owned by Thai Beverage (ThaiBev), is making a big comeback with a new international agenda.

ThaiBev, the country's largest distillery and brewery, is injecting 40 million baht to rebrand the image of the iconic spirit, to pit it against other premium brands globally.

Vorarat Charoonsmith, director of Thai Beverage Marketing, said the company three years ago repositioned the Mekhong brand for export, revamping its packaging and labeling.

The brand is now available in the United States, Australia, and in some countries in Europe including Britain. It is sold at Thai restaurants and international pubs in those markets.

"We now bring the international image of Mekhong into Thailand. We will also create a new identity of Mekhong among Thai consumers, with international packaging and consistent product quality," Vorarat said.

He said Mekhong, a rum-based spirit, was one of the flagship spirit brands owned by ThaiBev, along with SangSom, Hong Thong and Blend 285.

"We have been repositioning Mekhong from a brand targeting male drinkers into a unisex brand with strong adaptability. It can be used in traditional ways or can be used for the creation of other beverages such as cocktails."

The new Mekhong will target both males and females aged between 25 and 35 who are in the middle and higher classes and have modern lifestyles. — *The Nation*

Organic & Natural Asean Expo 2012

Organizer: Ministry of Commerce

Venue: Impact Arena Hall, Bangkok

Dates: May 24-27

Exhibitors: 200 companies (180 Thai and ASEAN 20)

Product Groups: Certified Products, Food, Non-Food (Cosmetic, Healthy /Green Product, Books and Music) Hospitality and Services (Hotel, Restaurant, Spa and Banking)

Objectives:

*To promote Thailand's organic image for both domestic and foreign markets.

*To recruit domestic and ASEAN organic suppliers.

*To promote Thailand to become an organic hub of ASEAN and Asia regions

*To generate organic networks from Thailand to the global market.

*To acknowledge the benefits of organic production and consumption to farmers, entrepreneurs and authorities at all levels.

*To improve quality of life by utilizing organic products.

*To enhance the level of competitiveness and competency of local farmers, entrepreneurs and authorities globally.

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Thailand's 3G woes



THE SAGA CONTINUES: After years of 3G government regulations, TOT is now required to report weekly to the State Enterprise Planning Office (SEPO). Photo: Twentfour Students



UGH! What a mess.

If you've been following along over the years, you know that the history of 3G wireless internet access in Thailand has been fraught with competing organizations, lawsuits, government changes, allegations of corruption, political infighting, and a whole lot of money floating around.

To understand the quandary we're in right now, you need to know the history. It's complicated.

Many years ago, the two formerly-government-owned phone companies in Thailand, TOT and CAT, were assigned channels to use for mobile phone service.

CAT got the 850 MHz channel and TOT got the 900 MHz channel. It's roughly analogous to allowing just two TV broadcasters to operate TV channels.

The original concessions to CAT and TOT were drawn up long before 3G (more accurately, HSPA) technology was a gleam in anyone's eye. Many companies – AIS, True, DTAC and others – made fortunes selling mobile phones and monthly services back when SMS was considered an advanced feature. Some of the billions ended up in the pocket and suitcases of a fugitive ex-prime minister.

Then HSPA hit and everybody – especially anybody with a 3G phone – wanted to get the considerably faster internet access afforded by the new technology. There were lawsuits and threats of lawsuits, but in the end both CAT and TOT found

ways to sublet their channels, allowing other companies to sell 3G services. AIS rented part of the channel – and much of their equipment – from TOT. DTAC and True (through a newly created subsidiary TrueMove H) rented part of the channel from CAT.

Keep in mind that it's by no means certain either CAT or TOT have the legal right to rent off parts of their mobile phone networks for 3G carriers. They just went ahead and did it. Both TOT and CAT are required, by their ancient concession agreements, to operate their respective services. There's a great deal of heated debate about whether AIS is currently running TOT's service or TrueMove is running CAT's service. CAT, for example, is running its retail 3G service, My 3G, on TrueMove's network.

The fact that Thailand is one of the few countries on the face of the earth without 3G service certainly provided some stimulus, and the sight of billions of baht must've been enticing. (In case you haven't kept up, North Korea now has a thriving 3G service, as do Zimbabwe and Myanmar.) Whether the business partnerships were formed in accordance with the law is a very hot point of debate.

When the new HSPA+ technology became available, first CAT

and then TOT started upgrading their systems to handle the (considerably improved) features. TOT was deeply involved in the upgrade just last month. I talked about it in my Live Wire column for April 25. TOT is installing Nokia-Siemens equipment, which can be upgraded in place to a technology called LTE, called "4G" by many.

CAT, and then TOT, also started selling 3G service directly to consumers. Right now, there's a major 'Oklahoma land grab' in progress, with five big phone companies – and countless smaller ones – trying to stake out a plot in the 3G wilderness.

All of this is taking place against the backdrop of repeatedly botched attempts to open up a new channel – actually, five channels – that will explicitly be allowed to run 3G or 4G (5G anybody?) services.

When the governmental auction happens – it's still scheduled for this year, but it's been scheduled that way for three years – there will be a mad scramble to get customers to switch over to the new channel, known cryptically as 2.1 GHz. Some phones and tablets can make the leap from 850 or 900 MHz to 2.1 GHz. Others can't. But that's a story for another time. Which brings me up to the present.

Last week, Don Sambandaraksa reported on Telecomasia.net that "Thai ICT Minister Anudith Nakornat has told state-owned

'It's by no means certain either CAT or TOT have the legal right to rent off parts of their mobile phone networks for 3G carriers.'

TOT's board to stop following the failed 3G business plan, that has so far cost \$510 million (16 billion baht) with little to show after over two years of operations. Mr Anudith said, "to

date, fewer than half the planned 5,320 base stations have been rolled out and the telco had only around 200,000 users, less than one twelfth of the projected target of 2.5 million users. Operational costs of the network exceeded revenue by a factor of four."

If TOT gets squeezed, I have no idea what will happen to AIS's 3G concession with TOT or with TOT's deployment of 4G-ready equipment. But note that the numbers quoted here are for TOT's retail operation. AIS, running on TOT's network, says it has 1.2 million 3G subscribers.

Minister Anudith really took TOT to the barn. Not only has TOT been ordered to stop rolling out base stations, it's required to report weekly to the State Enterprise Planning Office (SEPO) and the Finance Minister. The SEPO is explicitly

charged with finding a way to keep TOT and CAT on resuscitation after their concessions run out – a devilishly difficult problem in every country that's had their phone companies privatized.

In the same post, Mr Don also said that the Thai language newspaper *Thairath* – quoting an anonymous source on CAT's board – reports that CAT has decided to shutdown the TrueMove H project, "after both the counter-corruption commission and the ICT Ministry have deemed the contract to be illegal." If the contract is terminated, TrueMove can't import any more equipment or install it for CAT.

If the rumor is true, I have no idea what effect that will have on TrueMove H 3G customers, or on DTAC 3G customers. But the CAT 3G retail effort, called My 3G, which I talked about last month, would be "canceled to prevent legal complications."

According to *The Nation's* May 9 edition, "The National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) will on May 28 call in some CAT Telecom officials involved in that state agency's 3G deals with True Corp to inform them that they may have broken laws... [including] the 1992 Public-Private Joint Venture Act, the 2010 Frequency Allocation Law, and Article 157 of the Criminal Code... The irregularities ranged from what appeared to be a well-designed political plan to pave the way for the deals to the CAT's bypassing of some state procedures to make the agreements."

What's going to happen? Hard to say. For now, I think it's a safe bet that your 3G connection will continue to work for the foreseeable future. But after the auction – if there is an auction this year or this decade – all bets are off.

Certainly, by the time Thailand has its 3G act together, most of the world will be running 4G.

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

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

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Greece primed to exit the Euro

Island Investor

By Anthony Lyman

IT IS fair to say that recently the world markets have been as unstable as a new born baby trying to stand on its own two feet!

With the financial woes of the European markets, the rest of the world has been dragged down by a seemingly constant torrent of poor European economic news.

We have a new French President who, potentially, would like to get rid of the austerity measures that have been put into place, and now in Greece they don't have a government at all.

A potential exit from the Euro seems all too inevitable from the land that brought us the Olympic Games and is generally considered the cradle of Western civilisation. It is no surprise that the Greek people have had enough of cuts and austerity measures as they have been hit harder than any

other country in the 'Euro Zone'.

Recent election results show that the Greek people are officially fed up. However, with different parties being unsuccessful in formalising a coalition government this could drag out for weeks or even months and, if there is one thing that markets don't like, it's uncertainty.

We have seen this over the past few weeks as markets dropped to new 2012 lows and, as this uncertainty remains, I believe things will remain choppy until we have a resolution set in stone. The general consensus would seem to point to an inevitable Greek Euro exit, but

then, how will markets react to this?

If Greece remain in the Euro, which I think is very doubtful, the second placed Syriza party is looking to form a coalition government and in effect tear up the austerity measures plan.

Here's the situation. In February, Greece agreed a €174 billion bail-out deal with the EU and the International Monetary Fund. Part of the deal was that the country



UNCERTAIN TIMES: A storefront in Athens sits vacant as the Greek economic crisis worsens. Photo: Protonotariou

would undertake various reforms.

These reforms need to be passed by the end of next month before Greece can get the money. Of course, the problem is that there is no Greek parliament right now and it looks like no one will be able to put together a coalition.

As a result, there'll be a second election. Will the result be any different? Probably not and potentially Greece may take an even harder stance against Europe. So all roads point to a probable exit, which could not be all bad if handled properly.

As I said before, the one thing that markets do not like is

uncertainty, and this route would get rid of that uncertainty.

Also, a return to the Drachma for Greece would mean that, as an economy, they could quickly re-price themselves, ditching their debt and focusing on growth.

On the flip side the value of the Drachma could be devalued by at least 50% causing inflation. The need to handle this properly cannot be underestimated and as uncertainty continues markets will continue to be effected, so for now a cautious approach needs to be applied until we see light at the end of the tunnel.

A shift to safer investments is

a wise move over the next few months, we have seen the US Dollar perform well, and the dollar index – the dollar against a basket of other major currencies – is at its highest level in two months.

The ride is going to remain very bumpy and a move into less riskier assets would be prudent, unless you are able to stomach the volatility we are now beginning to see.

Anthony Lyman is a Senior Financial Consultant for the Montpellier Group. For more information contact Alyman@montpeliergroup.com or follow him on twitter @AnthonyLyman.

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Gerard Garson: Paintographer

By Marc Mulloy

GERARD Garson is a French photographer who always wanted to be a painter and through his use of High Dynamic Range (HDR) imaging he has managed to do both. He calls himself a paintographer and signs his work 'Gast Garger'.

Gerard's passion for photography started in 1977, when he was a student working for the photographic studios of L'Oréal, assisting famous photographers to set up product shoots. Thirty-five years ago, the level of sophistication found today was not available to everyone and he quickly became fascinated by the possibilities.

"I remember one of my first jobs as an assistant – I was given a pair of scissors and a roll of Scotch tape as tools and felt a little disappointed as I wanted to get my hands on all the fancy



APPLE OF MY EYE: It's a fine line between art and photography.

electronic gadgets. Very quickly, however, I understood how important the scissors and tape were for masking out areas, dealing with light and shadows and holding things in place. Even today they are indispensable in my studio," said Gerard.

Gerard's current studio is situated in the heart of Patong where, for the past month, he has focused on portrait photography and helping models put together their

portfolios.

"All of these 'old school' techniques in the eighties; with slides, film, negatives and even little pots of paint for retouching, have been very useful lessons for me. When I see a subject now, I visualize exactly what the end image will look like. Therefore all this training on constructing an image comes into play" he added.

Constructing an image is certainly one way to describe Gerard's most elaborate works, which use a series of up to 20 under-and-over-exposed shots [bracketing] of the same subject to produce a painting-like effect.

His subjects range from local shopkeepers to iconic landmarks in Phuket, his chosen home for the past ten years. The set of methods used in image processing, computer graphics, and photography, allow a greater dynamic range between the lightest and darkest areas of an image therefore highlighting details often overlooked. Many have noted that his hyper-realistic effect, which can take days to complete, is reminiscent of Norman Rockwell.

"It's true that I was influenced by a generation of illustrators who used airbrush techniques, by artists such as Norman Rockwell as well as photographers who shot in black and white. Maybe younger photographers are more at home with digital photography, but those lessons I learned when I had to manually mask off areas of a photo in a darkroom with scissors and tape remain," says Gerard.

An accomplished diver who has also specialized in underwater photography, Gerard is also sought after for his birds-eye-view panoramas of local real estate projects.

He is able to produce these shots using a 15-meter-high telescopic mast topped with his trusty Canon D5 camera (see W: uptoview.com). This is linked remotely to his laptop computer, where he can manipulate the camera and rotate it through 360 degrees. How did he come up with such a system? Maybe some scissors and tape were involved.

Gerard Garson (Photographer) can be contacted at T: 0809 141 173 E: gerard@uptoview.com, W: viewbug.com/Garger/photos



AUTO PORTRAIT: Did someone say Norman Rockwell?



SUBJECT MATTERS: A picture tells a thousand words.



UNREAL ESTATE: The Gallery as seen by Gerard



SLOW BUSINESS: Gerard's technique highlights all the unseen details.



WHERE IS THIS? Patong bay illuminated by fireworks on New Year's Eve.

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STAFF BREAK: Two Chefs restaurant in Kata, home of the famed 'Surf & BBQ Night'.

Cooking with a feminine flair

By Chris Hudon

AT THE crossroads of Kata Yai and Kata Noi beaches is the Two Chefs Kata restaurant. Inside that restaurant, among other places, is where you can find the most recent addition to the Two Chefs team, chef Joanna Ruekenstein.

Ms Joanna has been in Phuket just three months, but already says through a grin, "I'm here to stay."

She started traveling last year and travelled for six months before deciding to move to Thailand last February.

First introduced to cooking by her brother, Ms Joanna remembers how he would meticulously prepare the ingredients of a meal for their mother on Mothers Day.

"It was his gift to her, but of course we all benefited," she admits playfully, "That's how I was first introduced to the idea of cooking."

Until recently, Joanna lived in Montreal with her family, where, for five years she ran her own catering company called *Les délices de Joanna*. She worked from home in Montreal and says she had little separation between her personal and business lives.

Ms Joanna recalls starting out in the catering business, "When I first started out catering I was making Challah bread (ethnic Jewish bread served on holidays such as *Sabbath*), because it was the Jewish New Year, *Rash-hashanah*.

"In two days I had baked 52 breads out of my mother's house. I didn't sleep for 48 hours and on top of baking the breads, I also delivered them to each customer so that they would know who I was and remember me. During all this I drove my parents crazy!"

Joanna describes another stressful experience she had while working in Montreal one year during the Grand Prix.

"The Grand Prix in Montreal is a huge

event. I was 26 or 27-years-old at the time and we served over 350 people in one night. During that time some restaurants served 400 to 500 people per night. It was a really hot summer and I'm sure I lost ten pounds of water weight in one night.

"I was doing *garde-manger* (the French term for the station, which handles salads, deserts and appetizers).

"It was the biggest weekend of the year – the kind where you have to take a pill when it's all over," she laughs.

When asked about her favorite culinary style, Ms Joanna replied, "My favorite style of cooking is Mediterranean because of the fresh ingredients like olive oil, lemon; it has lots of ground pepper and fresh oregano.

"I don't really like heavy foods like French food. Then again, the funny thing is that I love Thai food, which has creamy curries and stuff. I guess I just like variety – to have a bit of Italian, a bit of Thai, a bit of American, Japanese – everything.

Asked if it's difficult being a chef as a

woman Ms Joanna replied, "Being a chef in general is a male-dominated industry, and it is hard to get ahead as a woman. Even though women are always at home cooking dinner – that's not considered the same thing.

"You know how men talk when they are alone. In some professions it would be considered sexual harassment, but if you can't handle that then you can't handle this business."

If she couldn't be a chef Joanna said that she would like to be a dancer, "I'm a great dancer and I love the ballet."



Chef Joanna Ruekenstein at Two Chefs restaurant. Photo: Chris Hudon





Chairman of the board

Riding a new wave of entrepreneurship in Phuket

By Chris Hudon

JUMNONG 'Tony' Pongawn, 35, has been shaping surfboards for the past ten years – ever since an Australian visitor to Phuket showed him how, over a decade ago.

Born in Kata, Tony has watched the birth of surf culture there since he was a boy, when it began in the mid 80s – some 25 years ago.

"I started when I was 10-years-old. When I first learned to surf I couldn't get a board [in Phuket]. Then I met a friend from Australia who gave me one of his very old boards," says Tony.

Shaping surfboards is a highly technical business. It requires industrial materials such as fiberglass, epoxy, saws, sanders, masks, hazardous chemicals; all this in addition to great patience and craftsmanship.

With a crew of three friends and

his right-hand man "A", who paints the boards, Tony works from an addition to his parent's home.

Growing a small business isn't easy, and more so when your industry is just beginning – making materials difficult to source. Tony struggles to keep board prices down in the face of cheaper factory-manufactured models, made in China.

Keeping costs down isn't always easy, he says, due to heavy import taxes he's forced to pay when ordering board 'blanks' (the earliest stage of the board when there is just foam) from Australia.

Tony shapes more than 50 boards at a time, which he handcrafts over a period of at least a month. He is currently working on his latest shipment that will be ready for order around the end of June, depending on the rains. Sunny weather

is needed to cure the epoxy resin.

His boards, which usually sell for between 16,000-20,000 baht, are custom designed for color and to fit the shape of the user's body.

In addition to selling boards, Tony gives away several free boards to local youths each year as sponsorship. He hopes to partner with Boon Rawd Brewery (who produce Singha beer) soon to increase this sponsorship in the near future. Giving boards away isn't necessarily bad business in the surf industry. Brand awareness is everything, so it pays to have the best 'up and comers' riding your boards.

Tony says he wants to inspire more Thai youths to take up surfing, but knows that surfing can be an expensive sport for the average Thai.

"One thing I notice is that many more Thai people want to learn to surf," says Tony.

While Tony sees his business as an outlet for his passion, Tony's friends at Nautilus Dive & Surf (where his boards can be purchased) say that he has the potential to grow into a thriving business on the island. Last year alone Tony sold 52 surfboards.

"For me I think it's not really just about business. We're a very small company and I try to help people buy cheaper boards of better quality. If they have problems they can always come back to see me."

Tony is married to Watcharee, also born in Kata, and they have one son named Siriwat, who is almost 2-years-old. Tony says it's too early to teach his son how to surf. He thinks he should wait until his boy is at least 3-years-old.

When you buy one of Tony's boards you don't just buy a product. What you get is the knowledge that your purchase is unique and



SANDMAN: Using an electric sander, Tony shapes a board blank inside a sealed room that is significantly hotter than outside.



One of Tony's boards leans against the wall inside his workshop. This board is about six feet long and has a custom paint job. Photos: Chris Hudon

that it helps support a man who's trying to make a positive change in his local community.

"I want to see some more Thai kids surfing. Because now I see them hanging around playing games, not doing any sports.

They have a good opportunity here," says Tony.

For more information or to contact Tony visit Nautilus Dive & Surf Shop on the Southern end of Kata Yai or call: 089-874-9147.

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Getting down for Friday Night BBQ on the beach

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

THE nights can be dull in the Laguna area, but Mövenpick Resort Bangtao Beach is looking to spice up the weekend with their Palm Beach Restaurant's Friday Night Barbecue, a beach-side surf and turf buffet.

A recent addition to Mövenpick Resort Bangtao Beach is Executive Chef Sascha Cyttrich, who jokingly calls the event the "barefoot barbecue", due to the relaxed and "chilled out" nature of the event.

After choosing one of the beach tables, we take Sascha on his word and kick off our shoes as we browse through their wine menu, home of 24 different wines from around the world.

Having already set my eyes on the lamb rack next to the grill, I order the house red, Paso Del Sol, a Cabernet Sauvignon from Central Valley Chile.

We take a quick walk past the rows of food to whet our appetite; it's clear that the Friday Night Barbecue is an eclectic buffet built around elegance rather than quantity. There's no fear of anything running out before we have a chance to return for seconds, but neither is there such vast quantities as to suggest that everything will be wasted – it's exactly what a high-end buffet should be.

We nibble at the 12 different salads offered, and admittedly, due to some past German heritage, I was struck by the simplicity and quality of the chunky potato salad

and its ample amounts of bacon.

But don't go just for the potato salad, as Sascha plans to keep the barbecue fresh by changing the menu every week. Who knows if it will be there next time? Whether it's there or not doesn't matter, because whatever replaces it is bound to be of equal quality.

"You will always have prawns and lobster, but other food items, [such as] the salads, the side dishes, some kinds of meat and some kinds of fish we change every week. So for repeat guests it will not be boring," Sascha explained to us as we head back to the buffet to try all of the nine side dishes offered.

Though no night at the Friday Night Barbecue will be the same, the eclectic concept of pushing each world-fusion dish will be apparent.

Having worked in Mexico, Spain, the Canary Islands, Egypt, Portugal, Oman and now in Thailand, Sascha has the background to mix the rich marinades of the Middle East and Portugal with the spices of Thailand.

Sascha has been part of six Michelin Star restaurants from Manfred Schwarz (one Michelin Star) in Andalusia to Harald Wohlfart (3 Michelin Stars) in Spain.

Though my companion was raving about the grilled lobster, brought to our table after she chose it off the ice next to the grill, I wasn't over the lamb rack yet and had to go back for seconds.

Lamb racks, in general, are heavenly, especially when grilled



NICE RACK: the rack of lamb, with spicy-fruit curry sauce.



SURF INSTEAD OF TURF: Tuna grilled to perfection.

to perfection. However, the rack of lamb presented to me was accompanied by a divine sauce.

Sascha explains that the sauce is a spicy-fruit curry sauce, made from a recipe that is quite difficult to get your hands on. The tantalizing mixture of almost-Indian curry flavors and sweet fruits comes from the Executive chef of the Zanzibar Restaurant in Germany and much to my dismay it's still a secret.

When you are inside a restaurant in Phuket there are moments when even the quality of the food serves as no reminder that you are in paradise. Now, sitting with my toes in the sand, watching the moon catch the waves as they wash against Bang Tao Beach, and desperately trying not to lick the spicy fruit curry sauce off my plate, there is little doubt about where I am.



Mövenpick Resort Bangtao Beach Executive Chef Sascha Cyttrich is bringing the party to Laguna with Friday Night Barbecue.

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From traveller to teacher

Observations from a new English teacher on making the transition to Thailand

By Dale Ganallin

NOW is as good a time as any to get out there and see the world – before it's too late. If you're reading this, you already know that Thailand is a must-see-before-you-die country.

But it's costly to travel, and Phuket can be especially pricey. That's why thousands of people from around the world come to teach English to Thai youngsters every year.

"It is one of the best ways to travel and experience a culture that is so unique and special, while at the same time enriching the lives of young kids," says Eva Mesdaghi, director of courses in Thailand for Island TEFL.

Island TEFL offers adventure seekers the chance to gain teaching qualifications and experience in Thailand.

TEFL is an acronym for Teaching English as a Foreign Language. Other similar certifications exist, such as TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages), ESL (English as a Second Language) and EFL (English as a Foreign Language).

There is little difference among them. All are accepted in Thailand, though TESOL is primarily used in the U.S. and TEFL in Britain and Europe.

"What we try and do is provide the foundation necessary for our teachers to go out all over Thailand and be competent enough to help young children learn," says Mesdaghi.

"We also guarantee job placement for our teachers, so that is

just one less thing to worry about."

There is demand, not only on the island, but all over Thailand for English teachers since – for better or worse – English is the international language.

Knowledge of and fluency in English can help local business people, since tourism is a major source of income for many people around the country.

English also opens up doors for youngsters, giving them the opportunity to further their studies in a foreign land or create a business opportunity that might not have existed otherwise.

It isn't just students who benefit from such programs. Teachers from around the world are exposed to a culture that is unlike any other. They are able to earn a decent salary while traveling and, as many expats know, this country has a way of extending month-long holidays into multiple years. Bruce Boshoff and Andrea Riddin, an engaged couple from South Africa, came to Asia in search of adventure and an opportunity to change their lives.

"We were both stuck in the hustle and bustle of the routine that is a nine to five job," says Boshoff.

"Both Andrea and I were working jobs that were simply boring and soul sucking. We were both in cubicles and one day we reached the conclusion that that was not the way we should be living.

"So we sold everything we had and made the move out here. Island TEFL has been a great way to



OUTSIDE THE BOX: Foreign teachers are asked to communicate difficult concepts without the use of language. Play acting and role playing are a few ways new teachers help children understand. Photos: Dale Ganallin

experience this amazing country on a level that I don't think many people get to. It's unbelievable."

Rebecca Jones, a teacher from the US, said that the whole experience has opened her eyes and given her a new outlook on the world.

"It has made me more aware of my communication and interaction with other people. I am choosing my words more carefully. These young kids can barely speak a word of English. When they respond in a positive manner to what we are trying to teach them it is so uplifting.

"Not only are we helping them, but in a big way they are helping us. We are forced out of our comfort zone by having to adapt to techniques that are not used in an all English class."

Techniques such as the use of flashcards as well as drama and role playing are useful in communicating an idea that might otherwise be lost in translation. When children have fun they are more likely to participate and therefore more likely to absorb the information that is being taught," Mesdaghi adds.

"It is a powerful thing when you see a bond develop between teacher and student.

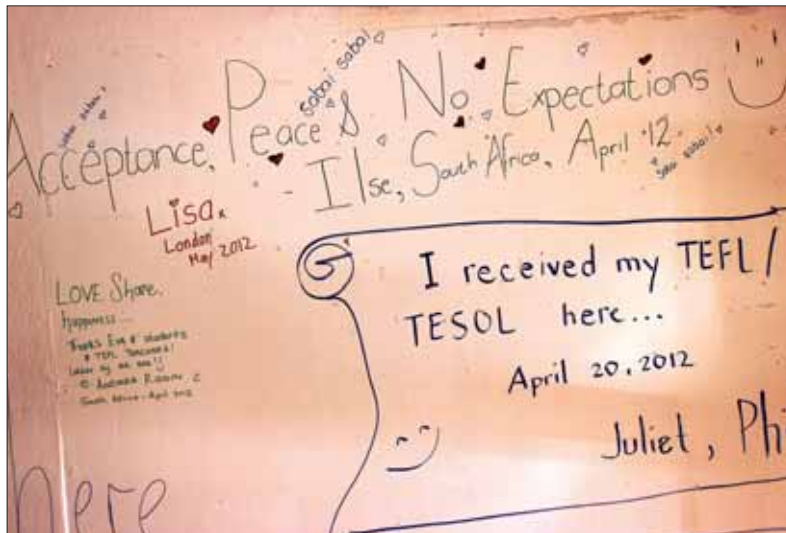
"It is also special to see the way locals treat and respect foreign teachers. They understand the need for teachers to be here and this is reflected in the support given," said Ms Mesdaghi.

"I personally have received support from the community, from local teachers and students."

The course is open to anyone who loves to travel and wants to make a difference.



Foreign teachers know the value of visual aids when trying to reinforce new vocabulary and concepts with students.



Recent graduates of Island TEFL consecrate their experience by signing the white board before moving away to teach throughout Thailand.

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Photo: Laurence King

In praise of the bag lady

By Patrick Campbell

CAST your mind back to any freezing night in New York or London. One of the memories that will likely haunt your conscience is the image of a pathetic human bundle of rags, covered with a fraying blanket or a flattened packing case in a desperate attempt to keep out the biting cold.

Her face, if you can see it at all, is beetroot-red from constant exposure to the harsh elements and from the attempt to warm body and soul by drink – the empty bottles nearby are evidence of that.

All her worldly goods are stuffed into a bag that she uses as a makeshift pillow. She is a bag lady – destitute, suffering, desolate.

Switch to Phuket. There are bag ladies here too – and not to be sexist – a few bag men too. Poor they may be, but they are by no means helpless or destitute. Nor do they hoard what few possessions they have. In fact they perform one of the most important functions on the island: namely, they collect, sort and then recycle all those plastic water bottles, cardboard cartons, disused utensils, aluminium cans and tattered old clothes. In fact they gather up just about anything that can be sold as scrap. You can even see them rummaging through the fly-tip sites which increasingly pockmark the island's landscape.

No one has told them about the pollution of paradise, about Phuket's overloaded landfills, about the floating dump of indestructible plastic in the Pacific twice the size of Texas.

Bag ladies do what they do

because they see it, quite simply, as a way of earning an honest baht, of eking out a living. You see them riding their *samlars* (side-car motor-bikes) on every *soi*, almost hidden by the enormous fabric bags they somehow balance precariously on their rickety and rusty machines.

Once their sacks are filled fit to burst, they ride off to another Thai entrepreneur who will grade and weigh their spoils, pay them a few baht, and then send the material off for recycling.

So what of official garbage collectors? True, the odd covered truck from the *Or Bor Tor* [administrative council] does come around to empty the plastic wheelie bins. But it is at best an irregular amenity, and most of the waste goes straight to a provincial dump.

Moreover, since you have to pay for this collection on an annual basis, many residents are reluctant to cough up. It is all too tempting just to throw discarded household waste into the bushes, or add it to one of those piles of garbage that appear overnight by the roadside. In any event, the official rubbish service on this tiny island could never cope on its own with the junk generated by a permanent population of maybe half a million, which swells to several million in high season. High season indeed – for the olfactory sense.

So, the bag lady deserves her place in the Phuket sun. Not to disparage her in any way, she is the human equivalent of the scavenging beetle. Without her, Phuket would be not only a less alluring place, but infinitely more noxious and litter-laden. Let us offer praise to the bag lady!

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Boring obsession with rock genius

IN my recent review of Jennifer Egan's *A Visit from the Goon Squad*, I lamented the dearth of novels about rock musicians.

Now along comes the even more recent *Stone Arabia* (Scribner, New York, 230pp, 2011) by Dana Spiotta. But this is in every way an inferior book: both shorter and more conventional.

Egan tackled plot – time and space itself – with fearless elan, shoving a wide array of characters into the center stage of narration.

Spiotta plods along in a tedious chronological first-person tale of a little sister's obsession with her big brother the rock star.

The novel opens in 1964 Los Angeles where Nik Kranis and his little sister Denise live with their single mother in a dumpy stucco bungalow two blocks from the Hollywood Freeway.

It's Nik's tenth birthday and he goes with Denise to see the Beatles' movie *A Hard Day's Night*.

"Denise remembered how everything about it thrilled them – the music, of course, but also the fast cuts, the deadpan wit, the mod style, the amused asides right into the camera. The songs

Books

By James Eckardt

actually made them feel high."

They return home for the birthday party to find their estranged father waiting with a present: an elaborately inlaid acoustic guitar. Nik's fate is sealed.

They move into the late 1970s Los Angeles rock scene. Nik goes through a succession of bands; sticking with one, the Fakes, for commercial reasons, and another, The Demonics, for artistic.

Denise gets pregnant with a pretty boy singer named Chris. His history encapsulates the era:

"When I first met him, Chris played bass in an eyeliner band called Ether. (Later they moved from New Romantic/new wave to a

more death/Gothic style and changed their name to the Select and then, after Chris left, to the Crown of Thorns. After that they moved beyond death/Goth to light/bright wave and then to Romanesque edge metal and changed the name to Leviathan until they finally broke up or faded out or quietly kept going in someone's garage.). They were not good."

'Nik invented the Fakes as the antidote to the darkness and oddness of The Demonics – the Fakes were a side band designed to play power pop and have fun.'

The union, however, produced a perfect child, Ada, now a film student at NYU in New York. Denise is 47 now; Nik is turning 50. Denise plods along at a boring office job, Nik, after a brush of fame, works as a bartender while compulsively laying down solo tracks for a ten-album series and writing *The Chronicles*, the not very interesting story of his daily life. He drinks too much, smokes too much and has a lot of girlfriends. Denise keeps him going with periodic loans.

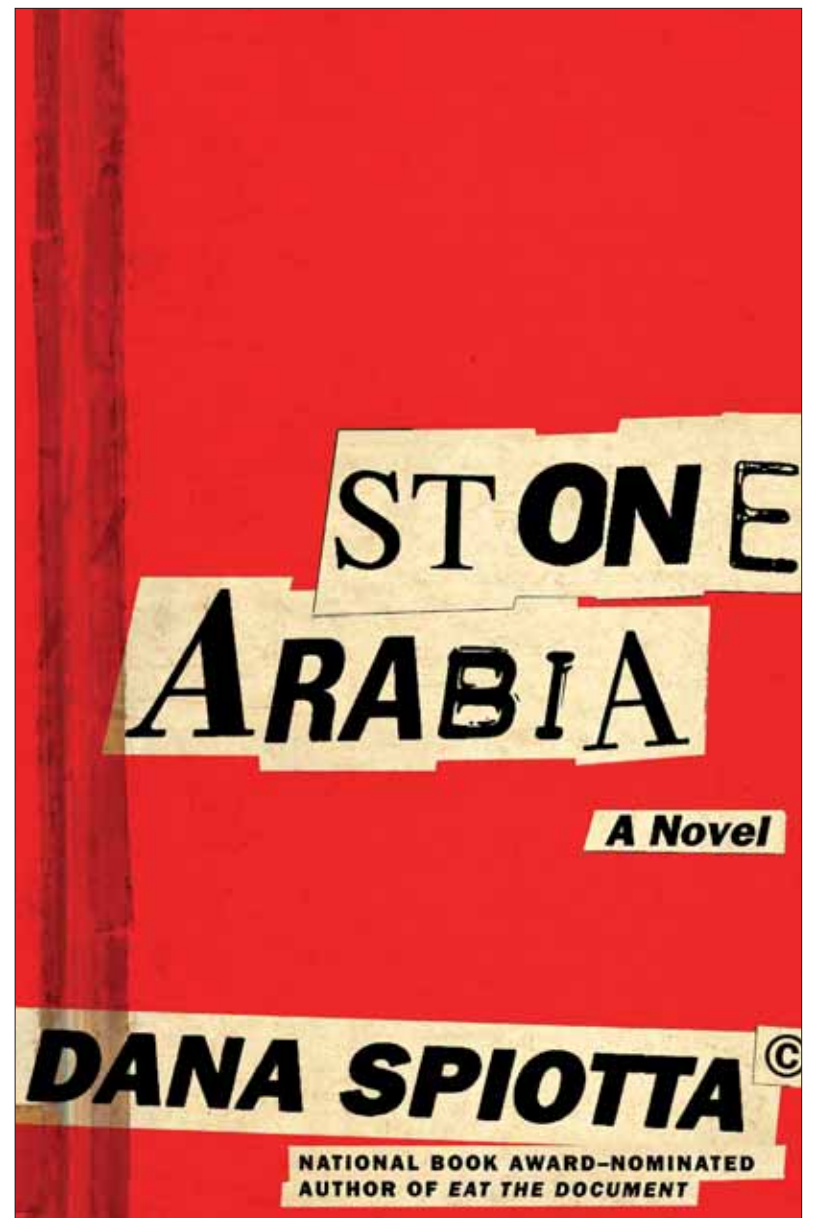
Despite all the music and scribbling, Nik remains something of a cipher and the reader just can't bring himself to share Denise's obsession with him.

This static situation only attains a ripple of interest when Ada decides to fly to Los Angeles to make a documentary about her once-famous uncle, now an eccentric recluse.

Much of this tale is told in interview tapes, tweets, e-mails, YouTube bits and snatches of Google for background. On a transcript Denise explains to her daughter Nik's popularity:

"Anyhow, Nik invented the Fakes as the antidote to the darkness and oddness of The Demonics – the Fakes were a side band designed to play power pop and have fun.

"They came right at the moment when the nihilism of the punk scene had run its course and people were hungry for some simple rock pop, some



NEVER MIND THE HOMAGE COVER: Dana Spiotta's fam-dram novel finds cheap nostalgia in America's punk and post-punk music eras.

harmonies, with a danceable beat as long as the band looked New and Cool. People could dance to the Fakes, and they became much more popular than the unclassifiable Demonics. Nik did it as a kind of lark. He did it as a kind of calculation."

His latest calculation as he nears the end of his solo album series and approaches his

fiftieth birthday is: will he commit suicide? I wish I could say I cared.

Bits of Ada's documentary are a huge hit on YouTube. Denise revisits the old homestead off the Hollywood Freeway and manages to wring a bit of pathos through memories of her teenage days. Still, it's a cheap piece of nostalgia. The whole book is.

Film

Men in Black 3

Director: Barry Sonnenfeld
Starring: Will Smith, Tommy Lee Jones, Josh Brolin, Alice Eve, Emma Thompson
Genre: Sci-Fi / Action / Comedy
Phuket Release: 24 May 2012

IT IS almost ten years since the last *MiB* movie and 15 since the original and it's amazing what modern CGI tech can achieve.

Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones have hardly aged a day since they were last seen battling bug-eyed beasts on the silver screen. If anything, Mr Jones looks like he's lost a few years too many.

But it's an even younger version of Jones's Agent K who causes the conundrum for this latest Sonnenfeld alien-fest. The perfectly cast Josh Brolin plays a youthful Agent K who, in a time-twist in reality was killed forty years before the film begins.

Smith has to jump off the Empire State Building and back through time



to save K Junior and the Earth from an invasion of Spielberg-inspired extra-terrestrials.

Emma Thompson takes over as head of the present day *MiB* agency (RIPrip) with Alice Eve playing her younger incarnation, Agent O.

Using twists in time that need to be untangled should be a death-knell for a sci-fi series that hasn't relied upon them in the past. Having said

that, the *Star Trek* franchise seems un-phased by its constant use time-travel to tell its tales.

But this time-travel storyline shows a lack of fresh ideas and you can expect all the usual hokey time-related jokes in *MiB3*.

It begs the question: if time travel is possible, why did we have to wait ten years for another *MiB*?

– Phuket Gazette



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Alongkorn Poochamchote

IN 2007 when Alongkorn 'Kob' Poochamchote was invited to be part of the prestigious art fair, the Florence Biennale, it was the proudest moment of his career. He was the first Thai artist ever to receive such an accolade. After all, this is where fine works of art are shown, admired and purchased.

50-year-old Alongkorn, who was born into a farming community in Nong Khai, knew from an early age that he wanted to become an artist despite his parents' skepticism. To keep them happy, he dutifully studied for a degree in political science even though his heart was not in it.

After graduation, Alongkorn whiled away his time working for a restaurant in Bangkok, before being given an interior design project for a client in Phuket. The job was to have lasted six months but, having fallen in love with the island, he stayed on.

From his rented home in Kalim, this self-taught artist started to paint seriously while supporting himself through freelance interior and landscape design work. Soon his large and colorful abstract works began to attract attention from art lovers and collectors.

Alongkorn's style is decidedly influenced by Abstract Expressionism made famous by artists such as Jackson Pollock and Willem de Kooning, among others. So it



comes as a surprise to learn that Alongkorn is actually inspired by the old Impressionist masters. He says he admires Monet, Cézanne and Gauguin for their use of exuberant colors, and Van Gogh for his story-telling drama.

In his work Alongkorn uses strong vibrant colors and his methods of dripping, splashing and whirling paints directly on his canvases is not dissimilar to the "action painting" of Pollock.

"I get very 'dirty' when I paint. It's exhilarating and liberating at the same time. I guess this is because I am an introvert by nature and painting becomes a means to release my emotions and what's inside me. That's why all my paintings have evocative titles." Indeed, the painting he chose to show at the Florence Biennale was a large (2 x 3 meter) work entitled "Colors of Season."

His works are now in private collections worldwide, from Europe to the USA and Asia. Nearer to home, a Malaysian collector always buys up many paintings at a time to stock up his Kuala Lumpur gallery.

But painting will have to wait for now as Alongkorn is busy with his other enterprise – Lim's restaurant.

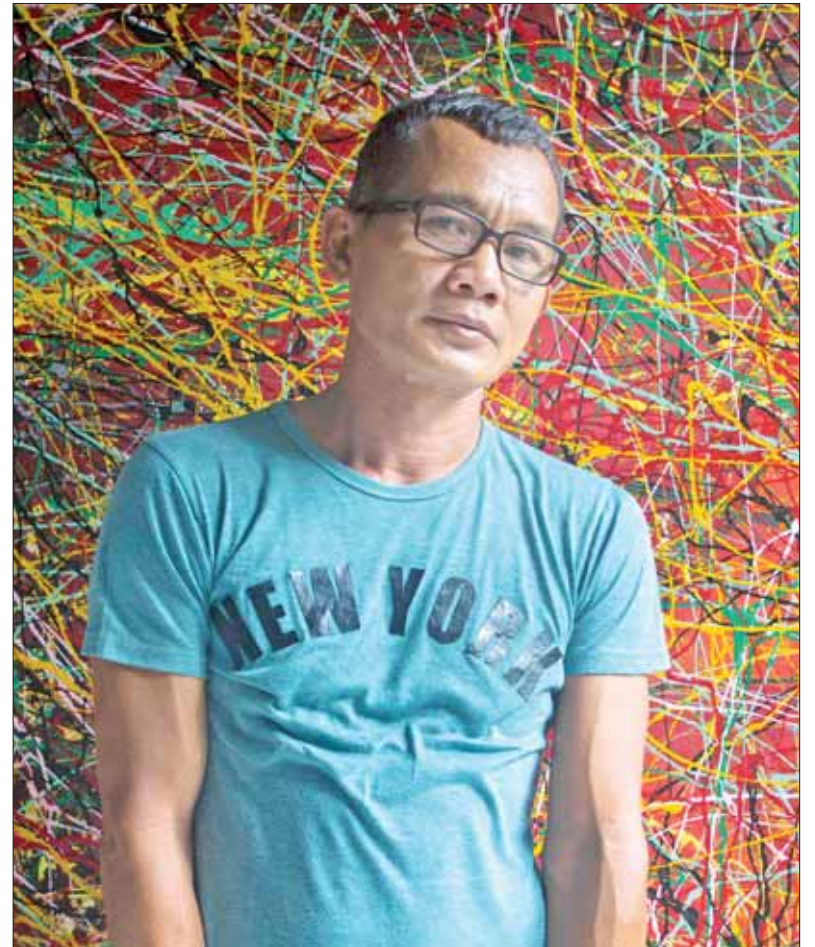
A few years back, he teamed up with his Swiss business partner Daniel Bosshard and opened the stylish restaurant Lim's on Kalim Beach. The restaurant, lovingly decorated by the artist himself, doubles up as a gallery space to showcase his work. The menu also features Alongkorn's creativity and is based on many classic Thai dishes.

As always, presentation is key, as he reveals that: "Whether painting, cooking, or arranging flowers, [another of his favorite pastimes] it's all about forms and putting things in space in ways that will create rhythm, lines, contrast in scale, textures, and pleasing colors. It's all art but you may choose to call it sculpture or installation."

Lim's rightly earns its place as one of the top dining spots on Phuket, backed up by many reviews, which rave about its stylish interior and innovative cuisine.

Alongkorn still continues to paint, even if sporadically now, as he is interrupted by his many other lines of work. He says he will always paint, no matter what.

"I never stray far from painting. I may fulfill my creative urges and curiosity doing this and that, but painting will always be my life and soul," says this artist of many talents.



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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May 26, 4-6pm: Very Happy Hours at Friendship Beach Waterfront Resort, Rawai.

Specials: 60 baht – all beers. 90 baht - house wine and single shot drinks. 150 baht – tall cocktail. Great food, great fun, great drinks – all the time special during the month of May!

May 26, 5-10:30pm: Seafood Chill and Grill at RE KA TA Beach Club

Succulent seafood BBQ while listening to DJs spinning cracker tunes. Baht 1,500++ pp for food only, and Baht 1,800++ pp including one bottle of wine for 2. The Weekend Markets at the Boat Lagoon are sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and *PGTV*.

May 26, 5-9pm: Boat Lagoon Weekend Market at Phuket Boat Lagoon Marina, Koh Kaew

BUY, SELL, BARTER! on an extensive and ever expanding variety of goods, food, etc, or simply relax and enjoy the vast assortment of other fun stuff we're putting together for all ages, whether you're 3 or 30, 6 or 60, 9 or 90. Nobody has more fun than at the soon-to-be NO.1 Weekend Market and Meeting Place In Phuket! Located within the conveniently situated Phuket Boat Lagoon. Individual covered booths (2m x 2m) with power facility available for rent in dedicated Zone area for the introductory rate of just 100 baht per day. Contact: 088-768 0471. The Weekend Markets at the Boat Lagoon are sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and *PGTV*.

May 27, 10am-3pm: Beachfront Brunch at RE KA TA Beach Club

Decadent beachfront brunch buffet with tunes from our DJ

WHAT'S ON in Phuket

while relaxing over a glass of sparkling wine. Price: 1200++ baht per person for food only, and 1,500++ baht per person with a bottle of wine for 2. Come 4-7, pay 1 less; come 8-10, pay 2 less, etc.

May 28, 3-6pm: High Tea at Les Anges at Les Angeles, Royal Phuket Marina

Les Angeles is delighted to invite you to our "High Tea", with a large selection of delicious pastries and a variety of teas. From 3pm - 6pm, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Call for reservations: 076-360803. Or contact Mr Murat (Events & Group Manager) on 081-797 3364.

May 30, 6pm-1am: Tex-Mex @Two Chefs at Two Chefs Karon

Now we start with our very popular weekly Tex-Mex again. Every Wednesday we present for you the biggest Tex-Mex buffet on this island. This year we also have a free flow option for you. As every night, our Two Chefs house band will be there to entertain us. All this for only 495 baht, and for 795 baht you can drink as much as you want from our free flow options. For more info, please visit us on the web at: www.twochefs.com

May 31, 6:30-11pm: Martini Manicure Ladies Night at RE KA TA Beach club

Free express manicure for ladies. Free martini for ladies



THANYAPURA CARNIVAL
Saturday 2nd June 2012
10:00am – 5:00pm

Free Admission

Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club
June 2, 10am-5pm

This event is proudly sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, and *PGTV*.

on arrival. 50% off the drink list all night long. Cocktail flaring. From 6pm to midnight - DJ till late.

June 1, 3-6pm: High Tea at Les Angeles at Les Angeles, Royal Phuket Marina

Les Angeles is delighted to invite you to our "High Tea", with a large selection of delicious pastries and a variety of teas. From 3pm - 6pm, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Call for reservations: 076-360803. Or contact Mr Murat (Events & Group Manager) on 081-797 3364.

June 1, 7-11pm: Curry Fridays Phuket at Navrang Mahal Indian Restaurant, Karon

We present CURRY FRIDAYS at Navrang Mahal India Restaurant. Here is your chance to enjoy an authentic and lavish Indian Curry Buffet every Friday. All-time favourite

'Chicken Tikka Masala', very hot 'Mutton Vindaloo', succulent Kebabs, Goan Fish Curry and much more... served with Nan bread and Basmati rice. ALL YOU CAN EAT for only 449 baht nett! Draught Beer by the glass: just 50 baht nett. Special discount on beverages. Venue: Navrang Mahal India Restaurant at Karon Sea Sands Resort & Spa. Time: 7pm to 11pm. For reservations, please call: 076-286464, ext 4.

June 4: Visakha Bucha Day – Public Holiday

Visakha Bucha Day is observed on the day of the full moon during the 6th lunar month, which usually falls in either May or early June. It is a day to commemorate three important incidents: the birth, the enlightenment and the passing away of the Buddha. Miraculously, these events fell in the same month and on the same date in the Buddhist era.

June 8-10, 1-6pm: Laguna Phuket International Marathon 2012 at Laguna Phuket Resort
FRIDAY, JUNE 8: Registration and Expo (Big Marquee)

5:30-9pm Pasta Party (Latitude)

SATURDAY, 9 JUNE
10am-5pm: Registration and Expo (Big Marquee)
5:30pm - 9pm Pasta Party (Latitude Marquee)

SUNDAY, 10 JUNE
4:30am: Marathon Start
6am: Half Marathon Start
6:30am: 10.5 Km Run Start
8am: 91.5FM Phuket 5km Community Walk Start.
8:30am: Prize presentation ceremony.
9am: Awards collection
9am: Kids Run start
The *Phuket Gazette* and *PGTV* are proud sponsors of this event.

July 1, 11am-6:30pm: American Independence Day picnic at Headstart International School of Phuket
Come and enjoy hot dogs and American beer, games for kids and fireworks. Free entry. Located across from MAKRO. Sponsored by Navy League Phuket. For more information call David Rucker 087-266-7514.

Phuket Afternoon Computer Clinic

Is Windows driving you nuts? Looking for a good internet connection? Need to know how and where to get your PC repaired, or your confounding questions answered? Drop by the new Afternoon Computer Clinics, hosted by Woody Leonhard and Seth Bareiss. Bring your computer. Bring your questions. Bring your sense of humor and let's see if we can solve your PC problems. Second and fourth Wednesday of every month, 1-3pm, at the Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. Sponsored by Woody's Sandwich Shoppes and the *Phuket Gazette*.

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Sandwich Shoppe Chalong - June 6, 20 1-3pm

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MASTERS OF DISASTER: Kata Beach Resort & Spa recently welcomed esteemed panelists and key speakers for the seminar "Role of Media and Natural Disaster Warning", organized by MCOT Public Company Limited. From left are Mr Jakrapan Yomjinda, MCOT Acting Managing Director; Dr Phuwieng Prakhammintara, Director of the Meteorological Department's Earthquake and Tsunami Research and Development Division; Pamuke Achariyachai, President of Kata Group Resorts Thailand; Mrs Thanyarat Achariyachai, Chair of the Standing Committee on Tourism of the Senate and the Senator for Phuket; Mr Plodprasop Suraswadi, Science and Technology Minister; Mr Somkiet Sangkaosuttirak, Phuket Vice Governor; Dr Pennung Warnitchai, a seismologist from the Asian Institute of Technology; Dr Amorn Pimanmas, Associate Professor, Sirindhorn International Institute of Technology, Thammasat University.



DON'T PANIC: Central Festival Phuket, together with the provincial office for disaster prevention (DDPM-Phuket), held a fire drill recently to prepare staff for any potential emergencies.



PICTURE THIS: Phuket MP Anchalee Vanich Thepabutr (left) and Thailand Peranakan Association President Kosol Tang-utai (right) declared Anucha Deeviset winner of the "Delicious Baba Food" Photo Competition, held last week in the heart of Old Phuket Town. His photo, titled "Original Bahtjang", won him 50,000 baht in prize money and a trophy awarded on behalf of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn (Princess Sirindhorn). The photo competition was held to highlight "Baba-Nyonya" heritage in Phuket, Baba Nyonya being one of the local names used to describe Peranakan Straits Chinese.



NEW BOSS: Pamuke Achariyachai, the new president of FC Phuket (center) with his new team.



I'M LOVIN' IT: Wine Lovers wine shop and restaurant held their soft opening in Rawai this week. Manager Runrai "Gumrai" Intarasuk is pictured here (2nd from left) with her team.



Inspiring New Menu at Patong's Best Restaurant

Discover Sala Bua, the Award winning restaurant's inspiring new Mediterranean cuisine menu with an Asian twist. Helmed by celebrity chef Dirk Schroeter, experience his signature dishes from heaven done in his inimitable trademark heartfelt style with dazzling views of the Andaman Sea. For an unforgettable experience blending first class cuisine, cozy atmosphere and impeccable service, visit Patong's Best Restaurant..Sala Bua. Open Daily from 06.00 am - 12 Midnight

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DON'T MISS IT: Miss Thailand World 2012, Vanessa "Na Chatra" Muangkod is the newly-appointed Charity Ambassador of the Laguna Phuket International Marathon (LPIM), which will be held on Sunday, June 10.



PHUKET PRIDE: At the recent Asia Pacific Property Awards, Oceanic Management Co Ltd won 'Best Property Single Unit in Thailand 2012-2013' with Villa Neptune situated in Chalong.

From left are Mr Bill Jones, ASEAN Director from RICS (event sponsor); Mr Alvin Tay, director of commercial banking at HSBC (event sponsor); Mr Patrick Catellani, CEO at Oceanic Management and Award Winner, and Mr Stuart Shields, CEO at International Property Media (event organizer).

**YOUR
Phuket**



HEARTBEAT: Bangkok Hospital Phuket recently launched a health fair, which runs until June 3, to celebrate its 17th anniversary.

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SUDOKU: Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. © Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

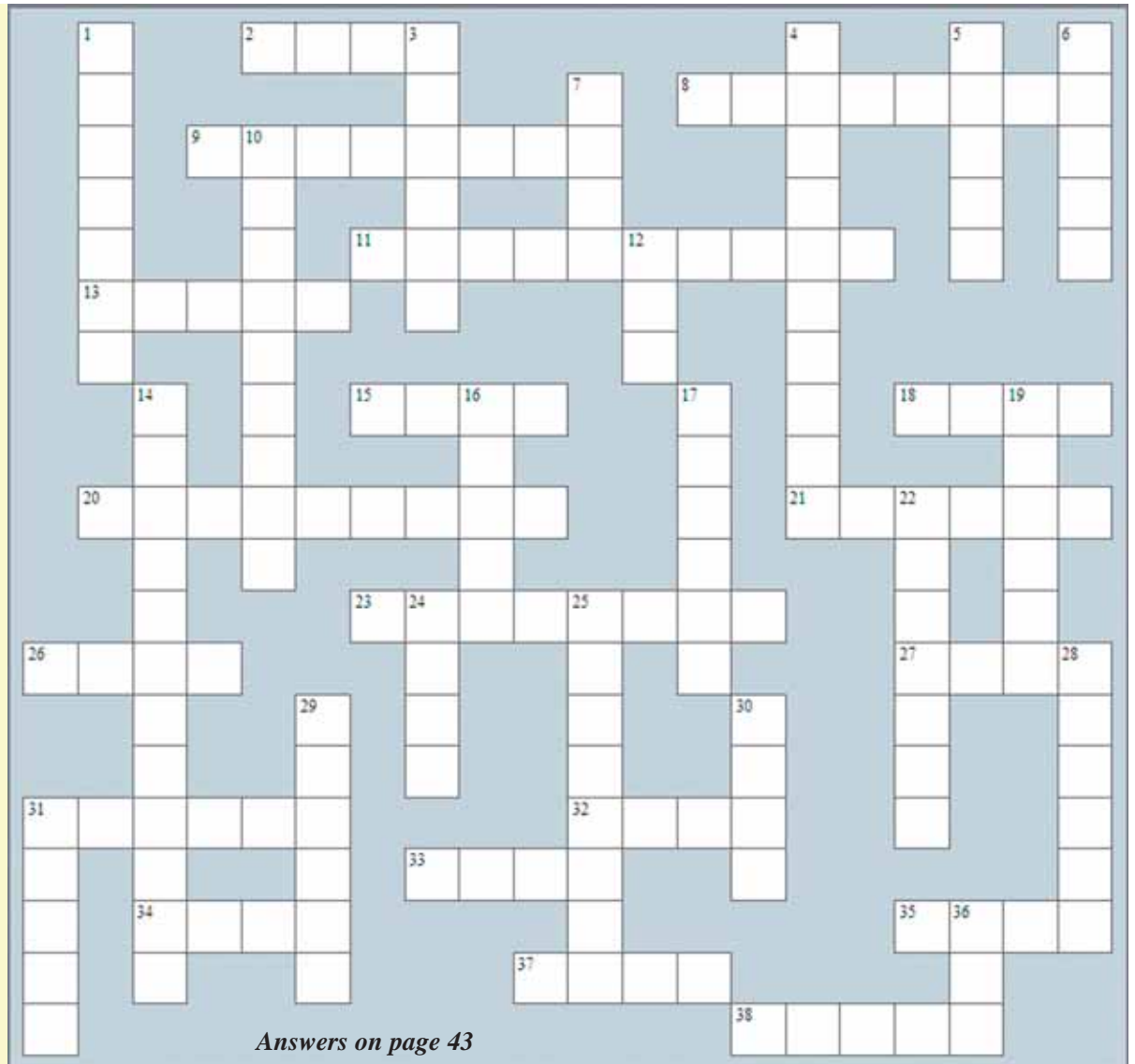
A politician needs the ability to foretell what is going to happen tomorrow, next week, next month, and next year.

And to have the ability afterwards to explain why it didn't happen.

— *Winston Churchill*

Across

2. Friends return strike
8. No pics, or maybe, of dangerous insect
9. I plot out period of harbor controllers' work
11. Thought less of odd red nude art
13. Shoot pigs roaming round river
15. Otherwise in the Spanish Southeast
18. Good man a right celebrity
20. No zoo part set out for things like amoeba
21. Feeble Eastern female show
23. French one placed or removed from office
26. Wave in panic
27. Not us, the married
31. No gall intended in this measure
32. Possibly yes, out of time for an eye complaint
33. Catch sight of the place



Answers on page 43

34. Carry off Kate, perhaps
 35. Something to give grip on the shoe of a breeding stallion
 37. A river each region
 38. Go off the holiday
- Down**
1. Idiot, his move is inane
 3. Smell out at Phuket resort
 4. Maybe if true of, and about, loss of rights
 5. Thoroughly search for a weapon

6. Back no one on producing a vegetable
7. Put up with an animal
10. Grim, mate, I arranged to move into another country
12. Manage a marathon, for example
14. In hair style, note, skill is in the porosity
16. Supports remains
17. Go past
19. Clever to turn taste around

- possibly
22. In a party mood, five set out
24. Not one zero
25. Just dare upset the insurance assessor
28. Disparaged sham editor
29. Judo expert turned up
30. December, hopped about
- Animal back in the sedge
31. Splendor of a grand parrot
36. A pedal extremity

GEMINI (May 22 - Jun 21):



Geminis should have ample opportunity to let off steam this week. As May draws to a close, there are signs that releasing bottled up emotions will help you to focus on new challenges in June. Those celebrating a birthday in the coming days will see their romantic lives becoming more settled in the year ahead. Money matters are well starred on Tuesday and Wednesday. The number seven can bring some good luck.

CANCER (Jun 22 - Jul 23):



A fire sign who has been cramping your style where business is concerned is forecast to find interests elsewhere. The stars suggest that this will leave some of those born under the sign of Cancer with more room to negotiate. Your outlook for the month of June is mostly positive, with emphasis on reconciliation. Chances of rekindling romance are strong this weekend. Your lucky number this week is eight.

LEO (Jul 24 - Aug 22):



Relying on others is predicted to push your patience to the limit this week. Leos who have been waiting for answers to a financial is-

sue could be disappointed when an earth sign fails to meet a deadline. There are hints that June will bring smoother sailing, with focus on a more practical outlook. A relaxed romantic date is exactly what you need this weekend. The number two can bring good fortune.

VIRGO (Aug 23 - Sept 23):



Events at work are forecast to come to a head by the end of May. There are signs that a water sign may try to short change you – settling for less now could set a negative trend for the future. A friend's matchmaking efforts may be irritating this weekend, but the stars suggest keeping an open mind as opposites could attract. Virgoans' special number this week is four.

LIBRA (Sept 24 - Oct 23):



A game of snakes and ladders in the world of work could leave Librans longing for more stability. June is forecast to be a more rewarding month than May has been, but you should prepare to move away from familiar ground. Money matters are well starred during the days ahead, although a romantic partner's spending spree could cause ripples this weekend. The number five comes alive this week.

YOUR horoscope

By Isla Star

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22):



The solution to a struggle comes from an unexpected source, but some Scorpios may not be ready to listen. As the month of May draws to a close, there are signs that an employment offer will be made. June is an auspicious month to embark on a different career, with the spotlight shining on more financial compensation for your creative talents. Number three can be important for Scorpios this week.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):



Dividing time between work and personal commitments could be difficult this week as pressure can come from both directions. The stars advise that you make your priorities clear and be firm about how far you are prepared to go to help others. In the realm of romance, an air sign is ready to leave the past behind and move on with you. Number seven has good luck written on it this week.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):



Life is forecast to be a lucky dip for Capricorns this week. A work related situation will turn full circle, but being back where you started could have hidden advantages. Monday is an auspicious day for lost objects to come to light. In the realm of romance, your need for a committed relationship may not be what a water sign has in mind. The number two can be fortunate this week.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):



Watching a burned out fire sign friend taking on more responsibility could be hard for Aquarians. Sunday is the most auspicious day for an honest talk – your advice is forecast to be well received. Money could be tight towards the end of May, but the stars indicate that a romantic partner can convince you that they deserve some serious spoiling this weekend. Your lucky number this week is six.

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):



If you are not sure of the direction you are going in, the stars advise staying still and listening to your inner voice. Pisceans may fall into the trap of making wrong moves

this week, but June should bring clarity. Where personal finances are concerned, another water sign's forgetfulness may mean that you need to remind them of an unpaid loan. Number nine looks lucky for Pisceans this week.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20):



The stars suggest that relaxing some rigid principles will be the key to success this week. This is particularly applicable to a meeting with bureaucracy midweek when pushing your luck will result in a stalemate. On the domestic scene, you could have to make it clear to a family member that not pulling their weight is no longer an option. Number eight falls under the spotlight for Arians.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21):



The stars predict that life will be a breeze for those born under the sign of Taurus as May ends. Those who have been feeling the heat at work could find that another earth sign colleague is prepared to be more helpful than before. The realm of romance is affected by slightly cloudy conditions; a confession from a water sign could dampen your weekend. Taureans' special number this week is one.

PROPERTY Gazette

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

‘Building in the Park’

New condominium development on the hills above Patong targets families

COMPLEMENTING the success of the Green Places condominium complex in Phuket Town, The Park Condominium (Patong) is the latest medium-density development to emerge from the drawing boards of savvy hometown developer Phanason.

Designed under a “Building in the park” theme, the development will feature a complex of seven-storey buildings set on a hill overlooking Patong City – a layout resembling Green Places, which sits on the back side of Khao Rang.

Upon completion, the project will comprise a total of 1,027 units in seven buildings as follows: Building A and B (145 units each), C (157 units), D (152 units), E and F (150 units each) and G (152 units).

Units in the first two buildings will be ready to occupy by 2015, said Teerwat Sasithon, Project Manager of The Park.

“Units will be priced from 1.99 to 3.2 million baht with a presale event planned next month [June].

“We will begin construction in the third to fourth quarter of this year, most likely in October.

We’ll start with Buildings A and B and gradually build the other five,” he said.

Featuring prime views of Patong beach and stunning scenery spanning as far as the eye can see, the complex pitches a modern and trendy “community mall” lifestyle providing an opportunity to sustain resort style living for 365 days per year.

Ideal for families, the premises will include a clubhouse, complete with a large swimming pool, outdoor athletic park and playground.

Its extra-spacious lobby as well as the patio around the pool will be ideal for relaxing with a good book or crawling the web with 24-hour wireless internet access.

The development’s telecommunications arsenal will include an advanced PABX [Private Automated Branch Exchange] system, as well as local, cable and satellite TV services available for direct contract, while internet access will be available in the rooms on a pre-paid basis.

Each of The Park’s buildings will be equipped with two passenger elevators, a service elevator, and adequate fire escapes.



COMMUNITY MALL: The project will comprise seven, seven-storey buildings, with 40-square-meter, 1-bedroom units ranging from 1.99 to 3.2 million baht (inset). Construction is set to begin in October this year.

Security personnel will be on watch 24 hours a day, and the premises will further be secured by CCTV coverage with access filtered by a key-card system.

The complex will be installed with heat and smoke detectors synced with a fire suppression system that includes automatic sprinklers and fire hose cabinet (FHC) for peace of mind.

At 1.99 million baht, a one-bed-

room suite (40 square meters) will feature a spacious balcony, affording grand views of the sea and gardens galore.

The ground floor will be ideal for indulging in relaxation and exercise, whether reading a book or enjoying the swimming pool, sauna and jacuzzi.

Each building will have a private parking area, both in the building and outside.

All units come with free built-in furniture, wallpaper, air conditioning and lounge furniture.

“Customers can be confident in Phanason in terms of construction and safety standards and in offering very nice place to stay at a reasonable price,” Mr Teerawat said.

For more information and general enquiries, visit W: phanason.com



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PROPERTY

Dead men don't drink ginger tea

THERE are a thousand stories in the naked city and this is just one of them.

Paradise's latest casualty is down at the coroner's office; just another John Doe with a tag that cries out, in large black scrawled letters, DOA.

There is no real life CSI on the island, except in the dimming after-light of AXN.

Instead, from somewhere out of the darkness, come the haunting words of a long-forgotten song. "Doctor, doctor, give me the news. I've got a bad case of loving you."

In comes the coroner, grasping a bottle of Red Bull and cursing under his breath. His eyes meet mine and it's game time.

What killed this latest tourism casualty in Phuket? Was life just too much to bear or is something more sinister afoot?

Lately visitors have been dropping like flies at hotels up and down the island.

First there was the German woman who swallowed one of those toothpick umbrellas from her welcome drink.

Then there were the two Italian cliff divers who were simultaneously downed by a pair of mangos from an errant fruit basket that hurtled off a resort rooftop.

And there have been more.



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

Many more.

Toxic shock syndrome suffered by a young Indian IT type. He was struck down reading the complimentary newspaper that had been stuffed under his hotel room door.

A poisonous turn-down chocolate snuffed out a middle-aged Bangkokian hi-so, who now lays in state as a no-so.

Is that a hospitality welcome

mat out on the doorstep or the launch pad for the grim reaper?

Yet perhaps the strangest case was that of five Chinese tourists who were literally talked to death by an overanxious guest relations officer at a five-star property that shall remain nameless. Calls from Beijing asked questions that just seemed to fall on empty ears.

I think back over my life. Yes, I've stayed in many establishments over the past five decades. From little Latin flophouses to posh suites that often attract the rich and famous.

Like a club sandwich, most of

the action happened somewhere in the middle. Between night and day, cheap and extortionate, the Ghost of Gatsby beckons.

I've run the gauntlet more times than I can remember. Dodging leis, garlands and those flowers with sticky pins. Avoiding welcome drinks like a reformed alcoholic, literally running away to the comfort of a neighborhood bar.

I don't want to sit down and sip ginger tea in the lobby of a hotel, just take me to my room now. Yes, like Garbo, I just want to be alone.

As for the veritable Garden of

Eden of wax fruit, plastic covered baskets and the array of selections from hotels who want

to get out of the box with new ideas? All I can say is get back in the box and stay there. And don't come out until I leave.

A grunt from the coroner brings me back to reality. He's filling out the form with the dull end of an overused pencil. A motive has been established and the case is to be booted upstairs to the real cops.

Murder it was. The DOA tried to skip out on the mini-bar bill and had been made an example of. His trip to paradise turned out to be a one-way ticket to lipstick, bad luck and an empty hotel room. This tourist's final lullaby makes an uncanny facsimile of the hotel derivatives market.

'Between night and day, cheap and extortionate, the Ghost of Gatsby beckons.'



PARADISE NOIR: You can check out, but you can never leave. Photo: Arnaud DG

They shoot horses, don't they? Mounting deer heads and big game. This DOA is just another hood ornament for the trophy hunters from those marbled mausoleums of faux friendliness.

I leave the noir of the morgue and head back to the living. Outside, it's just another overcast day in monsoon season, the rain belting out a bitter case of the blues in quarter time.

Me? I'm thinking that next time I hanker for a tropical getaway, perhaps I'll just stay at home, nursing a whiskey, and free from stalking hotel staff out to give me a "memorable" experience.

After all, the big sleep will come soon enough for all of us.

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

In brief...

HOLIDAY Inn Resort Phuket Mai Khao Beach have launched a meeting deal entitled "Free Meeting Package" to encourage more businesses to use their facilities.

The meeting rooms are free of charge as long as a minimum of ten rooms with two consecutive nights accommodation (2,499 baht net per room per night) is booked.

In order to qualify, single occupancy is required.

Apart from the free meeting room the Free Meeting Package includes a breakfast buffet, wired and wireless internet, meeting stationery and LCD projector with screen, free morning and afternoon coffee breaks with homemade cookies, free coffee and tea during the meeting and a late check-out until 2pm. A 15% discount is also offered for all treatments at the Tea Tree Spa.

Five meeting rooms with the flexible configurations can cater small to medium size groups.

The package is available until October 31, 2012.

- Phuket Gazette

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OF MICE AND MEN: Holiday Inn Resort Phuket Mai Khao Beach are wooing the MICE market with their free meeting package.

Showing signs of new hope

Areas hit hardest by devastating floods in 2011 are rebounding according to Quarter 1 reports



WATER WATER EVERYWHERE BUT NOT A DROP TO DRINK: Commercial properties sit underwater in the wake of last year's floods. Photo European Union Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection.

PROPERTY markets have seen significant recovery from the effects of last year's floods, according to CBRE Thailand, a leading international real estate service provider.

Even those worst hit, including low-rise housing, retail and industrial areas that were flooded, have seen resumed activity. All retail centers have re-opened, new homes have been sold and the majority of factories have re-opened or are in the process of re-opening.

In the single detached house and townhouse market, developers are concentrating most new launches in areas that were not flooded, but CBRE has also seen new sales resuming in areas that were flooded, particularly for the low to middle-end market.

However, the high-end housing market is slowly recovering.

"Demand for single-detached houses and townhouses will increase but this will be driven by affordability and the attractiveness of the product and location," said Ms Aliwassa Pathnadabutr, Managing Director of CBRE Thailand.

The prices of condominiums are rising due to higher land costs and construction costs. Nevertheless, there will be continued demand for small condominiums from singles, couples and occupation by children attending central city schools and second home use.

In the luxury condominium market, demand is driven primarily by end-users and partly by "buy-to-let" investors who purchase with the potential for their own use in the future. Record prices have been set for condominiums in the best locations and best-quality recently-completed projects.

In the middle and entry-level markets, condominium prices have adjusted upward, but less

so than the luxury market.

There continues to be new project launches, although the absorption rate is slower, compared to two years ago when many projects tended to sell out at launch. The top public listed developers dominate this segment of the market.

Condominium living is becoming more widely adopted and there is still potential demand particularly in densely populated areas, where there has been limited development.

Developers will face the challenge of identifying new opportunities in new locations as well as of selling out poorly performing projects before they are completed. The competition will remain fierce with a tendency to quickly over supply in a particular location.

Demand has continued to improve in the office market. The overall vacancy rate is 13.8 per cent compared to 14.1 per cent in quarter four (Q4) 2011.

CBRE expects that industrial estate developers to see another record year for industrial land plot sales and their challenge will be to supply enough plots in areas where the infrastructure has been completed and all necessary permits are in place.

In the hospitality sector, there continues to be strong tourist arrivals. Some hotel developers may face difficulty with their loan repayments unless the cash flow is coming from another business line.

Banks may start to tighten their lending criteria to the hotel sector, which will restrict the amount of construction being planned but that is not yet being built.

The serviced apartment sector performed better with occupancy rates rising.



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What's in a name?



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

PLANTS can have bizarre common names, but these names remain in use precisely because they are memorable and refer to a plant's visible features.

Clitoria ternatea (even the botanical name is – well – suggestive) is called the butterfly pea.

Quesonia has a tall, triangular crown of flowers which gives it the somewhat cryptic label of pagoda plant. Other shrubs, for more obvious reasons, are called scrambled eggs, Jacob's coat, Christmas candle, or lobster claw.

Take *jatropha podagrica*. A mouthful in Latin, this red shrub's popular moniker is bottle plant, or occasionally gout plant. Why? The

epithet gives an instant image of a fat, knobbly stem that, on a mature specimen, actually is shaped like a bottle.

No doubt some botanist painfully afflicted with gout decided to give the shrub this second un-

compromising name.

Even more bizarre, the physical appearance of a plant or fruit often leads to other associations. *Podagrica* is also supposed to be good for gout or arthritis, while the folded kernel of a walnut – which bears an uncanny resemblance to the human brain – was believed in the Middle Ages to cure disorders of the mind.

I digress. The ongoing subject is still red flowering shrubs, and the bottle plant fits the bill very nicely. It produces unusual luminous scarlet flowers with yellow centers, no more than a centimeter across.

However, these tiny florets grow

in clusters of twenty or more, at the end of long, fleshy stems that protrude above large, ivy-shaped leaves.

This foliage, which in some species is deeply cut with up to

eleven narrow lobes, is dark green above and a dull cream below. Bright emerald pea-like seed pods appear at the same time as the flowers, giving the efflorescence a very distinctive appearance. It flowers more-or-less continuously.



OO-ER, MISSUS: The suggestive *clitoria ternatea*. Photo: DW Ross



GOOD FOR THE GOUT?: The masterminds of the Middle Ages thought *jatropha podagrica* was a cure for gout and arthritis because of the way it looked. Photo: Mike Keeling.

A neat shrub, the bottle plant is rarely more than a meter in height and width; it is thus eminently suitable for a container.

Good soil and plenty of moisture are the main requirements. *Podagrica* does well in filtered shade and can be readily propagated from seeds that turn brown just before they ripen and burst.

Garden centers rarely have the shrub, so beg a few seeds if you know someone who has one. And, lest they explode, let them ripen in an envelope.

A much more common relative is *jatropha multifida*, though you would hardly think it comes from the same family. *Multifida*, which

has the Thai name of patavia, is a taller shrub with woody stems and smaller ovate or ivy-shaped leaves.

Its conventional flowers are a deep cerise color, about an inch across, and appear in clusters close to the main branches. Easy to find in plant nurseries, it is good for screens, or against a wall. It prefers the freedom of the open garden to the constraints of a pot.

Jatrophas are members of the *euphorbia* clan: the typical milky and toxic sap oozes from any cut. But the seeds are rich in oil which can be used as a bio-fuel.

Indeed, one variety, *curcas*, is said to produce four times as

much oil per hectare as the soy bean. With this end in view, the railway line from Delhi to Mumbai is lined with *jatropha* shrubs. Another strange fact about a strange plant.

The chenille plant or cat's tail (*acalypha hispida*) is another "oddball" member of the *euphorbia* genus. A constant bloomer, its long, catkin-like flowers have the consistency of velvet (hence "chenille") and hang down like narrow crimson cat's tails.

Striking and unusual, it is deservedly popular in Thai gardens, and requires little cossetting. It does, however, dislike wet feet and will flower best in full sun.



A FAMILY OF ODDBALLS: *Jatropha multifida* and *acalypha hispida*. Photos: Ton Rulkins (left), Hafiz Issadeen.

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Tip of the week

Drying Herbs

THE word herb applies to any plant valued for seasoning, medicine, fragrance or general household use. Many have the word "officinalis" as part of their botanical name. It means "of medicinal value".

With some herbs, the bulb is used (garlic or onion), with some the seeds are of primary value (cumin, pepper, chili). Lavender is prized for its tiny scented flowers.

Harvest leaf herbs such as basil or mint when the flowers begin to open and the oils are at their most concentrated. Cut sprigs or branches, tie them together at the cut ends and hang them upside-down out of direct sunlight.

When the leaves are crisp and crumble easily, strip them from the stems and put them in airtight jars to preserve the aroma. Photo: Kirsten Skiles.



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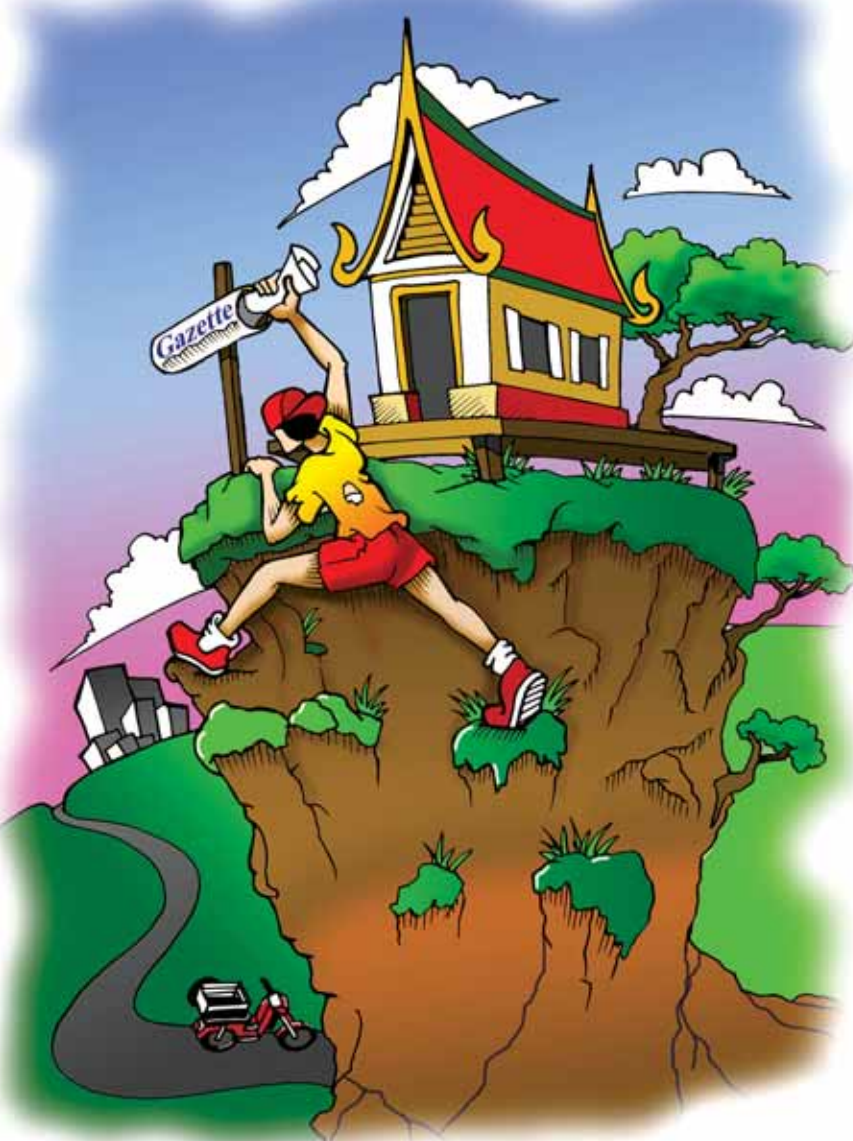
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- IT literate with experience
Microsoft word/Excel/Powerpoint
- Reporting to Sales and
Marketing Director/Project Director

Please send current resume to angus@landstate.co.th
 all applications will be treated with the strictest confidence.

Phuket Gazette

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

Qualified candidates will be:

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

and should have:

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

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

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd
 79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew
 A. Muang, Phuket 83000
 Tel: 076-273555, ext 207 Fax: 076-615240

FOREIGN STAFF WANTED

1 English speaking, 1 Italian & English speaking, 1 French & English speaking. Contact Carla. Tel: 081-968 5963.

HELP NEEDED

Home help required, good English essential. Mostly babysitting, some housework. Own transport or live in, salary by negotiation. Tel: 083-395 5707.



Sunparadise (Thailand) Co., Ltd., is a manufacturer of the highest quality aluminum window and door systems from Switzerland which began operating in Thailand in 2001. Due to our business expansion, we are looking for highly motivated candidates to join our team.

Marketing/Sales Executive (4 positions)

Position Requirements:

- Male/Female bachelor degree in any fields
- Computer literacy (MS Word, Excel, etc.)
- Good command of conversational and written English
- Customer-service oriented mindset with high self-discipline and eager to learn
- Responsibilities, energetic and self-motivated, punctual and able to handle jobs independently
- Able to work under a dynamic work environment and manage crucial deadlines
- Able to provide quality service and support to customers at all times
- Enjoy dealing with people in a warm and outgoing manner
- Valid car driver's license will be an advantage.

Interested candidates are invited to send a full resume, stating current and expected salaries, with a recent photo to: supapatr@sunparadise.co.th

The legendary Boathouse on Kata Beach in Phuket is now seeking candidates for the following positions:

Management Level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director of Sales • Event Sales Manager (Only Thai nationals or foreigners on local contracts will be considered for these positions) 	Food & Beverage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bar Supervisor • Bartender • Hostess • Waiter / Waitress • Beach Attendant 	Kitchen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chef de partie – Western cuisine • Chef de partie – Pastry • II commis – Pastry • III commis – Thai kitchen • III commis – Hot kitchen • Steward
Spa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spa Therapist 	Front Office <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driver & Bellboy 	Housekeeping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaner • Gardener

Interested applicants, please e-mail full resume and a recent photograph to hroffice@boathousephuket.com

Boathouse
 182 Kuktanode Road, Kata beach, Phuket 83100
 Tel: 076 330 015
www.boathousephuket.com

ENGLISH TUTOR

English tutor available to teach children of all ages. BA English LIT. TEFL. 300 - 500 baht per hour.
 Please contact for more info to Gene.
 Tel: 081-827 5574.

CLUB ASIA FITNESS

Club Asia Fitness - Phuket's leading fitness centre requires an Operations Manager & Sales Consultant. Requirements: Thai National with degree and ability to communicate in English. Please submit your CV to Email: info@clubasiaphuket.com www.clubasiaphuket.com

SALES MANAGER REQUIRED

Thai national. Must have a good command of spoken and written English. Proven sales experience and own car. We provide full training, generous basic salary and unlimited commission potential and bonuses. Car expenses and fuel paid. Working 5½ days with generous holidays. Please send CV to don@rain-water-solutions.com

CAN CONNECTION

Can connection to very big soft drink for company. Good commission. Tel: 089-593 8303.

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT KAMALA

For Trading company in Kamala. We is now seeking 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. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-322663, 086-773 4538 (English). Fax: 076-322664. Email: skgf@skgf.asia

SALES MANAGER

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

DRIVER BANG TAO

Family need a driver with experience, English skills. Salary: 12,000 baht. Tel: 081-719 3470.

VARIOUS SALES & MARKETING

Sales and marketing roles. Native English speakers or other nationals with fluent English-speaking skills. A proven track record in sales is a must. Send CV & recent photo to Email: careers@pp-intl.com

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER WANTED

We are looking for a native English kindergarten teacher to join our team to teach 10 -12 children aged 3-6 years. Must have a minimum Bachelor's Degree or equivalent. Tel: 076-383150, 084-520 4978. Fax: 076-383150. Email: info@cra-vensnurseryphuket.com

SUMMER CAMP TEACHERS

British International School, Phuket are seeking ESL teachers for their annual July English Summer Camp programme. Full programme details are available on our school. Applicants are ideally required to have a recognized education degree and a TEFL qualification. Please submit your applications to Email: ppreez@bisphuket.ac.th Website: www.bisphuket.ac.th

LIVE-IN HOUSE MAID

English couple, no children, need Thai housemaid to live in. Tel: 085-790 2241.

ACCOUNTANT

Elite Yachting at Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket is looking for a Thai accountant with a bachelor's degree and min 3-5 years experience. Good knowledge of Quickbooks, well organized and fluent in spoken & written English. Responsible for invoicing, payments, VAT, w/t, salaries, income/expense statements for yacht accounts, etc. Interested. Tel: 081-978 6086 (English). Please send your CV to jurg@phuket-yachts.com

RECEPTION STAFF

Responsible Thai female needed for reception at Patong hotel. Monthly salary: 12,000 baht. Tel: 081-892 1621.

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Looking for a better candidate?
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Grace Garden Management Ltd.

Grace Garden Management Co., Ltd. is going to launch a top class dining restaurant on the east coast of Phuket, The Breeze @ Cape Yamu

We are looking for competent, enthusiastic and highly qualified individuals for the following vacancies to join our business:

Cook 1 Position

- at least 3-4 years experience, fusion cooking, international cuisine.
- be able to manage of supplies and inventory

Bar Manager 1 Position

- 1 year experience in beverage section, control the bar system, mix drinks and create cocktails

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
Tel: 089 4741268, Fax 076 529673

Dive Supply – Phuket

Challenging position at our head office in Chalong:

ASSISTANT WORKSHOP MANAGER

- Foreign national, 28+
- Technical background
- Excellent English
- Managerial experience
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- Computer literate

We offer excellent salary & benefits, permanent position
To apply send CV, photo, availability & salary to
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We looking for a personal assistant to work for our yacht management department. Good written/spoken English, office skills, basic accounting and an ability to adapt to multiple tasks. In return, we offer a very good salary, bonuses and a chance to work with industry professionals.

Please send CV to david@boatlagoonyachting.co.th
Tel: +66 (0) 76 238025 | Fax: +66 (0) 76 238025
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Secure, Clean & Cost Effective Self Storage

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Facility Administrator / PA

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

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

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

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Salary 20,000 baht + excellent commission & benefits. Tel: 081-823 4627, 085-782 1200.
Email: ying@phuketpooltables.com

PHILIPPINE STAFF WANTED

Good salary, good English. Contact Carla. Tel: 081-968 5963. Email: cc@bayshoreprojects.com

REAL-ESTATE STAFF WANTED



Looking for full-time young Thai staff, fluent in spoken and written English with real estate business experience. Tel: 084-060 7050. Please send an email with a photo to info@moloko-phuket.com For further details, please see our website at <http://moloko-phuket.com>

Profile Project Sales Assistant Manager

Based in Layan

- Thai National
- Female
- Outgoing confident with foreign nationals
- Degree/Tertiary educated
- Fluent English
- Good written English
- Experience of property sales preferred
- IT literate with experience Microsoft word/Excel/Powerpoint
- Reporting to Sales and Marketing Director/Project Director

Please send current resume to angus@landstate.co.th
all applications will be treated with the strictest confidence.

NATIVE ENGLISH TEACHERS

Brainy House is a private English-language school. We are looking for native English teachers to start ASAP. For children 6-8 years old. We offer an excellent compensation. Please send a cover letter and CV to: info@brainy-house.com Tel: 080-907 7466 (contact Sasi).

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Looking for experienced crew for 6 months to cruise Phuket / Borneo / Phuket on comfortable 20m trawler yacht. Tel: 082-806 9104 (English). Please send CV to boatjob1234@gmail.com

THAI STAFF WANTED

Work on shifting schedule, can speak English, customer service. Good salary with bonus. Patong. Contact Carla. Tel: 081-968 5963.

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT KAMALA

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. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-322663, 086-773 4538 (English). Fax: 076-322664. Email: skgf@skgf.asia

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Highly successful Sales & Marketing company requires motivated individuals to join our team here in beautiful Phuket. Immediate start available. English speaking, full training, excellent earning potential and startup packages available. Come and join a winning team.

Please contact via by email: jengore@inspire.net.nz

JAPANESE STAFF

Wedding coordinator: Japanese female, good English and computer skills. Sa-mer Wedding (Boat Lagoon). Email: info@sa-mer.com Website: www.sa-mer.com

ACCOUNTANT

Elite Yachting at Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket is looking for a Thai accountant with a bachelor's degree and min 3-5 years experience. Good knowledge of Quickbooks, well organized and fluent in spoken & written English. Responsible for invoicing, payments, VAT, w/t, salaries, income/expense statements for yacht accounts, etc. Interested. Tel: 081-978 6086 (English). Please send your CV to jurg@phuket-yachts.com

KARON HILLSIDE HOTEL

Looking for the following positions no English is required: Gardener, Handyman. For the following positions English is required: Bar and restaurant service staff, Reception staff, Night reception. Good starting salary and service charge. Only Thai nationals. Please contact Sandy on 082-281 4394. Email: info@karonhillsidehotel.com

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- Julapan Stationery (Chao Fa East Rd) Tel: 076-282254
- KL Mart (Patak Rd, Chalong Circle) Tel: 076-280400
- Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chaofa East Rd) Tel: 076-282403

PATONG

- Taurus Travel (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: 076-344521-2
- Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: 076-290468
- Deli Supermarket (Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd) Tel: 076-342275

PHUKET CITY

- Earth Language Training Centre School (Phang Nga Rd) Tel: 076-232398
- Sin & Lee (Thalang Rd) Tel: 076-258369
- iTree complete printing service (Tesco Lotus Phuket Town) bank zone Tel: 076-255425

CHERNG TALAY

- Chaba Supermarket (at the Laguna gateway) Tel: 076-325586

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- The Network property office (Saiyuan Rd) Tel: 076-613173

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7KW. 3-PHASE WATER PUMP



Barely used (10 hours). Have 2 units for sale. Price: 15,000 baht each. Contact Margy on 089-908 7486.

NEW INVICTA WATCH FOR SALE

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

COFFEE TABLE

Bamboo coffee table for sale. Excellent condition. 110cm square with inset in center (for flower decoration, etc). 10,000 baht ono. Email: beijingmarcher@yahoo.com

CHINESE TEA

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

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

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

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

Articles Wanted

EXTENSION LADDER WANTED

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

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Phang-nga Inn, 14 guest rooms, 15 million baht. Tel: 081-892 1507. Email: phang-ngainn@hotmail.com

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Popular bar, open air. Beer bar in busy tourist area, fully furnished. Urgent sale: 1.8 million baht. Tel: 081-550 7379.

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Laguna Phuket Regular Family membership, valid until 2026. Transfer fee to be paid by buyer. 400,000 baht. Tel: +61-4-278 7588 (English). Email: hkarbons@yahoo.com

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585,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-270 5609.

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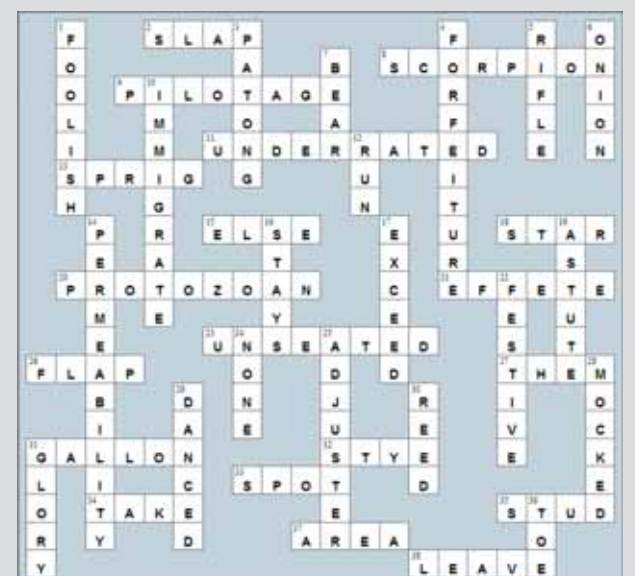
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SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES

Crossword puzzle:



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**ROCKWELL
COMMANDER 114**

HS-AWS. Year: 1976. Operated in Thailand for 6 years. Engine: Lycoming IO-540T4B5D. 1,300hrs and 700hrs until TBO. Garmin and King radios. Autopilot and Stormscope. Price: 3.75 million baht. Located at Thai Flying Club, Bang Phra. Contact Tony Scragg at mobile 081-906 3250.

1999 ROBIN 2160i

I would like to sell my Robin aircraft or trade it for a 4-seat Cessna or Piper (based in Hua Hin). The Robin: TTA1, 300hrs. SMOH 60hrs. This is a well-equipped, two-seat aerobatic aircraft. Has the Christen inverted oil system. Excellent inside and outside. King KMA24 audio panel, KX155 nav/com, KI203 vor, KY197A comm, KN64A dme, KR87 adf, KT76A transponder, CSPA400 i-com, FP5 fuel computer, CHT, OAT, Pitot heat. Price: 4 million baht. Please contact Thom. Email: thos_w@hotmail.com



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

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

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

TECNAM P-92

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

Please contact for more information. Aircraft is based at Klong 15. 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	Gross Weight: 3140 lbs
Top Speed: 166 kts	Empty Weight: 2094 lbs
Cruise Speed: 157 kts	Fuel Capacity: 68.00 gal Usable
Stall Speed (dirty): 55 kts	Range: 700 nm
Rate Of Climb: 1088 fpm	Fuel Av Gas 100LL
Ceiling: 17,400 ft	1 crew plus 3 passengers

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

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

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



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Gladiators, glamour and glitz



Formula 1

By The Digby

THE Monaco GP is one of the most prestigious races in the world, alongside the Indianapolis 500 and Le Mans. These three races form a Triple Crown which only Graham Hill has won. In an irony devised by some god of madness, the Monaco GP and the Indy run on the same day this year!

The Monaco GP differs from all others. Notably, the course includes a tunnel where drivers have to adjust their vision when emerging at the fastest point of the track, and then brake for the chicane in daylight.

Practice is held on Thursday, so the streets can be open Friday. There is no podium; a section of track is closed after the race to act as parc fermé, where the cars are held for official inspection. The first three drivers walk directly to the Royal Box where the



Paul Hawkins c 1965.

“podium” ceremony is held.

The principality’s first GP was in 1929; an invitation only event, won by Man of Mystery “Williams” driving a Bugatti. Williams was William Grover-Williams, who later led the SOE Operation Chestnut supporting French Resistance. He was captured by the Nazis in 1945, interrogated, interned in a concentration camp and purportedly executed. But it seems he somehow survived, and lived on as a presumed Cold Warrior under the name Georges Tambal. Another driver who competed in 1929 using a pseudonym was “Georges Philippe”, Baron Philippe de Rothschild.

The 1933 Monaco GP was the first where grid positions were decided by practice time rather than ballot.

In 1957, Fangio became the first double winner. Stirling Moss had three victories. Graham Hill won five times in the 1960s and became known as “King of Monaco”, and Schumacher eventually

equaled that. Senna holds the record, with six, including five consecutive wins.

It is the ultimate test of driving skills in F1, and were it not already an existing GP, it would not be added for safety reasons. Crashes are common, cars have ended up in the harbor, and even run out of fuel in the tunnel.

In 1996 Schumacher took pole before crashing on the first lap; Damon Hill led for 40 laps before his engine passed away in the tunnel, and only four cars finished.

Returning to today, Felipe Massa is under severe scrutiny. In the most competitive season I remember, his teammate is leading the drivers’ table while Felipe has scored only two points.

Hamilton has been the most consistent qualifier this year, and should qualify well, where elevation changes, narrow streets and ‘magnetic walls’ make overtaking very difficult, and qualifying is everything. Hamilton could win if McLaren’s pit team stops destroying him.

Kimi Räikkönen is due a victory, and be sure that “The Ice Man” will be at his best for Lotus and likely to be on the podium.

Williams lost huge amounts of



FLYER: David Coulthard crashes during of the F1 Monaco GP in 1995. Photo: AFP

telemetry equipment in the Catalunya fire, and at Monaco will be patching together reserve kit with borrowed McLaren gear. They hope Maldonado can do it again, but there is a mountain to climb first.

Nico Rosberg will be looking to qualify well for Mercedes, with Schumie effectively out of contention with his five-place penalty. He is used to controversy. In 2006, he

was provisionally holding pole as qualifying was drawing to a close, and stopped his car at the Rascasse hairpin, blocking the track. Other competitors had to slow down, and could not beat his lap time. He was sent to the back of the grid.

See it Live at The Green Man, Chalong. Practice Sat 16:00. Qualifying Sat 19:00, Race Sun 19:00

Chelsea no longer singing the blues

AFTER nine seasons, eight managers and a staggering 642 million pounds spent on players, Roman Abramovich has finally seen his Chelsea side crowned champions of Europe.

Chelsea won on penalties against Bayern Munich after the sides finished 1-1 after extra time. The Blues were dominated for all 120 minutes, barring one Didier Drogba header.

In the semi-finals they beat the most attractive side on the planet by parking the bus; hardly the majestic journey Roman was hoping for when he bought the club in 2003.

He will not care, nor will the many Chelsea fans who feared that this golden generation would go down in history as one that failed to live up to its potential.

They won’t, and they can thank players that were forgotten during Andre Villas-Boas’ reign, especially Drogba. Special mention must also go to Roberto Di Matteo, a manager thrust into a role he did not appear to want at first, but who has shone brighter than

Football

many bigger names that came before him.

For Bayern they will look back on this match and wonder just how they failed to win it. Mario Gomez, one of the most prolific strikers in Europe this season, could have scored a hat-trick. Here was an opportunity to silence critics who argue that he disappears in big games. He failed, and although many will look at Arjen Robben and Bastian Schweinsteiger, who both missed crucial penalties, as individuals who should shoulder some of the blame, the truth is Gomez will be haunted by this performance.

Bayern, the first team to contest a European cup final on their own turf since Roma in 1984, have no one to blame but themselves. They managed 43 shots at goal to Chelsea’s nine. They had 20 corners to Chelsea’s single one that resulted in Drogba’s goal.

Poor delivery from wide positions and free

kicks were a constant. That their goal came from their one decent cross highlights the fact that had the crossing been more accurate, they may have been victorious.

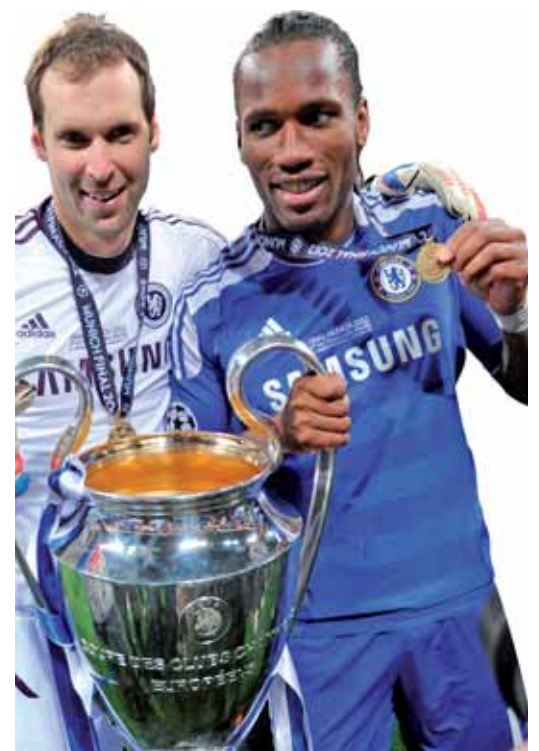
Credit must go to the Chelsea back four. The blues had to recall the injured duo of David Luiz and Gary Cahill into the middle of defense. They performed admirably, but all accolades must go to Ashley Cole who put in a man-of-the-match display.

Cole must have blocked over 10 shots by himself and his overall play meant that Robben and Franck Ribery had to constantly change flanks to avoid him.

Chelsea were not the better team. They hardly tried to play any football, and were fortunate to catch Bayern on a bad day.

All this is irrelevant as they have banished the demons of Moscow that have haunted them ever since a soggy piece of the Luzhniki pitch denied John Terry, and Abramovich, a place in history.

– Phuket Gazette



PARTYTIME: Chelsea’s Didier Drogba enjoys the win with keeper Petr Cech. Photo: AFP

SPORTS briefs...

FOOTBALL: West Ham United have returned to the Premier League at the first time of asking.

A late Ricardo Vaz Te goal resulted in a 2-1 win over Blackpool in the Championship play-off final.

For the Hammers’ boss Sam Allardyce it will be all the more sweet as his previous employers, Blackburn Rovers, will be swapping leagues with his new team.

West Ham join Reading and Southampton as the promoted sides, and rightfully so as these were the top three teams by some distance throughout the season.

STRANGE SPORTS: The annual cheese rolling competition held on Cooper’s Hill, Gloucestershire is expected to go-ahead on June 4.

In recent years this event has been cancelled due to “health & safety” concerns, with many participants injuring themselves whilst chasing their block down the hill, which has an incline of 1.1 in places.

It is believed the event was started by the ancient Britons and formed part of a fertility rite.

The first person to cross the finish line will receive a Double Gloucester cheese weighing 3.5 kilograms.

CRICKET: England won the first of a two test series by five wickets, against the West Indies at Lord’s.

The home side were set a relatively small target of 191 to chase on a wicket known to favor the batsmen, however were given a fright when they collapsed to 57-4.

Ian Bell joined Alastair Cook at crease to steady the innings with a 132 run partnership to take England within touching distance of victory until a disappointed Cook was caught at gully off of Darren Sammy’s bowling.

The second test is at Trent Bridge.

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Yes, it's a game

A look at the lesser known sports played at Thailand's 28th National Youth Games

AT LAST, the 28th National Youth Games has finally arrived. Never before has Phuket been privileged to host such a large and significant sporting event. Thousands of athletes will compete in 40 sports and games, with thousands more coming to cheer them on. Apart from the usual sports spectators expect to see there will also be a number of lesser-known disciplines. As a guide for readers, a few of the more unusual sports, along with information about where and when to watch is listed below.



Kabaddi: May 30 to June 5 at the Prince of Songkla University Phuket Campus Gym in Kathu. This sport, often played indoors, is popular across much of

South Asia. It involves two teams of seven, and lots of tackling, as players try to gain points by "raiding" their opponents turf.

Sepak Takraw: May 25 to June 5 at Baan Samkong Municipal School. The national sport of Thailand, Myanmar and Malaysia, this game is similar to footvolley, but using a woven ball. This is a "must see" for those who enjoy fast paced, acrobatic maneuvers. Thailand is among many Southeast Asian nations working to have the sport included in the Olympic Games, thus far without success.



Hoop Takraw: May 26 to June 4 at Phuket Technical College on Yaowarat Rd in Phuket Town. A variation of takraw using a hoop instead of a net. Teams do not compete directly against one another, instead, they try to get as many points as possible in an allotted time.



Softball: May 27 to June 4 at Sanam Chai, opposite Phuket Provincial Hall. Unlike its name suggests, the ball used in this sport is not soft at all and is larger than its parent: the American baseball. Due to its mass, however, the pace of play tends to be lighter than baseball, which is not one of the 40 sports.



Soft Tennis: May 27 to June 4 at the Saphan Hin tennis courts. Similar to standard singles and doubles tennis, except that participants use a soft rubber ball.



Remote Control (RC) Airplane flying: May 31 to June 1 on Chaofa Thani Road, behind the Shell service station on Chao Fa West Road in Wichit. Keep your head low and your eyes peeled.

Bridge: May 28 to 31 at Phuket Rajbhat University in Rassada. Yes, the card game that grandma loves.



Pencak silat: May 30 to June 4 at the multipurpose building in Piboon Sawatdee Municipal School, next to the tennis courts on Narison Rd. This martial art is indigenous to Indonesia, but 32 national teams competed in the last world championships held in Jakarta.



Wushu: May 29 to June 2 at Phuket Thai Hua School on Wichit Songkram Road in Phuket Town. This sport, a form of traditional Chinese martial arts, is the essence of Kung Fu.



Snooker: May 26 to June 4 at Baan Bangneaw School on Phuket Road, walking distance from Saphan Hin. Parking in the area is notorious, so consider taking the pink Poh Thong Bus, Route 1, which covers all of Saphan Hin.



BALLS OF STEEL: Petanque is one of many peculiar sports to be played. Photo: Jasek.NL



Go: May 27 to June 4 at Laddawan Assembly Room at the Chalermprakiet School in Saphan Hin. A simple-to-learn, difficult-to-master, ancient Asian board game.

Petanque: May 28 to June 3 at the multipurpose yard, Saphan Hin Sports Center. A form of *boules* that is, more or less, a big kid's version of marbles. A hit with many old timers here in Phuket.



Woodball: June 1 and 2 at Saphan Hin Sports Center. Wooden mallets and balls, but definitely not croquet. A sport so obscure there are only two sentences about it on Wikipedia.

Schedule and venues for the Phuket Games

- Track and Field: May 28 – 31 @ Surakul Stadium
- Swimming: May 28 – June 2 @ Saphan Hin Sports Center (SHSC)
- Golf: May 28 – 31 @ Loch Palm golf course
- Karate-do: May 31 – June 4 @ Building 3, SHSC
- Road Cycling: May 27 to June 1 @ Highway 402, Mak Prok to Tha Chat Chai, rest on May 29-30.
- Track Cycling: June 2 – 4 @ Phuket Rajbhat University (PRU)
- Taekwondo: May 31 – June 5 @ PRU
- Tennis: May 26 – June 4 @ OrBorJor Phuket tennis courts
- Ping Pong: May 26 – June 2 @ Mahogany Room, Sattri Phuket School
- Basketball: May 25 – June 5 @ Karn Wek Hall, Sattri Phuket School, rest on June 2
- Badminton: May 27 – June 4 @ Gym 2, SHSC
- Bowling: May 30 – June 2 @ CS Bowl, Big C Supercenter, Phuket
- Fencing: May 31 – June 4 @ Chalerm Phrakiet School
- Futsal: May 24 – June 5 @ 4,000 capacity gym, SHSC, rest on June 4
- Football (boys): May 25 – June 5 @ SHSC, rest on June 2 and 4
- Football (girls): May 25 – June 5 @ Cherng Talay Tantiwit School, Thalang, rest on June 4
- Boxing: May 26 – June 4 @ Kathu Wittaya School, Kathu, rest on June 3
- Weightlifting: May 27 – 31 @ Phuket Vocational College
- Gymnastics: May 27 – June 5 @ Cherng Talay School
- Judo: May 24 – 28 @ Wichit Songkhram School, Mueang
- Rugby: May 24 – June 5 @ Kathu Wittaya School, rest on May 26 and 30, and June 4
- Sailing: May 28 – June 2 @ Ao Yon Bay
- Rowing: May 26 – 31 @ Nai Harn Lake, Mueang
- Beach Volleyball: May 25 – June 5 @ SHSC, rest on June 2
- Volleyball: May 25 – June 5 @ SHSC rest on June 2
- Handball: May 25 – June 5 @ Phuket Thai Hua School, Mueang

This list is not exhaustive. For more information, visit W: phuketgames.com

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Cricket contest ready to pop

LOOKING to make a name for island cricket, the Phuket youth cricket team has undergone high-performance training sessions under the tutelage of Bill Starmer, John King and Shane Gleeson.

A small committee to manage the Cricket for the Thai National Youth Games was recently formed.

The members are Richard Folds, Sameer Khan, John King, Anongnart Ningnoi, Raju Seemant, Bill Brown and Bill Starmer. Competing will be girls and boys teams from Chantaburi, Chiang Mai, Chon Buri, Khon Kaen, Lopburi, Petchabun, and Si

Sa Ket, with girls teams also from Bangkok and Pattani, and boys teams from Phuket and Yala.

To be contested May 27 – June 5 venues include Cherng Talay High School, which is on the left as you leave Cherng Talay on the 4030 road to Thalang and the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG).

ACG in Baan Lipon, is located about one kilometer along a minor road to the west of Thepkassatri Road, two kms north of the Heroines' Monument, signposted 'Phuket Land Office'.

For more info see W: acgphuket.com

FC Phuket survive dogfight

By S Layne and Pimwara Choksakulpan

FC PHUKET came from behind to draw Airforce United 3-3 in a closely contested match on Saturday night at Surakul Stadium in Phuket Town.

All six goals of the season's 10th fixture were scored in the first 31 minutes of play, with both sides failing to break the deadlock throughout the rest of the match.

Opening the score in the 7th minute, the Airforce United "Blue Eagles" were wound up by a rousing marching-band cheer-squad of about 30 supporters who made the long trip from the Air Force base in Rangsit, a suburb of Bangkok.

Airforce top gun, Nigerian forward Ononiwu Julius, skillfully beat his marker on a cross ball, giving Phuket's reserve keeper, Worapot Sabaijit his first taste of Thai Yamaha 1 "goal dust".

Phuket's equalizer was delivered just two minutes later, when Brazilian midfielder Marcio Santos took a free kick from the top of the right wing. He crossed the ball to Ibrahim Kanoute, who fell to the ground trying to penetrate the final line of defense.

Poramut Krongborisut jumped on the loose ball, burying it into the back of the net.

Julius scored his second of the match and fourth of the season on 18 minutes, cashing in on another free kick to the dismay of a clearly under-experienced keeper.

The visitors widened the deficit three minutes later, this time from a perfectly weighted corner kick by Anut Inthachai.



STRIVE TO DRIVE: Watcharapong Jun-ngam (left), FC Phuket's leading scorer, scored two goals in Saturday night's match against Airforce United. Photo: Pimwara Choksakulpan

Phuket's Watcharapong Jun-ngam had the honor of scoring the next and last two goals of the match on 23 and 31 minutes.

With three goals so far this season, Watcharapong, who led the team in goals last season, is the team's current leading scorer.

New FC Phuket president Pamuke Achariyachai, whose appointment was made official in a small ceremony before kickoff, commented on the result: "Today, we were

even because many key players were sick and couldn't play, but the rest did very well.

"Considering that we were down 1-3 and came back to tie 3-3, I think they performed their best and I appreciate that. I am very happy to see many fans come to cheer the team," he said.

Mr Pamuke went on to talk about the reason for accepting the position.

"Deep in my mind, I love football. I have

organized many football tournaments and support and encourage local youth and Kata Group staff to play football.

"When FC Phuket started to have financial problems and they invited me to be the new president, I did not hesitate to agree to accept the position. I couldn't [stand to] see FC Phuket go down because I consider them as part of [creating] Phuket's reputation. I promise to lead the team to success as soon as possible. I just want to ask fans to believe in me, our staff and all the players," he said.

Although Phuket currently sit in the relegation zone of the 18-team table going into Week 11, Mr Pamuke is confident of a turnaround under his stewardship.

"We must finish in the top seven," he said.

Regarding the budget for the rest of the season, he said, "I just took the position, so we are now planning."

The even result's point sees Phuket move up one place into 16th, while Airforce dropped one ranking into 15th of the 18-team Thai Yamaha 1 league. The bottom five teams at the end of the year will be relegated to the Division 2 Regional League.

Phuket's next match is a tough away fixture against the league's top-ranked Ratchaburi Mittrphol FC, who enjoy support from Asia's largest sugar producer.

Kickoff for the match, to be played at Ratchaburi Central Stadium on May 27, is set for 5pm.

For results and updates check the *Phuket Gazette* online.

Boxing battle on Patong Beach



Officials and promoters pose with the championship belts, which will be contested on May 29 at Patong Beach. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

WBC Asia Continental Super Flyweight (115 pounds) champion Petchbangborn Sor Tanapinyo will defend his title in the main event of a major fighting event to be held at Patong Beach on May 29.

The Thai champ takes on Indonesian challenger Alwi Alhabsyi at the peak of the Boxing + Muay Thai event dubbed "Suk Poon Insee Sataan Lok", or literally "The Vigorous Poon Insee [sponsor] World Battle".

Indeed, the island will be privy to some premium action on Tuesday with a total of 15 fights – five boxing and 10 Muay Thai – scheduled to take place at the temporary boxing stadium on Patong beach.

With Interior Minister Yongyuth Vichaidit set to preside over the opening ceremonies, fighting will be held from 12pm through 8.30pm, with live

broadcasting on Thai TV from 1:40 to 3.40pm.

In addition to the main event, other high profile fights to be staged include Pigmy Pooninseegym versus Indonesian Jack Amisa in the WBC Asia Continental Strawweight Division (107 pounds); Wisanu Kokietgym versus Indonesian Yuri Rurento in the PABA flyweight class (110 pounds), while Amara Kokietgym will fight Lamnammoon Khwanjaisrikot in the 107 pound weight class.

Muay Thai fights will include 10 pairs of fighters from various gyms, in a series of Thai versus foreigner bouts. Including Thailand, ten nations will be represented with fighters also coming from England, Australia, Sweden, Wales, France, Spain, Brazil, Indonesia and Ireland.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

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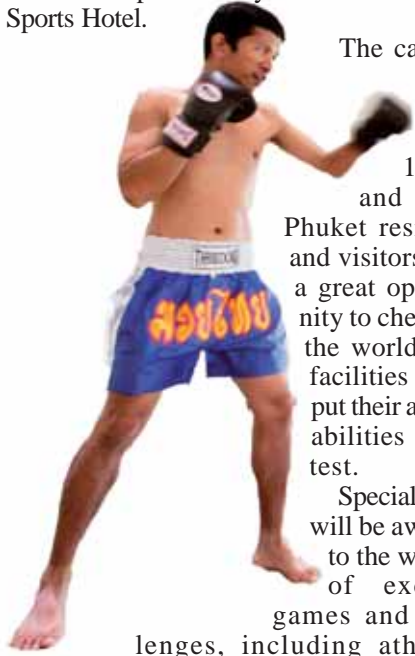
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Email: info1@goadventureasia.com
www.phuketmarathon.com

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SPORT

Ready to rumble at the Thanyapura carnival

ALL the fun of the fair comes to Phuket this Saturday for the inaugural Thanyapura Carnival, with great prizes up for grabs including 6-month family memberships to Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club (TSLC), blissful escapes to Thanyamundra and action-packed stays at the soon-to-open Sports Hotel.



The carnival kicks off from 10am, and offers Phuket residents and visitors alike a great opportunity to check out the world class facilities and to put their athletic abilities to the test.

Special prizes will be awarded to the winners of exciting games and challenges, including athletics

events and spinning.

Zumba, the Latin-inspired dance fitness program will also be showcased together with power plates classes.

Thanyapura Group President Robert Hauck said he was looking forward to a day of friendly rivalry and fierce competition.

"We want to showcase our facilities, and also encourage people on the island to live healthy lives, play sports and engage in family activities.

"When people arrive at the Carnival, they will be given a special Thanyapura Passport. The aim of the game is to complete each activity and get a stamp in your passport for each one. It's a great way to experience all the different sports and facilities we have on offer here at Thanyapura, while having a great time too."

Other prizes include F&B vouchers for DiVine Restaurant, Thanyapura Spa, the Integrated Health Clinic, Pura Organics and much more.

This event is sponsored by the Phuket Gazette. For more information, please contact TSLC's activities desk Tel: +66(0)76-336-000 Email: tslc@thanyapura.com



Other challenges will include:

Muay Thai Classes
Tennis "Ace the Pro"
Beach Volleyball
Basketball "3-point Contest"

Soccer/Rugby "Penalty shootout"
Swimming Time Trials
Free Trial Massage at Thanyapura Spa
Pool Tournament at Booster Bar
Kid's Games and Face Painting

There will never be a better opportunity to own such a unique asset in such a prime location!



BOAT AVENUE THE SHOPPING WALKING STREET

Become a shophouse owner today at Boat Avenue, the first commercial complex in front of Laguna.

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Project Owner: Boat Development Co., Ltd.
Managing Director: Mr Panupong Kritchanarat
Registered Capital: 20 Million Baht
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Financial Institution: Siam Commercial Bank Public Co., Ltd.
Construction Start: June 2012

PRICE START: **8.9** BAHT

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