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INSIDE TODAY

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■ 'THEY PROBABLY DIRECTLY INGESTED A POISON FROM SEAFOOD, MUSHROOMS OR EVEN CHEMICALS'

Canadian sisters dead on Phi Phi after 'poisoning'

■ Police searching for man seen on CCTV footage carrying the women into their hotel room

By **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

AUTHORITIES in Krabi suspect food poisoning as the most likely cause of death of Canadian sisters Noemi and Audrey Belanger, whose bodies were discovered on June 15 by a maid at a resort on Phi Phi Island.

Krabi Provincial Police Commander Chamroon Ruenrom, who inspected the sisters' shared hotel room at the Phi Phi Palm Residence resort, said there were no signs of foul play.

"I went to the investigation scene myself. There were no signs of violence and their belongings were there in the room. We believe food poisoning is the cause of death, but we have yet to identify what kind of food [the women ate]," said Gen Chamroon.

"We recovered more than 20 different medicines from the room, which will be kept as evidence," he added.

The bodies of the sisters, both in their 20s, were initially sent to the Institute of Forensic Medicine (IFM) at Police General Hospital in Bangkok for postmortem examination.

IFM Commander Somboon Tantrakul said the bodies were to be transferred at the request of the Canadian Embassy to the Ramathibodi Hospital, a government teaching hospital in Bangkok.

Krabi Governor Prasit Osathanont on Monday morning held a meeting to discuss the implications of the incident. Among the attendees were Krabi Police Commander Chamroon and Krabi Hospital Director Komgrip Phukrittayakamee.

Gov Prasit stated that the incident was extremely sensitive; Krabi's tourist industry would suffer if false reporting were to spread, he said.

Continued on Page 2



Out on bail after false rape allegation. Full story on page 3

Gloving up for turtles



A WORLD Boxing Organization title fight will take place at Nai Yang Beach next month to raise funds for sea turtle preservation projects in Phuket and other provinces along the Andaman coast.

Full story on Page 6

Student tragedy sends shockwaves worldwide

The tragic news of the drowning of an American exchange student in the waters off Patong Beach last week has sent ripples through media agencies around the world. The death of Joshua Shane is another reminder of the need for tourists to be educated about the dangers of the rip currents that flow away from Phuket's beaches.

Full story on Page 5

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This Week



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Dewa offers a romantic Friday for meat lovers and lovers. **Page 18**



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Sansiri launch their fourth condominium project. **Page 29**



Sport

Boxing: In the fight of the century it's the sport that loses. **Page 47**

Saturday



Sunday



Monday



Tuesday



Wednesday



Thursday



Aussie on bail after false report of rape

AUSTRALIAN Stevie Rochelle Bamford was convicted and sentenced for perverting the course of justice after falsely reporting being raped in Patong on June 10.

Sentenced to a 15-day custodial sentence, Ms Bamford was granted bail and won the right to appeal the sentence.

According to the court report, Ms Bamford was sentenced to one month in prison, but given her age and that she had confessed, the sentence was halved. Bail was set at 40,000 baht.

In her report to Patong Police, 21-year-old Ms Bamford claimed she was attacked by three men while taking a tuk-tuk back to her hotel at about 2am.

However, CCTV footage taken at the end of Soi Bangla shows Ms Bamford leaving the area on a motorbike taxi at about 3am on Sunday, June 10.

"The Australian confessed to the police that she had lied about being raped," Patong Police Superintendent Sermphan Sirikong told the *Gazette*.

"Her motive is unclear but it appears she and her boyfriend had an argument that night," Col Sermphan said.

The motorbike driver who took



Ms Bamford confessed to lying to police after staying out late in Patong and then arguing with her boyfriend. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

Ms Bamford to her room was questioned by Patong Police.

He explained that he escorted her to her room so she could get money to pay him. While she got the money, he noticed that broken items were scattered around the room.

Col Sermphan expressed his concern that this "false report"

had already damaged Phuket's tourism image.

Meanwhile, Ms Bamford is at liberty and staying in Phuket awaiting the Appeals Court ruling.

Phuket Immigration is preparing documentation required to deport the young Aussie if the ruling is upheld.

— *Atchaa Khamlo*

Runaway school girl 'Nong Fah' not home yet but safe and well

Nuengruthai Suansan the mother of the missing daughter Mullika "Nong Fah" Suansan told the *Gazette* on Wednesday that her daughter had finally made contact.

Nong Fah, who disappeared on June 8, was last seen on CCTV getting off the bus at Muslim Wittaya Phuket School in Koh Kaew. She failed to show up for classes and was not seen again.

Somsak Suansan, Nong Fah's father said, "At 9am a teacher called us and told us she didn't turn up for her first class. We were worried about her and feared she might have been kidnapped."

After receiving the phone call Mrs Nuengruthai said, "My hus-

band and I are so relieved that Nong Fah finally contacted us after hearing the news of her disappearance. She said she is safe with a girlfriend in another province, but she did not say where."

"She has not yet said when she will come back home. We'll let her decide that. At least now I know she is safe," she said.

Mr Somsak describes his daughter as a quiet girl who enjoys reading.

"She never slept over anywhere else. When she came home, she usually did her homework and read books. She never went out, except when going with us."

— *Chutharat Plerin*

Policeman caught in the 'line of ire'

A CHALONG policeman is recovering in Vachira Phuket Hospital after being shot last Tuesday morning at a live music bar near Chalong Circle. Police are searching for four suspects still at large.

The victim, Snr Sgt Maj Nikom Jeenyuen, received shotgun wounds to the neck, chest, stomach and arm. He was rushed to Bangkok Hospital Phuket for emergency treatment.

Following removal of the shotgun pellets, Sgt Maj Nikom was transferred to Vachira Hospital.

The shooting occurred at the Saraphanpleng Bar, a live music venue on Patak Road, about 300 meters from Chalong Circle.

Witnesses said that at about 1:45am, a group of five men be-



Entrance to Saraphanpleng, where the shooting took place.

came angry when the band refused to play a song they requested.

Lt Col Boonlert Onklang of Chalong Police said the group then went to their car and returned with firearms, the exact number and types of which are unknown.

"They pointed their weapons into the air and fired before shoot-

ing in the direction of the entrance. Sgt Maj Nikom, who was standing there, was hit," said Col Boonlert.

The five men then got into a car and headed off toward Karon.

When police came across the car in Karon it contained only one suspect, 28-year-old Suppanet Sukkaew of Surat Thani. He was promptly arrested.

Police are searching for the others, one of whom they have named as Wuthichai Songsri, 33, from Trang. He is currently on bail pending a murder investigation in that province.

Police have charged Mr Suppanet and Mr Wuthichai with attempted murder.

— *Atchaa Khamlo*



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CENTARA GRAND BEACH RESORT PHUKET

Phuket City top cop transferred



Patong Police chief Col Sermphan Sirikong has been named as Col Chote's replacement.

PHUKET City Police Superintendent Chote Chitchai has been transferred to Takua Thung Police Station in Phang Nga province, just north of Phuket.

The transfer comes after Col Chote was temporarily suspended from duty on May 5 following allegations of underage staff working in Phuket Town clubs and entertainment venues.

Phuket City Police Acting Superintendent Sakchai Limcharoen also confirmed to the *Gazette* on June 15 that Col Sermphan Sirikong, who took up the post of Patong Police Superintendent on April 10, has been named as Col Chote's replacement.

"The order is effective from today [June 15]. However, I have yet to be informed when Col Sermphan will be in post as Phuket City Police's new commander," said Col Sakchai.

"When that happens, I will revert to the position of Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander," he added.

Col Jirapat Phochanaphan, chief of Samran Rat Police Station in Bangkok, will take over the position of Patong Police Superintendent.

— Chutharat Plerin

'Ocean View 16' to face charges in graft probe

THE Public Sector Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) will recommend that legal charges be pressed against 16 current and former Phuket officials, all alleged to have conspired to encroach on state forest land high in the Kamala Hills north of Patong Beach.

PACC Secretary-General Dusadee Arayawuth on Monday led his team and members of the media to the disputed site, which covers over 200 rai.

Parts of the expanse afford impressive views overlooking Patong Bay to the south, but the area is accessible only by a dirt road that runs off the main road to Kathu Waterfall, in Kathu.

At the entrance to the site, the PACC team pointed out a wooden welcome sign heralding their arrival at what apparently was intended to become the "Honey Green View Resort".

Nearby they noticed a large, unoccupied house still under construction and an excavator. The PACC team noted that the land had a small watercourse running through it, proving it was a watershed area.

The PACC investigators told the media that 20 *Chanote* title deed applications had been received for plots in the area, of which seven *Chanote* titles had already been issued based on *SorKor 1* papers. Among the *Chanote* holders were a retired former Phuket Vice Governor (three plots), a relative of a former Interior Ministry Permanent Secretary (one plot), and three other individuals (one plot each).

The retired former Phuket Vice Governor, a Phuket native, bought one of the plots from the relative



Some of the land offers breath-taking views of Patong Bay. Inset: PACC Secretary-General Dusadee Arayawuth.

of the former Interior Ministry Permanent Secretary, the PACC team said.

Investigators said a *Chanote* for the 48-rai plot was issued to the well-connected relative based on a report issued by the Phuket Land Office survey team, which noted that the area was used as a fruit plantation interspersed among natural vegetation.

However, the PACC team determined that the plot was on virgin forest land and concluded that the survey report was improperly issued. On this, the PACC recommended that legal action be taken.

The investigators also found that the *Chanote* issued to one of the

plot "owners" was approved by the former vice governor and seven officers from related agencies.

A PACC press release named 16 officers from a variety of government agencies deemed responsible for abusing their positions in the case. Among those listed are officers of the Phuket Land Office, Kathu District Office and Forestry Department.

The PACC will petition the Land Department to revoke the deeds, as it does not have the authority to order such a revocation on its own.

After the site inspection, Col Dusadee told members of the press, "We came here because we wanted to see with our own eyes whether or not the land was le-

gally issued *SorKor 1* papers."

SorKor 1 papers bestow a right to use the land; their issuance is a common first step in the process of obtaining title deeds – legally or otherwise.

"*SorKor 1* land has to have been used by the holder for some economic benefit, but the land here is part of a forest preserve and watershed... From our investigation, the issuance of *SorKor 1* papers appears to have been illegal," Col Dusadee said.

"The PACC will ask the Department of Special Investigation to pursue this matter as a special of encroachment on protected forest land," he said.

— Phuket Gazette

Man beaten, left for dead at garbage tip

POLICE are investigating an attack that left a man with severe head injuries at a garbage tip before dawn on June 13.

The police were notified of the man's condition by a passer-by who noticed him, unconscious and bleeding profusely from the head, next to a collection of garbage cans on a dark stretch of Soi Khanom Jeen Factory in Srisoonthorn Village 2, Thalang.

The man suffered from a large open wound to the top of his skull and his face was badly swollen, possibly indicating a brain hemorrhage, said one Kusoldharm Foundation rescue worker who arrived at the scene.

Kusoldharm workers rushed the man to Thalang Hospital, where staff quickly had him transferred to Mission Hospital, north of Phuket Town.

Thalang Police officers found official papers on the man identi-



Rescue workers attend to the man at the scene. Photo: Thawit Bilabdullar

fying him as 31-year-old Wichai Thumwong, listed as a resident of Baan Muang District, Sakon Nakhon province.

Initial questioning of local residents failed to find any witnesses to the attack or people who knew the victim.

However, witnesses said four youths on two motorcycles were seen speeding out of the soi where the attack took place shortly before Mr Wichai was found.

— Thawit Bilabdullar

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Chainsaw takes cut out of drug problem

POLICE wielding chainsaws took a cut out of the drug-supply in Phuket on June 13, bringing down several enormous *kratom* trees on Luang Poh Road.

Despite *kratom* trees being native to Southeast Asia, their leaves have been considered a controlled substance, in the same category as cannabis, since promulgation of the Kratom Act in 1943. The law made planting the tree illegal and ordered all existing trees cut down.

Officers from the Phuket Crime Suppression Division, led by Pol Maj Roongsak Maichandee, inspected the site in Talad Yai, Phuket Town. The raid followed reports from local residents that there were "many *kratom* trees" in the area, located in the heart of the town near the Phuket Provincial Commerce Offices.

"We found four enormous *kratom* trees. We believe each one is at least 10 years old," Maj Roongsak said.

"We cut them down and moved them to the CSD Phuket office. So far nobody has come forward as the owner of the trees," he explained.

"After today's inspection, the officers cut down all the *kratom* trees in the area to prevent the



CHAINSAW MASSACRE: Police cut down several large 'kratom' trees in Phuket Town.

trees' leaves from being used as a drug," Maj Roongsak said.

The community reported to the police the several "youngsters", both from the local community and elsewhere, came to the area to collect the leaves to make a concoction known as "4 x 100".

The concoction – a combination of *kratom* leaf extract, cough syrup, cola and ice – is well-known throughout Southern Thailand, where reports of its existence go back to 2004.

– **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

Phuket Prison dubbed 'white'



Inmates at Phuket Prison stand ready for their daily exercise as part of the 'White Prison' anti-drug campaign. Photo: Orawin Narabal

PHUKET Provincial Prison has been declared a 'White Prison', with no cell phones and no drugs to be found within its walls.

The news follows six months of inmates, wardens and the prison grounds being searched. The searches failed to turn up any drugs or mobile phones, prison chief Rapin Nichanon announced on June 13.

The sustained campaign of searches follows a policy instituted by Corrections Department Director-General Pol Col Suchart Wongananchai, aimed at eliminat-

ing drug use and trade in Thai prisons – "and to protect [sic] prison officers from getting involved in drugs", Mr Rapin explained.

"We currently have 1,845 prisoners, of whom 1,562, or 84 per cent, were convicted of drug-related crimes.

"That number shows us that drugs remain a serious problem in our society, therefore we have set up defensive measures to prevent drug problems among both our prisoners and officers," he said.

– **Orawin Narabal**

Food poisoning suspected in Phi Phi hotel deaths

From page 1

"We have to ensure that the information disseminated [by the various departments and organizations] is accurate and consistent.

"The Canadian Embassy was notified and their staff have arrived on Phi Phi to collect the facts surrounding the case," he added.

Dr Komgrip said, "We have examined the two bodies and we are sure that they both died of the same cause. We believe food poisoning is the cause of death."

Evidence at the scene suggests that whatever killed the sisters had a rapid and simultaneous onset on both, as neither were apparently able to call for help.

"Both bodies had skin lesions and blue fingernails and toenails. Both presented evidence of vomiting and defecation before death."

"Our initial examination identified that they bled from the gums, mouth and nose and had black tongues," Dr Komgrip revealed.

"It is probable that they directly ingested a poison contained in seafood, poisonous mushrooms or even chemicals. However, staff at Krabi Hospital could not verify the cause of death," the doctor added.

Dr Chakrarat Pittayawong-anon, from the Department of Disease Control's Bureau of Epidemiology in Bangkok, said the deaths appeared similar to cases of an American and a Norwegian who died four years ago on Phi Phi. Other tourists had died under similar circumstances in Chiang Mai.

"The causes of those deaths were not confirmed, most likely due to the delay in evidence collection," he added.

The Bureau of Epidemiology



The two sisters being taken from the hotel. Health authorities are now attempting to identify the cause of death. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

dispatched a team to check shops, restaurants and communities on Phi Phi Island to gather more environmental evidence.

"There are many possible causes of death, so we need to do more investigation," he said.

It was possible the young women may have inadvertently eaten food tainted with pesticide, Dr Chakrarat added.

So far, he said, it was not clear which shops or restaurants the women went to during their stay on the island.

The sisters had visited both Chiang Mai and Phuket before arriving on Phi Phi Island on June 12, he said.

Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Krabi office director Wiyada Srirangkul said the deaths had not had an immediate effect on Krabi's tourism industry, but admitted she was worried about the future.

"I hope we can ascertain the exact cause of death soon. Then we can solve any problems and restore confidence," she added.

Isabelle Soucy, a high school art teacher who taught both girls, told the *Montreal Gazette* that residents in the sisters' hometown of Pohénégamook, Quebec, were badly shaken by the deaths. The Belanger family, which includes an older sister, is well known and well loved in the small town, she said.

"They were very engaged, social girls, really good girls. This really touches everyone here so deeply," Ms Soucy said.

"I don't understand what happened. It seems from the television news that the hotel they were staying at was a nice hotel, not a dump. I don't understand – if they were sick, why they didn't ask for help? They are girls who know how to look after themselves, they can speak French and English... I just don't understand why it happened so fast and why nobody else was sick at the hotel," she said.

News of the deaths was widely reported in the North American media, with Canadian news outlets particularly interested in following up on the investigation.

Bus station 'bomb' bag false alarm

PHUKET City Police responding to a report of an unattended suitcase at the new Phuket bus terminal on June 13 considered the threat serious enough to call in the bomb squad.

Phuket City Police Deputy Superintendent Jamroon Plaiduang, and bomb-disposal officers from both Phuket and Thung Song District in Nakhon Sri Thammarat, arrived at the scene at about 9pm.

After suiting up and taking full bomb-protection measures, Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) officers discovered that the bag contained only women's clothing.

Local resident Sumpas Sungsin discovered the suspect piece of luggage while conducting his neighborhood watch patrol.

Mr Sumpas told police that he observed a woman placing the suitcase at the scene at 8pm and later leaving the terminal on a motorcycle.

After waiting for an hour for her to return, he decided to report the unattended bag to the village headman and police.



Having declared the scene safe, the bomb-disposal officer displays the contents of the suitcase. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

"The police were afraid that the suitcase might contain a bomb or other weapons. Luckily, we found only lady's clothes and shoes.

We'll take it to the station and return it to the owner when she contacts us," said Col Jamroon.

– **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

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Drowning puts Phuket in spotlight

TWENTY-ONE year old Joshua Shane arrived in Thailand on May 25, in the company of 20 other students from Arizona State University (ASU), to take part in a summer study abroad project entitled "Urban Sustainability and Planning in Thailand".

The group, which had also planned to visit Bangkok and Chang Mai, before flying back to the USA on June 19, were staying in Patong.

At about 10pm on the evening of Tuesday, June 12, Mr Shane and three friends decided to go for a night time swim in the sea at the front of the resort they were staying at. Shane's three friends returned to the shore safely, but were unable to find him.

An alarm was immediately raised and a search was initiated by a Marine Police team. Unfortunately, the night's search was unsuccessful and eventually postponed until first light the next day.

The search continued, but was called off at 1pm as rescuers came to the conclusion that, given the rough sea conditions, the length of time and eye-witness accounts of Mr Shane's disappearance, the operation was no longer a rescue mission.

Soon after, AZCentral.com's news website broke the news that Mr Shane's parents had been informed that their son was missing, presumed drowned.

On June 14, a body was discovered in the water off Patong Beach near Loma Park, about 200 meters from where Mr Shane went missing some 40 hours earlier.

Mr Shane's body was first spotted by an Australian tourist riding a rented jet-ski about 300m off the north end of Patong Beach [see *Letters to the Editor*].

The tourist reported the dreadful discovery to a jet-ski operator and a lifeguard, who together went into the surf and recovered the body.

The body was transported to



Joshua Shane's body was recovered off Patong Beach, 200 meters from where he entered the water. Photo: Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai

Patong Hospital, and later identified by multiple people associated with the Arizona State University research team.

Despite an almost positive identification, Phuket Police have asked the Central Institute of Forensic Science in Bangkok to conduct DNA tests to confirm that the body recovered is that of Mr Shane.

"Although people close to Mr Shane have already positively identified the body as his, the only way we can release it without the relatives travelling to Thailand is by conducting DNA tests and comparing the results with samples provided by relatives," Capt Jirasak Boonsang of the Patong Police told the *Gazette*.

A classmate, who wished to remain anonymous, explained that the students who had gone swimming had felt emboldened when they noticed a sign indicating a "swimming area". In the visual cacophony of the Patong

beachfront, none noticed red flags flying in darkness to indicate the dangerous conditions.

Sources told the *Gazette* that the students received no warning of the dangers of swimming at island beaches during their stay.

However, the *Gazette* on June 15 received an email from Arizona State University spokeswoman Julie Newberg that read: "In response to reports concerning the tragic drowning death of Arizona State University student Joshua Shane, media reports citing sources that stated that university students were not warned of dangerous swimming conditions off the beach of Patong, Thailand are incorrect.

"Students participating in the study abroad program in Thailand did receive repeated warnings from their program leaders and local authorities not to swim in the water at Patong Beach, which poses significant dangers because of strong rip tides [currents]."

Rip current safety tips

A rip current is a strong channel of water flowing seaward from near the shore.

HOW TO SPOT A RIP CURRENT:

- Look for the "seam" where waves are drawn together
- Look for a channel of churning, choppy water
- Look for a steady line of sea foam or debris
- Look for different colored water beyond the surf zone
- Look for a break in the incoming wave pattern as waves roll into shore
- Be aware that even if you don't start swimming near a rip, you will naturally be pulled by the water in that direction


HOW TO ESCAPE A RIP CURRENT:

- Don't panic. Rip currents or undertows around Phuket are rarely strong enough to pull a person underwater
- Conserve your energy. Most swimmers who die after being caught in a rip current die due to exhaustion
- Don't swim directly against the rip current
- Swim parallel to the rip current, because they are usually very narrow and easier to escape this way
- Swim towards a place where the waves are breaking, because generally floating objects (you) are transported back towards shore

Escaping a rip current



Image by Surf Life Saving Australia, which provides beach safety resources at www.beachsafe.org.au

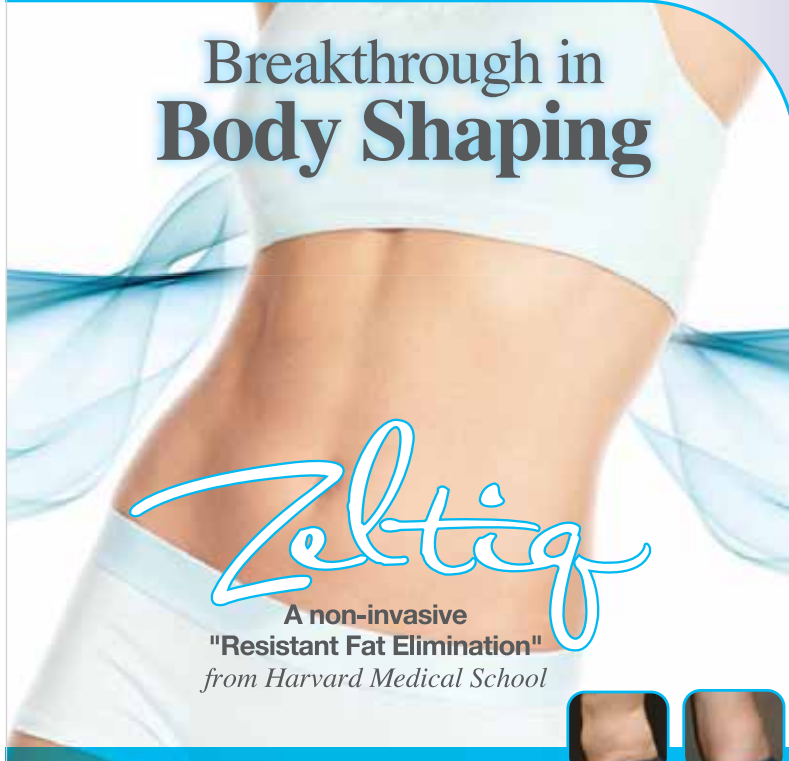


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Mayor Somjai retains her post.

Voters re-elect Somjai as Phuket City Mayor

THE preliminary vote count in last Sunday's Phuket City Municipality elections shows that Somjai Suwansupana has been re-elected as Phuket City Mayor, receiving 11,477 votes of the 15,786 voters who showed up at the polls.

Ms Somjai, the only candidate in the election for Phuket City Mayor, received 35 per cent of the total number of votes available in the electorate.

Sunday marked the start of her third successive term as Phuket City Mayor.

Ms Somjai's Khon Noom (Young Turks) party won 21 seats on the Phuket City Council.

The Khon Roon Mai 2555 (New Generation 2012) party, led by former Phuket City councilor Phairoj Ruamphunpong, won three seats, all in Ward 1.

In accordance with the Election Act, the Phuket Election Commission now must forward the preliminary results to the Election Commission of Thailand's head office in Bangkok for confirmation before Ms Somjai and the other winners in the election can be installed as mayor and councilors, respectively.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

One killed as pickup slams into Heroines' Monument

POLICE believe that the driver of a pickup who died after slamming his vehicle into the Heroines' Monument before dawn yesterday fell asleep at the wheel.

Thalang Police were notified of the accident at the roundabout just before 4am last Sunday.

Arriving at the scene, they found the wreckage of a black Mitsubishi pickup against a roadside billboard.

The driver, 42-year-old Somyot Piwsalap, was thrown from the truck and was found lying unconscious on the pavement with multiple wounds.

He was surrounded by a large crowd of on-

lookers when police and Phuket Kusoldharm Foundation workers arrived.

Mr Somyot, a civil defense volunteer, was given oxygen and emergency treatment at the scene, but was pronounced dead on arrival at Thalang Hospital.

According to witnesses, Mr Somyot's pickup was travelling at a high speed along Thepkasattri Road southbound when it hit the hard, concrete base of the monument. Deflected to the left, the vehicle rolled three times and took out a roadside safety railing before finally coming to rest against the billboard.

— Thavit Bilabduh



After rolling three times, the vehicle came to rest below a sign promoting a merit-making ceremony next weekend. Photo: Thavit Bilabduh.

Gov Tri enters ring to save turtles

A WORLD Boxing Organization (WBO) title fight will take place at Nai Yang Beach next month to raise funds for sea turtle preservation projects in Phuket and other Andaman coast provinces.

At a press conference at the Royal Phuket City Hotel on June 15, Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha, Government Spokesman Prompong Nopparit and other dignitaries announced the five-bout card that will take place in Sakoo on July 6.

The two-hour event will be televised nationally on Thai TV Channel 7 starting at 3pm.

The main event will pit renowned Thai boxer Pungluang Sor Singyu (41-1-0) in a WBO Oriental Bantamweight (118lb) title defense against Filipino journeyman Rey Migreno (16-20-3).

It will not be the first time the two have squared off in the ring: Pungluang Sor Singyu (real name Panya Utok) easily defeated the Filipino in a unanimous decision the last time they fought, which was just last month in Nakhon Ratchasima.

Phuket Gazette boxing contributor Scott Mallon said the result should not be taken as a foregone conclusion; Migreno is



Prompong Nopparit (left) and Governor Tri Augkaradacha ready to support the rumble on behalf of the sea turtles on July 6. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

a somewhat inconsistent performer who is capable of bouncing back from defeat, he said.

The event, to be held on a specially-constructed ring at Nai Yang Beach between 3-5pm, is expected

to raise 3 million baht. Admission, however, is free.

Proceeds from the event are to go to several organizations running sea turtle preservation projects, including the Phuket

Undercard

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Bualuang Kiattisombat v Singthong Kor Sonthong (126lb)
Buangen Kiattisombat v Nongbua Mor Burapha (112lb)
Buakaew Kiattisombat v Napaphon Superchamp (105lb)

Marine Biological Center (PMBC).

Kongkiat Kittiwattanawong, who heads the PMBC's Marine Endangered Species Unit, said, "According to research, the reduction in the sea turtle population and subsequent decrease in nesting activity is caused primarily by commercial fishing practices."

Traditionally, from 5,000 to 10,000 sea turtles nested at sites on Andaman beaches. That number has now dwindled to just a few hundred. The trend indicates that sea turtles, many species of which are already listed as 'highly endangered', could be on the way to total extinction in local waters.

The PMBC plans to use the proceeds it receives from the event to expand its satellite tracking project, in which microchips are affixed to the turtles' shells as a way of tracking their movements.

"Through this we will gain useful information to aid our preservation project," he said.

"We have one 60-year-old female turtle named Mae Sri Nuan who has been wearing a chip for around three months now. We want to implant more turtles with chips, at a cost of about 5,500 baht per turtle," he said.

— Atchaa Khamlo

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Phuket Island: Lord of the flies

THE Phuket Chamber of Commerce on June 15, voiced its concern over the increasing number of flies swarming across the island, which the chamber fears could affect tourism.

"We have received complaints from residents about the rising number of flies spreading across the island," said Deputy Secretary General of Phuket Chamber of Commerce Charan Sangsarn at the meeting held at the Phuket office of the National Economics and Social Development Board.

"If we don't find a solution to the problem, it could have serious ramifications for tourism," he added.

Phuket Public Health Office Chief Dr Sak Tanchaikul acknowledged the importance of the issue and promised to contact related organizations to identify the source of the problem, as well as a solution.

"The main source of the problem might come from the garbage



President Paiboon suspects the landfill is to blame for the increase in flies. Photos: Landfill: Gazette file. Fly: Mark Span

issue that Phuket is facing," suggested Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor) President Paiboon Upatising.

"We have so much garbage that the incinerator cannot dispose of it all, so we've had to bury a portion of it. Maybe the landfill is

contributing to the the large number of flies," he continued.

Somma Prijasilpa, who chaired the meeting, said that all related organizations would be invited to the next meeting on the topic in hopes of finding the fastest way to put an end to the issue.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

Epidemic disease control drill at Phuket International Airport

PHUKET Provincial Health Office, assisted by three airline companies, carried out an exercise last Thursday, aimed at preventing a serious infectious disease spreading among passengers on board an aircraft and then infecting the island population.

The drill took place in and around Phuket International Airport's multipurpose building. Personnel and equipment from Business Air, Thai Airways and Air Asia Airlines played a part in the exercise to test the Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) plan.

The scenario begins with the fictitious country of 'Neverland' reporting an outbreak of a generic strain of bird flu virus. Nearly a month after the warning was issued, Phuket air traffic control receives an emergency message from a 'Neverfly Airlines' plane approaching Phuket.

In the exercise scenario, a 45-year-old female passenger aboard the flight starts to exhibit symptoms of an infectious disease. She has a temperature of 38.9 degrees Celsius, has rapid, shallow breathing and is coughing.

The flight is due to arrive at Phuket



Health officials practise the evacuation of a contagious passenger. Photo: Orawin Nabal

International Airport in 30 minutes at 10am.

Even before landing at Phuket, flight attendants follow protocols to minimize the risk to other passengers. The sick traveler is supplied with a hygiene mask and isolated from other passengers. At the same time the aircraft pilot informs Phuket air traffic control of the situation.

Airport authorities react to the threat by implementing the contagion containment plan, which involves setting up of a reception area and mustering key staff to help maintain the integrity of the cordoned-off quarantine reception area.

Once the operation has begun, doctors and medical staff from hospitals in Phuket

are alerted and told to rendezvous at the quarantine reception area. Dressed in full Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), these key medical staff are responsible for screening, not only the sick passenger, but everyone disembarking from the aircraft.

Deputy Phuket Provincial Chief Medical Officer, Dr Wiwat Seetamanotch, outlined the reception protocol "When the plane lands, all passengers are ordered to stay in their seats until medical staff have evacuated the patient."

"Once the potentially infectious traveler has been removed from the aircraft, the crew and remaining passengers are escorted to the quarantine area for physical examination."

"If their results are normal they're allowed to leave the containment site."

"However," he stressed, "they must report periodically, in person, to the Surveillance and Rapid Response Team (SRRT) of the Provincial Public Health Office until the end of the virus incubation period."

"Anyone getting off the aircraft suspected of carrying an infectious disease will automatically be transferred to Vachira Phuket Hospital for medical treatment," he added.

Phuket Light Rail: First stop at feasibility studies

THE Office of Transport and Traffic Policy and Planning (OTP) will ignore all feasibility studies conducted by companies that have expressed interest in developing a light-rail system in Phuket.

The news was delivered by Kobkul Motana, the assistant director of the Bureau of Regional Transport and Traffic Promotion under of the Ministry of Transport's OTP department, on Friday, June 15.

At a meeting attended by Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha, Ms Kobkul said that, according to Thai law, only the Thai government could conduct such studies.

Whether or not this was explained to the companies that have already conducted their feasibility studies was not elaborated on.

However, Ms Kobkul added, "The Cabinet is now considering amending the act to allow private companies to conduct this type of study."

A similar study in Phuket that focused on developing a bus rapid transport system, was carried out in 2006, but deemed inappropriate at the time.

"Now things have changed, such as the increasing volume of tourists. We have, therefore, been asked to reassess the viability of a light-rail system that would run from Phuket International Airport to Chalong Circle," Ms Kobkul explained.

"I will request that the Ministry of Transport set a budget of 30 to 40 million baht to carry out the study, which will include a review



Kobkul Motana told the governor that only the government could conduct the feasibility study.

of the potential environmental impact. The study should not take more than one year to complete and the budget for the study should be available by fiscal 2014," she added.

Switching topics to the proposed rail link between Phuket and Surat Thani, Ms Kobkul explained that a provisional budget of 124.6 million baht to carry out a feasibility study for that project had already been approved by the mobile Cabinet meeting in Phuket in March.

"I believe the study will begin at the end of the year and should be completed within about 14 months. Our tentative idea is to link the new railroad with the convention center [in Mai Khao] and Phuket Airport, as well as Phuket Town," she said.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong



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Every blood donor is a hero, say the World Health Organization. Photo: Phuket Red Cross

Phuket marks World Blood Donor Day

THE Phuket Red Cross last week-end stepped up its donation drive as part of the World Health Organization (WHO) "World Blood Donor Day" campaign.

Hundreds of donors turned out at the Phuket Regional Blood Center (RBC), operated by the Phuket Red Cross, on June 14 to mark the WHO international day, observed around the world.

In line with this year's WHO campaign slogan "Every blood donor is a hero", Governor Tri Augkaradacha assisted in handing out certificates of merit to long-term blood donors marking 48th, 60th, 72th and 84th donations by Phuket residents, both Thai and foreign.

Donors were also treated to free medical checkups and free souvenir t-shirts.

"We, the Phuket Red Cross and the Vachira Phuket Hospital blood bank, held this event to praise blood donors who give their own blood without asking anything in return. They are such heroes," said Phuket Red Cross President Nalinee Augkaradacha, who is also Gov Tri's wife.

"We also expect the event to encourage more people to donate blood and to continuing donating in the future," she added.

— Chutharat Plerin

Phuket needs to clean up its act

PHUKET Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada has given local officials until June 30 to at least draw up action plans to address key problems affecting the island.

Speaking at a meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall on June 14, V/Gov Chamroen listed several key issues, including trash, roadside billboards, flower vendors at traffic lights and the long tailbacks at Koh Kaew.

TRASH

"Main roads are surrounded by trash. This is especially obvious when examining median strips," V/Gov Chamroen said.

He asked everyone to notify the police if they witnessed anyone throwing trash onto median strips. "The trash clogs up drainage ditches, which causes the roads to flood during heavy rains," he pointed out.

The vice governor also asked that trees and grass along the main roads be better maintained in order to create a better impression for passers-by.

BILLBOARDS

Billboards also made the vice governor's 'Phuket cleanup' list. "Many advertising signs along main roads look untidy and improperly zoned," he stated.

Local organizations, including the Phuket Highway Department, were encouraged to check whether or not the billboard owners had been properly taxed.

"If they haven't paid their taxes, then their signs should be removed."

Before the removal of any signs, owners would be contacted, he said.

FLOWER SELLERS

V/Gov Chamroen also voiced his concern with the impression that roadside garland vendors were making on tourists.

"Garland vendors need to be



Illegal but can still be seen at major intersections. Photo: Gazette file



Tah Chat Chai checkpoint was also criticized. Photo: Phuket Police



Billboards are to be targeted in the clean up. Photo Mark Dee

stopped from working at street intersections. They cause too many problems and negatively affect Phuket's image," he said.

He pointed out that one such vendor was struck by a car and killed while selling garlands.

"The police must arrest them for illegal sales," he added.

TAH CHAT CHAI CHECKPOINT

Failure to maintain clean restrooms at the Tah Chat Chai Checkpoint was also raised.

"The toilets need to be cleaned. Perhaps inviting a private operator to maintain the toilets in exchange for the right to collect a user fee would fix the problem," suggested V/Gov Chamroen, adding that the checkpoint was the first impression tourists have of



Vehicles parked and double parked by the food vendor stands cause substantial tailbacks on Thepkasattri Road, Koh Kaew. Photo: Mark Dee



V/Gov Chamroen is concerned that residents are lazy when it comes to trash, especially along roads and at junctions. Photo: Gazette file

Phuket when arriving by land.

He used the substandard condition of the restrooms there as an example of why related agencies needed to better coordinate work efforts and not continue in the "not our job" mindset that allows a wide range of tourism-damaging problems to persist.

"This mentality turns easily accomplished tasks into much more difficult ones," he said.

TRAFFIC

Traffic congestion caused by the cars illegally parked in the northbound lane of Thepkasattri Road in Koh Kaew, near the Bang Khu morning market, also made the vice governor's list.

"The Phuket Provincial Police say the left lane [northbound] is

always filled with parked cars," he said.

"People are usually parking their cars in the lane to buy food and other things, but the lane really should be available for moving traffic," he explained.

V/Gov Chamroen pointed out that police used to issue fines to people who parked their cars illegally in the red-and-white no-parking zones near the Muslim Wittaya Phuket School, on Thepkasattri Road southbound in Koh Kaew, but the locals were so upset that they held a small protest over the issue.

He suggested that the Muang District chief set up a meeting with the local religious leader in order to help people understand that they shouldn't park in prohibited areas.

— Atchaa Khamlo

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Monkey marauders loot village

ALMOST 2,000 marauding monkeys are terrorizing villagers living near Don Pu Ta forest reserve in Nakhon Phanom Province by stealing their farm produce and looting local grocery shops.

The monkeys are reportedly on the rampage because they have run out of sources of food, leading them to raid the nearby village of Phonko.

Local beliefs, however, have prevented the villagers from putting a stop to these troublesome creatures' antics. The villagers believe that the monkeys are the "army" of the "spirit" of Don Pu Ta forest and that a mysterious misfortune will befall anyone who harms any of them.

Local shopkeeper Phimchan Noinang, 50, said the monkeys



had caused serious problems.

She said her store was the most affected because she sold food and snacks.

The monkeys invade the store in packs of 10 to 15, she said.

Sometimes Ms Phimchai is able to chase them away, but other times they manage to grab items, which they share amongst themselves after escaping the store.

There are even times that she has been forced to close the shop, but that isn't enough to stop the



The mad monkeys are coming to town. Photo: Isaac Stone Simonelli

clever creatures. With the door closed, the monkeys just pull the tiles off the store's roof, make a hole and raid the shop anyway.

"Other times the monkeys are very aggressive and bare their teeth, so I have to let them take what they want," she said.

— Nation Channel

Naked painting stirs up outrage

A THAI talent show that allowed a contestant to paint a picture on national television using her naked breasts has provoked a storm of controversy throughout the country.

Cultural Minister Sukumol Khunploem summoned the producer of the show for a dressing down, saying that Thai society "cannot accept" such behavior.

The show, entitled "Thailand's Got Talent", aired on Channel 3 on June 17.

Ms Duangjai, dressed in a checked shirt and jeans, told the three judges she was an artist before commencing her act.

Music started and she turned her back to the audience, dancing in front of the canvas. She painted the crude outline of a person on the sheet.

Then she took off her shirt, doused her naked breasts in various colors of paint and began rubbing herself on the canvas,

AROUND THE nation

creating what looked like a work of abstract expression.

The two male judges thought what they saw was an artistic performance and agreed to let Ms Duangjai go through to the next round of the competition.

But the only female judge on the panel, Pornchita Na Songkhla, was outraged by what she saw. She shouted: "I really don't get it! I don't get it! I don't like it!" before storming off.

However, many observers were

quick to point out the hypocrisy surrounding the outcry by Ms Pornchita.

Commentators pointed out that it was less than two years ago that users on social networks were distributing pictures from a sexy-modeling shoot of Ms Pornchita.

In some of the pictures, the actress was scantily clad in front of two naked black men.

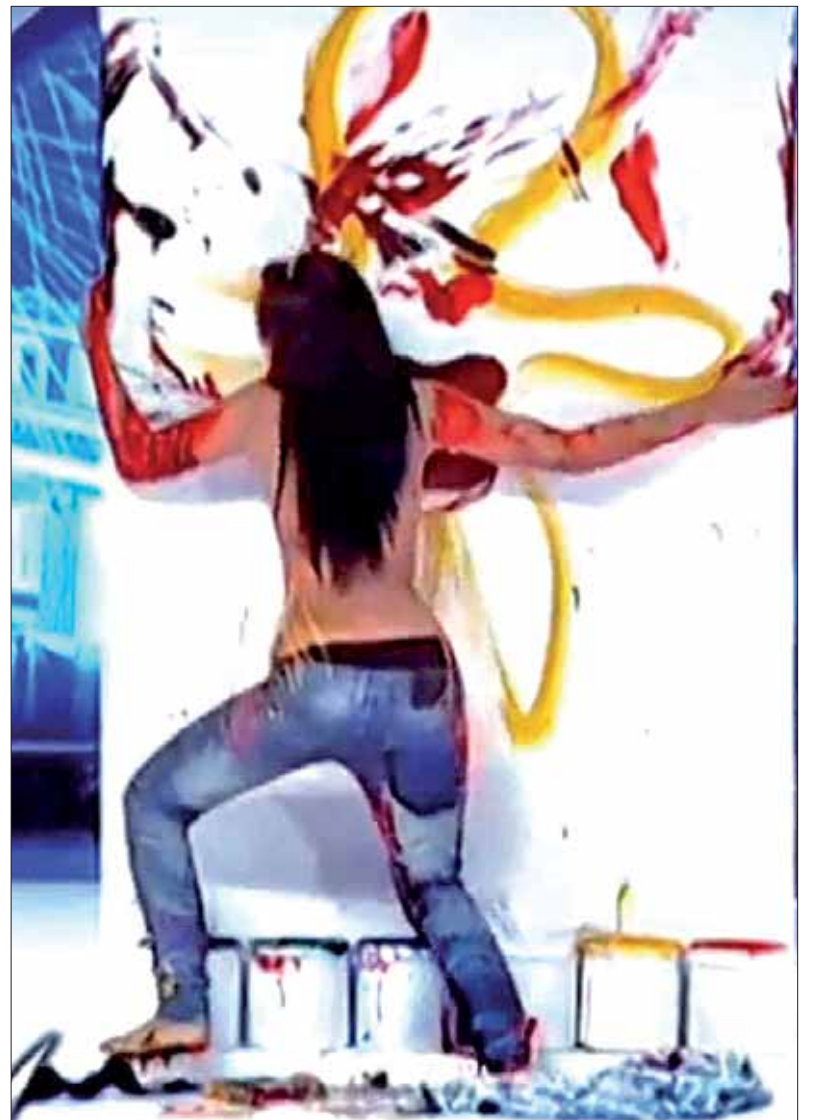
In another, Ms Pornchita was naked – and covered in paint.

"The ministry will question the program organizers as to how the inappropriate scene was allowed on air," she told local media.

"Although the performance aims to show the contestants' skills, Thai society cannot accept a scene of a naked woman on air," she said.

'Thai society cannot accept a scene of a naked woman on air'

– Sukumol Khunploem, Thai Culture Minister



Ms Duangjai bared her breasts on television for 'art'. Photo: The Nation



DREADING ARRIVAL: The woman, with cocaine-caked dreadlocks, said she was a victim of human trafficking. Photo: Public Relations Department

Dreadlock drug mule claims she's a victim

A SOUTH African woman sentenced to 15 years in a Thai prison for cocaine smuggling claims she was the victim of a human-trafficking scheme.

Dreadlocked Nolubabolo Nobanda was arrested by police at Suvarnabhumi Airport in December after arriving on a flight from Brazil. She had 1.5 kilograms of cocaine in her hair.

On June 18, a judge sentenced her to 30 years in prison for the crime, which was reduced to 15 years due to her pleading guilty.

However, Ms Nobanda claims she was the victim of a scam.

She said a friend convinced her to travel to Brazil to buy "hair chemicals" to sell in her home country.

When she arrived, she was told

that the real reason for the trip was to smuggle drugs for a gang of Nigerians, according to South Africa's *Times Live* newspaper.

She was told the men were "very brutal" and if she refused, she could be killed.

"We were to swallow the drugs wrapped up in condoms so that when we got to the point where we had to deliver [them] we could just eject them from our bodies at the toilet.

"I cried and said I could not swallow the [stuff]. I was vomiting but I was forced to try," she told the paper.

They then hit on the idea of hiding the drugs in her hair, she said, an act that ended in her being arrested on arrival at Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok.

Dems claim Thaksin offered deal

A POLITICAL row has broken out over claims by former Democrat Party secretary general Suthep Thaugsuban that Thaksin Shinawatra tried to persuade the party to join the government coalition.

Mr Suthep said he was approached on several occasions by intermediaries claiming to represent Mr Thaksin.

They invited the Democrat Party to join the current Pheu Thai-led government, he said, on condition the party allowed a controversial reconciliation bill and constitutional amendments through Parliament.

Mr Suthep said he turned down the offer and thanked the



Mr Thaksin. Photo: The Nation

senior liaison figures whom he said had good intentions towards the country.

But Pheu Thai figures claimed the story was pure fantasy.

The prime minister's secretary-general, Suranand Vejjajiva, said Mr Suthep "dreamed up" the claim, adding the government had no need to seek support from the opposition party to boost its stability. "Suthep is highly imaginative," he said.

Pheu Thai MP Kokaew Pikulthong, who is also a red-shirt leader, called a press conference to dismiss Mr Suthep's claim.

He said he had asked some people close to Mr Thaksin and they all denied that anyone had approached Mr Suthep. However, MP Kokaew admitted that he had not phoned Thaksin directly.



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Branding paradox set in paradise

MUCH has been said on the buzz-word topic of “branding” Phuket over the past year, but we would like to suggest that product substance and quality now be assigned a priority at least equal to, if not greater than, that of the packaging.

In these days of high-stakes mass-consumerism, branding is of course an effective device for companies wishing to make their products stand out, and for tourism destinations to define and promote themselves in the world’s travel markets.

As the word suggests, branding pre-dates mass marketing. It goes back to the days when ranchers began “branding” their cattle with red-hot irons in order to identify them as their own.

While the word “brand” may come from the ranching industry, perhaps the first true branding exercise goes way back to the Bronze Age, when Moses descended Mount Sinai with two stone tablets inscribed with the Ten Commandments.

It is sometimes forgotten that the first four of these dictates established what remains the most popular spiritual product on the block: monotheism. It would thus appear that these Commandments are assigned a higher priority than the ones most of us remember: Do not kill, commit adultery, covet thy neighbor’s (branded?) ox, and so on.

The branding element in Moses’ message was so compelling that taboos against having sex with children or family members couldn’t even crack the top ten. Food for thought.

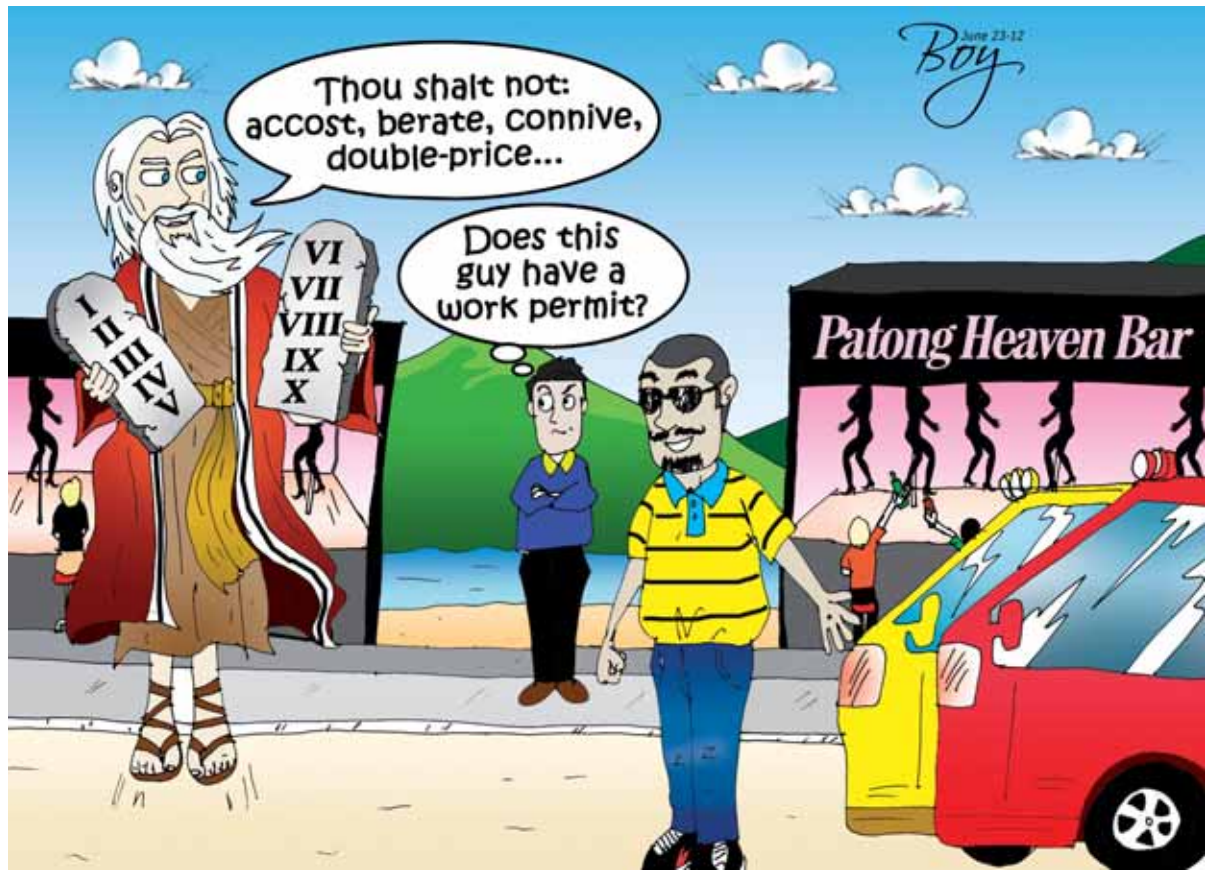
But getting back to our own little Promised Land, the best sobriquet anyone has yet to come up with for Phuket is “Pearl of the Andaman”. Maverick MP and massage parlor magnate Choovit Kamol recently warned us, however, that corruption is turning our island into the “Rotten Oyster” of the region.

Efforts to use “Phuket” in commercial branding have had limited success, at best. Phuket Island Lager, brewed in Bangkok, has been around for more than a decade, but still struggles for significance in terms of market share. And Bangkok-based carrier Phuket Air did the Phuket brand no favor at all when it was blacklisted for two years by the EU for safety reasons.

Phuket benefits little from the “Amazing” sloganeering of the Tourism Authority of Thailand, so perhaps we should pursue our own international campaign. A good first step might be to inculcate the proper pronunciation of the island’s name, as abuse, deliberate or otherwise, has been a source of much bawdy humor over the past 30 years, and well beyond our shores.

Maybe video imagery would help, something set to exotic Thai music, with a beautiful girl on a beach seductively blowing a kiss into the camera and whispering: “It’s pronounced Pooket.”

But no matter how slick one’s marketing ploys, it’s substance that calls the shots. Without terminating the ongoing desecration of Phuket’s natural beauty, “branding” becomes a buffoon.



Putting pressure on Phuket’s Press

Re: Gazette online, *Phuket Opinion: Corruption and the duality of man*, June 17

Democracy can’t survive without its Fourth Estate.

Corruption can’t be reformed without the press.

In Phuket, the media outlets strengthen government criminals through negligence.

No investigations are made of corruption; no actionable details are published. It is known that media-outlet owners can recite a litany of reasons for playing for the other team, but the truth is that they play for the other team.

Journalist
Gazette forum

Integrity of a name

Re: Gazette online, *Phuket Opinion: Corruption and the duality of man*, June 17

Oh, my goodness, what a silly comment [see above]. You obviously don’t live here [on Phuket].

The media here plays for their advertisers, and constantly – yes, daily – publish a barrage of complaints so trite as to be meaningless – all from disgruntled foreigners such your anonymous self.

Roger Bauman
Gazette forum

Aussie cries wolf

Re: Gazette online, *Aussie woman jailed for false rape report in Phuket, poisoning suspected*, June 15

You could tell from the initial story that something didn’t add up. I hope after the 15 days in prison she gets deported with a “never to return” stamp.

All this does is damage the already fragile tourism industry and affect any genuine cases against women in the future.

The Australian consul should also inform authorities in the woman’s home country of her

Letters to the Editor

Do you have an opinion to voice?
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actions and how bad it makes Australians look.

Jon Patong
Gazette forum

Wake up and smell the...

Re: Gazette online, *Phuket needs to clean up its act: V/Gov Chamroen*, June 15

What is wrong with flower sellers at junctions? If I want to buy a garland for my car, I find it much easier to buy it from these people.

They do not cause a problem. They do not hold up traffic.

They do not hassle people to sell. They are making a living, the best way they can.

If the vice governor wants to clean up Phuket, I would suggest starting with the tuk-tuks and taxis, instead of targeting inoffensive garland sellers.

Swerv
Gazette forum

Shed some light on the blackouts

Re: Gazette online, *Phuket blackout hits unsuspecting residents*, June 13

Any blowout in a transformer near the pier had nothing to do with this and yes, there have been many electric failures, too many, but overall the PPEA [Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority] is doing a good job.

They finished a section of cables between Soi Yodsane 2 and Soi Baanre in about six hours.

During the cut they went in to

Soi Yodsane and cleared tree branches that were too close to the cables. Good planning, as this power station supplies a big area, at least down to Rawai, and it is vulnerable and needs to be improved.

Overall, I wonder what stopped them from putting the cables underground.

I do not mind planned work as long as I am notified some days in advance. The *Phuket Gazette* used to provide a good service when it informed us about work that was on its way.

It would be very good if PG could establish a routine where the PPEA informs the paper about future work so that it can inform readers.

Jens in Soi Yodsane
Gazette forum

Poisoning concerns

Re: Gazette online, *Canadian sisters found dead in Phi Phi hotel room, poisoning suspected*, June 16

Five suspected deaths from poisoning in the space of a few years on a tiny island is cause for concern.

Well done *Gazette* team for bringing the news into the spotlight. Way too many deaths are covered up in Thailand, and honesty is the best policy with regards to crime and safety issues.

Tony
Gazette forum

Youth face tragedy

Re: Gazette online, *Phuket officials ramp up ‘child protection’ campaign*, June 14

Tragic to see such young kids being exposed to drugs.

Unfortunately, Phuket is full of temptations and also full of parents that don’t have time to take care of their kids... so it is an accident waiting to happen.

Bjarne
Gazette forum

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The merit in being an organ donor

FIRST PERSON

MANY Thai people who believe in reincarnation think that donating an organ after death may affect their body in the next life, such as being reborn without the organ they donated.

Making merit is a good thing, but to make a merit that can extend other people's lives is the biggest merit of all. Take my life, for example.

I was 20 years old when doctors told me I had renal failure. I was sick for six years and my family spent at least six million baht on treatment. Even though my father is a government officer, he couldn't claim any money to cover my medical bills.

My life is proof of "You get what you give." I've been donating blood since I was 16. The first time was while I was in Matthayom 4 (Grade 10) at Satee Phuket School.

While at college, I supported all kinds of Red Cross Society activities, not just by making blood donations, but also as the volunteer Master of Ceremonies for most events.

Then I found myself on kidney dialysis for six years.

I also had many painful treatments involving tubes going in and out of all sorts of different parts of my body, which were the most painful moments of my life.

A few times I even thought about killing myself, but whenever



Natchaya 'Amp' Suebsak is a 29-year-old, Phuket native. Oddly, she has two bachelor degrees in Communication Arts and is the owner of a chocolate shop in Phuket. She suffered from renal failure for many years until she underwent a kidney transplant. A presenter for the Thai Red Cross Society in association with True Corporation she shares her story with others to show them how being an organ donor can make all the difference in the world.

I thought of my parents and how hard they were trying to save my life, I couldn't really consider doing it. So I continued with the dialysis.

Then one day a miracle happened. At 2am the phone rang – it was the message I had been waiting to hear. The Thai Red Cross Society had found me a kidney donor!

I was so scared that surgery might go wrong and that I might not wake up.

But then I thought: if I survived the surgery, I'd get to take care of my parents and continue doing good things for society.

After that my fears just drained away.

Once I fully recovered, I was

contacted by True Corporation, who wanted me to be a presenter for the "Let Them See Love" campaign for the Organ Donation Center of Thai Red Cross Society.

It allows me to speak to hospitals, radio stations, newspapers and at seminars about the importance of organ donation.

I would invite everyone to donate blood now and organs after death. Because one human being's organs can help at least nine people.

I am so happy to be part of the campaign, and the best part is when I get to hear that my life story has inspired others to fight on. Now I feel that I'm giving something back to society.

Running the rat race



Only getting a carrot would metaphorically be the same as ending up back home, as a bald University of California lab rat. Photo: Jschoore

LIVING in Phuket is like being a lab rat, running on a wheel, after a piece of cheese that can never be reached. You are the rat, the cheese is Phuket (the fantasy version with a lounge chair and an umbrella drink on a private beach) and the wheel is your job.

Maybe some jobs, such as teaching English or being rich, come with enough time off to enjoy being in paradise, but speaking for myself, the fantasy Phuket is no more real than the lab rat's cheese.

As soon as you cross the bridge, a man in a white coat says, "Run on this wheel little rat or you can't have that cheese (pointing towards Phuket)."

So you run and run and still it doesn't get any closer. Everything is harder, things are more expensive and people are less friendly. Why? The cheese of course. If you want that cheese you'd have to make sacrifices just like everyone else.

Then the man in the coat says, "You've done so well little rat, but haven't you reached the cheese yet?"

"If you haven't reached it yet, you must give us some of your cheese or we can't let you run on

Island View

By Chris Hudson

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

the wheel," they say.

Saddened, the rat reaches into his tiny pocket and takes from it the last piece of cheese he possesses and hands it to the man in the coat.

What now?

Run.

Now the rat doesn't run for cheese; he runs for the memory of the cheese, and to be allowed off his spinning wheel.

Then, one day, a gap wears in the rat's wheel from all the running and he sees his chance. At a sprint the rat runs for the dangling cheese ahead.

Nearly there – he's almost got it.

Will he finally get the cheese? Will all this sacrifice have been worthwhile?

Splat.

Oh no. Motorbike and no helmet?

"That's why we always keep them on the wheel," says one lab-coated man to another.

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

When you find your 'lost' passport

A Thai friend of mine reported her new passport missing to the police, because she couldn't find it in her home. Later, she found it and applied for and was granted a Schengen visa to travel around Europe.

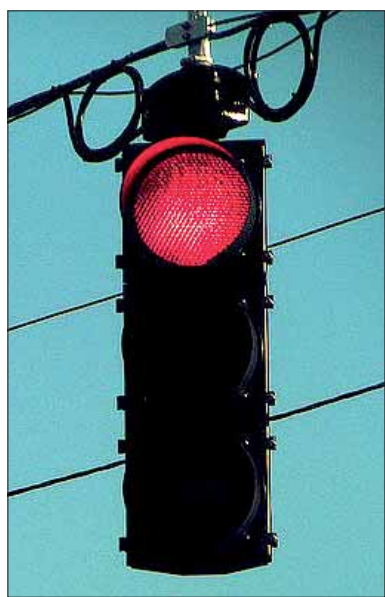
When she went to the airport she was denied boarding the aircraft by Immigration Police, because the police station that she had reported her passport lost to had blocked it.

Is it possible to make her passport valid again or does she have to apply for a new one?

Henrik Enevoldsen
Krabi

Benjapa Tubthong, Phuket Passport Office Chief replies:

When a passport is declared lost, it is blocked immediately to prevent crime or fraud. If you have not yet applied for a new passport, it is possible to have your 'reported missing passport'



Turn that passport 'red light' into a 'green light'. Photo: Raymond Brown

re-activated. To do this, you will have to return to the same police station and revoke your report. Then you must bring the new police document (stating that your former report has been revoked)

either to Phuket Passport Office or to the Department of Consular Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Thailand, Bangkok. So we can reactivate your passport.

Send us your queries and we'll ask the right people to respond to them.
Submit your issue at
www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

Still dry in Kata

For the past six months we have been forced to buy water from water tankers because the government water feed does not supply water on a regular basis.

The government water bill is still the same even though we have bought three to four tank refills at 250 baht each time.

When we made an inquiry, the government official said the water is being routed to Patong. Last year, we had no such issues. This story does not seem credible.

Kata No Nam
Kata Beach

Phuket Waterworks Authority Director Pisak Chonlayut replies:

In the Patong area, lots of accommodation, such as resorts, houses, hotels and apartments have been constructed recently.

We, the Phuket Waterworks Authority, have tried to meet the water demands of residents by supplying as much water as we possible can, but it still isn't enough.

I cannot tell you why the bill is still the same, because I've not been provided with enough information. It may be a problem with the supply or a problem with your water meter. I suggest you visit our office so we can resolve the matter.

You can ask our officers to check your water usage for the past 12 months and compare it with the 12 months previous to that. If there is a problem, then you can tell our office and request an inspection.

Our working hours are Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm. We can be contacted by telephone at 087-0120295 or 076-319173.

Vespa dealer to kick-start sales

While Japanese-branded motorbikes continue to dominate Thailand's roads, a faded-yet-familiar Southern European icon has reemerged on the scene. Building on a six-decade-old reputation of premium quality, Italy's Vespa is claiming a growing stake of Phuket's automatic scooter market. Steven Layne reports:

Market Penetration

DRAGO Andaman Company, Phuket's first and only authorized Vespa dealership, reported the sale of over 200 brand new scooters in 2011, the firm's inaugural year of operation.

"This year our sales target is 300," showroom Manager Supamat Thammakoranont told the *Gazette*.

The annual sales goal increase of 50% has already faced some bumps along the road, she admits.

"Up until the start of Quarter 2, we were selling 15 to 20 scooters per month. However, sales in the last few months has slumped by about 50%."

Mrs Supamat attributed the decline to a number of factors.

"The recent earthquake, as well as the start of tourism's low season, rainy season and [Thai] school term have all affected consumer decisions. With the economy slowing down, households are pinching their pockets more," she explained.

Nonetheless, Mrs Supamat said that she expects sales to pick up by Quarter 3, revealing that the dealership is planning some promotional activities this month.

"In addition to advertising in local media, we will open a sales and promotion booth at the main shopping complexes.

"Since Vespa is less known among the younger generation, one of our key objectives is to increase brand awareness and let people know that we are here," she said.

As the first and largest Vespa dealer in Southern Thailand, Drago Andaman's clients come mostly from Phuket, Krabi Ranong and Phang Nga.



CONTEMPORARY CLASSIC: Supamat Thammakoranont poses in the Drago Andaman showroom. Inset: Phuket Vespa club on a recent charity road-trip.

"We have had customers from as far as Satun and Pattani. This year new Vespa dealerships have opened in Haad Yai and Surat Thani, though we're still the main dealer in the South," she said.

Located along Wirat Hongyok Boulevard, near the Weekend Variety Market in Phuket Town, Drago Andaman's showroom stocks about 30 brand new Vespas – all post-2010 models.

Mrs Supamat said that the most popular colors among Phuket buyers include cream, white and black – though the showroom stocks Vespa's full color assortment.

As for price, 125cc and 150cc models have starting price tags of 89,000 baht and 114,500 baht, respectively.

"These two classes are assembled at a plant in Vietnam, though all the components are made and sourced in Italy. This [bina-tional production line] reduces costs for buyers by about 30%."

The showroom also stocks 300cc models. Produced and assembled entirely in Italy, these massive scooters sell for 310,000 to 345,000 baht.

Next to the showroom is a service center, equipped for routine maintenance, repairs, customizations and modifications of all newer models – though not for older ones.

"The main difference between new and old Vespas is the transmission. The new automatics are easier to drive and maintain when compared to older manual models.

Also, it is difficult if not impossible to source authentic spare parts for older models."

While engine technology of newer models has adapted with the times, the original selling point of Vespa scooters remains in tact.

After 65 years, its chassis is still constructed from steel.

Indeed, Vespa scooters have a reputation for being durable and can outlast the human lifespan – if looked after properly.

Asked about how Vespa positions itself against Japanese scooters, which cost half as much if not even less, Mrs Supamat clarified: "Vespa is a premium brand for people who care about quality and durability. People who buy Vespa are unique and want to be seen as different from other people," she said.

She added that the scooters are equipped with advanced anti-theft systems; its ignition key switch comprises a microchip that prevents duplicates from working.

With up to 80% of the scooters' assembly done by hand, the bikes are particularly reliable for the hilly terrain of Phuket.

Beyond sales and servicing, Mrs Supamat went on to talk about another integral strategy of the company: customer relations.

"We have created a small community among our clients – a sort of club if you will – for which we organize road trips. So far, we have gone to Pa Khlok, Phang Nga, Krabi and Khao Lak.

"At least 10 riders join each trip. While these trips are mostly for recreation, we also incorporate other activities such as charity fund-raising. Our next trip will be to Surat Thani in September," she concludes.

For inquiries, contact Miss Supamat of Drago Andaman by T: 076-522-340, or visit W: dragoandaman.com

Customs: more pleasure floating in

SPORTS and Leisure Vessels (SLV) clearing Phuket Customs are on the rise, with the respective boats' sizes, value and overall contribution to the national tax pool rising proportionately, raw data indicates.

According to Value Added Tax (VAT) receipts reported through May 31, Phuket Customs have so far collected 23.2 million baht from the import of 39 SLVs in the current fiscal year.

Import Revenue

The 2012 Thai Government fiscal calendar began on October 1, 2011 and will finish on September 30, later this year.

Worth an estimated 420.4 million baht, the SLVs imported have a combined weight of 1,299 metric tons, with the average weight

and value per vessel equating to 33.3 tons and 10.7mn baht, respectively.

In the previous fiscal year (October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011), VAT revenue from SLV imports totaled 19.9mn baht.

This came from the taxation of 31 vessels – in total weighing 715.3 tons, and worth an estimated 323.1mn baht.

With four months still remain-

ing in the fiscal year, the current annual rate of increase in the number of transactions (+25.8%), mean-weight (+44.7%) and mean-value (+2.8%) of the pleasure boats reflects the increasing importance of boating to Phuket's economy.

Indeed, this year's SLV imports, their combined weight and estimated value have already surmounted respective figures from each of the previous four years.

And though VAT revenue from such imports this year has already outstripped last year's total by 16.3%, it has not yet surpassed the amount collected in 2009 (25.1mn baht) and 2010 (26.4mn baht).

However, a new benchmark could likely be set in the remaining three months of the year.

Also, see yachting story on page 15. – Steven Layne



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Thai auto sales peak in May

SALES of automobiles in Thailand rose to 115,943 units in May, setting a new monthly sales record for the Kingdom's automotive industry since operations began more than 50 years ago.

The monthly sales volume had hit multiple record highs this year. According to year-on-year data compiled by Toyota Motor Thailand (TMT), auto dealers in the month saw an increase of 107.6%.

Of the total, passenger cars accounted for 55,983 units, which also set the new monthly

record for this segment, said Vudhigorn Suriyachantanant, TMT Vice President.

Compared to the same period last year, the volume spiked 137.5%.

"Since early this year, demand has been high, thanks to the popularity of new models and government's support. This, combined with the fact that production has resumed to normal capacity, has spurred the market," he said.

Commercial vehicle sales also increased on year in May by a

massive 85.8% to 59,960 units.

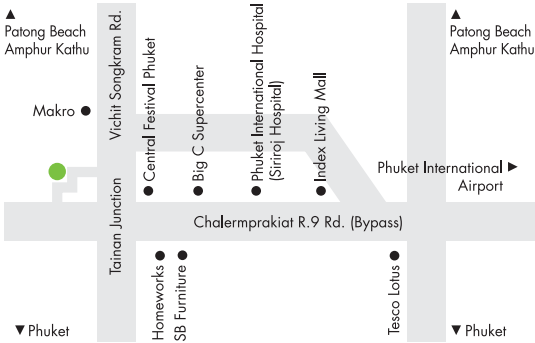
In the first 5 months of 2012, aggregate sales volume hit 483,052 units, up 33.5% on year. Passenger car sale volume increased 22.6% and commercial vehicle sales volume rose 42.2%.

"The growth momentum continues in June, as all plants resume normal operations. This facilitates product delivery. Despite the turmoil in Europe, the Thai economy has witnessed no direct impact. But, we have to wait and see," Mr Vudhigorn said. – The Nation



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Get legal, get locked down



Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

LAST week I talked about the likely increase in the amount of spam being generated by botnets running on PCs here in Phuket. I don't have any numbers – nobody does – but Thailand's Internet Service Providers are getting blocked left and right by spam filters, all over the world.

The reason is simple. An enormous number of people in Thailand are running PCs that have been taken over by botnets, and 99 per cent of the people running infected PCs don't even know it.

Here's how to increase your chances of getting infected:

1. Run Windows XP. If you really want to dance with the devil in the pale moonlight, run a pirate copy of Windows XP. Yeah, even the "good pirate copies" that say they're genuine are susceptible.

2. Use Internet Explorer 6. It's like sticking a placard on your PC that says, "infect me".

3. Keep using an old version of Flash, or Adobe Acrobat Reader. About two years ago, Flash and Reader became the number-one "vector" for PC infections: right now, more PCs are infected via Flash and Reader than all other exposures combined.

Last August, Avast published the results of a six month study that found 74 per cent of the rootkit infected machines they scanned were running pirate copies of Windows XP. (Rootkits are infection programs that run "underneath" Windows and are thus very hard to detect and remove.)

Minimizing your chances of being infected is easier than you think – and it doesn't need to cost

you anything, if you have a genuine copy of Windows.

The vast majority of PCs in Phuket are running pirate copies of Windows – even the PCs sold by the leading computer shops come with pirated Windows, despite you asking for a real copy when you bought the PC.

I've heard of many, many people who brought PCs to Thailand, took them to a repair shop, and had them returned with pirate copies of Windows installed. For no apparent reason, the repair people took it upon themselves to blast away a good copy of Windows and replace it with a counterfeit one.

If you think there is any chance you have a pirate copy of Windows, take these steps:

Step 1: Click Start, right-click Computer (or My Computer) and choose Properties. At the bottom you'll see if the copy of Windows you have has passed 'Windows Genuine Advantage'. Even if the notice says you have a "Genuine" copy, you don't necessarily have a genuine copy. Keep going.

Step 2: Get rid of your old antivirus software and install Microsoft Security Essentials (MSE). It's free, fast, and very accurate – and you'll never be bugged to pay for antivirus again.

Bonus #1: If you can install MSE, you have a close-enough-to-genuine copy of Windows.

Bonus #2: MSE catches many rootkits that other AV products miss.

Step 3: If you have got MSE installed, download and run Windows Defender Offline (WDO). That's the only tool I know that can find and disinfect most Windows rootkits. You can't run WDO from inside Windows, it has to be run outside. Full instructions



OH, THE SHAME AND IGNOMINY: The cheaper the skate the fishier the smell.

on the Microsoft site. Warning: in rare cases I've heard of WDO wiping out pirate copies of Windows. Back up your data before you run it.

Whether you have a pirate copy of Windows or not, here's what you can do to protect yourself:

Step 1: Download and install Internet Explorer 8, if you're running XP, or Internet Explorer 9, if you're running Vista or Windows 7. You should download and install the latest version of IE, even though I don't recommend that you run it – I recommend Firefox or Chrome. See the next step.

Step 2: Download, install and use either Firefox or Chrome. Both are free. Personally, I'm using Chrome more and more these days. They both co-exist with IE with no problem, and neither is as susceptible to active infections as IE.

Step 3: Don't use Adobe Reader. Download and install Foxit PDF reader. It works almost as well, and doesn't have as many security problems.

Step 4: If you use Firefox or IE, get Flash updated to the latest version. Chrome has a Flash player built in and sandboxed – one of the main reasons why I use Chrome over Firefox these days.

Step 5: Get Windows and your Microsoft applications up to date. Click Start, Programs (or All Programs) and near the top click Windows Update or Microsoft Update. Follow the instructions to download and install all of the current updates.

You may have to re-boot your

machine several times, and you may have to go back to the Windows Update app several times to get them all installed.

I keep a running series of recommendations about Microsoft Update at AskWoody.com, and I tell people when to patch and when to hold off. But if you haven't patched Windows in the past few months (or years), it's much more

And, if you are running a pirate copy of Windows, for heaven's sake, get a real one. There are lots of corners you can cut in the PC industry, but that isn't one of them. I've been recommending for almost three years that people install Windows 7 on any PC other than old laptops (which can't handle it).

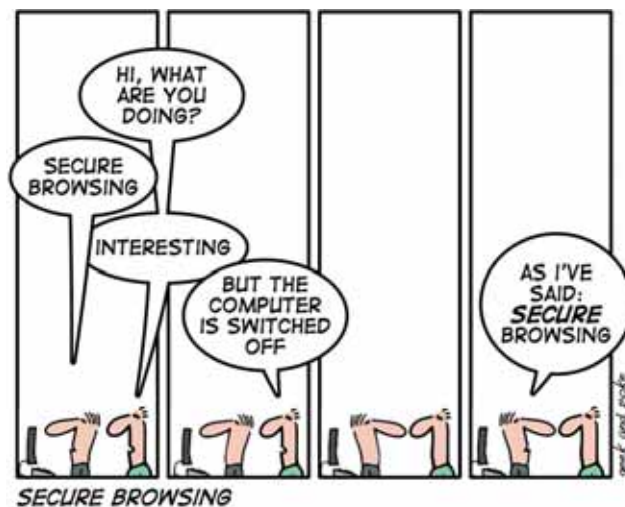
If you have friends in North

America or Europe, they can buy copies of Windows 7 Home Premium for \$50 or less, in three packs, and about \$100 for single packs.

The cheapest copies of Windows 7 I've found in Phuket are at SuperCheap, but there are many alternatives, and they aren't a whole lot more than 3,500 baht.

Do yourself and your PC a favor, and get legal, at least with

Windows, OK?



important that you get patched up now.

After you're caught up, follow my site for recommendations about when to install Microsoft patches and when to hold off.

Step 6: Download, install and religiously use Secunia PSI. PSI scans your computer constantly and figures out if there are updates for any of your programs.

Optionally, it will automatically install all of the latest updates. Free, and it's worth its weight in gold.

These are the simple, basic steps that every Windows user needs to take, to keep their PC protected. While there are lots of fancy things you can do, just following these steps should ward off the vast majority of problems.

Seth Bareiss holds computer sessions every other Wednesday afternoon, from 1pm 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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Boating industry starting to show signs of recovery

Following the abolition of excise duty on sports and leisure vessel imports in 2004, the local marine industry has flourished. However, economic turmoil in Europe and the US has had dire impacts on the prosperity of this otherwise lucrative industry.

THE yachting sector is showing signs of recovery following a three-year-period of stunted growth and sluggish sales brought on by global economic turmoil, a local industry expert has observed.

"Despite what some figures indicate [see 'Customs: more pleasure floating in' on page 12], it seems to me that our strongest years in terms of sales were from

2006 to 2008," says Tony Nixey, owner and Managing Director of Go Boating Thailand Co Ltd.

During this period the marine market was developing strongly in Thailand as boaters were keen to take advantage of the reduction in import duties to 0%, a policy implemented early in 2004.

"The strong global economy during those years resulted in

many pleasure boat sales in Thailand. We did not have to try hard to sell during that time as buyers simply walked in the office with cash and asked 'how much?'" he recalled.

"2009 saw the start of the world wide economy down-turn and sales of smaller boats was the first [segment] to be effected.

"The average guy who previously could afford [boats worth] US\$ 150,000 [approximately 4.7 million baht by today's exchange rates] simply disappeared over night.

"The risks became greater and people were just not ready to spend as much on luxury items... and with political problems leading to the closure of the airport in December 2008, people simply put off investing here," he explained.

Tony observed that from 2009, there was an influx in Phuket of cheaper craft from the USA where private owners and dealers were slashing their prices to clear stock.

"This not only helped kill off the new boat dealerships, but also affected the local resale value of boats on the used mar-



ALL ABOARD: The ninth annual Phuket Raceweek (see back page) is one of the events that puts Phuket on the map.

kets," he said.

Tony went on to note that 2011 saw a rise in investment from the high-end segment in larger Superyachts, with the trend still upwards.

"The average length and value of a superyacht is increasing year on year. The top end is very buoyant right up to the current date. Gulfcraft for example now have 7 Superyachts, ranging from 105 to 135 feet, under construction and most of these were ordered in 2011 and 2012," he said.

The midrange sector, referring to boats from 50 to 80 feet long is also beginning to recover.

However, such recovery is not all due to the strength of buyers, but mainly to deals that the manufacturers have offered in their drive to keep stock and production moving, he notes.

"Buyers today are whole different bunch from those in 2005 through 2009. Nowadays the first thing a buyer asks when coming into the office is: 'How much discount will you offer?'"

The small boat market, refer-

ring to vessels under 40ft, is also showing signs of recovery in 2012, Tony says.

"The industry cannot survive with only the top-end selling. It needs the bottom-end to be moving to bring new buyers and 'new blood' into the industry, whom later may become buyers of larger yachts and properties in Thailand.

"The trend is still upwards, and I'm seeing the small boats come back on line. Thankfully the current markets are getting stronger for new boat sales.

"We are still not out of the woods yet, though, as many manufacturers are still finding things tough. And with the Euro [financial and economic] issues, some European boats could simply disappear, as they have done Stateside, or be bought up by overseas investors such as [those from] China.

"The marine markets and industry have been through a tough time and we are all looking for a rosier future," he concludes.

— Steven Layne

The brighter side of the Euro crisis

Island Investor

By Anthony Lyman

IN AN attempt to avoid sounding like a broken record, I think it is prudent to look at the positive aspects of the current European financial anguish.

To use complex financial terms: the banks were hammered, markets took an almighty hit and in the words of Dad's Army's own Corporal Jones, "Don't panic".

However, one man's woes are another man's opportunity. As of today, there are certainly some attractive-looking European stocks, since they are becoming very cheap.

As many Euro Zone politicians remain in limbo regarding their next move, the usual doom and gloom remains. There seems to be a whole range of conflicting interest groups within Europe.

In times of financial panic investors flock towards safety, and it is no surprise that if we look at U.S and UK Government Bond yields, they are heading towards all-time lows as many investors seek to sit on the financial fence before regaining their appetite for stomaching more risk.

That said, if you have an investment timeline of 5-10 years, it is unlikely that you would regret buying into the markets, as many valuations of European

stocks are looking cheap. However, to do this you would need to be able to take a significant level of risk, which obviously is not for everyone.

When making investment decisions there are several factors to take into account. If we look at price-to-earnings ratio's, Europe is now cheaper than it was in March of 2009 – considered the epicentre of the financial crisis.

Panic might seem sensible, but, "the macro backdrop always looks awful when the market is this cheap. There are no such things as toxic assets, only toxic prices."

No doubt current market volatility presents significant opportunities for short-term trading, however, as with all investments a long-term view should always be employed. Right now may be a perfect time to jump off the fence and take up the reins.

One thing I'll be doing is waiting for the outcome of the election in Greece, as this will either add more uncertainty to the markets or give the markets a much needed boost. If you have got the guts then there are some very attractive propositions to be had.

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

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The truth about dengue fever

Phuket's top doctor cautions people to protect themselves.

A PROMINENT Phuket doctor has warned residents to protect themselves from dengue fever, also known as "break-bone fever", by removing all sources of stagnant water from around their homes and minimizing exposure to mosquito bites.

According to the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC), dengue (pronounced *den' gee*) is a disease caused by any one of four closely related dengue viruses. All are transmitted to humans via the bite of an infected mosquito. In Phuket, this mosquito is most commonly the *Aedes aegypti*.

Dr Wiwat Seetamanotch, Deputy Chief Medical Officer at the Phuket Provincial Health Office (PPHO), told the *Gazette* that dengue fever cases have increased dramatically since the beginning of this year.

Nationwide, the number of

patients now totals 11,202. Although Phuket remains a safe zone, Dr Wiwat said, people here should not forget to protect themselves.

"We haven't recorded any dengue outbreak zones in Phuket, but I want people in every area to be aware of how dangerous this fever can be. Since the fever is caused by a virus transmitted by the *Aedes* mosquito, it is best to protect yourself from being bitten in the first place," Dr Wiwat suggested.

The onset of the rainy season coincides with an increase in the prevalence of mosquitoes, which vector the dengue virus. Infection rates are typically higher during this time.

"Mosquitoes lay their eggs above the waterline in a container, then, a rainfall or irrigation

event adds water above the existing level and the eggs hatch. Development to adulthood takes approximately 7-20 days, depending on food and temperature conditions," Florida-based entomologist, Michael Hudon, explained. According to the

CDC, dengue is endemic in many parts of the tropics and subtropics; it occurs annually during the season

when *Aedes* mosquito populations are high. These areas are also at periodic risk of epidemic dengue, when large numbers of people become infected during a short period.

"I would suggest that people avoid being bitten by mosquitoes, cover open water containers with lids, change the water in containers frequently and flush out stagnant water collected in drains," Dr Wiwat added.

There is no specific medication for treatment of a dengue infection, according to the CDC's publication on the Epidemiology of Dengue. Persons who think they have dengue should rest, drink plenty of fluids, and consult a physician.

If they feel worse (vomiting and severe abdominal pain) in the first 24 hours after the fever declines, they should go immediately to the hospital for evaluation.

"Symptoms of dengue, which usually present within five or six days of exposure, typically starting with fever. Symptoms can include severe headache, joint and muscle pain, diarrhea, vomiting, skin rash (may appear over the body 3-4 days after the onset of

"There is no specific medication for treatment of a dengue infection"



SQUASH FIRST, CHECK LATER: *Aedes aegypti* mosquitos carry the potentially deadly dengue virus. Photo: Matti Parkkonen.

fever) and bleeding from the nose, mouth, gums and under the skin," Dr Wiwat said.

He advised those who suspect they may be infected to consult a doctor rather than try to self-prescribe medicine available at local pharmacies.

"Otherwise you won't know how much the virus has spread inside your body. It is best to check properly," he concluded.

"This year from January to May 2012 there were 180 recorded cases of dengue in Phuket, with only one death. Throughout the whole nation there were 11,202 recorded cases and 8 deaths over the same period," said Ms Arunee Suphanam, Chief of the Department of Disease Prevention and Control at the PPHO.

"For comparison, for all of last

year in Phuket there were 225 recorded cases, with no deaths. During the same period, nationally, there were 29,759 patients

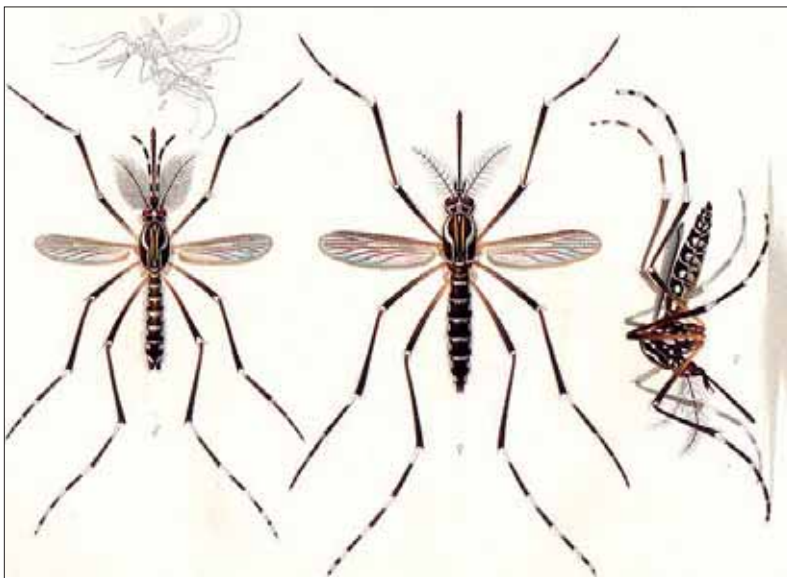
with no resultant deaths."

Installing mosquito screens, wearing long-sleeved clothing and spraying exposed areas of the skin with a repellent are the best ways of avoiding dengue.

Typically, the more active the ingredient a repellent contains, the longer it will provide protection from mosquito bites.

"Avoid dengue at all costs," advised one *Phuket Gazette* reader, aged 48. "I had it about 10 years ago and it almost killed me. I have been through a lot of medical problems during my years, but for a complete package of misery, dengue fever is very hard to beat."

— *Phuket Gazette*



KNOW THY ENEMY: The male *Aedes aegypti* (far left) with two females, (center and far right). Top left; a flying pair. Image: Emil August Goeldi.

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TIPS FOR AVOIDING DENGUE FEVER

*** THE BEST WAY TO AVOID **DENGUE FEVER** IS TO AVOID BEING BITTEN BY MOSQUITOES THAT TRANSMIT THE DISEASE.

- 1 Tourists visiting Phuket or Thailand should protect themselves by wearing loose fitting, long-sleeved clothing, including a shirt, pants, shoes and socks. This kind of mosquito is a notorious ankle biter, so cover your ankles.
- 2 Apply insect repellent to your clothes or exposed parts of the body, especially when traveling to Dengue Fever endemic areas (places known to have infection).
- 3 Place a mosquito coil near windows or at the entrance to where you stay. Use a mosquito net if your room doesn't have air conditioning.
- 4 Choose a mosquito repellent that contains either DEET or Picaridin. Picaridin will not affect plastics the way that DEET does.

AND

- Dump the standing water near your home, which mosquito larvae grow in. These mosquitoes don't fly far from where they are born. They can usually be found breeding in containers within 15 meters of where you're being bitten.



Given the chance of his young life

By Chris Hudon

IMAGINE that you are thirteen years old and school just isn't your thing. Your mother lives with her new boyfriend in another province and you've been in trouble quite a bit lately – understandably so.

Now imagine that amidst this unstable period of your early life, someone offers you the chance that many poor Thai boys dream of – to train professionally in Muay Thai.

You won't have to pay for the training, you'll even earn money (some of which you're expected to give to your mother) and your boarding will be paid for by the gym. Best of all, it's in Phuket.

This was the offer made to Witsanu "Nong Arm" Mamohchoke, now 14 years old, and the latest addition to Phuket Top Team (PTT) Gym in Chalong. Called "Yoduman" by his trainers, Nong Arm is from a province in Isaan near the Laos border. He has been training professionally at Phuket Top Team for 3-4 months.

It's important to give some background. Phuket Top Team does not force Yoduman to fight nor is he the youngest professional fighter in Thailand today.

In traditional Thai gyms, it is sometimes customary for training camps to take on poor children who've chosen to pursue Muay Thai as a career, instead of the

schooling they often times cannot afford.

To this end, gyms may act as what we would think of in the West as a boarding school. The gym assumes all responsibility for taking care of the fighter and pays for his housing, meals, medical bills and training.

What is interesting about the situation between Yoduman and Phuket Top Team, is that this kind of arrangement is being conducted between a foreign-owned gym and a young Thai fighter – certainly not the norm.

"He's basically living like an adult now in his own bamboo apartment [on site] with another kid who's 16 years old. He's fighting regularly – it's a full-time job," says Phuket Top Team owner Boyd Clarke. "We've had four different kids come through and out of all of them he's been here the longest and seems the most passionate about it."

Yoduman says he enjoys his time at Phuket Top Team, although it is sometimes difficult. He trains six days per week, running early in the mornings and resting only on Sundays. To date, Yoduman has had four fights, with a record of three wins and one loss.


"He wants to be a champion and has told the other trainers that he'd like to fight outside of Phuket. As a young kid, I guess he doesn't know exactly what he wants but one thing that he does know is that he's getting paid," said Mr Clarke.



NOT YOUR AVERAGE BAG BOY: Yoduman is eclipsed by the size of the bags he trains with.



Yoduman works the pads with Kru Daeng during training at Phuket Top Team. Photo Chris Hudon

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IT SEEMS a while since I have written about steak and, as with all self-respecting carnivores, my need to seek out some rare meat returns as surely as does the full moon. So when I heard through the jungle drums the magic word 'Chateaubriand' my hunger for quality meat returned.

Chateaubriand is not a castle that belongs to a brigand but a way of preparing and cooking tenderloin steak named after François-René de Chateaubriand, a French writer, politician, diplomat and historian who died in 1848. Despite the actual cooking being done by his personal chef, Montmireil, the vicomte's name is now synonymous with this delicious meat. Chateaubriand is also considered the founder of Romanticism in French literature and 'romantic' is definitely a word that would describe the setting at Dewa's Terrace Grill. Unfortunately for this writer, however, the only thing I desired this evening was on a plate, as I was accompanied only by a grizzled male French cameraman-friend who also could not resist the call of those drums.

We both arrive just in time to see a magnificent sun setting into the sea and almost immediately a cooling sea breeze picks up. The open air terrace is located on the edge of the national park and is about as tranquil as it gets nowadays in Phuket. It is a Friday night and those drums were correct because Friday is 'Chateaubriand For Two' night – hence my French partner. We both forgo any appetizers, even though there is a wide section of buffet starters, and get

On the Menu

By Marc Mulloy

"Chateaubriand is also considered the founder of Romanticism in French literature and 'romantic' is definitely a word that would describe the setting at Dewa's Terrace Grill".

our order in straight away: one 420 gram grain-fed Chateaubriand for two, medium rare (1,850 baht). There is a wide range of side dishes to choose from and we plump for a baked potato, creamed spinach and sauteed mushrooms. For sauces we choose both Mushroom and Béarnaise (a sauce made of clarified butter emulsified in egg yolk and flavored with herbs). Béarnaise is considered to be an offshoot of Hollandaise sauce, one of the five sauces in the French *haute cuisine* sauce repertoire. The only difference is in their flavoring: Béarnaise uses shallots, chervil, peppercorn, and tarragon, whereas Hollandaise uses lemon juice. Incidentally the name is related to the province of Béarn in France where part of my family's ancestry comes from.

Bread is provided to mop up these sauces and is cleverly cooked inside an earthenware cup at their own bakery "Bread and Butter" located just under the res-

taurant. There is also a choice of two ground peppers, served in mini-pestles, and three flavored salts to spice up the night.

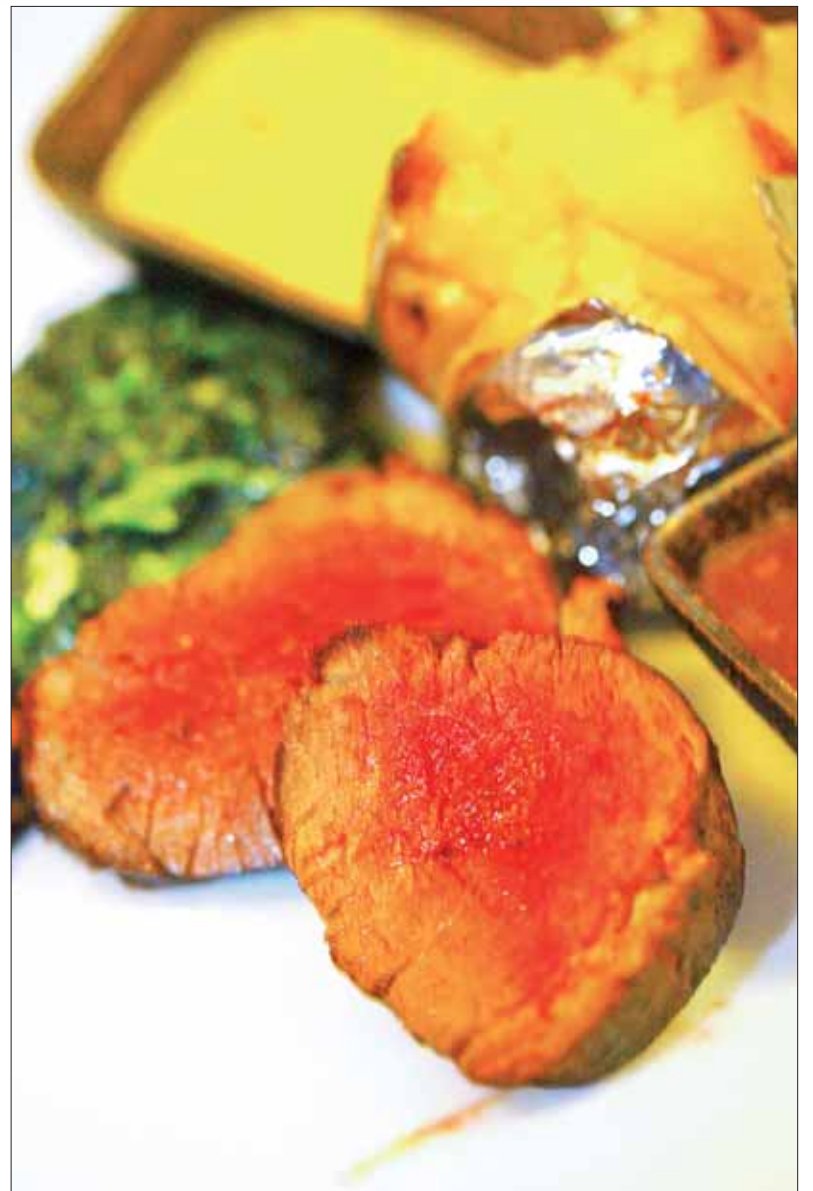
Dewa has a large selection of wines and F&B operations manager, Michel Bachmann, suggests we try a merlot. The wine he proposes is a 2008 Chateau Pey la Tour (2,250 baht) a Bordeaux Superieur, which, by the way, means 'upper' Bordeaux and not 'superior' as was suggested to me once by an Englishman. Michel is right, this wine was made to be drunk with a Chateaubriand. There are also wines by the glass at 330 baht.

Now to the music. There is a jazz trio, called ironically enough "Jazz Trio" who play excellent jazz standards unobtrusively in the corner every Friday and Saturday night adding to the casual, classy atmosphere of the place.

A few more couples drift in and by the time the meat arrives I note that there are eight couples altogether dotted around the airy terrace whispering to each other. Pretty soon the velvet sounds of a muted trumpet and the velvet wine work their magic and I find myself wishing that my wife were next to me instead of a hairy Frenchman.

We end the evening on a sweet note with my colleague tempted by a baked mango on puff pastry with ginger and Grand Marnier (150 baht) while I devour their signature dessert: a dark chocolate mousse with candied Thai chili (180 baht). One of the advantages of not having my wife with me is that I can actually have a dessert.

So there you have it. Dewa has the perfect romantic setting for a Chateaubriand for Two and if the romantic evening is a great success there are even hotel rooms conveniently located just a short walk away from the table. If, on the other hand, it all goes horribly wrong it is good to know that the airport is only five minutes away.



LOVE ME TENDER: One portion of the delicious Chateaubriand for two.



PUFF PIECE: Baked mango on puff pastry with ginger and Grand Marnier.

Dewa Phuket Resort is situated at 65 Moo1, Tambon Sakoo Road near Phuket International Airport and Nai Yang Beach.

Dewa Terrace Grill is open every day from 6-11 pm. Reservations can be made on T: 076372300 or E: reservation@dewaphuket.com.

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AND THE BAND PLAYED ON: The Jazz Trio even take requests as long as they fit the mood.

Pullman's pulling power

The soon to open Pullman Phuket Arcadia recently launched a mass recruitment campaign to staff the 277 room hotel. The 43 year old General Manager, Brett Wilson, took time out of his busy schedule to talk with the *Phuket Gazette*.

Phuket Gazette: What is your background in hospitality and why choose Phuket?

Brett Wilson: I've worked in the hospitality industry since I was 18 years old with the InterContinental Hotel Group for many years – from the Maldives to China, then with Anantara where I spent almost 18 months in Bangkok before moving to Accor when I heard of an opening in Phuket. Phuket is really where I've always wanted to be as my wife and I got engaged here and we've had our first child in January. We love Bangkok but, from a lifestyle perspective, coming to Phuket just seemed so right for us.

PG: Tell me a little about Pullman Phuket Arcadia brand.

BW: It's a brand new opening in October of this year and this is new brand for Phuket and probably the newest brand coming from Accor. There are 65 hotels worldwide at the moment, expected to grow to 150 by 2015. The Pullman brand seems to fit well in Asia and is definitely a lifestyle brand.

PG: How do you define the Pullman style?

BW: I would say 'young at heart' even though our target age group is probably from 35 through to 70. You've seen our tagline 'New attitude hotels by Accor' and I think our hotel is trying to become one of the best hotels in Phuket. It's hard to define but we want our customers to find in us the answer to a certain desire as to how a hotel should be – with a certain edge. We want Pullman to be

almost a buzz-word that represents a different experience with a focus on the guest. This is why we prefer to employ people with a great attitude rather than experience. The latter can be taught. We want the best for our staff, our guests and for our owners. Everything we do focuses on these three elements and tries to align them.

PG: In order to find these people you launched this huge recruitment campaign. Tell us how that is going.

BW: When I sat down with my Human Resources team I knew we had to do things differently and we decided on a mass recruitment. Normally when you recruit someone you ask what they can do for you but here we wanted to show what we could do for them. We created a few areas here with a touch of 'Pullman' so that people could feel an emotional attachment to what we are trying to achieve and a desire to join us. Hopefully we create an energy so that people go out and spread the word. We need to hire 222 people for our opening and hope to build that up to about 330 staff as the hotel expands.

PG: Looking at all the applicants here today, you seem to have attracted many more than that. Will you keep the applications for the future?

BW: One of the great things about the Accor as a company, is that we have other hotels opening so we'll try to support our sister hotels after we've made our choices.



BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME: Pullman Phuket Arcadia's Australian GM used the Häfele Design Center to organize a massive two-day recruitment drive. Photo: Marc Mulloy



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Young scribes come of age

Two Phuket students have won international recognition for their short stories in a regional writing competition. Here **Koji Maehara** and **Claudia Martin** explain their inspiration for writing and what the awards mean to them.

KOJI Maehara is a rare gem. Born in Tokyo on December 26, 2000, to parents who are both Japanese and non-native English speakers, he was taught to speak English before he learnt Japanese.

Although his mum does speak English as a second language he usually speaks Japanese with her at home but always English with his brother.

His proficiency in English has since grown in leaps and bounds, and he recently won a short-story writing competition at his school, the British International School, Phuket (BIS).

Little did his teachers know what glory would become of his essay, weekly titled *The Lonely Potato*. Koji's story placed third in the overall final of the primary school category of the Federation of British International Schools in South East Asia (FOBISSEA) short-story writing competition.

Young Koji, who joined BIS in Year 4, when he was eight years old, explained that his inspiration for the imaginative story struck him while "messaging around with a friend".

"I really enjoy being able to write in detail about something that doesn't have much to describe. That way I can write

about fewer things, but in a lot more detail," he said.

"I felt weird by writing about something that had no feelings as if it did have feelings!" he added.

As with many great writers in their early years, young Koji felt a sense of accomplishment on finishing writing his story, but felt

a w k w a r d about it being read in public.

"I felt happy when it was finished, but I was also embarrassed because I didn't want anyone to read it! But now I am very proud though!" he explained.

Like most good-quality pieces of writing, Koji's work took

time. "It took two weeks of literacy periods at school, which meant a total of three to four hours working on my story.

"I also spent a lot of time checking words, by using dictionaries and thesauruses. I did a lot of this in my own time and in class," he said.

As for winning his award, he said, "I am really happy and proud for my mum. She really wanted me to study in a British School."

Koji read and presented his story at the Year 6 graduation ceremony in the BIS school auditorium on June 20. He also received a trophy for his achievement.



Eleven-year-old Koji Maehara of British International School, Phuket.

The Lonely Potato

IN THE silent kitchen with no movement, there was a food basket. In that basket, sat a lonely egg shaped vegetable. He lay absolutely still, fitting in with the motionless surroundings, waiting to be admired. The marvelous thought of being tasted and the pleasant sounds of people's joy when appetizing food went into someone's mouth were irresistible.

He had seen his friends (The same kind of vegetable as him) taken to the dining table and them smiling with happiness as they entered pupils mouths. The UMMMMM'S!!!! And the AHHHHH'S!!!! The people that just ate them were licking their lips to taste the leftovers of the flavoursome food that had just gone down their throats.

But, the fabulous thought of this made him feel more and more jealous. Every time another vegetable that was not him was taken out of the vegetable basket to be eaten, it felt like an arrow was shot right through him, and the pain would last for a millennia. Then, his hopes would sink down lower into his body and he would feel as though it would fall out of his body and he would have no feelings.

As the long and dull days past, he felt like he was trapped in a film that was playing on the TV and the person that was watching the movie held down on the slow-motion button. Everyday just felt like a waste of time for him, just sitting there in a place where no one needed him. He would ask himself "Why am I here" and would repeat it over and over again.

And on top of all this, he knew that he couldn't stay in a healthy condition for long and that he would start to rot. Then, slowly his skin would turn moldy and wave after wave appalling smells would contaminate the air. People would never touch him if that happened!

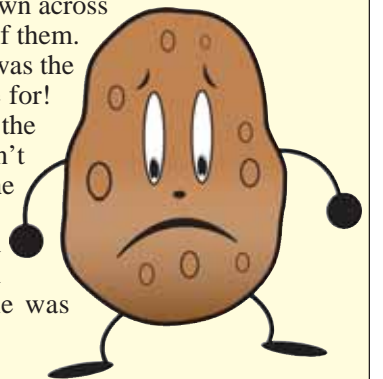
After another dreadful day, the sun came up from nowhere and the amazing light that it provides shone right through the window to mark the early morning. He looked around him and then he saw nothing! There were no vegetables except for him. The family would have to use him for their meal now!

Waiting for the meal that he was going to be included in was the last thing he wanted to do right now. Then, the sounds of people entered the kitchen room and shadows lay down across the patio floor. After that, instantly groups of people followed each one of them. Foot by foot, they trotted towards the dining table. Oh! I wish this meal was the last one in the day! I can experience something that I was meant to live for!

When the dishes were being cleaned and the table was clear of plates, the family happily walked out of the kitchen. He was so excited he couldn't control himself. He started jumping around in circles (Well, that's what he thought he was doing. Vegetables don't have legs so how can they jump???)

WOOSH! An arm wiped out him out of the basket and he soared through the air. He whizzed down to the ground. His body split apart in two halves. Yellow mushy squirted out from the inside. He knew he was finished. His heart broke apart as well.

"Oh look. A potato on the floor," a voice said.



'Child Soldiers' right on target

WHEN a 14-year-old writes about child soldiers in Sierra Leone, it tends to have an impact. Claudia Martin's short story had precisely that effect. Her story *Astray* reached the overall final of the secondary FOBISSEA short-story writing competition.

"I have a passion for writing anyway, but I was studying the theme of child soldiers in English class and I was really moved by it. I felt I had to write

something about it," she said.

Different stories take different strokes, and Claudia wrote her piece in just three hours. "But the research was roughly half a term's theme and I had to read books on the subject as part of class," she explained.

As for winning the award: "I certainly didn't expect it and I am very proud of it. My parents think it is great and they are very proud, too."



Claudia Martin, 14.

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Growing master of the visual art

WHEN considering what would be most appropriate to graphically represent the Phuket Gazette's editorial in support of the 28th National Youth Games held recently in Phuket – and hence dubbed the 'Phuket Games' – the Gazette thought nothing would be better than an image created by a young student in Phuket. Coming to our rescue was Peraya 'Nita' Kaykul (above, left), a student enrolled in the BIS Phuket International Baccalaureate (IB) programme.

When filing her image (above, right), published as the editorial cartoon featured on page 10 of the May 26 issue of the Phuket Gazette, young Peraya wrote: 'Sorry if the quality is not up to it.' Don't worry Khun Peraya, it's more than up to standard. The Phuket Gazette thanks you.

Daunting decisions

What Ex-pat parents should consider when selecting the right school for their children

By Lennard Kolthof

CHOOSING your child's school might be one of the most daunting decisions you ever have to make.

It might even be harder when living abroad, as educational standards that are common back home, may not be supported in the new country you're living in.

The first, rather difficult point you have to consider, is where your child will study, live and work when he or she gets older.

Are you here in Thailand for a few years or are you here with no plans to go back home?

These kinds of questions are important since they directly affect the curriculum your child should follow to increase their chances of a successful future.

If you are staying here for a couple of years and are planning to send your child to a school in your home country, then an international school is definitely the answer.

Make sure the international school you choose offers a student portfolio that is recognized all over the world, so that transitions between schools are easy and hassle free.

If you are planning to stay here but you want your child to study abroad or at an international university within Thailand, then an international school is also the

better option. It prepares your child for an international community. International schools usually follow a Western curriculum, with a world focus, plus additional Thai and foreign language/cultural classes.

Choosing a Thai (bilingual/English Program) school is an option if you're staying in Thailand and have no plans to move back to Western society. A Thai school may still offer English for the majority of subjects, but curriculum will be based on the Thai standard, in order to prepare your child for Thai society.

The second point to look at is the school's mission and vision statements. These inspiring statements should reflect the purpose of the school and its disposition towards education, learning and the school community.

Parents should investigate how this mission and vision has been put into practice at the school and its community. This is important since teaching and learning practices should be based on the school's mission and vision.

How this vision is realized will affect your child as a student and your role as a parent in the school community. During an intake session with the School Head or Head of Department, ask how their vision is put into practice and if you



THE GRADUATE: It may seem like a long way off, but thinking about where your child wants to be in 10 years is essential when making a decision about which school he or she should attend. Photo Will Folsom

are allowed to watch a class. Or better yet, ask if your child can have a trial run and join a class for the day.

The third point to look at is the amount of time instructing from textbooks. Teaching from textbooks immediately tells you that creative learning is taking place less than at schools with a fewer amount of textbooks (or even no textbooks at all).

Frequent use of textbooks creates a static, teacher-centered way of teaching (not learning). Exploring through using one's own creativity and independent thinking in a social setting is what you want for your child. Activity-based learning through exploration, in a strong social setting, is when children are most encouraged to learn. They use and expand their own skill set to the best of their ability. Thus, independence and creative thinking are

triggered.

The fourth point to look at is the facilities and the physical education (PE) program at the school. A vast amount of facilities are needed to support effective learning.

A fully equipped library with books from well respected publishers covering both fiction and nonfiction is a must, and it should be made available for parents to take reading home.

All classrooms should have an interactive white board so that learning in classrooms is taken a step further.

What about display boards in and around the classroom?

Children's work should be displayed so that they can see how they have progressed, feel proud and show parents when they are visiting the school.

Children should enjoy weekly

swimming periods at the school's age-appropriate swimming pools, as swimming is a great physical activity and a very important skill.

When choosing a school ask: "Are children offered sports and how many PE sessions per week?"

Is there appropriate PE equipment and is there a covered PE/activity field to protect the children from the elements?

Obviously it is difficult to envision where your child will or would like to be a decade from today.

However, it is possible for you as a parent/guardian to influence your child's chances at a positive future, if you look for the right things.

Lennard Kolthof is currently finishing his Master's in Education and is the Marketing Coordinator at Kajonkiet International School Phuket and a Physical Education instructor.

If ever a wiz there was



NEVER MIND THAT MAN BEHIND THE CURTAIN: From left: Suttipon Rattana as the Wizard of Oz and Alicia Debrot as Dorothy in the scene where Dorothy arrives at the Emerald City and confronts the Wiz.

KAJONKIETSUKSA International School (KIS) Phuket is re-vamping an American classic – giving the Wizard of Oz a new twist for today's audiences.

Although the play draws largely from the 1939 film starring Judy Garland, the KIS production is arranged in the style of oratorio.

There will be two narrators, one of whom is the Wiz himself. Dialogue is taken from the wizard's memories of a failed career and the story unfolds as he looks back.

Parents and the community will be able to see children perform in a family-friendly show.

"I'm looking forward to playing the part of the Tin Man, especially when I get to freeze and go rusty," said Marley, a Year 4 student.

The play opens on June 28 at 9:30am, with another performance on the same day at 3pm. The finale will be at 6pm on June 29. All showings are in the main hall of the new KIS building in Kathu.



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Heartbreak's hardest road

RECENTLY I reviewed a pair of books – *The Lifeboat* and *The Starboard Sea* – by a pair of first-time female novelists that were competent enough in terms of prose and plot but sorely lacking in characterization. In a word, they lacked heart.

Scott O'Connor's *Untouchable* (Tytus Books, Blue Ash, Oklahoma, 2011, 381pp) is chock full of heart: that rich emotional identification with a character that arises from inhabiting that person from the inside out. The grief and fears of a motherless child become yours too.

"Here he comes, Whitley Earl Darby, commonly known as The Kid, big head, big feet, spindly body, the whole contraption threatening to tip over at any moment as he navigated the buckled sidewalk, read-

justed the weight of his overlarge backpack. Here comes The Kid, make room, make way. Don't get too close. Known to have germs, cooties, bad breath, B.O. Known to be diseased, known to be contagious."

The Kid is eleven years old and the pariah of his schoolroom class,

Books

By James Eckardt

persecuted ruthlessly by bullies, always on the alert for flight. He shares a small rundown house in a bad neighborhood in Los Angeles with his depressed, grief-stricken father. The two live on fast food.

According to the father, the mother collapsed one day while teaching her high school history class. The Kid doesn't believe him. Influenced by his only friend,

Matthew Crump, son of militant fundamentalist Christians, he swears a covenant not to speak until his mother returns home. He communicates by notepad. He's also a comic book artist, creator of *Extraordinary Adventures* featuring boy wonder Smooshie Smith.

"Smooshie was the most popular talk show host in the history of TV because he had a time machine that let him go back and forth through the years and interview all sorts of people."

When his mother was still alive and he was still speaking, he also had his own imaginary TV interview show called *It's That Kid!* Every episode was carefully preserved by his mother on cassettes.

His memories of his mother – cooking up a storm in the kitchen, cheering on her beloved LA Dodgers in Dodgers Stadium – are rendered in virtual prose poems.

His father is equally grief-stricken, a situation not helped by his job on a cleanup crew for exceptionally messy suicides and murders. He is further burdened by knowing the real cause of his wife's death. But he is capable of his own prose poem about growing up with his grandmother in the New Mexico desert. While working construction on a gated retirement community, he'd sneak in to be alone.

"He would find a filled pool and strip down to his underpants, lie on his back and float. Watching the tops of palm trees moving against the purple sky, feeling the warmth of the water, his skin taking on sun. When his ears bobbed under there was a rushing sound, a seashell roar, and when they came back about there was nothing, just the silence of the desert."

Then two things happen that jolt father and son out of their dis-

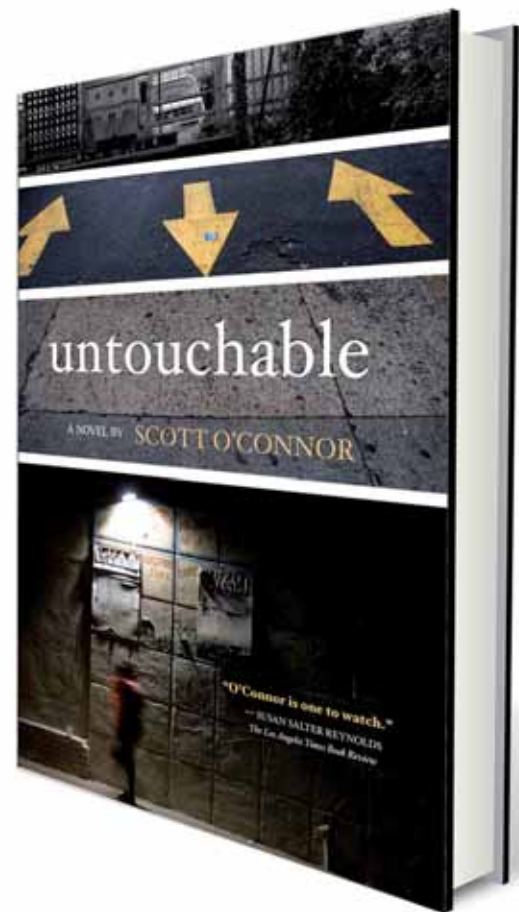
GRIEF ENCOUNTER: Scott O'Connor's father and son search through the dark realms of familial loss to find each other.

mal routines. The father rescues a huge half-mad dog that has been trapped in a nearby sewer. "The dog was a good idea," the father thinks. "The dog would forget the sewer; forget the pound, and then the dog would be fine, friendly and fine." Now, how to communicate with the dog?

The son explores a house that has recently burned down. Someone has left a ceiling-high pastel chalk mural of a red-haired angel in the charred living room, wings lifting up to the sky. The Kid takes

over the opposite wall to respond with his own crowded mural of everyday life, gradually gathering three companions from school and drawing them into this site of mystery.

Alone and together, father and son confront their loss and grief. They battle to find their voices and to reunite at last on the eve of the new millennium, beneath a desert sky. It's been a terrible but triumphant journey and the reader shares in their sense of redemption.



Laugh away the low season blues

On Stage

STAND-UP comedy comes back to the island on Wednesday June 27, when three star comedians take to the stage at the Holiday Inn Resort Patong for a night of fun.

Hailing from Canada, the UK and Scotland, respectively, Paul Myrehaug, Jeremy O'Donnell and Brian Higgins are currently touring Asia, also performing in Hong Kong, Shanghai and Bangkok.

Canadian Paul Myrehaug is used to world traveling. Just last month he was in Kuala Lumpur and in March he performed for the troops in Afghanistan and spent Christmas aboard the HMCS VANCOUVER, entertaining the crew as the warship sailed off the coast of Italy.

Scotsman Brian Higgins was a paramedic before taking up comedy. He has since gone on to earn plaudits for his anecdotal style including being described as the 'people's favourite comedian' by industry rag, *The Stage*.

The evening's compere, Jeremy O'Donnell, spends as much time writing for hit TV and radio shows as he does performing on stage. His mix of lightning



COMIC RELIEF: Paul Myrehaug, Brian Higgins and Jeremy O'Donnell will be performing at the Holiday Inn Resort, in Patong, next Wednesday.

fast one-liners and observational humor has made him an audience and critic favorite, both in the UK and abroad.

Tickets are available at outlets around the island at the early-bird price of just 960 baht each, including Woody's Sandwich Shoppes (Patong and Chalong), Shakers Patong, RPM Health Club at Royal Phuket Marina and from event sponsor the *Phuket Gazette*, at their offices on Thepkraassatri Road.

Tickets at the door will be 1,200 baht. However, host sponsor Holiday Inn Resort Patong is offering two very special pre-

booking deals.

The first offers a show ticket and dinner at Sam's Steakhouse for 2,400 baht per person. The second special includes the ticket, dinner and one night's accommodation in a Superior room at the Hilton for the incredible price of just of 8,550 baht per couple. Breakfast is included. To book, call 076 370 200 and ask for Morgan.

So, an Englishman, a Scotsman and a Canadian walk into the Holiday Inn Resort...

Want to know the punchline? Then come along on Wednesday June 27 at 8pm for the Phuket Punchline Comedy Night.

LIVE PHUKET PUNCHLINE COMEDY CLUB

Stand Up Comedy Show
27th June at 8pm

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THE PUNCHLINE COMEDY CLUB

Paul Myrehaug
"Dark, dry with an irrepressible charm" *The Toronto Star*
"Hilarious" *The Seattle Stranger*

Brian Higgins
"The people's favourite comedian" *The Stage*
"Daff but very funny." *The Guardian*

Jeremy O'Donnell
"Natural born comedian" *South London Press*
"Lightning fast" *Time Out*

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Dr Wiwat Seetamanotch

DR WIWAT Seetamanotch has a quick analytical mind, matched only by his quick actions. He hardly ever leaves things undone and there seems to be no 'pending' tray on his office desk.

Perhaps this explains why crisis management appeals to him, and why, in terms of personality at least, he appears to be the best man for the job.

As deputy chief of Phuket Provincial Health Office (PPHO), the fifty-three-year-old doctor was the brains behind the installation of Phuket's first Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT), a group of medical and technical personnel trained to deliver urgent medical treatment to people injured during a crisis.

The event that led Dr Wiwat to this field was none other than the 2004 tsunami when, while working at the PPHO and as director of Thalang Hospital, he witnessed how woefully unprepared Phuket was in terms of emergency medical assistance.

After the tsunami, Dr Wiwat went for disaster preparedness training in Sweden, Australia and Japan. He was most impressed by the Japanese model, which he thought could be adapted to suit situations in Thailand.

"Japan experiences about one-fifth of the world's earthquakes and as such has a well established crisis response system. The Japanese

THAI

gallery

By Nanthapa Pengkasem

people are great at improvisation and have an excellent, workable model."

In 2008, Dr Wiwat set about developing Thailand's first DMAT based on the Japanese model. Dr Wiwat built a capable team that included doctors, nurses and electrical and IT technicians. He even got the Thai Air Force involved and its personnel were trained in air evacuation techniques.

The Phuket DMAT are now able to deploy, move and set up a makeshift hospital in a matter of hours. They are also equipped to operate using their own generator and radio equipment.

The true 'test' came in 2010 when Had Yai was hit by the worst floods of this century. Dr Wiwat's team moved in and was lauded as by the national press.

The Phuket DMAT team also took part in medical assistance operations during the mudslide in Krabi and the prolonged flood in Ayudhaya last year.

Despite the success of Phuket DMAT, Dr Wiwat never rests on his laurels and the system, he says, is subject to constant revision and improvement for its

eventual application on a national level.

In his own words, Dr Wiwat is 'hyperactive' and it would be wrong to assume that DMAT is his only achievement.

"I am an analyst, I am constantly assessing crises."

His ongoing work includes helping transport police identify the cause of injuries and death in traffic accidents and working out solutions to help reduce them.

Dr Wiwat's *bonhomie* means that work never bores him. "I love my work," he admits, "and although I am a doctor, I think like a scientist. It's fun digging around to find solutions to problems."

While Dr Wiwat is having fun with his crisis management work, one thing he would like to see happen in his lifetime is support for Phuket people with disabilities and their caretakers. This, he says, is a project that is close to his heart.

For Dr Wiwat, that means: assessing situations, designing response packages, inspiring others to get involved and stepping back to monitor from a distance.

"I see myself as the water in a mixture of sand and gravel that eventually turns into concrete. From that lowly substance, perhaps beautiful temples can arise," says the good-natured health officer.

Dr Wiwat is married to Khun Surangsri, a medical researcher. Together they have three children.



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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IT'S OFFICIAL: The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) in cooperation with Cape Panwa Hotel, Phuket and Asia Image Events announced that the Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek 2012, would be held at Cape Panwa Hotel, Phuket. Kasemkij Hotels' Travel Industry Group Director Poomiphat Navanukroh (2nd from left), event organizer Image Asia Managing Director Mr Grenville Fordham (5th from left), TAT Executive Director Southern Region Mr Poramet Amatyakul (3rd from left) Trade Marketing Manager (Remy-Cointreau) for Mount Gay-Rum, Kanitha Kasemwattana (1st from left) and Miss Thailand World 2012 Miss Vanessa Muangkod (4th from left) participated in the press conference held at the TAT Headquarters in Bangkok recently.



BORN THIS WAY: The Phuket Academy of Dance put on their song and dance extravaganza recently at the Hilton Arcadia Grand Ballroom.



**YOUR
Phuket**



IN MY HAPPY PLACE: At the launch of The Happy Place project were the MD Worawut Hogthong (center) with a team from Siam Commercial Bank.



PULLING TOGETHER: The team from the soon-to-open Pullman Phuket Arcadia were at their recent mass-recruitment day.



The Northern Thai Club of Phuket held a bowling tournament at Big C's CS Bowl last week with more than 150 teams competing. The event raised over 450,000 baht for local charities. Seen here (L to R) are: Nonglak Kongpen, club committee member; Nattaporn Panitpichetvong, event chairwoman; Tanaporn Tanthai, club vice president; Lt Col Rattapong Siriburanapong, club president; and Janpen Arno, club committee member.



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Hard Rock Cafe Founder's Day

Hard Rock Cafe Phuket celebrated HRC's 41st anniversary on June 14 and invited more than 50 children from Uncle Pitak's Orphanage to come for lunch, play games and help blow out the candles on the anniversary cake. Photos: Marc Mulloy



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June 23-29, 10:30am-7pm: Laguna Phuket Summer Family Festival

Laguna Phuket's Summer Family Festival offers a two-month treasure trove of fun and games for kids and a host of entertainment for Mums and Dads. Until 25 August, Canal Shopping Village is a carnival playground, with a Kidzsole Flying Trapeze, bouncy castle, trampoline and games in the Kidz Lounge for youngsters, and a Beer Tent for parents. Attractions include daily Kidz Zone adventure activities for just 200 baht a session, an Artist-in-Residence, free Zumba fitness sessions twice a week, a strolling circus troupe, weekly quiz nights, Happy Hour drinks and big screen live sports events in the Beer Tent.

June 22-23, 10am-3:30pm: Social Media Marketing (Facebook) Beginner's Course at Woody's Sandwich Shopee-Chalong

Looking to expand your marketing plans by utilizing social media for your business but don't know how? Take this 2-day compact social media training course focusing on Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest and learn how to easily maneuver your pages to get your brand out to the online community. Cost per person will be 4,000 baht and the course will start with a minimum of four persons. Sign up today by emailing us at info@awpr-phuket.com!

June 23, July 6, 20, 12-3pm: Saturday Brunch at Two Chefs Kata Center

WHAT'S ON in Phuket

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

June 27, 8pm-11pm: Phuket Punchline Comedy Night at Holiday Inn Resort Phuket, Patong

Paul Myrehaug, Brian Higgins and Jeremy O'Donnell are in town for one night of hilarious no-holds-barred stand-up comedy. Early bird tickets only 960 baht; or 1,200 baht on the door. Phuket's Punchline Comedy Club performances are sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*.

June 28, 6:30-11pm: Martini Manicure Ladies Night at RE KA TA Beachfront Restaurant

Free express manicure for ladies. Free martini for ladies on arrival and 50 per cent off the drinks list

for everyone all night long. Cocktail flaring. DJ till late.

June 29, 6-9pm: Pizza and Pasta Feast at DiVine Restaurant Thanyapura

DiVine Restaurant brings you to Italy in a pizza and pasta feast from 6-9pm, Monday to Friday. All you can eat pizza and pasta with free-flow Italian wine. Enjoy a-la-minute cooked order of pizza, pasta and salad. Served hot from the stove, DiVine style. 450++ baht per person, or 600++ baht per person with a glass of Italian wine. 800++ baht per person with free-flow Italian wine.

June 29, 7-10pm: Indian Night at Les Anges, Royal Phuket Marina

Phuket's best Indian buffet is back with a new chef and a new menu. Special promotion @ just 449 baht. From 5-9pm. Buy one get one free for the drinks! Reservations recommended. Call Mr Murat on 081-797 3364.

July 1, 11am-6pm: American Independence Day at Headstart Interna- tional School

American Independence Day picnic. Hamburgers, hot dogs and American beer. Games for kids, fireworks. Free entry. Headstart International School of Phuket across from MAKRO. Sponsored by NavyLeaguePhuket.org. Contact David Rucker (087-266 7514) for more info.

July 6, 7-11pm: Phuket Curry Fridays at the Navrang Mahal



Indian Restaurant, Karon Sea Sands Resort & Spa

We present Phuket Curry Fridays on 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month. 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

July 6-8, 5-10pm: A three-day seminar on silk dress making

This 3 day seminar will allow you to create your own classic shift dress in Thai Silk. Join European craftsman and designer Templeton Dean, and learn how to create your own silk garments. Machines, fabric and supplies are provided, so a basic knowledge of sewing and a passion for clothing are all that is required. Class costs 7,500 baht. (The dress you make retails for more than the class costs.) For booking, call 083-521 9993 and do something a little BRIT different. For dates, times and locations

contact Templeton at: templeton_dean@hotmail.com

July 11, 1-3pm: Free Phuket Afternoon Computer Clinic - Chalong

Looking for a decent internet connection? Have a problem with Windows that you can't solve? Need help fixing or reviving a recalcitrant PC? While Woody's hunkered down writing a 1,008-page Windows 8 book, Seth Bareiss is holding informal Computer Clinic sessions on Wednesday afternoons. Bring your computer. Bring your questions. Bring your sense of humor. Sponsored by Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes and the *Phuket Gazette*.

July 13, 7-10pm: Indian Night at Les Anges, Royal Phuket Marina

Phuket's best Indian buffet is back with a new chef and a new menu. Special promotion @ just 449 baht. From 5-9pm. Buy one get one free for the drinks! Reservations recommended. Call Mr Murat on 081-797 3364.

July 20, 12-5pm: Saturday Brunch @ Two Chefs Kata Center

Saturday brunch at Two Chefs Kata Center. Every Saturday we are setting up our brunch buffet, filled to the limits with home made delights.

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*.

Free Computer Clinics at:
Sandwich Shoppe Chalong - June 27, 1-3pm
Sandwich Shoppe Patong - July 4, 1-3pm

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

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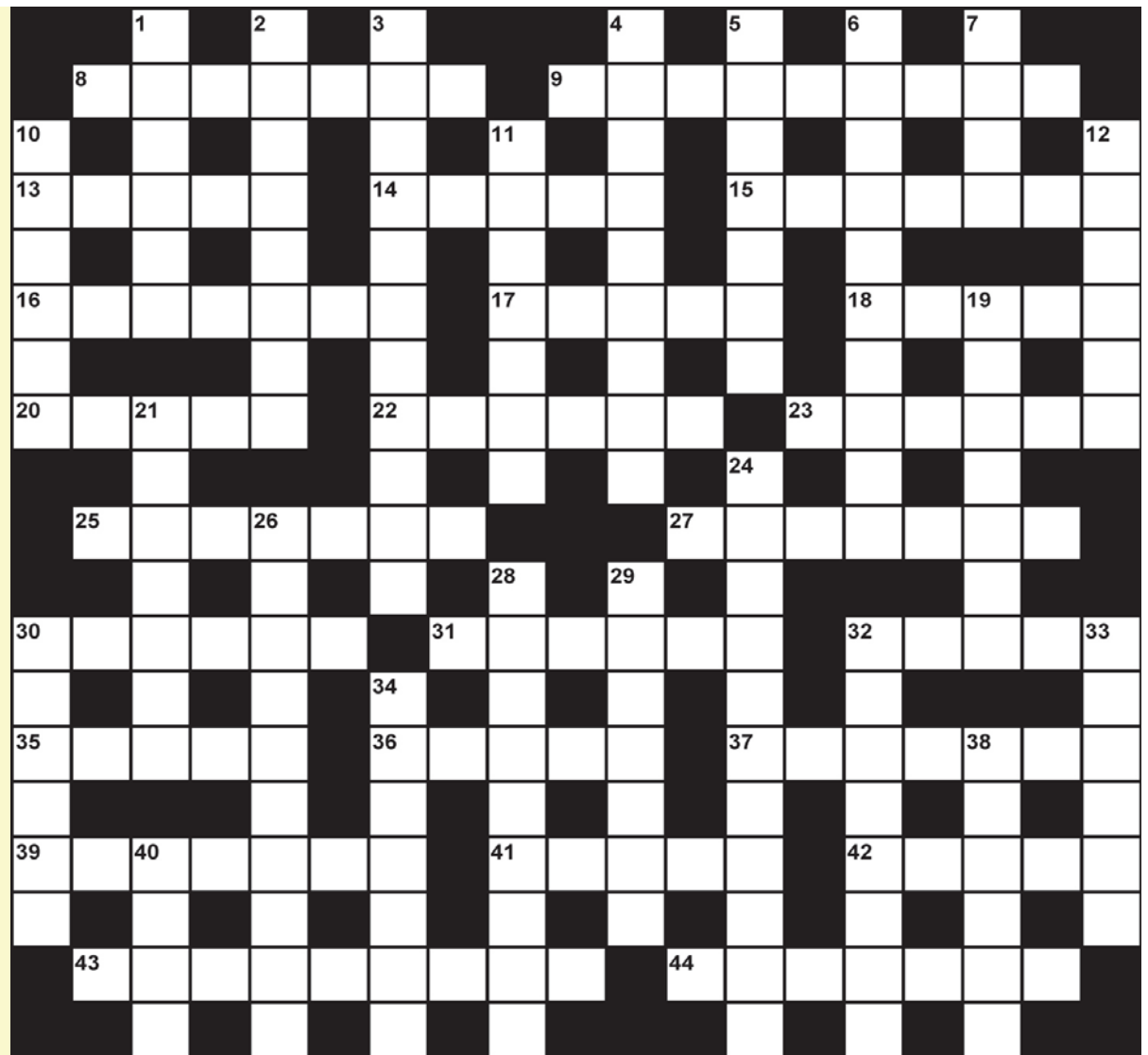
SUDOKU: Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. © Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)

COFFEE break

ACROSS

8. Paint remover makes a mess of rep's car
9. Do better having let out at interest, first class
13. Ruins fallen apart in Phuket beach
14. Second shopping area is not big
15. A small drink, friend, absolutely
16. Aim smaller, without cease
17. Try appreciation of good things
18. Previous wife caught the Spanish, to be pre-eminent
20. Plait the rest around second
22. Not right, revolve to open out

23. Tenner back for milk that's curdled
25. Rough sea expert is outside
27. Company torn apart left to regulate
30. Refurbish cylinder with beer or mixture
31. Camped out for leave
32. Bared possibly for vulgar money
35. Chiefs losing one of the cooks
36. Almost assess fools
37. Badly beat her tale, badly
39. Professor backs referee for present
41. Turn craft into old war vessel
42. Phuket beach to rank 'O' out of order
43. Equipment back, revel in car control
44. Or 'bunce' distributed to chucker-out



DOWN

1. Son raced about, frightened
2. Without distress, pass line unsteadily
3. Princes set out point with determination
4. Bursting violently out, I vex Poles
5. A put-in metier for the more important
6. Tall, he bets perhaps in a wish hoping for success (3 words)
7. Lain out dye-making shrub
10. View space differently, and time

11. A certain truth, one on part of a party
12. View rent as a small hole
19. Panel gives comfort
21. Be equal about not being easily disturbed
24. Calm, I tip no variation in the collection
26. Rest of scattered shoot in woodland conflagration (2 words)
28. Made certain about idiot turn communist
29. Pass one on in great emotion

30. Right piece chopped, as in cooking directions
32. Refusing to work with the Polish
33. Grand, I became bold
34. Restraining structure to block river, that is right
38. More difficult to hare about round the road
40. Revolt without lieutenant can be ended

This Cryptic Crossword is compiled by Patong Bill. Answers on page 43

CANCER (June 22-July 23):



The stars suggest that Cancerians could have to admit they were wrong this week. A fire sign is poised to point out that mistakes have been made – your best option is to see this as part of a learning curve and move forward. Those with a birthday in the week ahead are forecast to make more sensible decisions in the coming year. Romance with an earth sign takes on new meaning this weekend.

LEO (July 24-Aug 22):



There are hints that Leos may overlook important details in documents this week. Your distraction may be due to an unsettled atmosphere at work, which is set to clear by the end of the month. In the meantime, keep a cool head and avoid rushing agreements. In the realm of romance, there are signs that a relationship with an air sign could be affected by an opportunity for this person to move away.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):



This is an auspicious week for Virgoans to reach understandings. A calmer mood should enable you to see things more easily from others' points of view. Another earth sign is happy to meet halfway

where a financial matter is concerned – the stars suggest that Thursday is an auspicious day to sign contracts. Where romance is concerned, you have reason to see that an air sign's broken heart has finally mended.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):



As the end of June approaches, Librans are forecast to be in a positive frame of mind. A tedious task that demanded more effort than expected should be finalized, leaving you free to focus on more rewarding work. Where romance is concerned, a heart to heart talk with a fire sign can result in a more harmonious relationship. Those who are single are forecast to find love with an earth sign.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):



A wave of events can make this a week to remember for many Scorpions. Insecurity at work should be relieved when news arrives on Tuesday or Wednesday – there are signs that your opinions will finally be taken into consideration. Those who have a bureaucratic issue on their minds will be glad when an air sign agrees to pull strings on their behalf. Dazzling days for romance are Saturday and Sunday.

YOUR horoscope By Isla Star

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):



A golden tip from a water sign can put house hunting Sagittarians onto the right track. The stars indicate that July is an auspicious month for relocation – a change of scene will encourage your creative energy to flow. The area of romance is cloudy; another fire sign could show their butterfly tendencies. Love with a water sign is better starred. Fortunate days for finances are Wednesday and Thursday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):



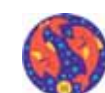
Capricorns' powers of concentration could let them down early next week and the stars recommend keeping life simple until after Wednesday. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, an air sign's answer to a domestic problem can cause friction on the home front. If you are single and seeking, another earth sign's interest won't be hard to miss this weekend. The stars forecast better luck with money towards the end of June.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):



The month of June should end on a more hopeful note for Aquarians. Recent ups and downs have probably left you wondering when things will start to go your way. The stars suggest that this week will bring clues of how the astral atmosphere will offer support during July. Your ability to adapt, where others are less flexible, is an asset at work this week. Sparkling days for romance are Sunday and Monday.

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):



Where work or business is concerned, the stars advise Pisceans to widen their net. Losing your fear of the unknown can help to open doors to success and this week is an encouraging time to take some calculated risks. Another water sign has useful connections to offer and valuable experience to share. Your luck in love remains steady until the end of the month, with commitments well starred.

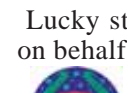
ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):



The world of work holds promise until the end of June, with the spotlight shining on less stress and more monetary gain. Those who dared ask for the moon

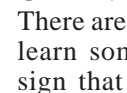
should not be disappointed and it's not too late for others to set their sights higher. In the realm of romance, communication breakdown with an earth sign could be caused by words lost in translation. Monday is the best day to get your message across.

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):



Lucky stars are poised to work on behalf of Taureans this week. A financial issue that has been dragging on for too long should be settled by the end of June and your bank balance is forecast to make the wait worthwhile. Those who have been trying to send romantic signals to an air sign are supported by the cosmic climate this weekend. Wear the color silver to enhance your charisma.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



There are hints that Geminis will learn something about a water sign that could make them see this person in a more negative light. The stars advise getting to the heart of this matter before a friendship is affected. Travel is well starred until the end of this month – taking a last minute short break will be beneficial for those who are expecting a busy time in July.

PROPERTY Gazette

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

Sansiri to launch downtown condo

IN RESPONSE to the positive feedback that Sansiri PCL has received in its first year of expansion into Phuket, the Bangkok-headquartered mega-developer has announced plans for its fourth condominium development on the island – ‘the BASE’.

Representing an investment of 800 million baht, the development will comprise 311 units in two, 7-storey mid-rise buildings, to be built on a four-rai (6,400 square meters) plot of land.

A prime selling point of the project is its central location off Wichit Songkhram Road – just behind Thainaan Restaurant, across the street from Central Festival Phuket – within walking distance to most of Phuket Town’s major shopping centers.

In contrast to the firm’s initial three dcondo projects in Kathu, which were designed for the lower-middle income bracket, the BASE’s target group is a notch up the socioeconomic tier.

“We expect that a majority of our clients [for this project] will be affluent, working-class Thais, between the age of 30 and 55,” said Sansiri CEO Apichart Chutrakul.

“A portion of the titles will be ‘free-hold’, so foreigners will also have an opportunity to become owners,” he told the *Gazette*.

Mr Apichart, along with Senior Executive Vice President Uthai Uthaisangsuk, co-introduced the new project to local media at a press conference held earlier this week at the Blue Elephant restaurant in Phuket Town.

“This is our fourth [the BASE] development so far, and it is the first one outside of Bangkok,” Mr Apichart noted.

“We see a lot of demand and potential here. We want Phuket to serve as a benchmark [market] for this brand and other future upcountry expansions,” he added.

Highlighting the success of the brand’s initial three developments, located in the On Nut, Chaeng Wattana and Rama IX areas of the capital, Mr Uthai added that the firm also has plans to launch another ‘the BASE’ in Khon Kaen later this year.

Speaking on the brand’s central theme, Mr Uthai said: “The contrast between nature and civilization is an important factor of the design. Phuket is widely known for its out-



A rendering of what the BASE will look like upon completion. Inset: Uthai Uthaisangsuk and Apichart Chutrakul.

doors, yet most people who buy condos are working-class people who also enjoy the ‘city life’.

“The layout of the complex and rooms highlights and exemplifies this indoor-outdoor contrast, while maintaining an element of privacy.”

The development will offer two room styles: one and two bedroom.

Starting at 1.9million baht, one-bedroom units will range from 33.5 to 34.5 sqm, while two bedroom units, priced from 4mn baht, will span from 55.5 to 58.5 sqm.

The two-bedroom units will be corner suites, with six units planned on every floor, roughly 12 per cent of all units.

A presales event is planned at Sansiri’s Phuket Gallery, next to the initial dcondo development in Kathu, from June 29 to July 1.

Construction of the project is expected to commence by the start of next year, with units expected to be ready to occupy by the second quarter of 2014.

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PROPERTY

Now everyone is flying, or should be

DID she or didn't she?

Mythbusters and those hell bent on disputing urban lore often point out that the innocuous phrase "*Qu'ils mangent de la brioche*", often translated into English as, "Let them eat cake", had nothing to do with Queen Marie-Antoinette.

Over the past five years, Asia's middle class continues day in and day out to be the region's travel superstars. It's like a casting call for American Idol, only bigger.

Anyone who has visited an airport recently can't help but have "Now everyone can fly" etched into their memory-scape.

It's like one of those insane jingles you can't get out of your head. No amount of booze, sleep deprivation or therapy will help – it's still there.

Sure there are calls from tourism officials and online gripe-sites about when elite, high rolling tourists will return, but somehow I can't see plane-loads of Greeks pulling up in tour buses at Phuket International Airport anytime soon. Unless they are job seekers or we start seeing a trend of Euro boat-people wading ashore. Anything is possible.

But this has little to do with my point, which is about the miracle of Asia's Low-Cost Carriers (LCC) and how profoundly connected we have all become.

I'm sitting in a hotel room in Colombo, Sri Lanka typing this



after coming in on one of those AirAsia red birds. Who would have imagined that for a little over 8,000 baht I could visit such a great exotic destination?

I struck up a conversation on the plane with my seat-mate who works in Bangkok and who was travelling with a large tour group.

Forget Chiang Mai, or Kanchanburi, these people were headed into the great wide open.

I often cross the invisible line between the few and the masses from staid legacy airline carriers and budget airlines. There is a reason they call them Airbuses and the LCCs tend to be chaotic trips, with rugby scrums of people providing scenes straight out of Noah's Ark.

I travel a lot and despite a previous life as a corporate hotelier, where flying was at the front of the bus followed by suites at hotels and all the perks that you can image, at times the journey became surreal.

My tastes can run anywhere from private pool villas to a Holiday Inn Express, ibis or the wide assortment that lays somewhere in the middle. Big hotel rooms confuse me; I wake up in the middle of the night wondering where I am.

Please don't make me a VIP, just leave me alone, let me get to my room and – as long as the bed is comfy, Wi-Fi is working and the neighborhood is interesting – it's all good.

At school I loved sitting in the back of the room. Somehow things were more interesting sitting with the truants and misfits who irked those in authority.

The whole premise of thinking that an ever-increasing population can go out into the world to see, to experience and to travel is such a breath of fresh air. This is Asia's decade and while things are no doubt going to be on the edge of craziness, it's the future.

We can smugly want to keep the club small and open to only those who float through vacations or business trips without even speaking to a local unless they are a driver, waitress or guest services staff. Or else we can make it real. Sure it's not always pretty and things will be messy, but isn't that life?

While we all know what happened to our dearly departed Marie-Antoinette, today following the Yellow Brick Road with Dorothy and Toto is simply too much fun to miss.

There's plenty more room on the magic bus; so if you care to get off your couch and join the rest of humanity, jump on in.

Does anyone know happened to that piece of cake? Anyone?



TICKET PLEASE: Now anyone can get on the bus. Photo: Jared Earle

Club Lersuang changes its name



THE NAME GAME: Baan Puri's name is loosely translated as "Our Home, Our Place".

In brief...

THE Board of Directors of Club Lersuang, a private residential estate in Bang Tao, Phuket, has announced that the property will be renamed "Baan Puri" effective July 1, 2012.

The new name, chosen from a list submitted to leaseholders, represents a fresh start for the property, which has been under

owner-management since 2010 – after the dismissal of the former directors.

In choosing the new name, loosely translated as "Our Home, Our Place", Baan Puri's owners have re-affirmed their ownership of the property and look forward to enjoying peace of mind, security and freedom from further difficulties.

In a recent press release the owners wrote "We thank our lawyers, Amphon Anuporn Associates,

Bangkok, for their steadfast support, advice and fine attention to detail, and the owners for never wavering from the path of resolving the problems practically and commercially. May all who are involved with or who may stay at Baan Puri be well, happy and peaceful."

Managed by leading property firm Jones Lang LaSalle (Thailand), the development is popular among resort vacation rentals.

– Phuket Gazette

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CBRE: retail construction booms

SHOPPING center developments are flourishing globally, especially in Asia and other emerging markets, where retailer expansion has reached unprecedented levels of construc-

tion, research has revealed.

According to a report by CBRE Group, one of the world's largest real estate services firm, development of new shopping centers has

reached significant levels, with 29.6 million square meters under construction globally, the report said.

CBRE's research team looked at developments in 180 major cities worldwide, with a focus on projects completed in 2011, and those currently under construction.

The research found that emerging markets such as China, Turkey, and India are far more active than the more mature markets of Western Europe and North America.

In 2011, new shopping centers opened in 63 (35%) of the cities covered in the survey, of which 50 were in emerging markets.

In contrast, only five cities in Western Europe saw the opening of a new center last year.

On Bangkok, James Pitchon, Executive Director and head of CBRE research in Thailand said: "The retail market saw a full recovery from the 2011 floods. All retail stores closed during the floods were reopened and retail sales improved.

"The two key trends are [the development of] community malls in Bangkok and the expansion of major retail developers up-country; CPN, the country's leading retail property developer with a 22%

market share of leasable area in Bangkok's shopping malls, plans to open 5 new malls up-country within this year," he said.

CBRE's research highlighted that the total retail supply in the Thai Capital, as of the first quarter (Q1) of this year, rose to 5.75mn sqm, rising 1.0% from the previous quarter, and 5% from Q1 last year.

Chinese cities dominated the construction activity, with half of all the shopping center space under construction being in the most populous country.

Asia accounted for 70% of all schemes currently being built.

Outside of China, the most active markets are Abu Dhabi, Hanoi, Kuala Lumpur (Klang Valley), New Delhi and Sao Paulo.

In Europe, new shopping centers were completed in just 15 out of the 96 cities covered in the survey. Outside of Russia and Turkey, only the Ukraine (Kiev and Kharkov) and Italy (Milan and Turin) saw the completion of more than one new center.

London, with the completion of Westfield Stratford City, was the only city in Europe where more

than 100,000 sqm was completed. Likewise there was virtually no new development in the mature shopping center markets of North America and the Pacific region.

Sebastian Skiff, Executive Director of CBRE Retail in Asia, commented, "Overall, retailers have shifted their focus to exploring new markets and new opportunities in which they are able to grow their businesses and carry out cross-border expansion initiatives.

"This strategic growth is contributing to the escalation of high quality retail space in emerging markets, such as China, Malaysia and Vietnam. These markets are seeing an influx of retailers and outside interest which consequently fuels the demand for new developments.

"Mature markets such as Western Europe and North America have substantial retail development offerings. We will not likely see such expansive growth in new malls, but rather a constant elevation of what already exists as owners respond to new store formats required by retailers, and more modern facilities preferred by most consumers."

For more info, see [W: cbre.com](http://W:cbre.com)



Biz leaders call for update on stalled convention center

KEY business leaders in Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi are calling for the government to announce the current status of the plan to build an international convention center at the north end of the island for fear of the long-awaited project having stalled yet again.

Phuket Tourist Association Vice President for Marketing Bhuritt Maswongsa said that lack of updates of the plan is affecting the confidence of investors who have long supported the project.

"The project will benefit Phuket and the greater Andaman area, especially in the MICE [meetings, incentives, conventions, exhibitions] market as MICE tourists have three times more purchasing power than normal tourists," he added.

The call for a public status update of the project follows Wuttipong Chaisaeng, advisor to the Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Yongyuth Wichaidit, visiting the selected site on March 7.

Mr Wuttipong expressed "grave concerns" about the project's viability, citing the environmental impact the project would have.

"After inspecting the site, I see the big problems concerning environmental impact issues," he said.

Specialists from NEB need to review the project in detail and determine for themselves the extent of those impacts, he said.



Bhuritt Maswongsa of the PTA.

If the NEB finds the impacts are acceptable, the project will be fast-tracked, but if the NEB finds otherwise, "we won't allow construction," he said.

Mr Bhuritt refuted these claims, saying, "The Phuket business community wants the center to be in Tah Chat Chai [in Mai Khao] because it's the center of development in the north of Phuket and the gateway to Khao Lak and Krabi.

"The project will not affect sea turtles laying their eggs as the project site is not on Mai Khao Beach. Also, the project site is not – as claimed – "the last natural forest on the beach in Phuket," he said.

"We want the Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB) to help push the project through, as so far we have the TCEB has done little to make this project a reality," Mr Bhuritt said.

– **Kritsada Mueanhawong**



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The last of the Red Brigade



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

IT IS always exciting to discover a new plant. I recently chanced on a shrub with fine, arching, broom-like leaves, and masses of tiny but brilliant red tubular flowers. Its name? *Russelia equisetiformis*.

Despite the tongue-twisting botanical label, this is not a shrub that draws attention to itself and, in any case, it is not common in

Phuket. Maybe that explains my failure to spot it before. Excuses, excuses...

The leaves are often reduced to small scales closely held against bright green stems and are consequently barely visible, but the deep scarlet flowers are produced most of the year round. Moreover, the wiry stems create a cascading effect that is especially attractive when overlapping a wall or bank, hence the name; fountain bush.

A small shrub, it blooms best in full sun, and prefers well-drained, gritty soil. It is becoming increasingly available in local plant nurseries. Look out for *Pratat farang* in Thai.

Another relative rarity, at least in this author's experience, is the *quassia amara*. This native of South America is a much larger shrub, up to three meters tall, but also has tubular, scarlet flowers.

The leaves are initially red: only as they mature do they turn a glossy green. The flowers are quite impressive, borne in long racemes up to ten inches long, and are followed by glossy black fruits.

Quassia need plenty of moisture, so ensure it is not allowed to dry out completely. Prune to maintain size and shape.

Other red shrubs are more familiar presences. *Ixoras* – named after the Indian goddess Shiva – comes in a range of colors of which orange or scarlet is only one hue among many.

The hardiest and most popular variety of *ixora* is a vivid orange or scarlet, but since there are more than 400 varieties – almost all indigenous to the tropics – the choice is enormous.

Coccinea is a variety seen frequently here, a compact grower with tiny, glossy evergreen leaves and typical clusters of densely packed florets.

It is often the preferred choice for low screens, hedges, or for flanking a wall. It is not only one of the least expensive shrubs available, but one of the most reliable bloomers.

A neighbor initially planted rows of heliconias in a bed alongside his front wall, but deprived of shade and short of moisture, they soon succumbed



TUBULAR TONGUE-TWISTER: *Russelia equisetiformis*, also known as the Fountain bush or Firecracker plant. Photo: Carl E Lewis



A LAST BLAST OF SCARLET: Bitterwood or *quassia amara* (top left), *alpinia purpurata* (right) and *ixora coccinea* (bottom left). Photos: Drew Avery, Stefan Lins and Ramesh NG

to the constant sunshine. Now *ixoras* blaze away, utterly unfazed by the tropical heat.

There are many hybrid cultivars from the yellow Frances Perry to the rose-pink Rosea, but the scarlet Exotica is a favorite.

No garden should be without some *ixoras*. They are also good container plants for your patio. By pinching out some of the tips, you can encourage branching. Prune after flowering.

The red ginger (*alpinia purpurata* or *khieng daeng*) is more difficult to cultivate, maybe because it is a herbaceous shrub that requires lots of water.

Considered not a true ginger by some authorities, *alpinia* is an unusual looking plant, consisting of leaf stalks rising from – in this case

– inedible tubers, and bearing huge leaves up to three feet long.

It sports a bright red – yes, red again – inflorescence, which is actually not a flower but a bract. It is extremely popular as an ornamental in gardens, partly because its flowers last a long time.

Unlike its distant cousin, the crepe ginger, (*costus speciosus*), which has tightly packed, cone-shaped flower heads and which is often featured in massed plantings, *alpinia* has bracts which open out to display spectacular blooms. It is sometimes grown as a container plant, but it will need plenty of care and attention.

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

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Tip of the week

Plant diseases

VIRTUALLY all plant diseases are caused by three kinds of organisms: fungi, bacteria and viruses. Any of them may be responsible for leaf, stem and flower ailments, but the vast majority of soil-borne diseases are caused by fungi.

Note that what often appears to be a disease is actually the result of cultural problems, such as nutrient deficiency (or excessive fertilizer), sun-scald or soil dryness and/or soil compaction.

Fungi are microscopic organisms. Most produce spores that are carried by insects, wind, garden tools or by hand. Damping off (sudden collapse) of seedlings, powdery mildew (white or grey circular blotches), root rot or rust (powdery pustules on the undersides of leaves) are all caused by fungal invasion of the plant.

Viral diseases are most often spread by leaf-eating insects, such as aphids, leafhoppers, white flies and leaf miners.



Aphids. Photo: anemoneprojectors

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million baht. Neg. Contact
owner on 080-520 2989.
Email: edc9designs@gmail.com

Properties For Rent

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE



2-storey house 3 bed, 3 bath near Ao Makham. Tel: 081-892 4311. 20,000 baht/month. For further details, please see our website at <http://panwa.green.weebly.com>

3BR HOME IN KAMALA

Gated community. Clubhouse with swimming pool & gym. 10 mins walking to Kamala Beach. Fully furnished with cable TV. Large garden. Email: vivian@vivianngdesign.com

KATHU GOLFVIEW

Villa and penthouse for rent, 330sqm, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, big pool, 4km to BIS, superb view of Loch Palm Golf & Valley. Quiet, secure on top of private hill, furnished, WiFi. Long-term rent: 65,000 baht. Available on 23 June 2012. Tel: 087-269 8492, 087-091 1552.

HOUSE AT PRIME PLACE VILLAGE



near Heroines' Monument. Furnished, aircon, 3 bedrooms, cable TV, kitchen. Tel: 086-607 7493.

QUIET AREA HOUSE



1 aircon bedroom, near Ao Makham Bay, free WiFi, 3km from town, 1km to Panwa Beach. Rent: 9,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 4311 (English & Thai).

VILLA LONG TERM RENT



4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, maid's room with bathroom, 2 kitchen, fully furnished, swimming pool, WiFi, garden. 55,000 baht/month. Tel: 089-729 6244. Email: ninaphuket@hotmail.com

KATA APARTMENT

Rent from 15,000 baht, fully furnished, 10 minutes from beach. Tel: 081-949 0171. Email: kata_residence@hotmail.com

LUXURY POOL VILLA

Near Laguna, quality furnishings, spa, bar, security, BBQ. Rent: 22,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-594 4067.

LUXURY POOL VILLA

Simply as good as total comfort. Laguna. Rent: 32,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-594 4067 (English & Thai).



4-Bedroom Villa for Rent / Sale

Fully Finished, Wi-Fi, Cable TV, Maid, Pool Cleaner, and Gardener are included. www.PropertySeekByKMD.com (081) 895-7310

KAMALA HILLS APARTMENT

Kamala, highest room with lovely mountain view, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with study room including cleaning service 8 times per month. 24hr security guard. Undercover parking for one car. For rent 36,000 baht per month. Contact Sirinart. Tel: 086-478 0339.

B.L. APARTMENT

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

GROUND FLOOR KAMALA HILLS

Superb, economic 3-bed ground floor apartment for rent in stunning setting in Kamala Hills. UBC, internet and parking space. Tel: 081-397 7598 (English & Thai). Email: kajoda1954@yahoo.co.uk

2-BEDROOM HOUSE, BANG TAO



2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, terrace, living room, parking, fully furnished, cable TV, internet, 2 aircons, hot water. Only 5 mins to Surin Beach, Bang Tao Beach and Lotus Cherng Talay. Tel: 089-470 7488. Email: nattamon.m@gmail.com

CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



Condo at Royal Place Project, Bypass road, opposite Tesco Lotus. 37sqm, 2fl, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished (2 aircons, washing machine, refrigerator, TV, microwave, cable TV, 24 security with key card etc). Pls contact for more details. Tel: 089-469 1813, 086-476 9612.

KHAO LAK HOUSE

For rent: 2 floors. Lovely all-round porch. 2/3 bedrooms. 2 bathrooms. Near beach, river, shops. Charming and quiet. Tel: 076-211 239.

SEA VIEW BUNGALOW

Private cottage, pool set in established gardens, furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, only 15 mins to either PIA or BIS. 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 082-420 3270.

PATONG NEW 2-BED CONDO

Best view. 80sqm. Parking. Security. Long lease. 25,000 baht/month, Elec+bond. Private. Tel: 087-372 6770.

CONDO PATONG

Studios and one-bedroom apartments for rent at Phuket Place and Patong Tower. Tel: 081-892 1621.

TOWNHOUSE IN KOH KAEW



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

2-BEDROOM TWIN HOUSE



in Phuket Town. 25,000 baht/month. Surface: 45sq wah (180sqm).

- 2 storeys: ground floor with living room, kitchen, bathroom, terrace, garden and parking lot.
- Top floor with 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 2 balconies and living room
- Peaceful area in a nice neighborhood (and uncommonly large roads)
- Only minutes away from Bangkok Hospital Phuket and Central Festival, Boat Lagoon
- 24-hour security
- Clubhouse with swimming pool

Call 081-868 7676 or 089-868 2268

for more information or house inspection.

LUXURY POOL VILLA FOR RENT

Located just outside Laguna, this new three-bedroom pool villa is available for long and short-term rent. Tel: 081-891 1826 (English), 081-891 2926 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-238940. Email: kevinq@loxinfo.co.th

HOUSE IN CHALONG

Near Palai Beach, for rent, 2-3 bedrooms, aircons, ADSL, fully furnished, cable TV, car park. Tel: 089-728 8311 (English & Thai).

KATA HOUSE ONE BEDROOM

Fully-furnished, bedroom, bathroom, kitchen terrace, air-con, internet and cable TV. Price: 9,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-606 2827. Email: nij017@hotmail.com

SINGLE HOUSE THALANG

Private house, 1 bedroom, fully furnished. Near Tesco Lotus Thalang. Rent: 7,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-795 6363 (English & Thai). Email: vicky_grc@hotmail.com

ORCHID KATHU HEIGHTS

Stylish serviced apartments. Studio, 1 bedroom, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Rooftop pool, Free WiFi. Also beachfront condo. Tel: 081-892 0038. For further details, please see our website at www.orchidkathuheights-phuket.com

LUXURY POOL VILLAS

Private pool, located in Rawai, quiet area, near the beach, 3-4 bedrooms. For rent or sale. Tel: 087-893 8747.

LONG-TERM RENT

1-2 bedroom, furnished houses, beautiful garden, Chalong area 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 4311.

DETACHED HOUSE IN THALANG

3 b/r, 2 baths, modern design. On Thepkasattri Road, 15 minutes to Surin and Bangtao Beach. 20,000 baht per month. Minimum of 6 months. Tel: 081-958 3421 (English & Thai). Email: kjarukirati@gmail.com

PRUKSA VILLE THALANG

Near Tesco Lotus, 3 bedrooms, fully furnished, internet, UBC. Rent: 13,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-7956 363 (English & Thai). Email: vicky_grc@hotmail.com

GREAT LOCATION GREAT PRICE

Home secure estate with 4 bedrooms en-suite. Fully furnished with pool and sala. Located opposite golf course, 10 mins to most places (BIS, Central, etc). Available now! 55,000 baht per month, minimum of 6 months. Tel: +61-8-6161 2691, +61-43-592 2900 (English), +61-46-831 5377 (English & Thai). Fax: +61-8-6161 2691. Email: jenjira5@hotmail.com

BEACH HOUSE FOR RENT



Kamala. 48,000 baht per month. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Western amenities. 2 storeys with decks looking out onto Kamala Beach. Minimum 3-month lease. Available now. Contact Jean. Tel: 088-447 7631 (English). Email: ayearlikenoneother@gmail.com

PHUKET VILLA 5 VILLAGE



For Sale. Price: 4.2 million baht. No agents!, not furnished, with 4 aircons, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen and car park. Behind Kajonkiet International School on Chao Fa West Road, 5 minutes to Central Festival. For short or long term rent, 16,000 baht per month. Call to see 087-270 9093.

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If you enjoy being the best, delivering the highest of standards and are a technical expert in your area then you may want to come and be part of the Anantara Story...

We are looking for the following professionals to join us:

- ◆ Director of Engineering
- ◆ Human Resources Manager
- ◆ Night Manager

At least 3-5 years experience-international chain hotel experience is a plus

Please submit your CV with a covering letter stating the position you are applying for to: recruit_phuket@anantara.com
Contact Human Resources Department, Anantara Phuket Villas
Phone + 66 (0) 76 336100-9 Ext.552-553 | Fax + 66 (0) 76336166

Create your own amazing story at phuket.anantara.com

HeadStart
International School Phuket

Position
Thai Principal

- Thai nationality
- Excellent written and spoken English
- Bachelor Degree in Education
- Master Degree in Educational Administration
- Minimum 5 years teaching experience
- 2 years administration and management experience
- Salary 50000++

Email: jazon@headstartphuket.com

LAND & HOUSES

Sales Executive 2 positions

L.H. Muang Mai Co Ltd, a subsidiary of Land and Houses Public Company Limited

- ▶ Female, aged under 30
- ▶ Bachelor's Degree in any related field
- ▶ Fluent in English
- ▶ Own Car

Contact: 081-892-1715

TEFL TEACHERS WANTED

Newly opened language school in Phuket Town.
Tel: 081-083 5735.
Email: michael@misterenglishschool.com

MARKETING DIRECTOR

CC's, located in the lush hills of Kata, is your home away from home. Currently under renovation but when open, our hotel will have gone through many major upgrades.

We are now looking for a Marketing Director who will be responsible to direct and oversee the hotel's marketing plans. Experience in understanding tourism trends in Phuket is required, as is the ability to adjust marketing plans as required.

You will also need at least 2 years of experience in the tourism industry and familiarity with a variety of the field's concepts, practices and procedures.

Must be self-motivated and able to meet stated goals and objectives. Attractive compensation package offered. Position available now. Tel: 076-333 222, 086-604 1333 (English). Email: sales@ccbloomshotel.com For further details, please see www.ccbloomshotel.com

English Language Teacher

Qualifications

- English native.
- Male or Female.
- Age between 25-40 years old.
- Bachelor's Degree in education, English language or any related field.
- Able to implement and conduct English languages classes.
- Positive attitude

Please submit your updated resume & photo via qam@diamondcliff.com or Contact QA Department 076-340501-6 ext. 3703

Diamondcliff Resort & Spa
284 Prabamee Road, Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150
www.diamondcliff.com

MANAGER IN PATONG

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

ISS FACILITY SERVICES

Service Manager required for rapidly expanding business. Reporting to expat General Manager. preferred applicants are thai national, degree educated, aged 30 plus, and have experience in property and personnel management. Very attractive salary and benefits offered. Tel: 076-610 315, 081-958 6879. Email: scott.d@th.issworld.com

PROJECT MANAGER / SALES

Male 25-30yrs, Civil Engineer or related field. Proficient in English & AutoCAD. Willing to learn about products, travel & sales. 2 years minimum experience preferred. 20,000 baht + benefits and sales commissions. Send CV. Tel: 076-304 307, 081-823 9448 (English). Fax: 076-304 306

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

ACCOUNTS MANAGER

Required for busy yachting company based in Boat Lagoon:

Successful candidates will demonstrate experience in managing a growing business's accounting needs and will be required to organize:

- Bookkeeping function
- Supplier payments
- Business administration accountancy
- Client accounting
- Monthly management reporting across sales, after sales, yacht management and charter offices
- Reporting in Thai and English language

An understanding of the marine leisure and import and export markets will be an asset

Please apply in writing with a CV to info@boatlagoon-yachting.co.th with your expected salary.

NEW SALES OPERATION

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

MANAGER IN PATONG

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

Marriott VACATION CLUB
ASIA-PACIFIC

Marriott Vacation Club, Asia Pacific, the leader in the global vacation ownership business, is looking for a competent individuals and active professionals to join our team in the following positions;

Marriott Vacation Club, Phuket

- Sales Executive (All Languages)
- Marketing Executive (In-house)
- Marketing Executive (OPC)
- Owner Referral Marketing Executive
- Inhouse Activity Co-ordinator
- Guest Arrival Co-ordinator

We require proactive, self-motivated and confident people with excellent interpersonal skills. An intermediate degree of proficiency in English is necessary.

Candidates with the above qualifications should submit a resume with a recent photograph to nattavut.mila@vacationclub.com or nachon.obyam@vacationclub.com

Marriott Vacation Club (Thailand) Ltd.
234 Maikhao, Talang, Phuket 83110, Thailand
Tel: 076 338200

TEACHER WANTED

Chalermprakiat School is looking for a native English speaker to teach English. A degree & TEFL is required. Tel: 084-446 3049. Please email your cover letter and CV to swpk_mlp@yahoo.com For more information please contact Clarke.

JOBS FOR HOTEL WORKERS

Hiring reception & housekeeping positions now. Experience preferred. Tel: 085-159 7400 (English), 086-902 8566 (English & Thai). Email: dshumny@yahoo.com

RECEPTIONIST

Work in guesthouse at Kathu, good English. Salary: 12,000 baht. Tel: 080-879 6058.

SUCCESSFUL SALES & MARKETING

Company requires enthusiastic, motivated individuals to join our well-established and successful team. English speaking. Full training, great commissions & startup / entry packages available. Email: jengore@hotmail.com

EZYSTAYS CO LTD

Ezystays (Travel Club), located in Patong, is looking to recruit a Thai Admin Assistant for its busy sales office. Candidates must have a good command of the English language and be able to work efficiently with Word and XL, and basic knowledge of accounts. Salary is negotiable depending on experience. All applicants must apply with a cover letter and CV in English with photo. We offer an excellent working environment and a 5-day work week. Tel: 076-341 421. Email: clientliaison@ezystays.com

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

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

British International School, Phuket

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

• IT Coordinator

Qualifications

- Thai Nationality
- Bachelor's Degree
- Computer skills including using Microsoft Word and Excel
- Ability to communicate in and write in English
- Good organization skills and the ability to multitask

Key Tasks

- Coordinate daily work schedules for technicians
- Coordinate IT related tasks with other departments
- Contact person for students, staff and parents on IT related issues, particularly computer maintenance
- Secretarial work for the IT department

• IT Technician

Qualifications

- Thai Nationality
- Bachelor's Degree in related computing
- Excellent knowledge of Computers
- Ability to communicate in English
- Enjoy working with others in a team atmosphere
- Have "customer-service" orientation

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



British International School, Phuket (BIS)
59 Moo 2, Thepkasattri Road, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200
Tel: 076-335555 # 2113, 2110 Fax: 076-335573
E-mail: patcharakornit@bisphuket.ac.th or sirirats@bisphuket.ac.th

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.



Secure, Clean & Cost Effective Self Storage

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

Facility Administrator / PA

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

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

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

ASSISTANT BRANCH MANAGER

Salary 20,000 baht + excellent commission & benefits. Tel: 081-823 4627, 085-782 1200.
Email: ying@phuketpooltables.com

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Experienced English speaking sales representative required to join existing team at Club Mangosteen. Must have experience in fly buy / in-house or cold line sales within the holiday ownership industry. Excellent package available for the right candidate, including first month housing allowance, visas, work permit etc. To arrange an interview or for further information, call David at 076-289 399, 083-643 5949 (English). Fax: 076-289 389. Email: club@mangosteen-phuket.com For further details, please see our website at www.mangosteen-phuket.com

PHILIPPINE STAFF WANTED

Good salary, good English. Contact Carla. Tel: 081-968 5963. Email: cc@bayshoreprojects.com

FEMALE AND MALE CREW WANTED

on live-aboard 60ft yacht based at Phi Phi. Tel: 081-891 9726 (Thai), 082-839 7701 (Eng).

EXOTISSIMO TRAVEL

Vietnam • Thailand • Cambodia • Laos • Myanmar • Indonesia

Exotissimo Travel Co., Ltd.

www.exotissimo.com

ARE YOU READY FOR TRAVEL?

Exotissimo Travel is one of Asia's leading destination management companies.

We require staff for our operations department in Phuket. Your job is to handle the daily operations for inbound tours into Phuket. You will be responsible for checking all files created by reservations staff, booking guides and transportation and ensuring that all aspects of every tour are handled correctly.

It is essential you have a pleasant and outgoing manner. You must be an excellent problem solver and be good at dealing with people.

Ideally you should have a minimum of two years experience with a local tour operator or similar position, or at least have an understanding of the complexities of this important job.

You will be a key person in our team and the right applicant can expect an attractive salary with excellent benefits.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree
- Thai national – male or female
- Min. 2 years experience in a travel company
- Good written and spoken English (German or French speaking is an advantage)
- Good computer skills (Word, Excel, Outlook)
- Good attitude, hard working, ability to work as part of a team.

Only those with a genuine interest in joining a professional travel company for long-term commitment need apply.

Interested parties are invited to send their CVs with a covering letter in English and a current photo to christophe@exotissimo.com

Applications will be treated in the strictest of confidence.

Exotissimo Travel Co., Ltd.

Tel: 082-805 57 72

Fax: 076-610 182

Email: christophe@exotissimo.com

THAI STAFF WANTED

Work on shifting schedule, can speak English, customer service. Good salary with bonus. Patong. Contact Carla. Tel: 081-968 5963.

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

PLAY GROUP

English-speaking Russian person wanted for playgroup. Must enjoy working with young kids. Tel: 084-442 3671.

PHILIPPINE STAFF WANTED

Good salary, good English. Contact Carla. Tel: 081-968 5963. Email: cc@bayshoreprojects.com

SALES & INTERIOR DESIGN

Oriental Living Interiors Phuket is looking for bright and motivated staff: 1 Sales representative, Russian; 1 Admin/Sales staff, Thai; 1 Designer, Thai. Please call for an appointment. Tel: 076-325 419, 081-400 4678. Email: orientalsamui@gmail.com

For further details, please see our website at <http://oriental-living.net>

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

CAR RENTAL CO.

Is hiring 2 receptionists and drivers. Basic English required. Thai nationals only. Office is in Boat Lagoon. Please contact Khun Nui at Tel: 081-970 5204. or send email to info@mobilecarrent.com

SALES STAFF NEEDED URGENTLY

A Phuket Town gallery is looking to hire a Thai national with excellent spoken English and organizational skills. Good salary given. Tel: 086-509 7510 (English). Fax: 076-223 677. Email: simon@colonial-connection.com

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

CHALONG

- **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

RAWAI

- **The Network property office** (Saiyuan Rd) Tel: 076-613173

KARON

- **EuroStyle Tailors** (Luang Por Chuan Rd) Tel: 076-396911

Gazette Online Classifieds – 10,000 readers every day!

Articles For Sale

SONY PS3

Used for only 2 months, 2 remote controls, English manual, 1 HD World Cup football & 1 HD action game; 12,000 baht or best offer. Call or email for appointment. Contact Eric or Fon. Tel: 076-219061, Fax: 076-214803. Email: jairak@phuket.ksc.co.th

FURNITURE AND OTHER ITEMS

Wooden frame "L" sofa with mustard color upholstery. 16k. Modern glass chandelabra 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

HIX HEAT PRESS DUAL PADS

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

FURNITURE AND MORE

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

FREEZER, FUGE TABLE

Sanden freezer, excl cond, 8,500 baht. Fugeball soccer table, as new, 10 baht per game, 35,000 baht. Tel. 086-283 9100.

CHINESE TEA

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

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

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

FULL-SIZED USED BATH WANTED

Looking to find an old plastic or stone full-sized bath to use in a pet washing parlor - something large enough to put big dogs in the wash them. Please email gone2thedoggies@gmail.com with photo

Audio/Video Equipment

STAGE-SOUND / LIVE MUSIC

Stage-Sound system (Live Music) for sale Incl. All audio components, made by Behringer. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-486118, 086-942 5244. Fax: 076-443137. Email: info@siam-interact.com www.siam-interact.com/sound system/

SOKEN SURROUND SYSTEM

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

GERMAN STEREO SYSTEM

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

HI-DEFINITION MEDIA PLAYER

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

Bar & Restaurant Equipment

PRIME LOCATION IN RAWAI

Refurbished for 170,000 baht. Nice bar and 5 bedrooms on three floors. Includes a lot of furniture and music systems. Tel: 087-474 0169. Email: paahman@gmail.com

Bulletins

Alcoholics Anonymous

If you want to drink that is your business
If you want to stop that is ours
Daily Meetings
Patong, Phuket Town, Chalong, Surin, Karon & Cape Panwa

081-895 4763
081-956 4031
email: phuketaa@yahoo.com
Google AA Phuket

Business Opportunities

GASTONE PIZZERIA RESTAURANT



For sale: new Italian pizza restaurant at Kata Beach. Fully equipped with latest-generation pizza oven, great location, attractive price. Contact Claudio. Tel: 081-270 9698 (English). Email: claudiothai@hotmail.it, www.restaurantgastonephuket.com

ESTABLISHED SPA FOR SALE

A popular spa, sauna, massage, beauty salon (has rental income), and bar is for sale in Nanai Road. Price: 3.5 million baht. Tel: 082-286 5171, 087-078 6379 (English). Email: nanaisauna@yahoo.com

SAFEWAY UNIQUE COMPANY FOR SALE

100% Price: 14 million baht. 50% Price: 7million baht. Established in 2001 and specializing in sales and rental of containers, offices, mobile toilets and all kind of mobile units. Large inventory of rental stock, tools, machinery and regular clientele. Genuine inquiries only. Contact Gordon. Tel: 081-892 4804. Email: gordon_asia@hotmail.com

BEACH BAR FOR SALE

Middle of Patong, kitchen, 2 staff rooms, possibility for restaurant. Price: 850,000 baht. Tel: 087-266 0809 (Thai), 082-818 4424 (English/German).

KATA RESTAURANT

For sale or lease. Tel: 081-949 0171. Email: kata_residence@hotmail.com

EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP!

Offer from NOW: BKK-PHKT. Email: adventuraintern@hotmail.com

MASSAGE THERAPY

Thai traditional massage, aroma therapy massage. Contact Mata. Tel: 087-889 6089 (English & Thai).

SHOP HOUSE RENT/SALE



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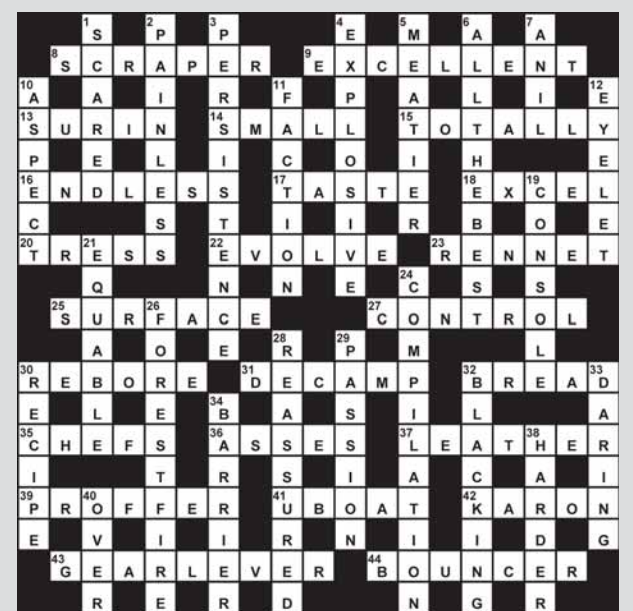
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Euro twists and turns

Football

GROUP stages of the European Championships produced a number of twists, plenty of action and a few talking points.

In Group A, Russia started the Championships in barnstorming fashion beating the Czech Republic 4-1 and were immediately touted as potential winners of the tournament. Eventually losing to Greece in their final group stage match, they therefore did not qualify for the knockout stages.

The Czech Republic bounced back from a defeat to top the group, followed by Greece.

Group B was dubbed the "group of death". It turned into a fight for second place behind the ever improving Germans, who won all their games.

The Netherlands were viewed as potential winners before the tournament started, but finished at the bottom of group B without a win.

Portugal followed Germany into the knockout stages after beating both Denmark and the Netherlands.

Group C featured the Republic

of Ireland who finished bottom of the group with the worst goal record of any team in the group stages. Spain topped the group with Italy narrowly beating Croatia to second place.

Group D consisted of England, France, Sweden and Ukraine.

The "Three Lions" was not assured of an easy route to the knockout stage as all four teams were quite evenly matched.

A tentative first game for England against France ended in a 1-1 draw, though victory over Sweden 3-2 increased expectation levels among supporters and a 1-0 win over the Ukraine secured a place in the knockout stage as group winners.

France finished second in the group despite losing 2-0 to Sweden in their last game.

Talking Points

The voice of racism has sadly been heard during the group stages and UEFA has tried its best to deal with the situation.

UEFA fined the Croatian Football Federation 80,000 Euros after its supporters racially abused Italy's Mario Balotelli. The case against Croatia was the first official action

taken by UEFA for racism in the tournament. It followed separate claims that Spanish fans also racially abused Mario Balotelli and Russian fans taunted the Ethiopian-Czech Theodor Gebre Selassie.

The debate over goal-line technology continued when Ukraine was denied a perfectly good goal in their match against England because the officials did not see the ball cross the line.



FAIRYTALE: Wayne "Shrek" Rooney grabs the winner in his first Euro 2012 appearance to take England through to the quarter-finals. Photo: AFP



The other Euro tussle



Formula 1

By The Digby

THE EUROPEAN Grand Prix (EGP) was originally an honorific title for the Italian Grand Prix in 1923, followed by the French and Belgian Grands Prix.

In 1983, the F1 schedule was disrupted by a track cancellation three months before the event, and as a stopgap Brands Hatch was able to create an EGP in its place.

The success of the event, led to it returning the following year, however Brands Hatch was unavailable as it was hosting the British Grand Prix. So the EGP went to the foreshortened and unpopular Nürburgring circuit. Brands Hatch again hosted the EGP in 1985, but the race was replaced in 1986 by the Hungarian Grand Prix.

In 1990, a wealthy and eccentric Japanese businessman built an extravagant circuit called Nippon Autopolis to host an F1 race at the top of a mountain in a remote part of Japan.

In a gloriously Japanese way, the idea was that people could escape to a hilltop sur-

rounded by natural forests, look at glorious works of art by van Gogh, Monet, Picasso and Renoir and watch motor races, with wealthy car owners able to try the track.

The promoter turned up at the Monaco Grand Prix to convince Bernie Ecclestone that there should be a GP at the facility. He tried again at the Portuguese GP in 1992, where he was reportedly robbed of \$250,000 of valuables from his hotel room. Despite all this, plans were made for an Asian Grand Prix in 1993 to replace the Mexican Grand Prix. Regrettably Autopolis was so remote, with hotels hours away by bus, plans failed to materialize.

Ecclestone quickly added the first and only F1 race ever held at Donington Park to the schedule, which brought back the EGP.

In 1998 the EGP was dropped, but it returned the following year when Nürburgring readopted the EGP name. It was removed from the F1 calendar for the 2007 season. From then on there would only be one GP in Germany, alternating between Nürburgring and Hockenheimring. However, the Nürburgring race of 2007 was renamed EGP due to a dispute over the ownership of



TACTICS: Drivers' skills or the pit crew's discipline may decide the European GP winner. Photo: AFP

the title "German Grand Prix".

Since 2008 the EGP has taken place in Valencia, a semi-permanent street circuit in Spain. It has a contract to host the Formula One European Grand Prix for seven years. Disappointing attendances and further resistance to one country hosting two races led, in March, to the announcement that the EGP would be discontinued in 2013, with the Spanish Grand Prix alternating between Barcelona and Valencia. In April it was announced that the entirety of the Grand Prix at Valencia would be discontinued and any EGP would be elsewhere.

The circuit utilizes the roads skirting around the city's harbor and America's Cup port area including a section over a 460 ft swing bridge and includes some roads designed exclusively for racing purposes.

Called the "Other Monaco", it is a track with almost no overtaking possibilities, and the outcome is likely to be based on qualifying and tactics.

Qualifying is something Vettel knows, and so does Hamilton. Could Grosjean be up there too? Find out on Star Sports.

Qualifying on Saturday, and the race on Sunday, both at 19:00 will be shown live at The Green Man

SPORTS briefs...

BASKETBALL: The NBA playoffs reached its climax with the Miami Heat taking a 3-1 series lead over the Oklahoma City Thunder.

One more victory for the Heat will see them clinch the NBA Championship title.

LeBron James and his all-star team saw off the Boston Celtics in the Eastern Conference to reach the finals, whilst The Thunder defeated the San Antonio Spurs in the Western Conference to reach their first NBA final. The Heat now play host in Miami and have the chance to lift the trophy in front of their own fans.

STRANGE SPORTS: Corsica will host this year's first event in the Red Bull Cliff Diving World Series.

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Each participant must perform a minimum of two different take-off positions. These vary from front, back, reverse, inward and armstand.

The degree of difficulty for each required dive is a minimum of 3.6.

The competition format follows traditional high diving, with a mix of rules from FINA and HDA.

TENNIS: Rafael Nadal continued his domination of the French Open with victory over Novak Djokovic in the final.

The victory gave Nadal a record breaking seventh French Open Title at the Roland Garros.

Maria Sharapova regained the world number one spot by defeating Sara Errani in straight sets, 6-3 6-2 in the women's final.

Wimbledon starts June 25 with Sharapova looking to add to her solitary 2004 title on current form, whilst Nadal will look to take back the title he lost to Djokovic last year.

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Islanders face the bull, gain first home victory



BRAZILIAN FLAIR: Phuket Midfielder Marcio Santos takes a strike.



HEADS UP: Nenebi scores Phuket's first goal in Sunday's match. Photos: Peerapat Rattana.

Football: Thai Yamaha One

PHUKET FC recorded their first home win of the season last Sunday with a 2-1 win over mid-table side Bangkok FC, despite some unfavorable calls in the visitors' favor.

The result follows the re-branded Phuket FC (formerly FC Phuket) losing 2-0, away to Royal Navy FC on June 13 in Chonburi Province.

Going into Sunday's match, Phuket were dangling in 16th place of the 18-team Yamaha One league, having won only one match (an away victory against Nakhon

Ratchasima FC on March 28) topping their six draws and five losses.

Indeed, the Islanders were hungry for victory.

And despite gorgeous weather, only 1,200 paying fans turned up for the 6:30pm kickoff at Surakul Stadium.

To everyone's awe, the half-century-old stadium had a renewed charm, having received a number of improvements in recent months.

Leading up to Phuket's hosting of the 28th National Youth Games late last month, the stadium had been closed for football competition, with Phuket's last home match held on May 19 – a 3-3

draw against Airforce United.

The most notable of the stadium's upgrades was a large, video-capable, LED-powered scoreboard, rising over the southeast stands.

And while live action was broadcast on the scoreboard throughout the entirety of play, the scoreline was only briefly displayed when goals were scored.

Despite the upgrade in technology, 'official time' was still kept privy to the handful officials.

The Bangkok FC "Iron Bulls" took control of the game early, with Phuket's Brazilian keeper Alonso Jose Carvalho Da Silva punching away one dangerous

shot just three minutes into play.

Not long after, a close range shot by Bangkok's fleet-footed British striker Lee Tuck deflected off the far post.

After weathering the opening salvo, it was Phuket who opened the scoring at 17 minutes when defensive stalwart Nene Bi went on the attack and headed home a beautiful cross from Wutipong Sittitanyakit.

Some exciting play followed, with Bangkok FC's Korean forward equalizing at 39 minutes when he converted a header following a long free kick from midfield.

Phuket fans were infuriated at that point – not just about the goal itself, but about the two questionable calls leading up to the freekick and goal that left Phuket with two yellow cards, to Niran Phanthong and Watcharakorn Klaithin.

With the score tied, the pressure was on again for Phuket, only to be nutrealized just seconds before the first-half whistle blew.

Phuket's Watcharakorn, whose nickname is "Bird", darted like a swiftlet through four Iron Bull defenders before finishing with a beautiful scoring strike to the right of the Bangkok FC keeper, sending home fans into a frenzy.

The Islanders came out on the attack in the second half, but all hopes of an insurance goal faded at 59 minutes, when Phuket defender Wutipong Sittitanyakit got his second yellow card of the night and walked off the field head down.

The yellow card was one of thirteen handed out by the referee, who was jeered loudly by

the crowd after many questionable calls.

Phuket's coach Miloš Joksić, who spent parts of the match fuming at the sideline, later told reporters he was very happy with the team's fighting spirit and the game's final result.

Bangkok FC pressed the attack for the remainder of the match, and even had the favor to equalize with seven whole minutes of injury time awarded by officials.

However, Phuket clung on, and players and fans alike were exuberant when the final whistle finally blew, sealing their first home win in 10 matches.

The win puts the Islanders in a good position to begin their climb out of the relegation zone.

Their next match will be against a troubled Chanthaburi FC side that sits in dead last and has yet to win a match all year.

The Wild Hares have just two points from two draws and are on a staggering -39 on goal difference with half a season left to play.

Chanthaburi's recent losses, including 0-7 and 1-9 home results against Bangkok FC and Ratchaburi Mitrphol FC, were cited to the fact that the team's foreign players refused to field for the matches in protest at not having being paid in over a month.

The club has reportedly now paid the salaries of its African and Malaysian players, who are expected to field on Sunday in Phuket.

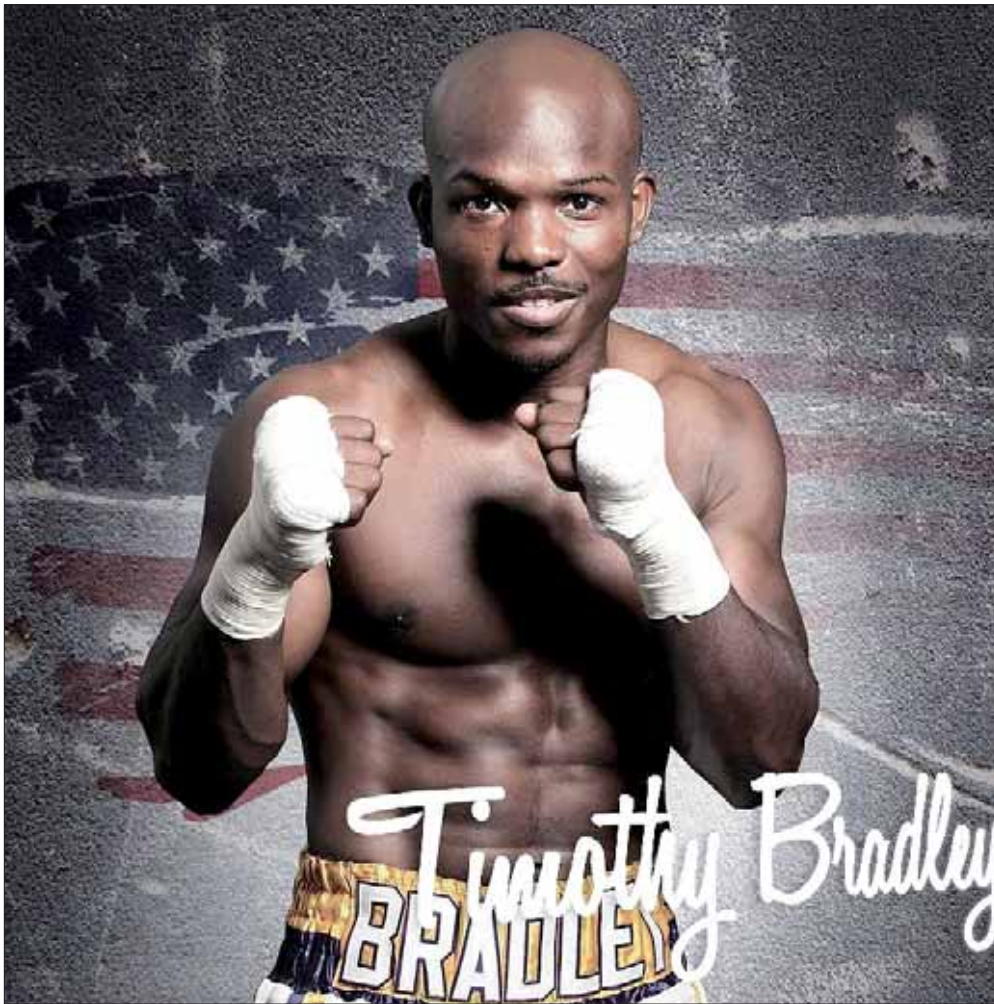
Kickoff for the match is set for 6:30pm. For updates, see the *Phuket Gazette* sports section online.

– *Stephen Fein and SW Layne*

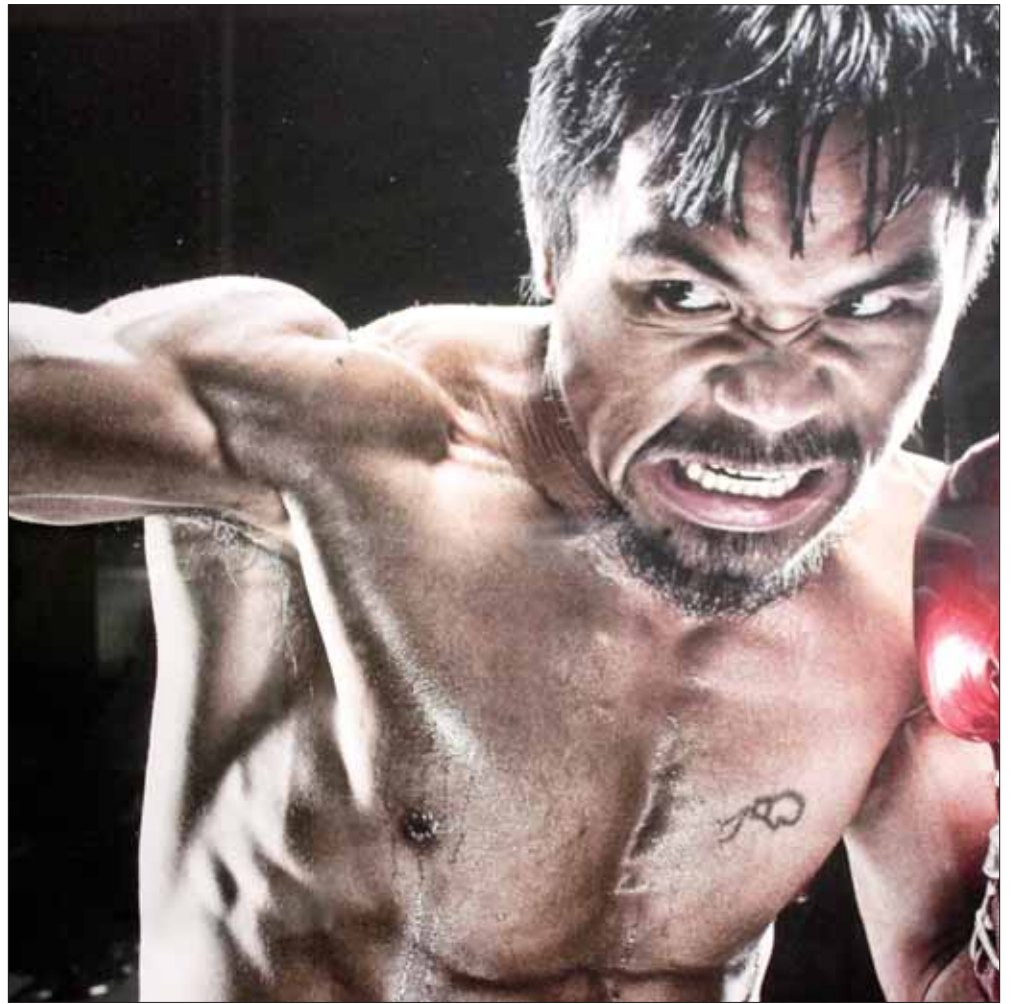
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Timothy Bradley remains undefeated despite a contravertial win in Las Vegas. Photo: Facebook



Pacquiao's promoter won't agree to a rematch until the fight is investigated. Photo: Stefan Kloo

Pacquiao vs Bradley: Boxing is the real loser

ON JUNE 9 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Timothy Bradley (29-0, 12 KOs) scored a highly controversial split decision over Manny Pacquiao (54-4-2, 38 KOs) to win the WBO (World Boxing Organization) welterweight championship of the world. While Bradley won the bout on the scorecards, whether he actually deserved the victory is questionable at best.

The decision sparked the ire of boxing spectators around the world and prompted promoter Bob Arum to ask Nevada State Attorney General, Catherine Cortez Masto, to investigate the decision.

"The public has a right to know," said Arum. "The fighters have a right to know. The only way to restore fans' confidence in boxing is by letting an independent body investigate every detail of the fight, no matter how big or small."

Arum declared that there would be no rematch until an investigation takes place.

The Nevada State Athletic Commission, who oversaw the bout, stated they will stand by their judges, and that an investigation is unnecessary.

Pacquiao's persistent straight left to the bald noggin of Bradley dominated the first half of the twelve-round contest.

Bradley may have won round two, but Pacquiao was in complete control after six rounds and headed towards an easy victory. At the midway point, judge Jerry Roth had the fight five rounds to one in favor of Pacquiao. Judges CJ Ross and Duane Ford had it four rounds to two, also in favor of the Filipino.

Bradley then changed tactics and in lieu of trading punches with Pacquiao, began boxing. The strategy served him well, as Ross and Ford would give Bradley five of the next six rounds.

Pacquiao threw fewer punches as the fight progressed, missing frequently, and his inactivity and attempts at stealing rounds by only fighting hard the last minute of them may have been his downfall.

Although Bradley's punches lacked any real zest, his defensive prowess, rapid-fire combinations and slick side-to-side movement coupled with Pacquiao's increasingly leisure pace lent a smidgen of credibility to the scoring.

In this contest, a smidgen was

the difference between the winner and loser.

At the completion of the bout, judge Jerry Roth scored the fight 115-113 for Pacquiao, a plausible score. Judges C.J. Ross and Duane Ford both had it 115-113 for Bradley, quite different from how the majority of journalists, boxing experts and fans scored it. The *Phuket Gazette* scored it 116-112 for Pacquiao.

If the knockout is the purest demonstration of a winner and loser, decisions are the bane of the sport and its evil twin. There is an old adage, "Don't leave the decision in the hands of the judges"; if Pacquiao made one mistake in his fight with Bradley, it was his failure to end the bout by knockout.

Obviously, knockouts occur inconsistently and thus the requirement for supposedly impartial judges.

Herein lies one of the major flaws in the sport – the subjectivity of the judges.

Judge Duane Ford, 74, recently demonstrated this subjectivity when he defended his score on the HBO show Fight

Game stating, "Bradley gave Pacquiao a boxing lesson."

Judges are technically required to view the two combatants as "Red Corner, Blue Corner," void of favoritism because of nationality, popularity, promotional ties or personal preference.

However, a fighter's profile, human nature, inept or unfocused judges and the environment in which a bout takes place can easily lead to problematic decisions.

That said, not all viewers take into consideration that each round is essentially a separate fight, with a winner chosen at the end of each stanza. A boxer can suffer two or three knockdowns over several rounds and still manage to emerge victorious.

In addition, scoring criteria in professional boxing are often overlooked; ring generalship, defense, effective aggression and solid punches. A fighter who continuously moves side-to-side backpedaling may look the part of the loser; however, if he scores

with a few punches, controls the tempo of the bout and makes his opponent miss, the judges may very well give him the round.

Just how did the final tallies of three experienced judges vary so greatly from others watching the very same contest? In all likelihood, this question will remain unanswered. Despite the loss, fans will always think of Manny Pacquiao as a winner and an all-time great.

Nevertheless, the record books will forever show that on June 9, 2012, Manny Pacquiao lost to an undefeated boxer named Timothy Bradley.

Given boxings' decline in popularity, one thing is certain: the judges got it wrong June 9, leaving fans bitter and turned off to the sport. Manny Pacquiao lost, but boxing is the real loser.

A member of Ring magazine and Yahoo's rating panel, Bangkok-based Scott Mallon is a boxing manager and matchmaker as well as a sports photojournalist.

Tuesday Football

FANCY a game of footy? A group of local lads who play Tuesday and Thursday evenings in Phuket Town are looking for new players. They have been playing at a floodlit-astroturf-facility, Phuket Soccer Arena, for the past two years, but numbers have dwindled recently. It's not a league – it's just for fun, and anyone is welcome. The only requirements are that you show up on time, are fit enough to play for two hours and pay the weekly pitch fee (usually 150 baht per session). If you would like to have some fun on the footy pitch each week and meet some other expats with a passion for football, email Eric: ewhaeg@hotmail.com



KNACKERED: After two grueling hours of Tuesday night football. Photo: Fraser Morton

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Asia Yachting Grand Prix to kick off in Phuket



THE RACE IS ON: From left: Kasemkij Hotels' Group Director, Poomiphat Navanukroh, TAT Executive Director Southern Region, Mr. Poramet Amatyakul, Miss Thailand World 2012, Miss Vanessa Muangkod, regatta organiser and rights owner, Grenville Fordham, TV personality and yacht racing enthusiast, Kipsan Beck.

CAPE PANWA Hotel Phuket Raceweek, the ninth edition of Phuket's 'home-grown' international yacht regatta, marks the start of the 2012/13 Asian Yachting Grand Prix, which decides the coveted title of "Asian Yachtsman of the Year". The regatta will be held from July 18-22, 2012.

About 40 yachts and up to 500 yacht owners, captains, crew, families and friends from more than 20 countries will descend on Cape Panwa Hotel on Phuket's south-east coast for four days of intense, fun, competition and five nights of beach-side parties.

"The financial benefit of this regatta to Phuket businesses is much higher than the

numbers suggest," said Grenville Fordham, managing director of organisers, Image Asia Events Co., Ltd.

"Yacht repairs, servicing and provisioning go alongside hotel accommodation, marina berthing, wining and dining, transport and other services, bringing in millions of baht. In addition, we pump about 5 million baht into local suppliers for infrastructure, entertainment, boat hire, logistics and other services," he added.

Reliably good winds on the water, and attention to the highest quality onshore, have made Phuket Raceweek a firm favourite of regional and international sailors for many years. In 2011, the regatta was officially

recognised as "Best Asian Regatta" by the Asia Boating Awards in Hong Kong – one of only two Southeast Asian regattas to receive such accolade at the time.

Hosting the event for the first time this year, Cape Panwa Hotel recently signed a multi-year title sponsorship deal in order to name and host the regatta.

"This new partnership is a perfect fit with our position in the market," said Tirawan Pangsrivongse, Kasemkij, Hotels' Project Development Manager, adding that Phuket is a leader in promoting the fast-growing sports tourism sector.

Commenting on the number of entries expected for 2012, Mr Fordham said,

"Although formal entries tend to come in during the final month preceding the regatta, entries at this stage are a bit higher than they were at this time last year. There's a positive 'buzz' in the yachting community, so we anticipate a strong fleet this year. The feeling we get from participants is that they're very much looking forward to the new venue."

Online registration for Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek 2012 is open. There is a special offer for entries registered before June 17. Participants wanting to book rooms at regatta rates either at Cape Panwa Hotel or its sister property, Kantary Bay Hotel, should visit: phuketraceweek.com/accommodation.htm – *Phuket Gazette*

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