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■ ‘IF FOUND GUILTY THEY WILL BE PROSECUTED, NO EXCEPTIONS’

National Park gets ‘10 for 10’

■ Parks chief threatens to demolish 10 resorts on Phuket’s west coast if they cannot prove land was legally acquired

By **Orawin Narabal**

NATIONAL Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department (DNP) Director-General Damrong Phidet on Wednesday led raids on 10 resorts alleged to have encroached on national park land on Phuket’s west coast.

The raids started in the afternoon with Mr Damrong leading 10 teams of investigators brought in from 10 different offices of the Royal Forest Department (RFD) from across Thailand.

Mr Damrong refused to allow any officers from the RFD office in Phuket to take part in the raids.

In total, 400 to 600 rai of land is under investigation, all bordering – or encroaching on – Phuket’s Sirinath Marine National Park.

The 10 teams simultaneously raided the 10 resorts, with Mr Damrong personally leading a team of officers from the RFD Chiang Mai office to inspect the boundaries of the Trisara resort, north of Layan Beach.

Mr Damrong asked to see the *Chanote* title deeds for the 140 rai of land that the resort is built on.

Trisara Human Resources Director Nares Srinark explained that he did not have the title deed on hand at that time, but said that he remembered that the *Chanote* title...

Continued on Page 2



Damrong Phidet is prepared to level any Phuket resorts that are deemed to be encroaching on national park land. Photo: Orawin Narabal



‘Asia Weekly’ launched in Phuket

WE ARE proud this week to be ushering into Phuket the *China Daily Asia Weekly*, a world-class publication built in Hong Kong by, among others, senior expatriate editors from the UK, the United States, Europe, India, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand.

Please find the Phuket launch issue inside.

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Saturday



Sunday



Monday



Tuesday



Wednesday



Thursday



Damrong in Phuket

From page 1

deed for the entire plot was issued in 1994.

To this, Mr Damrong replied, "The National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department stopped issuing *Chanote* titles for land in this area after 1964. Any land that has a *Chanote* issued after 1964 we consider to have been illegally obtained."

Mr Damrong said the Trisara management company, the Three Dolphins Company Limited (Trisara Resort), had 30 days to present to the Phuket Provincial Court documentary evidence to prove that the *Chanote* in question was legally issued.

"If the evidence provided is found insufficient to prove that the *Chanote* was legally issued, we will order the buildings to be removed because it is on national park land," he warned.

Seemingly put on the spot by the unspoken question of why the *Chanote* for the 140 rai was issued in 1994, Trisara's Mr Nares told the *Gazette*, "I cannot give the exact answer at this time. The *Chanote* itself shows it was issued in 1994, but I am not sure when the resort owner bought the land."

Mr Damrong has built a reputation for taking the demolition of



Damrong and his crew address the press in Phuket. Photo: Orawin Narabal

long-established resorts seriously. On July 28, he ordered an estimated 3,000 DNP officers to demolish nine resorts deemed to be within the boundaries of Thab Lan National Park in Nakhon Ratchasima and Prachin Buri.

However, he is now facing an inquiry into the demolition of those nine resorts. The results of the inquiry are due to be released within the coming week.

Among the other resorts, villa developments or management companies under investigation for allegedly encroaching on Sirinath National Park were named in Thai as: Phuket Peninsular Spa & Resort (under investigation by the Sri

Racha RFD); Central & City Development Co Ltd (Surat Thani RFD); Landstate Co Ltd (Nakhon Sri Thammarat RFD); Suchada Sangsuwan (Songkhla RFD); Andaman White Beach (Nakhon Rachasima RFD); Suree Samlit Co Ltd (Khon Kaen RFD); Pavilions Beach Resort Co Ltd (Phitsanulok RFD); La Colline villa development (Phrae RFD); and Layan Phuket Co Ltd (Trat RFD).

"All of the resorts investigated today are now officially asked to cease all construction for 30 days... If any of the resorts continue with any building, I will file for a court order to suspend all construction," Mr Damrong said.

Old Town facelift 90% done

PHASE two of the 39-million-baht project to bury central Phuket Town's electricity mains cables is more than 90 per cent complete, said Phuket City Municipal Mayor Somjai Suwansupana on Monday.

Provincial Electricity Authority (PEA) has already finished burying the electricity mains cable on Krabi and Deebuk Roads. They are now focused on burying the mains supply along sections of Thepkrasatri and Phuket Roads, after which the obsolete concrete poles will be removed.

"PEA has just removed the power poles on one side of Thepkrasatri Road, but the main power poles haven't been removed yet... As soon as the PEA finishes their work we can start paving the road," explained Mayor Somjai.

Once phase two of the plan is completed, the PEA will begin bury-



Having buried the power supply cables PEA workers will begin to remove the utility poles from along Phuket Road. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

ing the mains along Yaowarat Road.

"We have already improved the scenery on many roads. As soon as the whole project is done, Phuket Old Town will look more beautiful and will attract more

tourists," said Mayor Somjai.

The project to bury Old Phuket's electricity supply is jointly funded by the PEA and the Phuket City Municipality.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

Police close case on death of German expat woman

POLICE have closed their investigation into the death of German woman in Phuket last Friday following the request of the husband, who has accepted that she died from cardiac arrest.

Angelika Geibler, 60, was found dead by her husband at their home in Rawai on Friday morning.

"She was retired and had been living in Phuket with her husband for years," Lt Col Ekkasit Pinkaew, an Inspector with the Chalong Police, told the *Gazette*.

"In his statement to police, the husband explained that the couple went out with friends on Thursday night."

"They went to bed as usual," said Col Ekkasit.

Officers found no signs of struggle or robbery, he said.

"Her husband told us that Mrs Geibler had been suffering from an ongoing medical condition... We have yet to receive a report from Vachira Hospital establishing the cause of death, but her husband has accepted her death as being caused by a heart attack. He has no questions about it," Col Ekkasit explained.

"Since he has no questions about her death, there will be no autopsy," he added.

— *Phuket Gazette*



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CENTARA GRAND BEACH RESORT PHUKET

Island resort developers charged with encroachment



Developers failed to provide necessary documentation by the deadline. Photo: Kritsada Meuanhawong

FOLLOWING the July 31 high-profile raid on a resort under construction on Rang Noi Island, off Phuket's east coast, the Natural Resources and Environmental Crime Suppression Unit (NREC) has pressed charges against the developers for encroaching onto protected forest land.

Kan Krao Company and Bridge Rang Noi Company were both charged on August 9 with "possession [of] forest [land] without permission".

Superintendent of NREC Region 5, Pol Col Watcharin Pusit, on August 10 told the *Gazette*, "At the expiry of the seven-day deadline, neither company had presented to us any documentary evidence to support the validity of the *Chanote* title deed covering the 15 rai of land in question.

"The charge against the two companies is that, contrary to the Forestry Act of 1941, they have 'misappropriated' about four rai of forest land that is not included in the *Chanote*," explained Col Watcharin.

— Chutharat Plerin

Homesick Burmese thief caught with stolen gold

By Kritsada Meuanhawong

POLICE arrested a Burmese man on August 9 who robbed a gold shop in Karon the previous evening and made off with nearly two kilograms of solid gold, despite being shot by the shop owner.

Burmese national Lacheman Kumar, 19, was arrested at his home in Patak Rd Soi 10 in Karon, where he lived with his father, mother and girlfriend.

The arrest came after police officers keeping the house under surveillance spotted Mr Lacheman returning home on foot at about 11am that morning.

In his statement to police, Mr Lacheman confessed to the robbery which he carried out at about 7:30pm on August 8. He said he planned and carried out the crime alone.

"I went to watch the gold shop twice on Tuesday [August 7]; I just wanted the money to go back to Burma," he said.

Mr Lacheman explained that after the robbery, he drove to a rubber plantation in Rawai, where he dumped the motorbike and hid among the trees until about 5am the following morning.

"When I saw no one around I started walking home," he said.

"My girlfriend rented the motorbike, but she had no idea I was going to use it to rob the gold shop," he added.

Chalong Police Superintendent Sirisak Wasasiri thanked the Nepalese community for their help in catching Mr Lacheman.

'I just wanted the money to go back to Burma.'

— Lacheman Kumar

"Without their help we might not have caught him within 17 hours of the crime," he said.

A search of Mr Lacheman revealed that he was carrying just one of the many necklaces he made off with from the Thong Thai Gold Shop in Karon.

Still missing are necklaces comprising 10-bahtweight of gold (a Thai standard of one bahtweight equaling 15.1 grams of raw gold) valued at about 245,000 baht.

Shop owner Papan Aummaratta on the night of the heist told police that Mr Lacheman came into his shop and asked to see items graded as having five-bahtweight in gold.

"The man said he was shopping for a marriage proposal gift for his girlfriend, but he asked to try on too many items at once, which made me suspicious," Mr Papan explained.

"So without him knowing, I pressed the button to remotely lock the door. Soon after that, he demanded that I give him the gold, and he reached into his backpack. I thought he was going to pull out a gun, so I shot," said Mr Papan.

"Then I fired another shot as a warning," he added.

Mr Lacheman begged Mr Papan for his life and to be set free, but as Mr Papan put down his gun, Mr Lacheman escaped with two trays of necklaces totaling a 1.963 kilograms of solid gold.

Spilling gold from the trays as he fled, the injured Mr Lacheman managed to get to his motorbike only to realize he was unable to



Mr Lacheman was shot in the arm during the robbery, but still managed to escape with a large sum of gold. Photo: Kritsada Meuanhawong

drive and carry the two trays at the same time.

Leaving one tray behind, he rode away with the other carrying items comprising 453g of gold.

Police at the scene were able to hand back to Mr Papan the 1.51kg of gold that had either fallen from the trays or been discarded by the thief in his attempt to get away.

With Mr Lacheman in custody,

police learned that the teenager suffered only a minor injury to his right wrist.

Evidence recovered from the scene consisted of a hammer and a backpack, both belonging to Mr Lacheman. A search of the backpack revealed a knife, a replica gun and a Myanmar Ministry of Labor – Overseas Worker identification card in the name of Lacheman Kumar, age 19.

Swedes murder trial postponed

SWEDISH nationals Johan Sebastian Ljung and Tommy Viktor Soderlund, who confessed to killing Maksim Schantz by stabbing him in the neck on August 1 last year, appeared at Phuket Provincial Court on Tuesday.

However, as multiple witnesses necessary to the case failed to present themselves at the court, the judge reconvened the trial for 9:30am November 2. Prosecutor Aeknara Luangsarnam told the *Gazette* on Wednesday that he would be applying for subpoenas to bring in witnesses for the next trial date.

After the adjournment was handed down, Ljung and Soderlund, who are being held at Phuket Provincial Prison until the trial concludes, were immediately returned to the prison.



Johan Sebastian Ljung (front) and Tommy Viktor Soderlund during the crime re-enactment last year.

The pair on August 2 last year confessed to attacking and stabbing Mr Schantz, but claimed they did not intend to kill him.

The men earlier in court pleaded not guilty to the charges of conspiracy to murder and robbery, said Mr Aeknara.

— Atchaa Khamlo

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BEFORE: Trash along the shore stretches into the distance at Lanah Bay on Phi Phi Don Island.



AFTER: The same beach after the mass cleanup and removal of over 100 bags of trash.

Resort workers, locals in Phi Phi Island cleanup

ISLAND residents and local resort staff on Koh Phi Phi Don teamed up for a mass beach cleanup on August 12, removing more than 100 trash bags worth of rubbish that had washed ashore.

Local residents together with more than 45 staff from the Holiday Inn Resort Phi Phi Island tackled the rising tide of trash at Lanah Bay, one of the key beach attractions in the area.

One of the resort staffers explained to the *Gazette* that the trash was first noticed about two months ago, and was steadily getting worse.

Other picturesque sites affected by the "foul flotsam" are Maya Bay on Phi Phi Lei

Island and Nui Bay.

"We learned about the extent of the problem from guests, and some of our team members had already seen the amount of trash washing ashore firsthand," said the resort staffer.

Asked what equipment was used to carry out the huge cleanup effort at Lanah Bay, the staffer replied: "Hands. Lots of hands. It took a lot of manpower."

The Holiday Inn resort on Phi Phi Don was given permission to burn off all combustible natural debris, but all plastic, including plastic bags, as well as glass and other non-combustibles were taken back to the hotel.

"All the trash [that could not be burned off] will be shipped to Phuket on our once-a-week garbage boat run for separation and recycling at the Phuket Incinerator," the staffer explained.

"We do not know where the rubbish is coming from. People say it is seasonal, with the trash arriving in May through October," she explained.

"Local people say that more and more trash washes ashore each year. We have even seen a vortex of oil and dead fish with bags, sponges, shoes – all sorts of rubbish mixed in.

"Some people say the trash is dumped overboard by boats, some say it is washed

from beach to beach, others say it is local villagers dumping it into the sea," she added.

According to local reports, there is no municipal trash site on the island, "only a couple of privately owned incinerators", the *Gazette* was told.

Despite the huge effort last Sunday, it was impossible to remove all the trash from the sands.

"Some items, especially plastic bags, have been buried under the sand by the waves and changing tides. So despite our best efforts, we could not remove every item of trash from the beach," the resort staffer added.

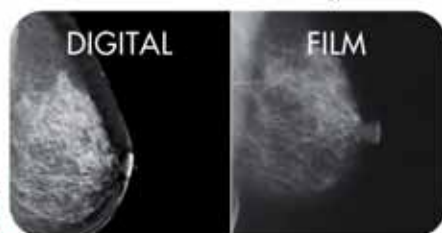
– *Phuket Gazette*

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PMBC renews efforts to halt oil dumping at sea



Suffering from deep lacerations caused by fishing nets and covered in oil, the two turtles are now in the care of the Phuket Marine Biological Center. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

THE Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) has put dumping oil into the sea back at the top of their agenda after two oil-soaked turtles were rescued in the past two months.

Kongkiat Kittiwattanawong, head of the Marine Endangered Species Unit at the PMBC, has called on all involved organizations to step up their efforts to identify the source of the oil and put a stop to it being dumped.

"Once dumped in the water, the oil spreads and prevents sunlight from penetrating the water's surface. This factor alone has a significant, negative impact on the marine ecosystem," Mr Kongkiat explained.

During the past two months alone, PMBC officers have res-

cued two Pacific Ridley turtles that landed on beaches in Phuket and Phang Nga. Not only were these turtles suffering injuries from fishing nets, they were also covered in oil.

"The oil covered the animals' entire bodies and was in their mouths and covering their gums," he explained.

Mr Kongkiat called on fishermen to cooperate with his office's efforts to preserve the marine environment and stop pouring used engine oil into the ocean.

The renewed call by the PMBC comes in the wake of a large oil spill damaging several kilometers of Krabi coast last month, and the recent oil staining of one kilometer of Lo Dalam Beach on Koh Phi Phi.

– *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

Chinese Envoy: Stop the drownings

By **Orawin Narabal**

THE drowning deaths of two Chinese tourists in just two days last week has prompted Wu Xiufeng, the Songkhla-based Consul of the People's Republic of China, to appeal for tour companies to exercise greater caution and take more responsibility for the safety of their customers.

The call for an improved attitude towards the safety of tourists follows the deaths of Huang Pei Ying, 58, and Ji Xiaqions, 41, on August 7 and 8, respectively.

Both women were found dead, floating face down, while snorkeling with other tourists. Ms Huang was on a snorkeling tour off Koh Racha Yai, about 25 kilometers south of Phuket, while Ms Ji died during a snorkeling tour off Koh Hei (Coral Island), about 5km south of Phuket.

"Tour agencies must take care and teach customers how to use snorkeling equipment properly," Mr Wu told the *Gazette*.

"We have posted warnings on our website. Chinese tourists must be careful when playing or doing any activities in the sea," he said.

"Also, elderly people and tourists with health issues should not go into the sea to prevent taking any unnecessary risks," Consul Wu added.

Chalong Police Deputy Superintendent Boonlert Onklang told the *Gazette* that his officers will not be continuing their investigations into the death of Ms Huang.

"The tour guide, Somjit Saetun, told me that she noticed the Chinese woman [Ms Huang] was not moving, so she went to check on her, but she was already dead,"

Lt Col Boonlert told the *Gazette*.

"A rescue foundation workers brought her body to Vachira Phuket Hospital to verify the cause of death. The doctors there determined that she died as a result of drowning," said Col Boonlert.

"I asked other tourists on the same snorkeling trip and they said they didn't notice anything unusual. They thought she was snorkeling because she was floating face down," Col Boonlert explained.

"No one said they knew anything about a pre-existing medical condition and no one reported seeing anything suspicious where they were snorkeling," he added.

Regarding the death of Ms Ji, Chalong Police Inspector Aekasit Pinkaew said, "The victim's relatives told me that the woman had a medical condition and that she suffered from low blood pressure. Doctors believe that her body went into shock while she was snorkeling."

The deaths of Ms Huang and Ms Ji follow Chinese snorkeler Jin Giuping being found floating face down by her husband during a snorkeling tour near Koh Racha Yai on July 7.

However, quick action by tour guides and the Royal Thai Navy resulted in a helicopter rescue that saved her life.

On June 30, 19-year-old Chinese tourist Tianqi Li drowned at Patong Beach after going for a night swim with a female friend. His female companion was saved.

In February, 57-year-old Xianmei Wang was found floating off of Koh Hei after drowning.

Also in February, tourist Wang Fang drowned while snorkeling with friends off



Despite the vigilance of Phuket's lifeguards, Chinese Consul Wu Xiu Feng has called for tour companies and Chinese tourists to be more cautious when swimming off Phuket.

the Hong Islands (Koh Lao Bileh) in Krabi.

Thailand is experiencing a surge in the number Chinese tourists visiting the Kingdom, which now tops the list in terms of the number of visitors a year.

According to the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), 1,124,234 Chinese tourists visited Thailand between January and June this year, up 28.9 per cent compared with the same period last year.

Kritcharoen Roongmongkolnam of the Phuket Tourist Association's Chinese and Taiwan marketing committee estimates that more than 400,000 Chinese tourists visited Phuket last year.

This year that figure has already been surpassed.

"We presume that by the end of this year it will be more than 700,000," Mr Kritcharoen said.

New UK Ambassador Mark Kent starts work

AMBASSADOR Mark Andrew Geoffrey Kent has taken up the position of British Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand and Non-Resident Ambassador to the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Mr Kent succeeds Asif Ahmad, who relinquished the post on August 10. He is returning to the United Kingdom to prepare for his next, as yet undeclared, diplomatic service appointment.

Ambassador Kent joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 1987 and has spent a considerable amount of his career involved in diplomacy within Southeast Asia, Latin America and the European Union.

On confirmation of his appointment in February Mr Kent said, "I am honored to be given the opportunity to serve again in Southeast Asia. Relations with the rising powers of this region are important for the UK's future prosperity, Thailand is the second largest economy in Asean and trade and investment will be high on my agenda."

Mr Kent insisted that consular work with UK tourists and residents will also be a priority.

Speaking of his diplomatic mission, Mr Kent reiterated that the UK aims to play a constructive role with both countries in "helping to create a political, social and economic environment which is



Mr Kent moves to Bangkok after a tour as Ambassador to Vietnam. Photo: FCO

conducive to fostering further growth in trade, investment, tourism and enhancing our wider relationship, as well as encouraging a strong role within Asean and on wider global issues."

Mr Ahmad, at his last official function, spoke at a dinner in Pattaya held by the British Chamber of Commerce.

The outgoing ambassador expressed his concerns about Thailand becoming a "Costa Del Crime" for certain elements of the British expatriate community.

"While British police are gearing up to deal with villains who are re-settling here there's little they can do about those who commit crimes against fellow countrymen here and who rely people of 'local influence' to keep them out of Thai jails," he said.

— Mark Dee

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Drunken takraw match turns deadly



A DRUNKEN takraw match, the game of "foot volleyball" using a rattan ball, got out of hand in Rayong last week after construction workers bet their own wives during the game.

A fight broke out and one member of the group pulled out a gun, which went off, hitting a 27-year-old woman in the neck. Wassana Thianthaisong died later in the hospital.

Around 7.30pm on August 11, Inspector Thanit Seni Wong Na Ayutthaya of the Rayong Police received word that someone had died in Bangkok Hospital Rayong after being shot.

He rushed to the scene, a workers' camp behind the Banyan Terrace condominium building under construction in Nernphra Subdistrict. At the scene he found four 9mm bullet casings next to the project office. He also found 49-year-old Khamphon Manirat, managing director of the company developing the project, holding a gun. He was deathly pale.

Mr Khamphon told police he had killed Mrs Wassana, who was his niece and worked for the company in the accounts department.

Before the incident, the project's electricians and plumbers were playing the builders at takraw. Mr Khamphon said the workers were very drunk and had bet their wives as "prizes" for the winners of the game. He said that he thought the "bets" were too much and suggested that the losers of the game have a fight instead.

An argument broke out and the construction workers moved to attack him, so he pulled out a gun.

He fired two shots into the air to scare them off, but one electrician, 30-year-old Tan Bunthong, tried to pull the gun off him.

In the melée, the weapon fired again, hitting Ms Wassana in the neck as she sat working in the office. She was rushed to hospital but died of her injuries.

— The Daily News

Ukrainian child pornography suspect faces 500 years jail

THE trial of a Ukrainian man arrested in Phuket and recently extradited to the United States for his alleged involvement in the international distribution of child pornography over the internet has been postponed to November.

Maksym Shynkarenko, 33 at the time of his arrest, was taken into custody at his luxury villa in Chalong in January 2009 through the collaborative efforts of the Phuket Tourist Police, the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE) and the US Department of Homeland Security (HSI).

Since his extradition, however, the District Attorney's Office of New Jersey has reported that Shynkarenko was charged with 32 federal offenses, including advertising child "adult content", running a child exploitation enterprise, and money laundering.

According to the Indictment, Shynkarenko handed over tens of thousands of pictures and videos containing images of children, ranging in age from infants to teenagers, being sexually assaulted and abused. The images were submitted by subscribers to his child hardcore sex sites.

"Shynkarenko's extradition from Thailand to a New Jersey courtroom is a milestone in one of our most important fights 'keeping our children safe from harm'," said US Attorney Paul Fishman.



Shynkarenko on his arrest at his luxury villa in Phuket. He is now facing charges on 32 counts of felony, ranging from advertising child 'adult content' to child exploitation and money laundering. Photo: Gazette file

Shynkarenko allegedly operated a network of websites with names including "Illegal.CP," "The Sick Child Room," "Hottest Childporn Garden" and "Pedo Heaven".

Though the websites allegedly had customers worldwide, the investigation has already led to 560 convictions in the US, making it "the most successful child XXX content investigation in the nation's history."

US ICE and HSI agents first located the site Illegal.CP in October 2005.

"The banner page of the site identified it as 'Illegal.CP,' featuring more than a dozen images of minors engaged in sexual acts with other minors and adults, and proclaimed, '[n]ow you are in [sic] few minutes away from the best children porn site on the net!' and '[i]f you join this site you will get tons of uncensored forbidden pics... forbidden stories, and, of course, many videos'.

The page also featured purported feedback from a self-described pedophile who praised the website," read a New Jersey District Attorney's Office press release.

Upon accessing the "Illegal.CP" website, the initial page warned

subscribers as follows:

FAQ, Please read. "Our site is considered to be illegal in all countries.... Even if you ever have problems with police, you can always say that someone had stolen the information from your credit card and used it. It is very difficult to establish that you were the person to pay."

The subsequent investigation of subscribers to "Illegal.CP" led to the arrests of numerous individuals who were actively molesting children, read the press release.

Federal authorities say those convicted included teachers, clergy, law enforcement officers, lawyers, doctors, coaches and others who came into regular contact with minors.

"Distributors and consumers of child pornography create a market for sexual assaults on children, where the victimization of those children is refreshed with every download," US Attorney Fishman said.

Shynkarenko has entered a plea of not guilty to all charges against him. Foreign Ministry spokesman Oleksandr Dikusharov said on June 12 that Ukrainian investigators "did not find anything" that would constitute a crime in Shynkarenko's actions, reported AP.

However, if Shynkarenko is found guilty on all counts, he faces more than 500 years of imprisonment and millions of dollars in fines.

Fireball engulfs Yacht Haven Marina workshop

POLICE believe that children playing with fireworks may have accidentally started a fire that destroyed a workshop at Yacht Haven Marina on Monday night.

Prai Junnoo, a 33-year-old security guard at the marina, reported the fire at about 9pm.

Firefighters from the Mai Khao Tambon Administration Organization and the Thepkasattri Municipality fire brigades arrived swiftly and took 30 minutes to extinguish the blaze.

A strong overnight breeze

fanned the flames, hampering their efforts to extinguish the blaze.

Adding to their woes, 500 liters of gasoline stored in the workshop exploded, the fireball destroying the building and everything within it, including electronic marine items, engine oil and yacht ropes.

The Gazette was told that the building would also have contained oxygen cylinders and other materials used for welding.

Police estimate the damage at about 5 million baht.



Gasoline exploded, tearing the building to pieces. Photo: Thawit Bilabaddullar

No foul practices at chicken, pig farm

AN INSPECTION of a chicken and pig farm led by Phuket Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosuttirak has resulted in several recommendations for the farm owners to follow, but otherwise found nothing untoward other than the foul odor emanating from the site.

The inspection follows residents at the The Valley 2 housing estate filing a group complaint with the Damrongtham Center (Ombudsman's Office) at Provincial Hall about the stench from the farm and allegations that the

farm's operations were contaminating local waterways.

After receiving the complaint, Vice Governor Somkiet and officials last Tuesday inspected the Thaweephan Phuket Farm in Srisoonthorn.

Accompanied by the farm's animal caretaker, Joampol Rookkarungsri, the inspection team were shown around the facility, which included tours of the pig breeding section, chicken farm, animal slurry and bio-gas processing plant.

After the inspection, officials

retired to the cleaner environment of Srisoonthorn Municipality offices to discuss the findings.

Thaweephan Phuket Farm manager Wuttichai Boonkua, said, "We have been working on animal stool problem. We pulled down the farm that was near the road and closed parts of the chicken farm. There are now only two open-shed farms.

"Once the chickens are no longer laying eggs, those two farms will be decommissioned. Only the pig farm will remain."

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

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In brief...

20th Phuket Pineapple Fair gets underway



Until August 22, Saphan Hin is the place to be if you want to buy fresh pineapples. Photo: Syntheticapture

THE Phuket Pineapple Fair running daily until August 22 kicked off at 5pm on Wednesday at Saphan Hin Park in Phuket Town.

"It's not just pineapples. There are all kinds of fruit, flowers and other agricultural products," Phuket Agricultural chief Winai Khankaew told the *Gazette*.

In addition to venders selling a variety of produce, the fruity festivities will include an agricultural product competition.

Though produce and vendors have rolled in from neighboring provinces, the vast majority is coming from Phuket, specifically Thalang, said Mr Winai.

Phuket safe from Sumatra smog, say officials

AN EXPERT at the Phuket Provincial Health Office on Wednesday confirmed that no health warning has been issued for Phuket following Sumatra fire-related smog covering Southern Thailand.

"Phuket is not affected by the smog from Sumatra, so we have yet to issue a smog warning," Health officer Walapa Jeenloy confirmed to the *Gazette*.

"There are some other provinces effected by the smog, such as Satun, Songkla, Yala, Pattani, but Phuket is safe," she added.

The news follows the Public Health Ministry on Tuesday warning residents of the four southern provinces to temporarily stop exercising outdoors.

Although, air quality in the southern provinces is now considered acceptable, children, elderly people and patients with allergies, heart disease and asthma were cautioned to be careful.

If they needed to go outdoors, the ministry urged them to wear clinical masks or cover noses and mouths with slightly wet cloths.

Public Health Minister Witthaya Buranasiri said the ministry had delivered 50,000 clinical masks to the four provinces affected, as well as Phuket. Each was given 10,000 masks to hand out to their residents.

Protest pressures police to re-open crash probe

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

A PROTEST staged in front of Chalong Police Station on Monday has prompted Chalong Police to re-open their investigation into a traffic accident in which a 16-year-old boy died the previous day.

About 20 people, including the aggrieved father, Sompong Sae-min, friends and family, gathered in front of the police station at about 10am.

According to the police report, Weerachat Sae-min, a first-year commerce student at Phuket Technology College, died "as a result of his motorbike hitting a roadside power pole" near the PTT gas station south of Chalong Temple on Chao Fa West Road.

One of Weerachat's friends survived the accident, and is now recovering from his injuries at Vachira Phuket Hospital.

Mr Sompong told the press that he refused to accept the results of the police investigation.

"First of all, my son's friend said that my son did not die because he hit a power pole. He died because his head hit the road.

"He told me that a pickup truck cut them off, causing my son to lose control of the bike. That's what caused them to fall on the ground and my son's head to hit the road," Mr Sompong said.

The police questioned the pickup driver, but let him go, saying that the driver had nothing to do with it, Mr Sompong alleged.

"I spoke with a witness, a motorbike taxi driver, who confirmed he saw a dent in the



Efforts by Sompong Sae-min (inset) have prompted police to reopen the investigation into his son's death. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

pickup, so he wrote down the license plate number. That's how the police even knew which person to bring in for questioning about the accident," Mr Sompong explained.

He added that if his son's motorbike hit the power pole, the headlight would show some sign of damage. However, the only significant damage to the bike was a buckled front wheel.

Lt Col Boonlert of Chalong Police, the investigating officer in the case, told the *Gazette*, "We questioned the pickup driver, but the man was adamant that he did

involved in an accident.

"As we had no legal reason to hold him, we let him go," he said.

"But now that we have heard from an independent eye-witness, we will investigate these claims by questioning the boy who survived the accident, and we will bring the pickup driver back in for more questioning," Col Boonlert said.

"We will also contact the Phuket provincial branch of the Office of Forensic Science for assistance in our investigation," he added.

"If we find evidence that the driver did cause the accident, we will press charges."

However, Col Boonlert did not name the driver and did not offer an explanation as to why police were now investigating further when they were aware of the independent eye-witness during their initial investigation.

Also, Mr Sompong did not confirm whether or not his son was wearing a helmet at the time of the accident or if he was carrying a valid motorbike driver's license.

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Helmet saves man's life on death bend



The high-quality helmet most likely saved the man's life, said rescue workers. Photo: Thawit Bilabdullar

A HIGH-quality crash helmet is credited with sparing a minibike enthusiast from critical injury after he lost control and crashed at one of Phuket's most notorious traffic accident blackspots late evening of August 9.

News of the crash was reported to Phuket Kusoldharm Foundation rescue workers at 11:30pm.

At the scene, on Thepkasattri Road northbound in Srisoonthorn, they found a 150cc Kawasaki minibike on the pavement, with 29-year-old local resident Noppon Petchluan lying on the median strip nearby covered with blood.

Mr Noppon was taken to Thalang Hospital, where doctors discovered that his most serious injury was a fractured left arm.

Friends of Mr Noppon said they were out for a late-night ride on their minibikes when they realized Mr Noppon had dropped behind.

When they went back to investigate, they saw that he had crashed and immediately called for help through the Narinthorn Andaman emergency call number: 1669.

A rescue worker at the scene said it was quite likely that the high-quality, full-face crash helmet Mr Noppon was wearing at the time probably saved him from very serious injury, or possible death.

The site of the crash was just meters from where 15-year-old Kajonkietsuksa student Wanchai Saeksan died in a similar crash in early July. He was not wearing a helmet at the time.

— Thawit Bilabdullar and Orawin Narabal

Island honors HM Queen Sirikit for Mother's Day

PHUKET Governor Tri Akaradecha presided over the Saphan Hin Candle Lighting ceremony on August 12, as well as many other events held across the island in honor of HM Queen Sirikit's 80th birthday, which is also honored as Mother's Day in Thailand.

Numerous high-ranking officials and organizations joined in the Candle Lighting ceremony and paid homage to a portrait of Queen Sirikit by presenting *phan phums* (lotus-bud-shaped offerings presented on a small tray).

Earlier in the week Gov Tri presided over the tree planting in King Rama 9 Park, where 1,000 saplings were planted in honor of Her Majesty to raise awareness of the importance

of the environment. That same day a million juvenile shrimp and other young marine animals were released into Klong Koh Pee, Phuket Town, in her honor.

On the morning of Her Majesty's birthday, Governor Tri led an offering of alms to 81 monks before a mass blessing was held to honor HM Queen Sirikit.

After the mass blessing ceremony, Governor Tri and an entourage of officials made their way to Phuket Community Hall, where another blessing ceremony was held and where well-wishers signed a book of congratulations to Her Majesty.

— Phuket Gazette



Gov Tri leads a Candle Lighting ceremony in honor of HM Queen Sirikit's 80th birthday.

Officials silent over baby elephant DNA test results

By Chutharat Plerin

DNA test results expected to determine the legality of three baby elephants seized from camps in Phuket, said to be announced in the first week of June, have yet to be released, confirmed the Regional Natural Resources and Environment Crime Suppression Division on August 10.

On May 31, Watcharin Phusit, the superintendent of the regional Natural Resources and Environment Crime Suppression Division, told the *Gazette*, "We were informed by the general inspector that the results of the DNA tests will be revealed next week."

The results will determine who the baby elephants' mothers are, which will help prove if the baby elephants were legally obtained or not.

On August 10, however, more than two months after the expected announcement, Col Watcharin told the *Gazette* that he was still waiting on the DNA results.

Col Watcharin had previously told the *Gazette* that he "had no idea" what was causing the delay.

He explained that his depart-



DNA tests confirming whether or not the three baby elephants seized from multiple camps in Phuket were born from wild elephants have yet to be released, several months after originally expected. Photo: Gazette file

ment had made a request for the DNA testing to be transferred to a private operator to expedite the process.

However, the request was

denied "to avoid any discrepancies arising between the tests", he explained.

Previously, Col Watcharin told the *Gazette* that, "Anyone found

guilty in the case will get up to four years in jail, a 40,000-baht fine, or both, in accordance with the Wildlife Preservation and Protection Act."

Phuket first to score big with Asean-US disaster management cooperation

GOVERNOR Tri Augkaradacha and Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (PPAO) President Paiboon Upatising on Tuesday signed an agreement that will make Phuket the first province in Thailand to benefit from the Asean-US Cooperation on Disaster Management (ACDM).

Inking the agreement at Phuket Provincial Hall, Governor Tri and President Paiboon ensured that the Phuket office of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (Phuket-DDPM) will be the first of its kind in the country to have an Incident

Command System (ICS) set up with the assistance of the US government.

"The disasters we have suffered in the past and the disasters we continue to suffer today are only made worse by poor management and poor coordination among response teams, risking greater loss of life and damage to property of tourists and people who live here," said Gov Tri.

Currently, Brunei and the Philippines are the only other Asean countries to already have an ICS developed with the assistance of the US government.



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HONDA

PM survives first year in office

PRIME Minister Yingluck Shinawatra's first year in office has passed mostly peacefully, in terms of the famed "red shirts" versus the "yellow shirts", though there are signs that the political tensions of recent years continue to simmer under the surface.

Mrs Yingluck took up the post of Thai premier on August 5 last year following a landslide victory by her Pheu Thai Party in elections in July.

Those elections followed years of political strife that had culminated in massive street protests in 2010 by the United front for Democracy against Dictatorship (UDD), better known as the "red shirts".

Since Mrs Yingluck took office, there have been sporadic demonstrations by the pro-government UDD and groups opposed to Mrs Yingluck's administration, such as the yellow-shirted People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD).

But there has been nothing on the scale of what was seen in 2010 or the PAD demonstrations that brought down two governments in 2008.

An uneasy peace appears to be holding.

Nevertheless, there remain signs that the political differences that led to the past unrest have not gone away.

Much of the recent strife centers around

Mrs Yingluck's older brother Mr Thaksin, the former prime minister who was ousted in a military coup in 2006.

Last Sunday, Mr Thaksin was forced to cancel an appearance at a red-shirt gathering in Los Angeles in the US after protesters blocked the Thailand Plaza food court on Hollywood Street, where the event was to take place.

PAD followers from the city and as far

away as Las Vegas and Colorado assembled on both sides of the street in front of the venue. Screaming insults, they held up signs with messages such as "Thug-sin... go to jail", "Convicted fugitive" and "Wanted criminal".

Around 9pm, Sompong Amornwiwat, a key figure from the ruling Pheu Thai Party and a close Thaksin aide, announced at the red-shirt event that the former PM would not attend due to security reasons, on advice from local police, reported the news website Siam Town US.

Thaksin, who fled abroad in late 2008 to avoid a two-year jail term for a land deal ruled to be an abuse of power, phoned in to apologize for failing to speak in person. He said he could not enter the venue



Protesters in Los Angeles forced Thaksin to cancel his appearance. Photo: The Nation

due to the large group of protesters outside.

Some political experts indicated that the

incident showed the likely reaction in Thailand if Mrs Yingluck attempted to bring her brother back home.

Senator shoots own wife in Mother's Day Uzi accident

POLICE say they will prosecute a Thai senator after he "accidentally" shot his own wife with a sub-machine gun on Mother's Day.

The accident took place in front of her relatives during a family dinner at a resort in the Northern province of Phrae.

Senator Boonsong Kowawisarach, 56, was removing ammunition from his Uzi 9mm when it suddenly discharged, shooting his 46-year-old wife Chanakarn Dedkhad in the abdomen.

She died en route to hospital.

As a senator, Mr Boonsong has parliamentary immunity and has yet to be arrested. Police said they would send a letter to the Senate

president asking permission to prosecute Mr Boonsong.

"While they were eating, Mr Boonsong took his Uzi 9mm out of his travel bag and took the bullets out. But it appears there was a bullet still in the chamber and the gun fired, entering the stomach of Mrs Chanakarn," reported the Nation Channel.

According to the Uzi 9mm instruction manual, the weapon has two safeties, a fire selector (safety catch) and a grip safety to prevent accidental firing. In addition to these safety features, the weapon has a retracting safety ratchet, which is designed to further prevent accidental firing.



Senator Boonsong Kowawisarach, 56, shot his wife. Photo: The Nation

Mum offers reward for daughter's killer

THE mother of British backpacker Kristy Jones, who was raped and murdered in Chiang Mai 12 years ago, is offering a 500,000-baht reward for information leading to the arrest of her daughter's killer.

Ms Jones, 23, died at the Aree Guesthouse in the Northern capital in 2000. She was three months into a two-year trip around the world.

Her killer was never found.

At a press conference in Chiang Mai, Kirsty's mother, Sue Jones, told the media that "it still feels like yesterday when we heard what happened to our daughter."

She asked for witnesses to come forward, saying: "Something small which may seem irrelevant at the time could now be significant and



Kristy Jones's mother is offering a 500,000 baht reward. Photo: Agencies

add new pieces to the jigsaw that the police already have."

Since the murder, 22 people

have had their DNA tested, though none matched a sample collected at the scene.

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Re-framing your vision of the world

THIS week's edition the *Phuket Gazette* is proud to carry its first weekly supplement of the *China Daily's Asia Weekly* magazine. The journal offers *Gazette* readers a long-awaited – and a much-needed – fresh perspective on both the economic giant in our neighborhood and Asia in general.

Already more than a million Chinese tourists have visited Thailand so far this year, with more than 400,000 visiting Phuket. The Phuket Chamber of Commerce expects more than 700,000 to visit Phuket by year's end.

So, if you or the business you work for are not already catering to the Chinese inbound market, either through tours, accommodation establishments, food and beverage or simply entertainment – don't worry, you are very likely to be in the near future.

More importantly for Phuket expats, however, is the range of news and business stories, as well as the political and economic analysis coverage the *Asia Weekly* provides. Many of our readers will be challenged, and many for the first time, to read stories about Asia written from a truly Asian perspective.

Many expats on the island would like to believe they have lived in Asia long enough to gain a "true" understanding of their newly adopted residence. The sad truth, however, is that many simply haven't.

Far too often a person's frame of reference is set at an early reading age, when perceptions are cast into the mold of whatever news source the person started reading when he or she first took an interest in global events.

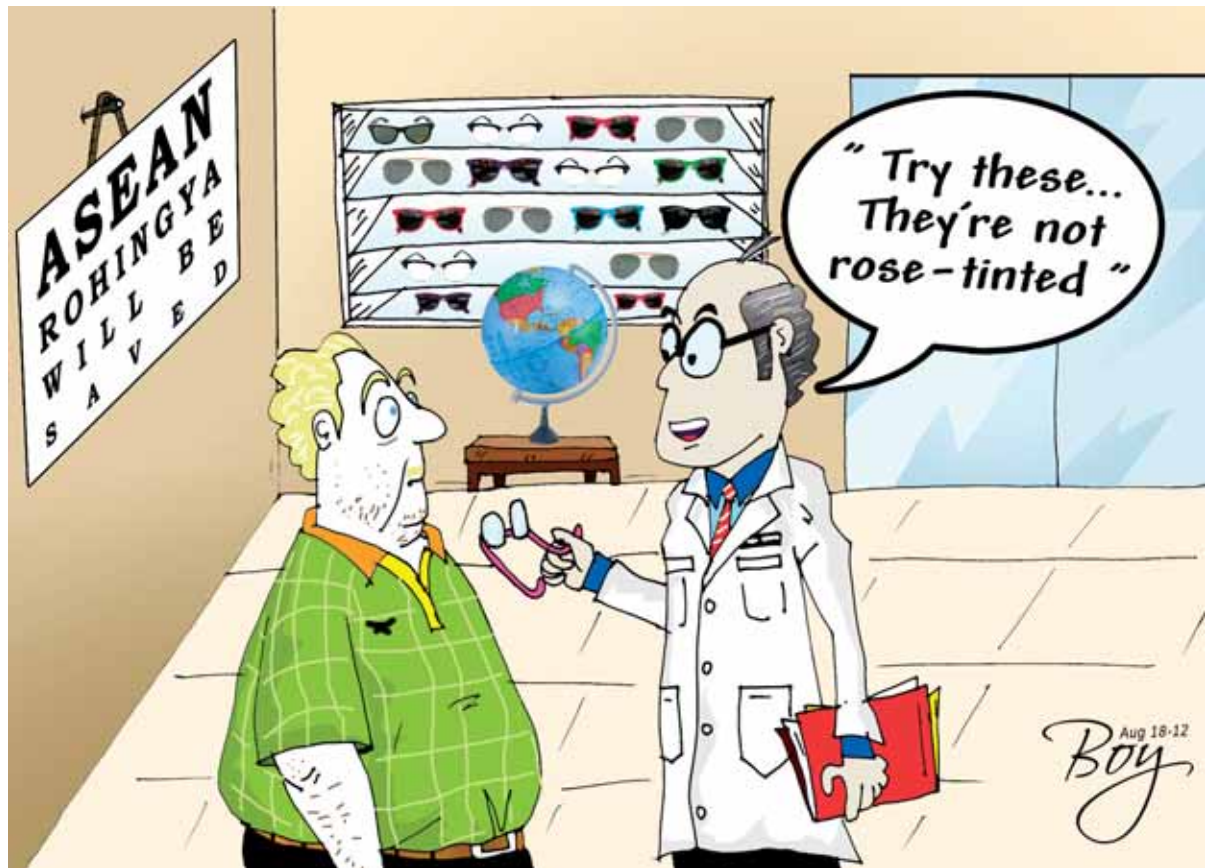
Those frames of reference, except for those rare expat gems who open their eyes, ears and minds to their new-found host culture, tend to remain with the expat for the rest of their lives.

Repeated testament to this preconditioned mindset are many of the comments posted under news stories, where the comments are written as if the story took place in the writer's home country, or at the very least equivocated to as if they did.

Should, could and would, are three words that every expat should be wary of when passing judgment on – ahem, "assessing" – the actions and behaviors of others. More often than not, such comments are posted by expats who claim to have lived on Phuket, or in Thailand, for years.

We challenge our readers to set aside their instilled frame of reference imported from homelands, and to enrich the breadth of their understanding of the world around them by reading with a new set of spectacles; many might be surprised about the thoughts and feelings of their international neighbors.

One simple example would be an editorial recently carried by the *China Daily* railing against internet censorship. We are certain many more surprises are to follow. The *Gazette* urges our readers to please read on...



Gunning for good times

Re: Gazette online, Prosecutor calls for new evidence in off-duty police shooting, August 9

Many years ago, I was in Udon in the infamous Soi Farang and the bar next door had a large group of heavily intoxicated police officers with plenty of ladies with them. What I found troubling was that just about every one of them was in uniform and carrying their sidearms. Guns and alcohol are a lethal combination and, licensed or not, have no place in such an environment.

Jack Doe
Gazette forum

Gun control starts with self-restraint

Re: Gazette online, Prosecutor calls for new evidence in off-duty police shooting, August 9

I think my ex-cop American friend will confirm that in the US off-duty police officers carry their weapons for a number of reasons, such as self-defense in a case where someone they have arrested tries for retribution.

A cop is always on duty even when not on the clock. Who better to stop that robbery at a 7-Eleven than the off-duty cop that happens to be right there?

Having the gun is not the problem, not having self-control is.

James Bond
Gazette forum

THAI cutbacks only logical

Re: Gazette Online, THAI's low-cost carrier plan stalls, August 13

THAI Airlines are losing money because passengers have voted with their feet. In the past, they hiked their fares with fuel surcharges when oil prices went up, but they never removed them when prices went down.

Letters to the Editor

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

By comparison, Bangkok Airways provides a well-priced service and all passengers are treated to a lounge with free snacks and services. Other budget airlines are good value for money.

Sorry THAI – too little, too late!
Logic
Gazette forum

Snorkeling is now a life-saving skill

Re: Gazette online, Police find 'nothing suspicious' in Chinese drownings, August 13

I am a former dive instructor and Phuket is a second home for me. I speak Chinese a little bit and have worked in China and all over the world. In my experience, generally Chinese cannot swim well. If you go scuba diving you need a certificate, or at least must make a check dive. But for a snorkeling trip I am sure that anyone can join in. In December 2011, I personally saved a Chinese honeymoon couple from drowning.

Carsten Steffen
Gazette forum

Taking bends at warp speed

Re: Gazette online, Crash helmet saves minibiker at Phuket 'curve of death', August 10

I travel this stretch of road on a regular basis – this is not a difficult bend to negotiate by any means. Lack of driving ability and excessive speed are more often

responsible [for accidents] than the bend itself. As with standing stops at traffic lights, people seem to need to take off from the Heroines' Monument at a vast rate of speed. By the time they're at "Warp Factor One", they forget to slow down for the bend.

Mister Ree
Gazette forum

Patong Beach could use some TLC too

Re: Gazette online, Phi Phi islanders, resort tackle rising tide of monsoon trash, August 14

I have been waiting for a suitable editorial to highlight an issue at Patong Beach and the sea there, which is disgusting. It has been like that for the last two or three years to my personal knowledge.

I come into contact with many tourists who ask where they can find clean water to swim in! I explain that most beaches are clean in Phuket.

However, in Patong, even in the shallow water you cannot see the bottom and the garbage washed ashore remains there!

It's not difficult to figure out how to clean it up.

Bjay
Gazette forum

Phuket paranoia

Re: Gazette online, US court postpones trial of Phuket-based child porn suspect, August 14

I'm wondering if any of the material he was distributing was filmed in Phuket?

There must have been a reason for him basing himself here. Phuket is certainly attracting some undesirable expats.

It makes you wonder who your neighbors really are.

Harry
Gazette forum

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Editor: Pana Janviroj

News Manager: Chris Husted

News Editor: Stephen Fein

Features Editor: Marc Mulloy

Managing Director: Oranee Hildebrand

General Manager: Natthira Susangrat

Production Manager: Suchart Changate

Publisher: The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

Contact us:

Editorial: news@phuketgazette.net

Advertising Sales: adsales@phuketgazette.net

Classified Advertising: classads@phuketgazette.net

Website services: anna@phuketgazette.net

Gazette Guide: guide@phuketgazette.net

Events Sponsorship: events@phuketgazette.net

General: info@phuketgazette.net

Telephone: 076 273555 (10 lines) Fax 076 615240

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

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Powering Phuket to 'fossil fuel free'

FIRST PERSON

AS PHUKET relies on tourism, it is important to keep the island beautiful. However, if we are unable to control the amount of pollution on the island, its magnificence will fade.

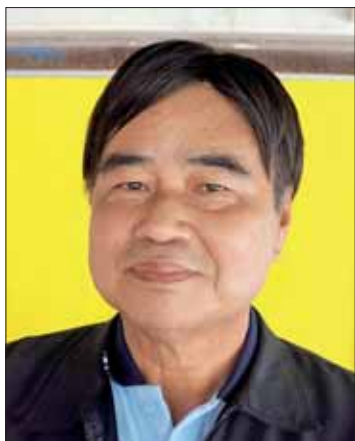
I started the "Phuket Green" project as soon as I took office as the Phuket Provincial Energy Office chief more than three years ago. The project has three main focuses: environmental protection, alternative energy production and fossil-fuel usage reduction.

At the moment, we are focusing our efforts on making the smaller islands of Koh Lone and Koh Racha Yai fossil-fuel free.

Once we have alternative-energy projects established on these islands, we can bring our projects ashore to Phuket. Just those two islands running on alternative-energy sources would make our province Thailand's number-one producer of alternative energy.

The "Fossil Fuel Free" project was started about two years ago and was approved by the former Minister of Energy Wannarat Channukul, who came to Phuket and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Phuket Provincial Office.

There are only about 50 households on Koh Lone, which are able to produce only four hours of electricity a day with generators. One generator is generally shared by four households, which have agreed to use it between 6pm and 10pm. Even this costs each household about 2,000 baht each month.



Jirasak Thummavet, aged 58, is the chief of the Phuket Provincial Energy Office. Originally hailing from Phang Nga, Mr Jirasak has a master's degree in Public Administration from the National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA). Here, he talks about his push for alternative energy projects in Phuket.

Seeing this, we realized that we needed to find a way for them to produce enough electricity to allow them usage all day. This would allow students to take part in the Distance Learning Program, which is a program from the Ministry of Education that provides satellite-fed education programs to rural areas.

Already, we have two solar panels on the island. And with the 2-million-baht budget provided this year by the Phuket Provincial Office, we will install two wind turbines and another two solar panels.

Recently, we identified a water source on Koh Lone that could be used to produce power with a hydroelectric dam.

We had officers from Department of Alternative Energy Development and Efficiency survey the stream and draw up a plan.

However, we didn't have the budget for the project so we asked for donations from private companies, which helped by raising 1.7mn baht.

With villagers volunteering their time, we are going to start building the dam on August 27.

Sometime next fiscal year we will install hydroelectric generators, which will produce six kilowatts of electricity a day.

We have requested an additional 18mn baht from the Ministry of Energy to complete the project.

We are also establishing projects on Koh Racha so that island can be included in our "Fossil Fuel Free" concept.

We will request that some funds from the Energy Conservation Promotion Fund be invested in the project and then we will have the hotel owners on Koh Racha Yai repay us.

There is an expected investment of about 300mn baht in Koh Racha's alternative energy project, which will eventually produce two megawatts of electricity a day.

Another interesting project we are working on deals with the channel under Sarasin Bridge. We have requested the Phuket Marine Department Office conduct a year-long survey of the current in the channel to see whether or not it's feasible to produce electricity from it.

Support a cure for cancer that works

Island View

By Steven Layne

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

MY AUNT-IN-LAW's cancer – initially thought cured – has returned with a vengeance, spreading to multiple vital organs at an ever-worrisome rate.

When tests late last year first detected the cancer in her abdominal region, she was immediately transferred from Phuket to Haad Yai. There she underwent radiation therapy, yielding a hopeful prognosis; the cancer was gone, so everyone thought. But late last month, when she was overcome by fatigue and migraines her doctor decided to immediately send her back to Haad Yai.

The cancer has now spread to her lungs and parts of her brain, and doctors don't seem very confident that the current radiation sessions will be effective, let alone if her body will even survive such sustained radioactive trauma for a second time.

Like many others, at first I was skeptical to learn that there is and has always been a natural cure for cancer. This cure, I found

out, is administered orally in the form of an oil extracted from one of the most popular yet controversially illegal flowering herbs. Unfortunately, the cannabis plant has been illegitimately criminalized throughout much of the world for the last eight decades.

What the Harvard Division of Experimental Medicine and others in the scientific community are just starting to openly concur as being an effective treatment and preventative line against cancer – not merely just pain relief – has in fact been used to cure and prevent all types of illnesses for

thousands of years.

Sharing a bespoke physiological bond with humans, this herb is the only known source on the planet of special compounds called cannabinoids that, when introduced into the human endocannabinoid system (our body's super regulatory system that maintains homeostasis in other systems), have the ability to terminate cancerous cells, while protecting and preserving healthy cells. Some say that even Jesus used this miracle oil to cure sick patients in his holy healing heyday.

Today, ongoing research and countless case studies continue to perpetuate newfound hope and relief for patients suffering from all types of cancers – skin, breast, prostate,

lung and brain, among others. This is particularly benefiting patients in Israel, Canada and the US, where 18 states have re-legalized cannabis for medicinal applications. Thailand, however, seems leagues away from such progress, and it doesn't look like lawmakers here will be ready anytime soon to listen to scientists – there is clearly way too much business at stake. Meanwhile, the onslaught of expensive radiation therapy down in Haad Yai has a good chance of ameliorating my aunt-in-law's suffering once and for all.

'ongoing research and countless case studies continue to perpetuate 'newfound hope' and relief for patients suffering from all types of cancers'

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

'Pink Bus' route from terminal 1 to 2

I know there is a new Pink Bus connecting the old Bus Terminal 1 and the new Bus Terminal 2. What route does it take?

Also, I heard that two new Pink Bus routes would be launched soon. Is that true?

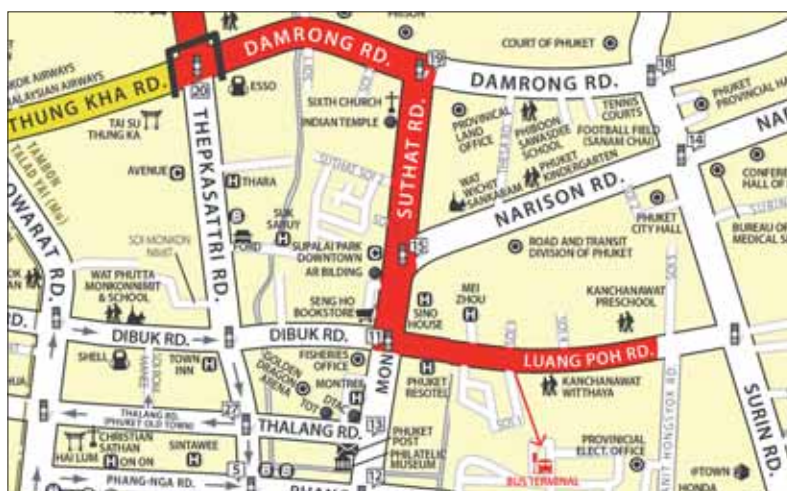
If so, what will the routes be?

*Tinkerbelle
Phuket*

Surachai Mora, Transportation Department Phuket Provincial Administrative Organization (PPAO) officer, replies:

The bus departs from Bus Terminal 1. From there the route is: Luang Por Wat Chalong Road; Suthat Road; Damrong Road; Phuket Provincial Prison; Satrie Phuket School; Thepkasattri Road; Bus Terminal 2.

We haven't planned to launch



The 'Pink Bus' route takes passengers from local Bus Terminal 1 to inter-provincial Bus Terminal 2. Map: Streets of Phuket

any new bus routes yet.

However, if people require the PPAO to add more routes, then we will discuss it with our team

and see what is viable.

If you have any further questions, contact the PPAO office on 076-210807 or 076-354204.

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

Mayoral election is over, but yesterday's faces remain

On July 15, Kata-Karon contested their mayoral election. In the weeks leading up to the election, both candidates had their election staff go all over Kata and Karon and plaster election signs wherever there was a blank, suitable surface.

It was my understanding that these signs had to be removed within seven days of the election being contested.

It is now beyond the seven-day deadline for the removal of the election signs, and none of them have been removed.

Are the candidates responsible to get these signs removed, or is it the city?

*Mark Ellison
Phuket*

Kittipong Thiengkunakrit, Phuket Election Commission Director, replies:

There are no such regulations that give a deadline for the removal of election signs.

If the candidates do not remove their own signs after the election, it becomes the responsibility of the Local Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) or municipality to remove them.

Med visas for Middle Easterners to have no impact on local sector

A NEW regulation to allow medical tourists from six Middle-eastern countries to enter Thailand on a 90-day Visa-On-Arrival (VOA), will have little impact on Phuket's medical tourism industry, representatives from two international hospitals on the island have concurred.

Upon ratification of the amendment, recently approved by cabinet, 90-day VOAs will be available to nationals of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, provided the patients can show proof of their medical appointment in Thailand.

The intention to amend the visa laws, which previously allowed 15-30 days for nationals of said countries, was initially announced by the Interior Ministry as part of the government's latest efforts to promote medical tourism.

Government Spokesperson Sansanee Nakphong, who last week announced cabinet's approval of the measure, noted that the VOA will also extend to up to four companions accompanying the patient.

Asked to comment, the Director of Bangkok Hospital Phuket Director Narongrit Havarungsi said: "This new regulation will be a blessing for Middle Eastern tourists who need to come to Thailand to get treatment for complicated ailments such as heart disease and cancer, which require longer periods of treatment and recovery."

However, Dr Norngrit explained that such patients tend to go to Bangkok, whereas the Middle Eastern medical tourists

	Total Healthcare Expenditure (\$b)	Healthcare Expenditure as % of GDP	Private Healthcare Expenditure (\$b)	Public Healthcare Expenditure (\$b)	Annual % Increase in Medical Costs
Australia	107.1	11.7	40.2	66.9	
China	270.7	7.5	189.4	81.3	6.7
India	95.5	6.9	77.4	18.1	5.7
Indonesia	22.2	4.0	13.1	9.1	8.7
Japan	467.5	7.8	76.6	390.9	4.3
Malaysia	11.9	5.0	5.2	6.7	7.5
Singapore	7.6	4.2	5.6	2.0	6.0
South Korea	70.9	5.3	25.1	45.8	6.6
Thailand	23.8	7.5	14.5	9.3	6.2

HEALTHCARE HEATING UP: Medical tourism in the greater Asia-Pacific region is becoming more lucrative and volatile at the same time.

that come to Phuket tend to seek out less complex procedures.

"The third quarter [July-September] is the peak time for them [Middle Eastern tourists] to come to Phuket, and they are mostly getting treated for fevers, stomach aches and minor accidents – requiring relatively less time for recovery."

Dr Narngrit pointed out that Phuket's medical tourism niche is for cosmetic surgery, eye operations and dentistry, of which the primary source markets are in

Australia and Europe.

Peter Davidson, International Service Manager at Phuket International Hospital, agrees.

"We do not cater to the Middle East market in Phuket," he said.

At the time of comment, Peter was in Australia coordinating a roadshow to promote medical tourism in that market.

"My hospital and our partner agencies are currently placing around 15,000 hotel room nights per year, not a small amount," he added.

– Steven Layne

AMCHAM – SEEK to discuss green tourism practices

THE American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) Greater Phuket Chapter is co-ordinating with local environmental welfare group SEEK to hold a seminar focusing on Best Green Tourism Practices in Phuket.

The seminar, to be held at the Holiday Inn Patong on August 24, will highlight how sustainable green programs, ranging from recycling, energy and water savings and more, can help the island.

"Whether you work in a hotel, the tourism industry, property development or run a business here [in Phuket], this practical seminar, led by leading experts from the hospitality sector, is set to help you take the first step towards contributing something back to Phuket," the organizers say.

Leading the seminar as moderator will be Arnfinn Oines, who heads Soneva Resorts' Social & Environmental Conscience unit.

The three expert panelists will be Anthony Lark, General Manager of the Trisara resort; Ty Collins, General Manager of the JW Marriott Phuket Beach Resort & Spa

in Khao Lak and Morgan Layberry, Executive Assistant Manager of the Holiday Inn Patong.

The panel will explain corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives such as EarthCheck and Green Leaf, LEED certification and basic sustainable programs.

SEEK is an organisation set up to work with the local community, the local Phuket government, the private sector and residents of Phuket to help keep

Phuket a sustainable destination.

The people within SEEK work together to help solve problems faced by Phuket as it grows as a tourist destination and sustainable community.

Registration starts at 4pm with the session running from 4:30 to 6pm. Networking drinks will follow.

Attendance is open to the public for 100 baht, and includes drinks.

To register for the event, visit [W: amchamthailand.com](http://W:amchamthailand.com) or contact Sheree Tanpensuk at 02-254-1041, ext 212, or E: sheree@amchamthailand.com. Also, for more information on SEEK, visit [W: myseek.org](http://W:myseek.org)



THAI cancels LCC plans

PLAGUED by financial losses, Thai Airways International (THAI) has decided to drop plans to establish a low-cost carrier (LCC) airline by 2013.

The chairman of the board, Ampon Kittiampon, confirmed on August 9 that, given the company's recent financial under-performance, launching a LCC would not be included in this year's strategic business plan.

Dr Ampon told the press that he was unhappy with the airline's performance, which recorded a loss for the second quarter of 2012.

"From now, THAI will spend more time improving its financial performance so that it returns to profitability after suffering losses of 10.2 billion baht last year," said Dr Ampon.

For the remainder of this year, THAI intends to focus on its sister company THAI Smile, which was launched early last month.

After three to six months of



THAI suffered heavy losses in Q2.

operation, they will evaluate THAI Smile's performance, he said.

THAI Smile claims that its Bangkok-Macau route has a cabin factor satisfaction rating of more than 80 per cent.

One area of contention and a likely cause of friction among board members is the possibility of a restructuring of board membership.

However, the threatened reshuffle has not been welcomed by some factions of the board who are keen that their objections are taken seriously by the new leadership.

The board will also consider downsizing the firm's public relations department.

Looking further into the future, THAI's acting president and executive vice president, Chokchai Panyayong, said that it was essential for the national carrier to launch an LCC.

"Domestically and internationally the low-cost carrier market has seen continuous growth, a trend predicted [to] increase once ASEAN 2015 comes into being. Furthermore, the sister airline would strengthen the airline's role in the aviation industry," Mr Chokchai said.

THAI currently plans to task Nok Air, an LCC in which it holds a 49 % stake, to conduct research to identify potential business opportunities. If those findings are favorable, a THAI-Nok Air joint venture would be the next step, with THAI procuring a larger stake in Nok Air.

– The Nation

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Midyear tax filing deadline nears

Companies and individuals who generated income in Thailand during the first six months of 2012 – regardless of where or how payments were made – have until August 31 to file their midyear tax return. The *Gazette's* Steven Layne reports.

THE Revenue Department website states: "A company [or individual] is obliged to estimate its annual net profit [or net income] as well as its tax liability and pay half of the estimated tax amount within two months after the end of the first six months of its accounting period. The prepaid tax is creditable against its annual tax liability."

In last week's Tax Tips article, we outlined the basic regulations and procedures for filing and paying income tax in Thailand, covering both Personal Income Tax (PIT) for individuals and Corporate Income Tax (CIT) for companies. In this follow-up, we will talk about Withholding Tax and move onto brackets for PIT and CIT.

WITHHOLDING TAX (WT)

Most types of formal income in Thailand are subject to WT at source. This tax serves as a prepayment, later to be credited against tax liability upon filing their returns. Companies and individuals are required to pay or verify these withholdings to the revenue department twice a year. WT rates are based on the following:

For personal income, WT rates for general employment is 5-37%, depending on the amount; property rental and prizes 5%; ship rental charges 1%; service and Professional fees 3%; public entertainer remuneration 5% for Thai resident and 5-37% for non-resident, while WT for advertising fees is 2%.

For corporate income, the rates are: dividends 10%; interest 1%; royalties 3%; advertising fees 2%; services and professional fees are subject to 3% WT for companies with a permanent branch in Thailand and 5% for those without a Thailand branch; prizes is 5%.

Withholding tax certificates should be kept, copied and submitted when filing the half-year prepayment form (PND 94 for PIT and PND 51 for CIT). The mid-year filing deadline is August 31, 2012, while the full year tax returns are due by March 29, 2013. Note that if one fails to file their midyear tax return, they will be subject to paying a small fine upon filing their full-year tax return.

PERSONAL INCOME TAX (PIT)		
Taxable Income (baht)	Marginal Taxable income (baht)	Tax Rate (%)
0 - 150,000*	150000	Exempt
150,001 - 500,000	350000	10
500,001 - 1,000,000	500000	20
1,000,001 - 4,000,000	3000000	30
4,000,001 and over		37

TAX BRACKETS

Once you have determined all of your deductions and allowances, you are now ready to calculate how much of your income is taxable and which rates to apply. To determine which tax bracket you should apply, you have to calculate your Taxable Income (Ti) by subtracting the sum of Deductions (D) and Allowances (A) from one's Accessible Income (Ai). In other words, $Ti = Ai - (D+A)$.

Tax rates in Thailand range from 0 to 37%. For PIT, the rates are progressive. To demonstrate, let's say that after subtracting all deductions and allowances, your Ti is exactly 500,000 baht. In Thailand, the first 150,000 baht of your Ti is exempt.

Therefore, only the remaining 350,000 baht would be subject to the bracket rate of 10%, or 35,000 baht. If less than this amount was withheld as shown on the respective PND or WT certificate, you will owe the difference. Likewise if more was withheld, you can expect the revenue department to write you a cheque equal to the amount of the surplus.

Moving up brackets, let's say your Ti is 600,000 baht. Accordingly, the first 150,000 baht is exempt, and the next 350,000 baht would be taxed at 10%, while the remaining 100,000 baht would be subject to a 20% rate, or 20,000 baht. In this example, the total tax

owed would be 55,000 baht ($0+35,000+20,000$).

Calculating CIT is similar. Though the rate is set at 30% for large companies, such as those listed on the Stock Exchange of Thailand, the tax rate is progressive, based on profit volume and the company category. For example, small companies are subject to only 15% CIT on their first million baht of net profit, 25% on the next two million and 30% on any net profit over three million baht.

Remember, for this midyear filing, you'll need to show or make payment for only half of your expected net income/profits.

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

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

CORPORATE INCOME TAX (CIT)		
Tax Payer	Tax Base	Rate (%)
Small Company	Net profit < 1mn baht	15
	Net profit > 1mn baht, but < 3mn baht	25
	Net profit > 3mn baht	30
SET listed Company	Net profit for first 300mn baht	25
	Net profit exceeding 300mn baht	30
Foreign company engaging in international transportation	Gross receipts	3
Foreign company not carrying on business in Thailand receiving dividends from Thailand	Gross receipts	10
Foreign company disposing profit out of Thailand	Amount disposed	10

For full list, see rd.go.th

Ready to file?



Phuket Revenue Office
23 Narissorn road, T. Talad Yai, A. Muang
Tel. 0-7621-1280, 0-7621-4950 - 51
Fax. 0-7621-6674

Branch Offices

Mueang Phuket 1 Area Revenue
Tel. 0-7621-2360, 0-7635-4620

Mueang Phuket 2 Area Revenue
Tel. 0-7628-3199, 0-7628-3200

Kathu Area Revenue
Tel. 0-7632-1403

Thalang Area Revenue
Tel. 0-7631-1493 - 4

ICT deals to generate B100mn

THE Software Industry Promotion Agency (SIPA) said it expects software developers to seal deals with local tourism operators worth as much as 100 million baht.

With an aim of stimulating the tourism industry through the integration of cutting edge Information and Communication Technology (ICT), the deals are anticipated to result from SIPA's Software Exhibition Roadshow that recently visited Phuket and eight other tourism 'hot spots' in Thailand.

The exhibition, titled "Cloud Studio: Tourism Solutions", was held

at the Royal Phuket City Hotel on August 8, with representatives from 20 tour operators participating.

The event featured seminars about cloud computing, networking and software demonstration exhibitions, allowing developers and operators to exchange knowledge.

Similar seminars were also held, or are scheduled to be held in Koh Samui, Bangkok, Khao Yai, Pattaya, Chiang Mai, Kanchanaburi and Udon Thani.

SIPA Deputy Director Prinya Krajangmol commented that the tourism industry is one of several

primary industries which the Thai government aims to develop by integrating the latest in ICT to increase competitiveness and future revenue.

"The developers will demonstrate the capabilities of their software to tourism operators – the target group. When the operators are aware of all the benefits and practicalities, they can decide to apply the ICT solutions to increase their competitive potential as well as develop and improve their administration and service. This will lead to the tourism [industry] being more efficient," he said.

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Goodbye to ol' Hotmail



Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

IF YOU have a Hotmail account, you're in for a big surprise. Microsoft is throwing away Hotmail completely.

That's quite a comeuppance for one of the best-known brands in the world. Imagine Toyota throwing away the Camry brand, or Louis ditching Vuitton.

Once upon a time, Hotmail blazed new ground as the first major free web-based e-mail service when Sabeer Bhatia (a native of Bangalore and a graduate of Caltech and Stanford) spent US\$300,000 to launch it in 1996.

On December 31, 1997, Microsoft bought Hotmail for US\$400 million, and the service has never been the same. Microsoft struggled with Hotmail for many years, adding new users like flies, but always suffering from severe performance problems and crashes heard round the world.

Ultimately, Hotmail was shuffled under the Microsoft Network (MSN) wing, its free services were clipped, and its user interface was subjected to more facelifts than an aging Hollywood actor.

What happened? Just like Windows, Hotmail's been losing market share. Once the dominant email provider - with Yahoo Mail and AOL hot on its heels - Google's Gmail came along about ten years ago and blasted Hotmail out of the arena. Why pay for 20MB of Hotmail email storage, when Gmail give away 1GB for free? Gmail's taken a lot of market share and mindshare, with superior services and a much better interface, all for absolutely no cost.

Right now, Hotmail has about a third of the online email market. That's a precipitous fall from its old domination. Gmail has a third, and it's increasing rapidly. Yahoo Mail, perhaps surprisingly, also has about a one-third share, with

its user base a flat line for years.

While email as a whole isn't an endangered species, it isn't growing very quickly. Social networking sites are starting to pick up a substantial portion of traditional one-to-one email traffic, and IMs, SMSs and VoIP/Skype calls eat away at the numbers.

So Microsoft decided to throw out the Hotmail baby with the bathwater, and replace it with something called, of all things, Outlook.com.

Everybody's going to find the name confusing. Outlook.com doesn't work anything at all like the real Outlook, which is part of Microsoft Office. It doesn't work like the Outlook Web App either, which is primarily for corporate email users on the go, or Outlook Express, the email program in Windows XP.

In fact, Outlook.com works pretty much like Hotmail, and Microsoft has added several new features that really do make Outlook.com competitive with Gmail.

Also, in addition to @hotmail.com and @live.com IDs, which have always worked with Hotmail, Microsoft has also added @outlook.com IDs. If you want an email address such as woody@outlook.com, run over to the site and stake it out.

It won't take long for you to get the hang of Outlook.com. The usual folders are on the left - Inbox, Junk, Drafts, Sent and Deleted. The Quick Views folders at the bottom

left are basically useless, as far as I can tell.

Don't waste your time with them, unless you want to use one of the online Office Web Apps (stunted versions of Word,



ET TU OUTLOOK? The familiar pastiche of ads and distractions no more. Instead a Spartan, four-column layout with the boxy design Microsoft used to call "Metro" (a harbinger of Windows 8). Photo: Ali

Excel, PowerPoint) to edit a file that's been emailed to you. Individual messages can be flagged by clicking on the flag silhouette on the message summary line (second column). A flagged message is automatically placed at the top of the Inbox list.

Outlook.com has one unique feature called Sweep, which lets you move all of the mail from a particular email address into a single folder, or delete all of the mail from a specific email address. Sweep is an old Hotmail feature that's been brought into the new Outlook.com.

My #1 tip for Outlook.com users is the same as my #1 tip for old Hotmail users: create a folder called Save, and don't create any other folders.

As you go through your mail, move any interesting mail to the Save folder. That way, you can search for it easily, and don't need

to worry about Outlook.com throwing it away after 30 days.

Gmail users don't have to worry about making a Save folder. Gmail already has one, called Archive.

A month ago, based on the recommendation of a friend who also writes "For Dummies" books, I decided to try Gmail as my only, full-time email program. I migrated all of my email addresses over to Gmail (a process that's surprisingly easy), and kept using all of my old email addresses.

After a month of intense use, I actually prefer Gmail to Outlook 2010 (never thought I'd say that).

There are some tricks, but once you get the hang of it, Gmail's capable of handling a lot of email. Searching for mail in Gmail takes one-tenth the time, and creates one-tenth the headache, of searching in Outlook.

The big downside: When my internet connection goes down, I'm dead in the water.

I also tried Outlook.com for a few days, and ultimately went back to Gmail. Why? Three reasons. First, it's much easier to archive mail in Gmail, and I use the archiving feature a lot.

Two, Gmail sorts my mail automatically into two lists: Important and Everything Else.

The sorting isn't infallible, but it adapts to my recommendations, and it saves me an enormous amount of time scanning incoming mail.

Third, I just prefer the layout of the Gmail screen. Instead of Outlook.com's four columns, with ads taking up the fourth, I prefer having a single ad at the top, and seeing the rest of the screen devoted to mail. After all, that's why I use an email program!

So say goodbye to Hotmail. It's been a good ride. Let's see if Microsoft has any better luck with Outlook.com.

Seth Bareiss holds computer sessions every other Wednesday from 1 to 3pm. If you have a Windows problem, 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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❖ Company formations Tel: 076 346 149
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❖ Contracts siamint@loxinfo.co.th
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❖ Translations

True Corp mulls 2.1GHz

TRUE Corp CEO, Suphachai Chearavanont, has revealed that the group is looking into three options to fund licensing for the 2.1-gigahertz spectrum

The options: seeking support from shareholders, bank loans, and finding a strategic partner who would not want more than a 25-per-cent stake in the company.

True is waiting for the National Broadcasting and Tele-

communications Commission to finalize whether it will extend the period of payment for the 2.1GHz spectrum from three to five years.

The existing draft of spectrum licensing terms and conditions requires the bid winners to pay half of the price of the spectrum within 45 days after the auction, another 25 per cent in the following two years, and the remaining sum in the third year.

The NBTC has yet to give its final approval to True's proposal that the installment period should be extended to five years.

The NBTC intends to auction nine slots of the 2.1GHz spectrum in mid-October. Each slot will contain 5 megahertz bandwidth, with a reserve price of 4.5 billion baht per slot. It will allow each bidder to vie for a maximum of 20MHz bandwidth of the spectrum. - *The Nation*

Falling into the side pocket

Retirement Years

By David Mayes

ONE feature of funds, which can cause headaches for investors who are unaware, is the use of a so called "side pocket".

Basically, a side pocket refers to a fund manager segregating a certain investment as circumstances of illiquidity make it impossible or undesirable to cash in an underlying holding, or to reasonably assess the value, for purposes of calculating the fund's performance.

The mechanism whereby the fund segregates the illiquid assets from the main portfolio of the fund via issuing investors a new class of interests or shares, which participate only in the assets in the side pocket.

Those interests/shares cannot be redeemed by the investor. Once the fund is able to sell the side pocket assets, the fund will generally redeem the side pocket interests/shares and pay investors the proceeds.

You may have noticed that all of the features of funds, which can lead to potential delays in the return of funds, usually have to deal with the issue of liquidity in some form or another. This is an extremely important distinction you need to be aware of between funds, and one which most investors overlook because of a favorable track record.

The problem of funds with illiquid assets, is that they always look amazing on paper and by their track record, right

up until the day things go horribly wrong. At that point it is too late to do anything about it. This is what I refer to as a binomial fund. Things will either continue chugging along just nicely or they will go completely pear shaped.

One thing to look for to avoid getting caught in a fund with illiquid assets is that the underlying assets are exchange traded and the fund's holdings ought to be no more than something in the ballpark of 20 per cent of the daily trading volume in any given instrument. This way the entire fund can be unwound quickly, without serious losses due to slippage or price movement as the result of one's own buying or selling.

I found out the hard way about this extra risk within a fund of funds, that even if an underlying fund trades these types of assets, if one fund within the fund of funds blows up, this can lead to it becoming side pocketed while the dust settles.

Specific types of funds may also use side pockets in the ordinary course of their business. A fund investing in insurance products, for example, may routinely side pocket securities linked to natural disasters following the occurrence of such a disaster. Once the damage has been assessed, the security can again be valued with some accuracy. I personally shy away from such funds.

Again, as with normal notice and redemption periods, the ability to side pocket bad investments is a fairly standard feature and one should not shy away from a fund simply because of this. It is just another reason why one needs to diversify, keep a significant cash reserve for emergencies and plan ahead carefully when re-balancing a



WHAT'S SNOOKER GOT TO DO WITH MY INVESTMENTS? Once an investment enters a side pocket, only the present participants in the hedge fund will be entitled to a share of it. Photo: Peter Huys

portfolio. It should also help you think critically about the unseen risks that may be involved with a given investment, as it broadens the horizon of the "what could go wrong?" analysis.

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

German economist warns about ASEAN+3



A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD: Ulrich Volz speaks at Chulalongkorn University on the dangers of integration through ASEAN+3. Photo: Wichit Chaitrong

MECHANISMS need to be in place for crisis prevention and resolution before the next economic crash, and this means the Southeast Asian regional financial structure needs to be reformed, warns Ulrich Volz, a senior economist at the German Development Institute.

Giving a public lecture at Chulalongkorn University on lessons learned from the current European crisis, Volz said there

were five lessons to be drawn for regional monetary and financial integration in Southeast Asia.

These are: don't rush with monetary integration; rethink costs and benefits of international financial integration; bolster crisis prevention and resolution mechanisms before crises hit; strengthen surveillance and monitoring of regional financial markets and recapitalize banks swiftly after any crisis.

He added that he did not mean that financial integration was not a necessarily bad thing.

"There is still a strong case for monetary and exchange-rate cooperation, but over-ambitious monetary and exchange-rate integration schemes will backfire," he said, referring to the threat of collapse of the Euro. He said Southeast Asian countries were not ready for a regional exchange-rate system, let alone a monetary union.

A high level of political agreement and commitment is needed among countries to pursue successful monetary integration, as well as close macroeconomic and fiscal coordination, he elaborated.

The current European crisis highlights the dangers that advanced monetary integration brings, in the face of economic and political divergences, he noted.

Volz said the European crisis highlighted once again that international financial integration will not automatically lead to efficient allocation of capital, and that it contributes to the development of unsustainable imbalances.

International financial integration increases contagion risk. East Asian countries should be careful about liberalizing financial markets too fast, he warned.

"East Asia should pursue a

very gradual approach to monetary integration that allows for much flexibility and room for adjustment."

Volz reminded the audience that since Asia has strong links to the US dollar, it creates a problem of high exchange-rate volatility for the region.

He suggested managed floats guided by currency baskets as one option to keep relative intra-regional exchange-rate stability.

He urged Asean +3 (the 10-member bloc plus Japan, China and South Korea) to increase efforts to improve financial architecture.

An emergency credit-line agreement known as the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization is a credit line of US\$240 billion (7.56 trillion baht) and each member can draw only 30 per cent of its allotment in the fund, beyond which it must ask for assistance from the International Monetary Fund, he said.

He also encouraged the region to strengthen the surveillance and monitoring of regional financial markets. More resources need to be devoted to the Asean+3 Macroeconomic Research Office, a regional financial-surveillance body, he urged.

In regard to the banking sector, he suggested that policymakers respond immediately to banking crises with swift recapitalization. He blamed European

leaders for acting too slowly to clean up the banking sector, as Japan did in the past, which contributed to that country's "lost decade".

— The Nation



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Paying it forward with a gift that keeps on giving

By Michael Benjamin

A PHUKET student who was forced to turn to charity to fulfill his dream of becoming a doctor has graduated as one of this year's top honors graduates from Prince of Songkhla University in Nakhon Pathom.

Thirawat Jewpakanon won First Class Honors, was named as a top-ten student in a class of 190, led his 30-member intern rankings at Haad Yai Hospital and won the prestigious Gold Medal for being the outstanding student in Geriatric medicine studies.

Jiew – as he is known to friends – is now practising as a junior doctor at the Vachira Phuket Hospital.

But it could have all been very different. Just over six years ago he had completed his secondary schooling at Phuket Wittayalai School, being top-of-class for the previous three years.

He took the entrance examination for medicine and was offered a university place, but that came with a considerable financial cost.

"It was not that long after the 2004 tsunami and my parents' business was suffering. They operate a small food vendor stall in Phuket Town," Jiew, at 24 the second of three brothers, recalled this week as he took a break from work in the neurology ward.

"The expenses associated with studying medicine are high and they simply could not afford it. My elder brother had actually given up his job in a bank to help the family, so I knew they were not in a position to help me."

He cast his net for support, quickly finding a sponsor in the



CASE STUDY: Jiew's scholarship put him through the six years of studies needed to make him the doctor he is today (inset).

Phuket International Women's Club (PIWC), which chose him as its first ever medical undergraduate in a history of supporting students from underprivileged backgrounds.

In its 23-year history since inception, the volunteer-only PIWC has supported more than 750 students in school, college and university studies through its education scholarship program.

Jiew's scholarship would fund him through the six years of studies ahead, a prospect he said was daunting but that he was determined to overcome.

And, although he thoroughly enjoyed his time in Haad Yai, there was always the magnet of home.

He said: "We were and still are a very close family, so it was difficult to spend most of six years away from them once I was given the support. I enjoyed my time at Haad Yai but I missed them all the time."

"But, considering the support and backup I was receiving, I knew I owed it to everyone who had faith in me to achieve my academic goal."

"There is still more to go. I am Phuket born and raised [in

Chalong], so I want to give something back to my home province and the people who live here. I feel it is a duty."

Jiew is extraordinarily humble about his achievements, regarding them as reaching the target he needed to set himself.

Dr Boonyarat Warachit, the Chief of Haad Yai Hospital Medical Study Center, said that Jiew had been one of the outstanding students.

"His medical records were so excellent we use them as examples for other students to follow," he said.

After a year in his current post-

ing Jiew will spend the next two at a local community hospital, either in Patong (Kathu District) or Thalang District. Then it is on to specializing, either in Obstetrics or Geriatric medicine.

Jiew is also tempted to broaden his experience internationally when the ASEAN free-labor market for skilled professionals comes into force in 2015.

"That would be a very exciting experience if I was given the opportunity", he said. "But I would always come back to practise in Phuket. It's home."

PIWC Melbourne Cup event at Laguna on November 6

THE PIWC's major fund raising event this year will be a Melbourne Cup extravaganza to be held at Latitude Marquee in Laguna on November 6. The celebrations will run throughout the day, starting from 9am, and will include fashion shows, sweepstakes, lunch, all forms of liquid refreshments and, of course, watching the big race on even bigger screens.

The Cup, as it is known to Aussies, is recognised as one of the world's premier horse races. It is also the richest "handicap" race – each horse has to carry a designated weight – and this year offers prize money of more than A\$6 million (about 198 million baht). The winner's trophy alone is worth A\$175,000 (almost 5.8 million baht).

The 3,200-meter race was first run in 1861 and is always held on the first Tuesday in November at Flemington Racecourse in Melbourne. In recent times the quest for glory has drawn entrants from around the world, many from Europe.

It is the culmination of a carnival of racing held at the course and is reminiscent of the Cheltenham and Royal Ascot festivals in England.

Australia will simply shut down at 11am on November 6 for the big race. That's why it's called "the race that stops a nation".

More information can be found at www.phuketiw.com.



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Phuket International Academy achieves primary years IB status

PHUKET International Academy Day School (PIADS) has been granted authorization to offer the IB (International Baccalaureate) Primary Years Programme (PYP).

The prestigious authorization now enables the burgeoning academy to be recognized as an IB World School, representing a significant move in the school's development towards becoming a full three-program IB World School.

Incoming PIADS Head of School, Dennison MacKinnon, said the transition to IB World School status will confirm the academy's already solid reputation as one of the leading educators in the region.

"The educational beliefs and values of the school and the school's community, which are based on the IB Learner Profile, reflect the IB philosophy, and this has been recognized and commended by the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO).

Our commitment to an inquiry-based approach to teaching and learning, promoting the development of critical-thinking skills, has always been the school's priority. We have always been fully committed to staff training in IB pedagogy, and are pleased that all staff members have embraced it wholeheartedly. We are thrilled to have achieved the PYP authorization and now move towards the next step in implementing all three IB programs," he said.

PIADS' resources and support structures were commended by the IBO, as they help to ensure an efficient and successful implementation of the IB programs. They include providing qualified staff to implement the program and mindfully recruit



FROM THE GROUND UP: Achieving accreditation and providing all three programs offered at an 'IB World School' is no easy task.

experienced teachers with either IB PYP training and experience, or an educational philosophy that aligns with the philosophy and practices of the program.

Special mention was made of the staff members, who are committed to learning and developing the implementation of a transdisciplinary program.

PIADS offers its 210 students – currently from 25 different nations – five-star facilities, including spacious classrooms and unique access to the entire Thanyapura complex, comprising the Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club and the Thanyapura

Mind Center. These forward-thinking facilities offer an extraordinary dimension to the education the school provides.

"We are also developing an across-school social and emotional learning and mindfulness program to be integrated with the IB Learner Profile, which will add tremendous scope to the teaching and learning program," said Mr MacKinnon.

"It follows the Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies (PATHS) program, which enhances social and emotional literacy and capacity, and builds self-esteem. PATHS has also

been shown to improve academic performance, particularly in developing attention and thinking skills," he said.

In terms of mindfulness, the program is modelled on the renowned Susan Kaiser Greenland's InnerKids program. Both PATHS and InnerKids are best-practice, evidence-based programs, and as the school further develops, a service learning emphasis is also evolving as an integral part of the school ethos.

The IB PYP is from kindergarten to grade five. The academy currently has IB candidate status for the Middle Years

Program (MYP) in grades six to nine. This will be extended to grade 10 in due course.

"We aspire to be a three-program IB World School, culminating with the IB Diploma (DP) studies in Grades 11 and 12. The IB Diploma is a highly regarded university entrance qualification, which is globally recognized as the 'gold standard' of university entrance qualifications," added Mr MacKinnon.

"We will then have in place a 'best practice' continuum across the three Programs (PYP, MYP, and DP)," he concluded.

– *Phuket Gazette*

Refocusing Thai education

WHEN the Asean Economic Community becomes operational in 2015, it will not only affect Thailand's economy, but also education.

In light of this, an education development specialist has urged Thailand to rush to develop its human resources, based on the country's niche occupations, and to improve science and maths education to strengthen knowledge, production and productivity.

Gerald Fry is a distinguished international professor at the Department of Organizational Leadership, Policy and Development at the University of Minnesota.

Professor Fry is starting his sixth decade of work in Thailand and has taught at five Thai universities, including Thammasat and NIDA.

He said the future of any country fundamentally depends on its human resource development – something countries such as Singapore, Korea, Japan and Vietnam understand well.

Therefore, Thais should do likewise, Professor Fry said, adding that, China, Malaysia and Laos have clear goals about what they want to accomplish by the year

2020, but Thailand's targets are not so clear.

Thailand should shape systematic visions of what it wants to accomplish. Goals based on present niches include being a "kitchen of the world" and the "Detroit of the East". The success of the Thai product Red Bull as a global brand is an example of Thailand's potential," he noted.

Professor Fry said Thailand should improve the language proficiency of its people in important international and regional languages such as: English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Indonesian, Burmese and Khmer.

"Students should meet and communicate with English native speakers, while teachers should be innovative in finding opportunities for students to use English for functional purposes. Their role should be as a catalyst to point students towards resources."

Professor Fry emphasizes that with enhanced quality of teachers, students will learn to become more productive. He is pleased to see the Ministry of Education is trying to deal effectively with the problem of small schools of low quality.

– *The Nation*

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Elephants not to forget

By Marc Mulloy

ELEPHANTS in the wild consume up to 300 kilos of food and 200 liters of water per day. Despite my own jumbo proportions, my daily intake of food is much more reasonable and I do try to avoid water, seeking out fermented grape juice as an alternative whenever possible. So with that in mind, I found myself at one of Phuket's finest dining establishments – Trisara – at the latest Think Design Art Dinner entitled 'Elephant Parade'.

The concept of wine dinners, where food is paired up with specific wines, is well known on the island, but an art dinner goes one step further and also matches each dish with a work of art.

The art part of the dinner was provided by The Color Factory in Chiang Mai, who are renowned for their colorful elephant sculptures produced in limited quantities by local and international artists. Color Factory and Elephant Parade seek to attract public awareness and support for Asian elephant conservation.

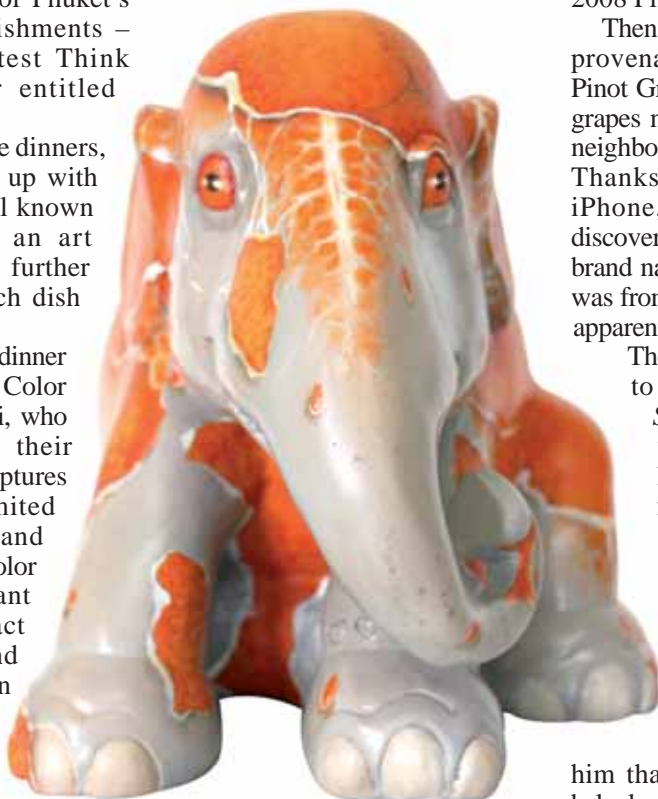
The first elephant on display was the elaborately decorated *Ming Kwan Nakorn Ping* created by artist Jharatpong Suthammavichit. Reminiscent of a Thai temple, the opulent decoration contains a mosaic of mirrors, beads and colored glass and is unmistakably Thai in appearance, as was our first course. Set before us was a smörgåsbord of blue crab relish on rice cakes; pork rinds with northern spicy chili relish and quail's egg; sweet and sour deep fried noodles with tofu; pomelo salad with grilled prawn wrapped in betel leaf and fresh Phuket pineapple with a chicken, tamarind and coriander paste. Delicious!

To wash down these tasty

morsels we were served a dry Villa Sandi *Blanc de Blancs* from Italy.

My knowledge of wines is limited to French varieties, due to unfettered access in an earlier life, so I was happy to be seated across the table from a sprightly Italian septuagenarian, by the name of Giulio, who was obviously no stranger to the finer things in life.

He nodded his approval at this



choice of wine and muttered "Prosecco" between our bite-size offerings of Thai *haute cuisine*.

The next elephant put on display was entitled *Mosha, the world at your feet* by the artist Jane Veveris Callan, who was inspired by the story of Mosha the baby elephant who became the world's first pachyderm to be fitted with a prosthetic limb in 2007 after stepping on a land mine.

Chef Chalermchai, or 'Chef Kla' as he is known to colleagues and friends, was in turn inspired and created a classic *Pla Goong* (steamed prawns with lemongrass,

kaffir lime leaves, roasted chili paste and fresh mint) to match the work of art. The accompanying wine was a 2011 Silenzi bianco, *Isola dei nuraghi*, which my Italian neighbor told me was from Sardinia.

Next up was an organic soup, *Gaeng Aom Hed*, which was a clear and not too spicy herbal broth with mushrooms, angled gourd and pumpkin served with a 2008 Pinot Grigio, Lumina.

Then ensued a debate as to the provenance of this wine as the Pinot Grigio (pinot gris) variety of grapes need cooler climes and my neighbor could not place Lumina. Thanks to the wonders of an iPhone, WiFi and Google, we discovered that Lumina is in fact the brand name of the wine and that it was from Tuscany where they are apparently now growing that grape.

The elephant in the room, so to speak, was at this point *Selfness* by Nathaporn Potha which shows a human trying to escape from within the elephant.

Our next wine was a 2010 Umani Ronchi, *Montepulciano d'abruzzo*, from east-central Italy, a wine with an astringent quality. Our resident Italian looked perplexed until it was pointed out to him that the dish to follow was baked, marinated, whole snake-head fish served with tamarind sauce and *nam jim*. This was elegantly served in a section of bamboo and was my favorite dish of the evening. The mouth cleansing qualities of the wine now made perfect sense.

Our next elephant was also a refreshing change as it was painted as an orange (see above) named *Orangephant* by Nat Posila, led us nicely into our dessert which was a light orange and guava sorbet with lime cream, water melon and flower crisp, accompanied by a Thai pineapple ice wine called 'Mythical Garden'.

At this point I was introduced to the representatives of Color Factory, Joanna Maclean and Miguel La Salle who told me about their concept.

"The Color Factory is new, about a year old, but prior to that I had another art gallery where we started working with Elephant Parade," said Joanna

"This is our first time in Phuket but we hope to host more art dinners like this one. The elephants are made of fiber glass so although they look heavy they are portable," said Miguel

Elephant Parade was founded in 2006 by father and son Marc and Mike Spits, who were inspired after meeting Soraida Salwala, the founder of the world's first elephant hospital in Lampang. Their partnership with The Asian Elephant Foundation is a guarantee that the funds collected through Elephant Parade will be utilized in the best way possible.



UNFORGETTABLE: The other artist in the room, Chef Kla poses in front of *Orangephant*. His snakehead fish dish was fantastic.

The four different styles of elephant, designed by Marc Spits himself, all have a string of hearts engraved around the left foreleg (remember Mosha?) and are made in Chiang Mai, where a talented team of artists reproduce the numbered limited series for sale at 'Elephant Parades' and in selected hotel boutiques.

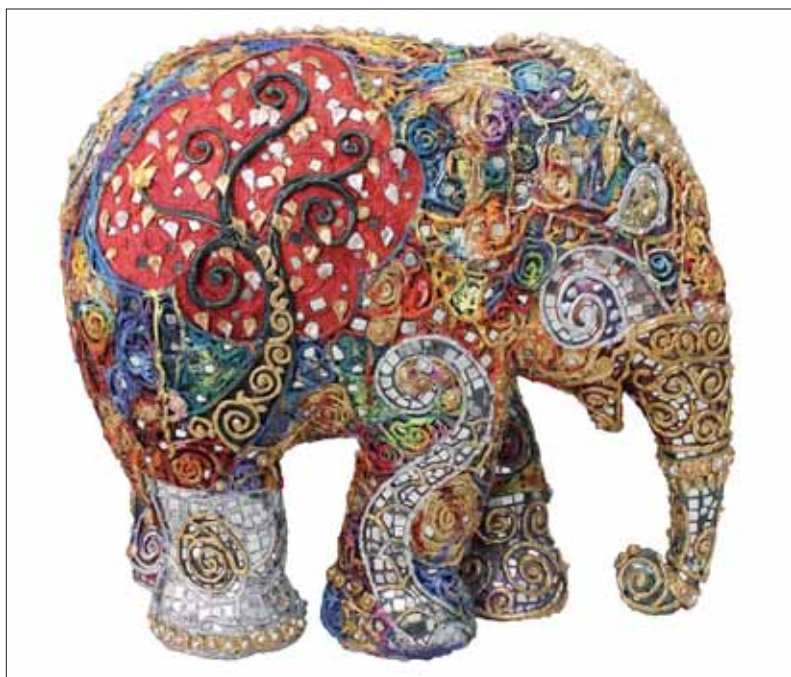
"Apart from creating awareness in Thailand we also sell many

elephants to tourists, from China for example, who sometimes buy them in great quantities. We recently sold 25 cases of elephants to China," said Joanna.

Then it was all over. Good food, good people, good wine and a good cause all in a five star resort.

A night I'll never forget.

More information can be found on colourfac.com.



Ming Kwan Nakorn Ping created by the artist Jharatpong Suthammavichit.

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Eat, sail, love

By Andrew Scott

SAILING, in general, is a lifestyle choice that you associate with people who have spent the better part of their life working to save enough money to buy a yacht. For most people, the idea of taking time off and seeing the world from the sea is a long harbored dream that can only be realized in later life.

A young man from France found a way to realize this dream early, by saving enough money to buy a 35-foot-long cruising yacht. The yacht was built in 1980 in France at the *Dufour* boatyard, designed by the architect Michel Dufour.

Philippe, 32, worked for a French company based in Kuala Lumpur for six years as their Southeast Asian regional manager and he has lived in Asia for the past ten years. A long time sailing enthusiast, he specifically chose to work in Asia so that he could one day realize his dream of living on the sea. This dream was sparked when he took a year out in 2004 to crew on a boat sailing around the South Pacific.

During his time working in Kuala Lumpur, Philippe started his hunt for a boat to live on and he found the 35-meter cruising boat in Langkawi. An elderly French couple had been living on the boat for 25 years and they wanted to pass it on to somebody who would also live on the boat; they didn't want it to sit in a Marina.



WORK: Phil and Iva try have learned to adapt to their new working conditions.

Philippe started living on the boat in early 2011 and it wasn't until November 2011 that the boat was finally ready to sail. Philippe was joined on the boat in February 2012 by his girlfriend Iva, who had no sailing experience prior to joining Philippe.

The young couple's adventure started with sailing from Langkawi, in February of this year. Since leaving Malaysia they have sailed to Surin Islands, Phuket and the Similan Islands.

The freedom of sailing at your own pace with nothing to dictate where you have to be means they can stop at any nice locale

along the way and spend as long as they want in each place.

They loved the Surin Islands so much they decided to spend a week exploring.

Philippe emphasizes the freedom that comes with sailing and he hopes to one day, "find a nice spot and relax for one month, two months, fish, cook [and] be self sufficient."

Living their days by the sunrise and sunset is one of the most enjoyable things about calling a sail boat home, says the couple.

They admit that time does dictate their lives on the boat when family or friends come to visit. The yacht is a popular holiday destination for those close to the couple.

Friends would visit who saw photos of crystal clear water and untouched beaches on their blog and wanted to experience it for themselves.

Both sets of families visited Philippe and Iva at the same time and it is hard not to imagine them forming some sort of bond after spending time in such close quarters together.

Where to for the couple after exploring Asian waters?

The plan is to ease Iva into how a sailing



REST: The yacht at sunset

boat works and to test the boat, with practice runs in this region to prepare for the trip to Africa, which will be a completely different sailing experience.

"We won't see anything for days apart from the sun coming up on one side and going down on the other," said Philippe.

Africa won't happen until some point in 2013 and after that they plan to head to Argentina, where Iva is from.

After spending time with the couple you get the impression that they are not planning too far ahead and are just enjoying each day as it comes. With a time frame of a couple of years they're in no hurry.

Visit: philandiva.wordpress.com



LIFE: The living quarters inside the yacht where the couple and guests relax.

Lee Marine sells first ever Nauta 86'

THE FIRST *Cantieri delle Marche* (CdM) Nauta Air 86' explorer megayacht in the world has been sold to an Australian buyer, with the yacht to be based in Thailand.

The Nauta Air 86' order comes just three months after Lee Marine, who are based on Phuket, became CdM's agent for distribution in the Asia-Pacific region, including China and Australia.

The design of CdM Nauta Air is the result of work between architect Mario Pedol, founder of Milan-based studio, Nauta Yacht Design, Massimo Gino and CdM.

The all aluminum 86-foot vessel combines durable substance, seaworthy performance and low fuel consumption with airy, contemporary design and wide exterior space. Capable of a maximum speed of 17 knots, the yacht's cruising speed is 13.5 knots and has a maximum range of 3,900 nautical miles at nine knots.

The Nauta Air 86' is the sev-

enth CdM explorer yacht sold in less than 24 months, and confirms the effectiveness of CdM's global sales policy. CdM is also about to finalize two other sale contracts for a German and an Israeli client.

Joshua Lee, Managing Director of Lee Marine commented: "The team at CdM and Nauta design have been outstanding from the first meeting to meet every need of the client. A very enjoyable experience indeed. This range will enjoy great success in today's new market and we are proud to have sold the first one".

The client, an Australian citizen with Thai residence, has chosen a Nauta Air 86' – modifying the original Nauta Air 80' project – as the boat that will enable him to sail in safety with an impressive cruising range, in comfort, and at the same time entertaining his friends and guests thanks to the wide exte-

rior spaces and volumes.

The owner commented: "Unlike any expedition yacht I have ever seen in this size, the Nauta Air 86' has stylish lines making her refined and elegant looking while remaining a true blue water cruiser. I am totally satisfied and proud of the customization and I am sure this will make my first custom yacht extremely comfortable.

"I can honestly say that the team at CdM, especially Ennio and Vasco, have made this a smooth process and been very attentive to all of my queries and countless questions. The CdM factory is a wonderful new facility with a really great team on board. I got the feeling that everyone is a giant extended family. I am looking forward to the next 18 months and owning the perfect boat. Also a lot more of those long Italian lunches!"

Thanks to the highest level of

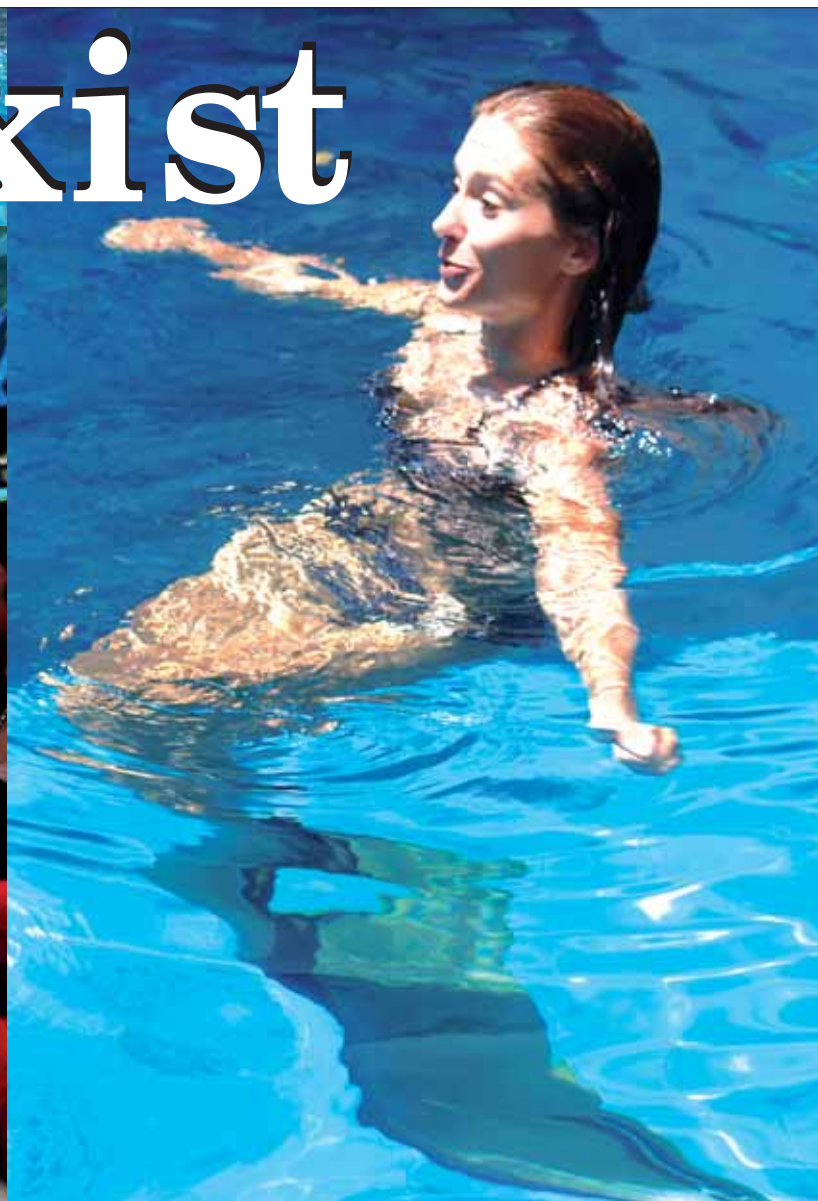


Jose Lee LM and Vasco Buonpensiere, Sales and Marketing CdM

customization that CdM offers to its clients, the owner was able to define, together with the shipyard's team and the designers, the project's layout. The 50 square meter panoramic fly bridge is specifically designed for outdoor living. It has a sun area and a spa-

cious lounge. Regarding the interior layout, the access to the owner's suite has been separated from the general entrance to the lower deck and cabins. A private escalier on the main deck leads to the owner's suite, providing total privacy. – *Phuket Gazette*

They do exist



LADY IN THE LAKE: Katrin Felton (left), swims in a tank full of sharks, in Pattaya on Mother's Day. The event, sponsored by the Dive Tribe, raised awareness for shark conservation efforts in Asia. Photo: Brent T. Madison/CPA Media; **RIGHT:** Katrin demonstrates how to use a mermaid tail (mono-fin) during her master-class in Chalong last week. Photo: Chris Hudson

By Chris Hudon

WE ALL know the power of a beautiful woman. It isn't the power of brute strength – they have a much subtler influence. Sirens can confuse even the cleverest among men.

In Homer's *The Odyssey*, sirens sang an enchanted song to Odysseus and his crew. The song caused them to steer off course towards jagged cliffs – nearly colliding and sinking their boat.

I mention *The Odyssey* because, until now, mermaids were considered to be the stuff of legend, a wives' tale, a fantasy – but that's all changed. The *Phuket Gazette* is proud to report the first actual sighting of a mermaid, not far from Chalong Bay.

Katrin Felton and several other sirens were spotted training at Andaman Ocean Safaris' pool last week.

"I'm a real mermaid," says Katrin, "When I was a child I loved being in the water and after watching Disney's, *The Little Mermaid*, I knew that I wanted to be a mermaid.

"As a mermaid I'm often filmed or photographed swimming alongside the ocean's mysterious and wonderful natural inhabitants. I don't use any scuba equipment."

Models participated in a mermaid master-class given by Katrin, including girls from Malaysia, Thailand, Scotland and Switzerland.

"Basically we got three diving trainers together and since we're

shooting underwater videography we're teaching the girls how to be mermaids; how to move, how to act. You have to be careful, because you don't have a mask and so on," says Spencer Felton Katrin's husband and a dive instructor at Andaman Ocean Safaris.

The mermaids are part of a public relations campaign sponsored by the Dive Tribe, which aims to promote public awareness of shark



SIREN'S SONG: Girls from Malaysia and Thailand who graduated the 'mer-course'. Photo: Chris Hudon

poaching in Thailand and Asia.

The six 'mer-recruits' had to learn basic free-diving techniques, such as how to hold their breath for at least two minutes and how to tread water with a mono-fin (mermaid tail).

Believe it or not there is actually an ever-increasing demand for these 'mer-models', especially at sporting events like football, says Dolphin Lee.

Dolphin runs a mermaid school in Malaysia and brought two of his models to Phuket to train and be part of the aware-

ness campaign.

After completing training, the mermaids travelled to Pattaya for an underwater photo shoot on Her Majesty Queen Sirikit's birthday, in a tank full of sharks.

"There were black tip reef sharks, nurse sharks and others. The girls swam around with them just to show the public they're [the sharks] not really as dangerous as everyone thinks," says Spencer.

The girls formed a bond over their time in the pool together and could often be overheard giggling and joking around.

"It's been a really good experience," says Tanja Sey, 29, a Swiss woman who took the 'mer-course' and works as a Dive Master in Phuket. "I've had a lot of fun with all the girls and doing this I can learn a lot about my scuba diving as well."

"But, I have to make sure I can tread [water] for three minutes more so [that] I can get to the gold mermaid level," Tanja added as she flopped away. (You know they can't be out of water very long.)

Organizers say what they like most about the mermaids is that they're a different and more lighthearted approach towards conservation.

"In Europe people tend to have a dim view of [something like this] and here they are just like...okay," says Spencer.

If you're interested in becoming a mermaid or you want to contact Katrin for modeling she can be reached on Facebook at her fan page: [facebook.com/MermaidKat](https://www.facebook.com/MermaidKat).



CAN A GIRL GET A LIFT? Mermaids find a moment of rest and relaxation on their boat in Pattaya. Photo: Brent T. Madison/CPA Media; Page 1 Photo: Dolphin Lee





Smooth wrinkles with *Btx Program* โปรแกรมบอตนึงริ้วรอย

“Wrinkles” are one of the first major Signs of aging which almost all woman worry about. Some place that often shows wrinkles are around the eyes and forehead.

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Introducing a new master

OLIVER Stone's new movie is *Savages*, a thriller about the drug trade in Laguna Beach, California.

Starring a roll call of Hollywood A-listers – Blake Lively, Salma Hayek, Benicio Del Toro, John Travolta – the film is based on a crime novel by Don Winslow.

A former Private Investigator in real life, Winslow has written 15 novels and is suddenly being hailed by the likes of James Ellroy, Stephen King and Joseph Wambaugh as the great new master of crime fiction. This would make him the successor to Elmore Leonard who is in his 80s now.

In time for the premiere of the film *Savages*, Winslow has published a prequel, *The Kings of Cool*, (Simon & Schuster, New York, 2012, 322pp) to take advantage of the new surge in sales.

The novel opens in Laguna Beach, 2006, and stars two life-long friends, adept at surfing and beach volleyball, who are total opposites. Ben is the son of Jewish liberals, hippies from the 1960s, owners of a peace and love bookstore. Chon is a Navy Seal, veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan, son of a drug dealer and ex-con. Ben doesn't believe in violence; Chon revels in it.

Chon brought a super-powerful marijuana seed from Afghanistan; Ben developed it. Together they manage a series of grow houses and distributorships that hawk the finest hydroponic buds in the nation.

Ben and Chon are linked by

Books

By James Eckardt

"The power of no is absolute
Ben has always believed.

A refusal to participate

In wrong,

In evil,

In injustice.

You don't have to do it.

You just say no."

another childhood friend, O (for Orphelia). Petite, blond, beautiful, rich and not particularly bright, she is in love with the both of them and no hard feelings all around.

Now a vicious Mexican cartel wants to muscle in on their action. There lies the nub of the tale. What is extraordinary is how the tale is told: an exuberant, familiar, button-holing narrative voice that make Elmore Leonard seem positively reticent.

The author openly mocks conventional objective third person narration, intruding his own hip, fast-talking voice in extravagant descriptions and rat-a-tat dialogue. Sometimes the story is told in film script fashion, other times in poetic stanzas as:

"Few people ever have to find out

What they would do

When their whole life has been based on one thing and then they're offered the other."

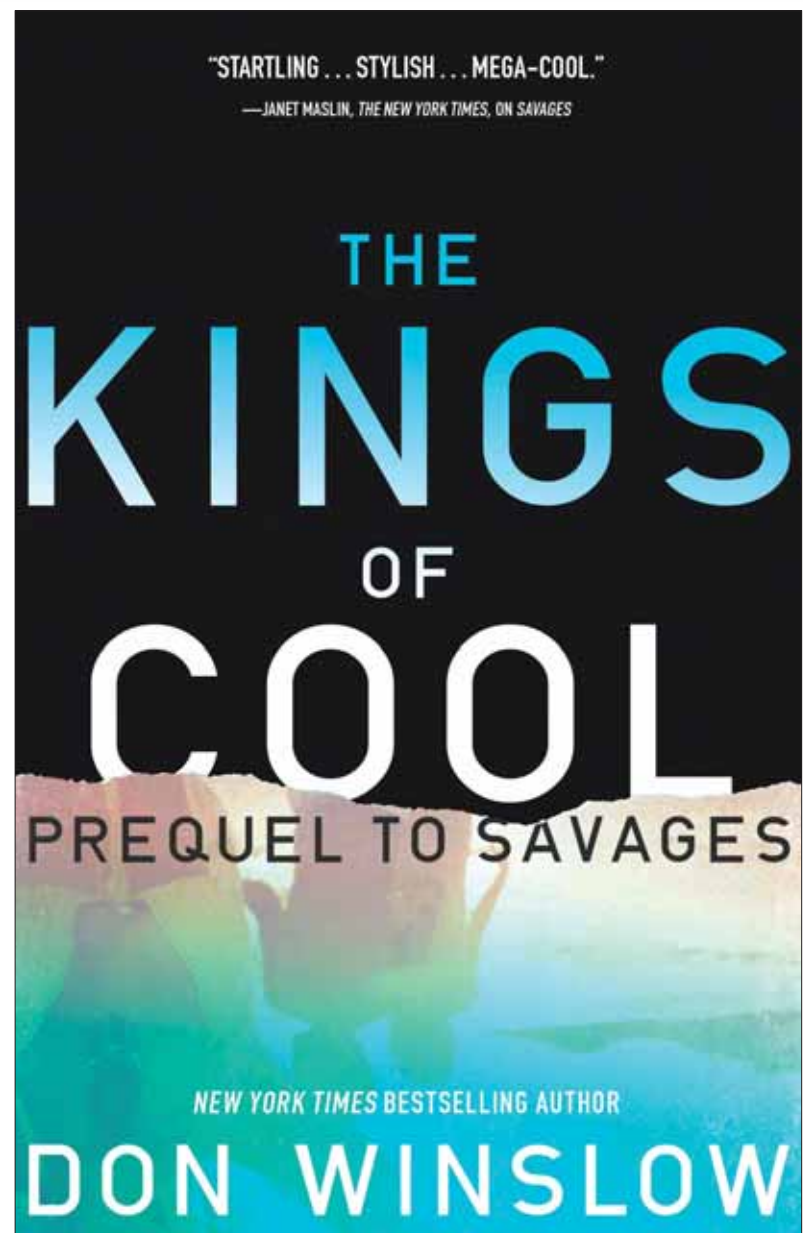
And sometimes there are erratic sputtering rants that are wildly entertaining, as:

"Chon thinks that neo-hippies are grungy, pasty-faced-from-vegan diets, patchouli-oil-smoking, Birkenstock-wearing, clogging up sidewalks playing hacky sack, leaning their crappy single-gear bikes against the doors of Starbucks, where they order Tazo green, sitting there for hours and never leave a freaking tip, doing semi-naked yoga in parks so other people have to look at their pale, emaciated bodies, parasites."

The effect of this jangling, juiced up narrative voice is exhilarating. Don Winslow is telling a story in a wholly new, original way. Even when you've got a thriller set piece when the Navy Seal Chon beats up four guys, it's told with wit and verve.

The reader is always off balance, especially as the story jumps back and forth from 2006 to 1967, 1976, 1981, 1991. We see how the parents of our current day love trip were laid low by greed, corruption and paranoia. We see how they try to navigate a dangerous world.

Also at play now are lowlife thugs and lawyers, a corrupt DEA agent, a murderous Mexican enforcer and his drug cartel boss, a beautiful and ruthless widow who has survived the murders of nearly all the male members of



her family and is poised now for an invasion of California.

While Chon is off in Iraq, Ben fends off the invasion through guile and treachery, explained in another poem:

"The power of no is absolute
Ben has always believed.

A refusal to participate

In wrong,

In evil,

In injustice.

You don't have to do it.

You just say no."

Though it's a relief when Chon returns wounded from Iraq and the bodies begin piling up.

In the end Ben and Chon wind up buying protection from the corrupt DEA agent who tells them: "What I wouldn't give to be you. You have your youth, money, the cool clothes, the girls. You have it all. You're kings."

I slapped the covers shut and immediately picked up *Savages*.

The extinct versus the stale

Film

The Dinosaur Project
Starring: Natasha Loring, Matt Kane, Richard Dillane
Director: Sid Bennett
Genre: Adventure
Phuket Release: 23 August



IT IS a little sad that, only 13 years since *The Blair Witch Project*, the found footage format for thriller/action movie is already running out of steam. *The Dinosaur Project* attempts to revive the format but hardly manages to resurrect the titular reptilians.

A team of explorers take off into the Congo in search of the African version of the Loch Ness Monster. After (for no apparent reason other than exceptionally poor piloting) their flight is downed by a bad case of Pterosaurs, the British adventurers must flee for their lives from ever more contrived dinosaur attacks. Thank goodness the leader's tech-savvy 14-year old son

has stowed away, or no one would have had to put up with this nonsense.

You may have missed it, but, yes, that did say British. *The Dinosaur Project* is a British movie release. Director Sid Bennett appears to have been given the mandate to take every annoying cliché from every blockbuster Hollywood movie of the past two decades and sew them together with a batch of young Brit actors. It would have been great if the Brits had played it for humour:

("I'm terribly sorry, Carruthers. But a dinosaur appears to be eating my leg.")

"The devil you say, Charmers.

How terribly uncouth of him.")

But they didn't. So *The Dinosaur Project* ends up with – a'la Hollywood – the impassioned screaming of people's names; an annoying kid character; an even more annoying Jar Jar-esque pet dinosaur; and thoroughly disturbing camera shake;

With so much camera jiggle you'd be likely to mistake a delicate shrub for a stegosaurus, the CGI still manages to make the actual monsters look, er... fake.

What is going on with British cinema? In the past five years we have had a rash of terrible attempts by British film-makers to cash in on the Hollywood action plan. Both *Flood* and *Doomsday* were notable for trying it the "Hollywood Way", but both failed to live up to either's ethos.

Why? When British film-makers are allowed to do it their way, we get excellent comedies, romances, gangster flicks and, yes, even, action adventure movies – look at *Attack the Block* for instance.

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Dr Piyanat Sakulpipatana

IT IS a widely held belief that growing up in the shadow of accomplished parents can be daunting for any child – consciously or subconsciously. Not so with Dr Piyanat, whose mother is the renowned local historian and cultural writer Pranee Sakulpipatana.

The 39-year-old doctor, head of the Department of Medical Rehabilitation at Vachira Phuket Hospital, remembers that: “My mother was a high achiever but I never felt inadequate growing up around her. To get me and my younger brother to do something she used a lot of encouragement.”

By her own admission, Dr Piyanat is an avid reader, a habit she developed growing up in a house full of books. “I read anything and everything,” she says.

As she was particularly fond of biology in school, the path to medicine seemed clear. After almost a decade of studies, an internship and specialization at Siriraj Medical School in Bangkok, Piyanat came back to Phuket to work for Vachira Phuket Hospital in 2003.

“Actually I wanted to train as a dentist. Somehow I had it in my head that this was quite fashionable, but during the medical training it dawned on me that rehabilitation was as effective as any other modality at first-line treatment, and not just something applied once the patient is cured,” said Dr Piyanat.

After three years of specialism,

THAI gallery By Nanthapa Pengkasem

Dr Piyanat emerged, a fully-fledged physiatrist, full of respect for this complex and multi-disciplinary field. “Practicing is a challenge and enjoyable at the same time,” she adds.

Her work at the hospital involves treating patients with musculoskeletal disorders and patient with neurological diseases, which she says respond well to rehab therapy.

Her interests also extend to the field of pediatrics, an area that is dear to her heart. She talks excitedly about the hospital’s new children clinic, House of Khun Poom, named after HRH Princess Ubolratana’s late son.

“Now we have a clinic fully dedicated to children so we can treat cerebral palsy, genetic abnormalities and other development disabilities.”

Also a certified acupuncturist, Dr Piyanat says she uses this traditional practice successfully in conjunction with mainstream treatments.

“In treating muscle pain, for example, acupuncture offers more meridian points. If you have a pain in the neck area, the corresponding points are on the neck and the back of your hand.”

Part of her work is to teach

patients to help themselves get better by doing physical exercises. Here she comes up against a lot of resistance.

“There are patients whose sole belief is in passive treatment. They take pills all day long and regard doctors as their saviors but refuse to do something for themselves. I now question the use of the 30-baht card (free national health insurance). It seemed like a good idea at the time – complete and free healthcare for all. But I wonder if people are abusing the system somewhat?”

Is there any future in traditional Thai medicine?

“Definitely,” she answers. “More people are using Thai herbs because they have relatively few side effects. The problem we face is production quality control. Another difference from synthetic and traditional medicine is that the herbs spoil very quickly. We still have a long way to go to standardize Thai herbs.”

In her free time, Dr Piyanat tends her organic kitchen garden at home, a hobby she thoroughly enjoys. She loves travelling abroad and is particularly fond of India. Having an interest in Aryurveda medicine, she has visited Kerala in southern India to study this science and to relax and unwind. She sometimes takes part in Ashtanga yoga retreats in Mysore.

Apart from working full-time at the hospital, Dr Piyanat runs a clinic on Yaowarat Road every evening, and on Saturday mornings.



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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DOMESDAY: On August 10 Central Festival Phuket held an event 'Dome The Star 8 Mini Concert' featuring Phuket's winner of last season's national 'The Star 8' show, Jaruwat 'Dome' Cheawaram (center).



OPENING SHOT: The management team of Kalima Resort & Spa, Phuket together at the soft opening party on August 10. From the left are Managing Director Paponphat Niyomadul, Sale Manager Pakorn Niyomadul, and General Manager Somchai Suwannagate.

YOUR Phuket

Do you have photos of local events or happenings that you think may be selected for 'Your Phuket'? If so, please send them to features@phuketgazette.net. The higher the resolution the better.



LEARNING CURVE: (from right) Phuket Governor Tri Aukaradacha, PPAO President Paiboon Upasating; Phuket Teacher Selection Committee President Buntoon Thongtan and Communications Education specialist Ms Karnmanee Silapa, accepted two national-level awards on behalf of Phuket. The island was awarded for its excellent teacher selection system and for its outstanding communications for establishing a learning society.



FAMTASTIC: Nok Rattanyoo, General Manager of Sea Sun Sand Resort & Spa, Phuket recently welcomed a Familiarization Trip from Singapore, organized by Tourism Authority of Thailand.



SOFTLY DOES IT: At the soft opening of Le Versace Restaurant Lounge Bar were GM George Dufresne (back) and Radhilin 'Ant' Boonyaihong, Sales and PR Director (Third from the left), with other guests.



BOYZONE: Students from the Baan Bangneaw School pose for a group photo with Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwansupappana after the official opening ceremony of the three-day 'To Be Number One' boy's football tournament at Saphan Hin Gymnasium on April 11.



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GOOD TO EAT: DiVine Restaurant Chef Sathaporn Butmeecha. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

Oh my goodness!

Thanyapura is holding Organic Food Bliss evenings from August 20 to 24



WELL FED: (Photo right) Martin Smetzers, MD of Pura Organic Foods Limited, Director of Food & Beverage Mr Sereymony Or and Chef of DiVine Restaurant Sathaporn Butmeechai. Photo: Orawin Narabal



Char-grilled turmeric marinated organic chicken with sauteed organic vegetables.



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TOUCH OF FEEL-GOOD

Spa business is getting better in Asia, P12-15



BOLD STATEMENT

Singaporean entrepreneur offers beauty biz tips, P24



CHINA DAILY

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August 17-19, 9am to 12pm: Social Media Workshop for beginners

Want to learn how to use Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Pinterest to market your company, product or service? Join social media maven Able Wanamakok in this workshop that is designed to help you with every question, problem or opportunity you may see with marketing on the social networks. We will cover the basics in a 3-day course at 3-4 hours per session. A fee is applied. To book your seat, email us at info@awpr-phuket.com today. Booking ends on August 16.

August 18, 12 to 3pm: Saturday Brunch @ Two Chefs

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.

August 18, 7 to 8:30pm: New Exhibit at VR Gallery California Surfing: Gomez Bueno

Opening reception August 18 at 7pm. Original art work by international artist Bueno Gomez. The Spaniard continues his run in Asia. Gomez has been living in Los Angeles since 1988. He has become a well-known and

WHAT'S ON in Phuket

celebrated artist, with a passion for love of the underground, graffiti and protest. His work has been displayed in galleries in Los Angeles, New York and Spain. The exhibition will run until October 17, 2012.

August 18, 7pm to 12:30am: Ao Chalong Yacht Club's birthday

The Ao Chalong Yacht Club was established 20 years ago. On Saturday night we will be celebrating the birthday of the Yacht Club with a live band, great buffet and quality drinks and service. All welcome to come down and enjoy the club's ambience and friendly atmosphere.

August 23, 6 to 11:30pm: Boathouse Wine and Grill, Kata Beach

An elegant four course wine dinner will feature four top wines. Dr. John Forrest, founder and owner of Forrest Winery will be in attendance to describe the wines. The evening commences at 7pm with a tasting of Sauvignon Blanc.

August 20-24, 6 to 9pm: Organic Food Bliss at DiVine Restaurant

Let's go organic. Fresh and healthy ingredients from the Organic Farms selected by DiVine's Chef Moo. There will be a mouth-watering set menu priced at 750 baht for food only and 1,200 baht with organic wine pairing. Diners also have a chance to win a getaway at

award winning Thanyamundra Organic Resort and Thanyapura Farm in Khao Sok value 21,800 baht & 4 vouchers for 1,500 or 1,000 baht to be spent on Pura Organic Foods' free home delivery service or at the shop. Price is subject to 10 per cent service charge and 7 per cent applicable government tax. For reservations, please contact DiVine Restaurant Tel: +66 (0)76 336 000 Ext. 3512 E: dining@thanyapura.com

August 23, 6 to 11:30 pm: Martini Manicure Ladies Night at RE KA TA

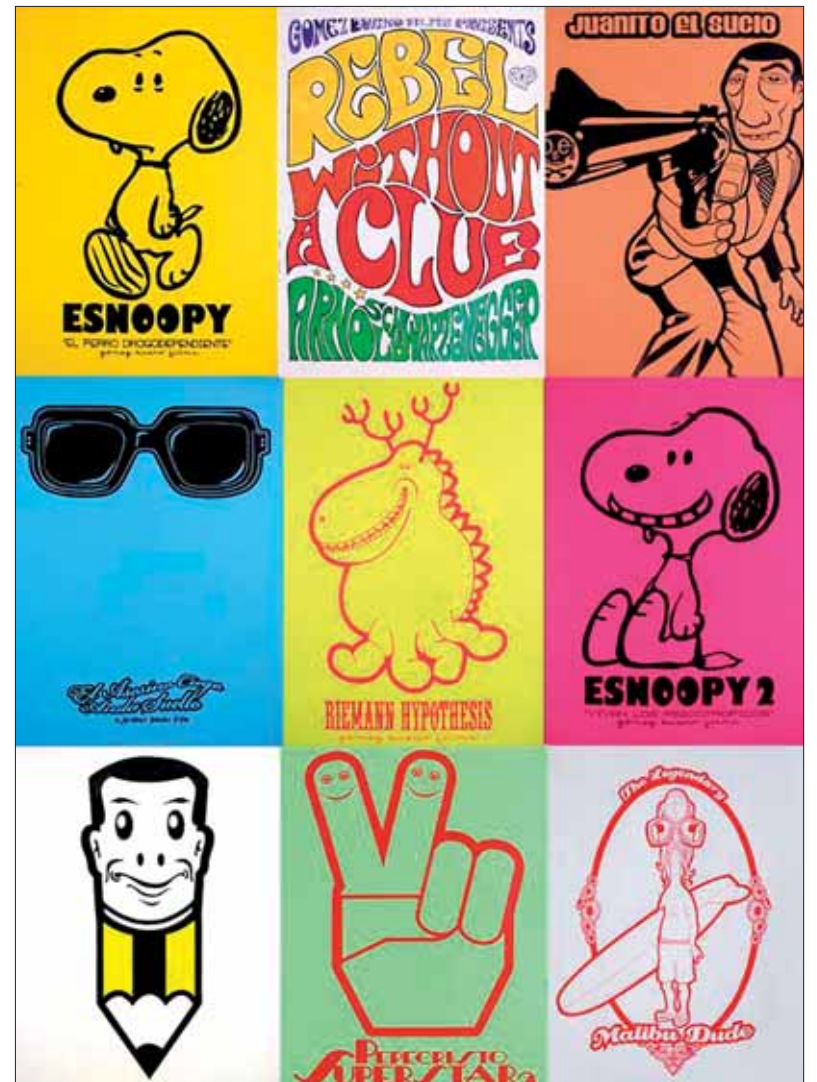
Free express manicure for ladies. Free martini for ladies on arrival 50 per cent off drink list for everyone all night long. From 6pm to midnight – DJ will be playing tunes until late.

August 24, 7 to 9pm: Indian Night at Les Angeles

Phuket's Best Indian Buffet is back with a new chef and a new menu. Special promotion – just 449 baht. From 5 to 9pm. Buy one get one free drinks. Reservations recommended. Call Mr Murat on 081-797 3364.

August 24, 4:30 to 6pm: AMCHAM Seminar

The American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) Greater Phuket Chapter is coordinating with local welfare groups to hold a seminar on Best GreenTourism Practices in Phuket. Registration starts at 4pm with the session running from 4:30 to 6pm. Attendance is open to the public for 100 baht, and includes drinks. To register visit W:amchamthailand.com or contact Sheree Tanpensuk at



BUENO GOMEZ: Art exhibition on August 18. Photo: buenogomez.com

02-254-1041, ext 212.

international event.

August (date to be announced): Phuket Fireworks Festival

The Phuket Fireworks Festival sees 4,000 spectacular explosions light up the night sky in one of Phuket's most popular events. The scale of the display means that, not only are the fireworks visible from their origin at Saphan Hin, but they can easily be enjoyed from vantage points on Rang Hill, restaurants and bars in Phuket Town, and all around Phuket. The organizers are hoping that the festival will someday develop into a major

August – September: Por Tor, "Hungry Ghost" Festival

Por Tor Festival starts the first week of August and runs through the last week of September. The festival originated in ancient Chinese folklore. Every seventh lunar month of the Chinese calendar, the gates of hell open and hungry ghosts roam around the Earth in search of gratification. It all started with a modest monk named "Mahayana", who, after his transcendence, searched endlessly for the souls of his two dearly departed parents.

Phuket Afternoon Computer Clinic

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

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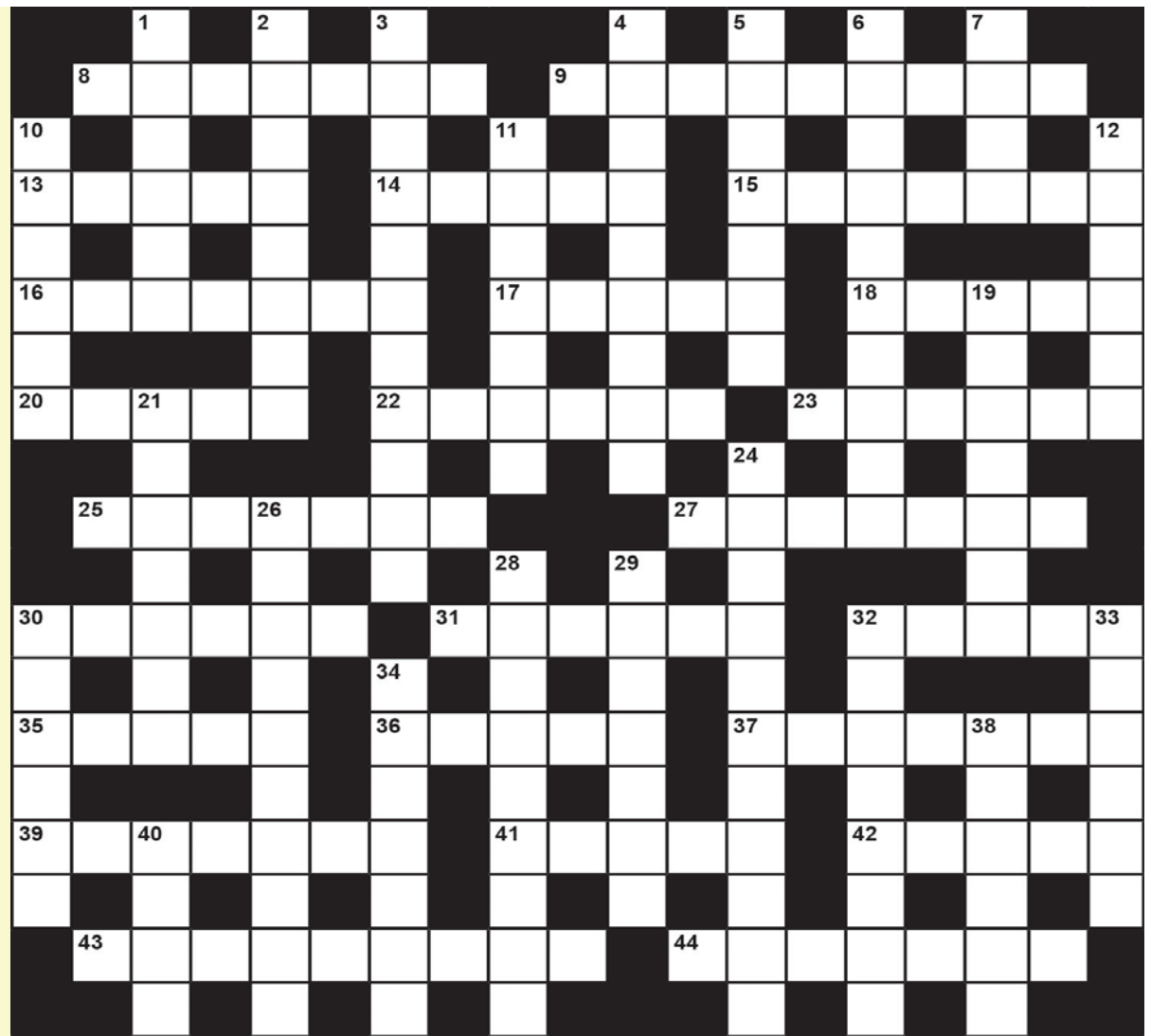
SUDOKU: Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. © Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)

COFFEE break

Across:

8. Amanda, trembling, new to the waters off Patong (7)
9. Realistic to map tragic realignment (9)
13. A veil over the living (5)
14. A name from Ireland in the regional bloc (5)
15. To add up completely (7)
16. Narrow opening to credit Eastern depravity (7)
17. Without the East, entire movement is inactive (5)
18. An area in Phuket is delineated by 'Rai' and 'Wa' (5)
20. Agent the Spanish drive away (5)
22. Fashionable Dave may be overrun (6)

23. Casting, showing reluctance (6)
25. Subject a Liberal makes relevant to the present (7)
27. Doctor following preparer of bill (7)
30. Flatten moths flying around circle (6)
31. Clever chaps make ladies' underwear fashionable, son (6)
32. Chosen to play a part in East Indian social division (5)
35. Alter arrangement some time after (5)
36. Artists stand at ease on line (6)
37. Sick head from disease (7)
39. Reps sat apart for meals (7)
41. Feminine French one mixed in with induced boredom (5)
42. Look after sister (5)
43. Paintings, e.g., note truths in man-made objects (9)
44. Cure, Sir, is upset by spicy foods (7)



Down:

1. In the finish, I have a crisp salad (7)
2. Tear mail apart for stuff (8)
3. Soldier, in short, claimed wrongly to be a health worker (11)
4. Color nowadays, note, in sparkling drink (9)
5. Disturbed at gate, I cause worry (7)
6. Get better of chief without one becoming a culinary artist (6,4)
7. Little girl, little boy, little bottle (4)
10. Cared terribly about Northern

Ballet member (6)

11. Concerning learner; one woman to provide assistance (7)
12. Fading out loud coloring (6)
19. Authors of legal documents about British Queen (7)
21. Irish terrorist on street becomes University head! (7)
24. I spit grouse; cooked, is very much admired (11)
26. Concerned it's entered wrongly (10)
28. Views the chances of success (9)
29. King ill, could be fatal (7)

30. Say around fifty a right income (6)
32. Ruin clay construction used for cooking (8)
33. Followed two points, took legal proceedings (6)
34. She's in a woven coarse cloth (7)
38. Nearer turning into a wage-getter (6)
40. Parking, circle about to find a tiny opening (4)

This cryptic crossword was compiled by Patong Bill. Answers on page 43

LEO (July 24 - Aug 22):



An enthusiastic approach to life enables you to get everything done this week. The stars suggest that busy days continue to be the trend for those born under the sign of Leo, but this pace should ease towards the end of August. Those with a birthday in the week ahead can expect to make their mark in the world of work during the coming year. Money matters are well starred this weekend.

VIRGO (Aug 23 - Sept 23):



The second half of August brings more satisfaction for those born under the sign of Virgo. Stress at work is forecast to disappear and the stars indicate that you will have more influence in the near future. Taking a walk down memory lane with an air sign partner can help to rekindle romance. Virgoans who want to make a romantic impression on a water sign should let down their guard a little.

LIBRA (Sept 24 - Oct 23):



Your staying power can suffer a temporary setback this week. The stars advise tired Librans to treat themselves to a short break if possible – even a long weekend can work wonders to restore some of your

valuable energy. A tempting chance of relocation will require quick thinking; if you are not immediately convinced, it would be wise to turn this one down. Lucky days for love are Sunday and Monday.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22):



Certain Scorpions will be looking hard at ways to make their money go further this week. The stars suggest that the month of August has so far brought some unforeseen expenses, but the good news is that this trend should now be over. Another water sign can suggest ways of expanding your earning power, but a fire sign's ideas won't float your boat. Dazzling days for romance are Wednesday and Thursday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):



There are signs that life will be good to those born under the sign of Sagittarius this week. Your multi-tasking skills appear to be paying off and the second half of August should bring opportunities to relax, with financial reward well-starred. Where romance is concerned, those trying to impress an earth sign should see a positive response soon. If you are already committed, your partner appreciates a spontaneous gesture this weekend.

YOUR horoscope By Isla Star

CAPRICORN (Dec 22 - Jan 20):



The stars advise caution for Capricorns involved in business this week. There are signs that things are not going quite the way you believe them to be, with an air sign ready to exploit the situation. The unsettled astral atmosphere clears towards the end of the month, but putting important matters on hold until then is recommended. Where romance is concerned, a relationship with another earth sign becomes possible.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19):



Your past becomes relevant this week. Someone who you thought had gone for ever is predicted to appear on the scene and this could bring up emotions that are difficult to deal with. The stars advise Aquarians to put sensitivity on hold until they have sorted through their feelings. Work matters are well starred for the remainder of August; this is an auspicious time to put out feelers for different employment chances.

PISCES (Feb 20 - March 20):



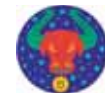
Telling an earth sign how you really feel appears to be overdue. The stars advise Pisceans to get this necessary task over and done with. Wednesday is the most auspicious day to do so, and there are signs that the relationship will benefit from a dose of honesty. Those who have been on the verge of asking another water sign out on a romantic date could get cold feet for a valid reason.

ARIES (March 21 - April 20):



Inspiration can be found where and when you least expect it this week. The stars advise Arians to accept invitations they might usually turn down and go to places they have never visited before. The ability to think on your feet comes in useful at work when an air sign makes one mistake too many. Promotion could be a result of this situation. Sparkling days for romance are Wednesday and Thursday.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21):



In the world of work, an issue that has been occupying your mind should turn out to be a storm in a teacup. The remainder of August will bring a calmer cosmic climate, with communication

well-starred. Taureans whose confidence is at a low level are advised to take time out to spoil themselves this weekend. A spa session and something new to wear should work wonders for your esteem.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21):



Variety is the spice of your life and the second half of August should bring enough excitement to satisfy those born under the sign of Gemini. Your success in business is not forecast to bring a smile to everyone's face – expect a water sign to rain on your parade. A partner's moody blues could affect a romantic relationship with a fire sign this weekend. Love with another air sign is well starred.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23):



Your moods can be unpredictable this week, which may result in an uneasy atmosphere. If you share working space with others, it would be wise to keep your head down and concentrate on the job in hand. On a personal level, the stars recommend being honest about your need for solitude as there are signs a partner could feel shut out this weekend. Fortunate days for finances are Monday and Tuesday.

PROPERTY Gazette

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

Hip to be square

THE Square Condominium is located in Phuket Town and comes with the facilities you would expect from a modern condominium project.

Swimming pools and fitness rooms are features found at large numbers of condominiums around the island now, and as condominiums start to have more modern Western features it is clear to see what market group developers are looking for.

Square Condominium offers a one-bedroom unit or studio unit.

The one-bedroom unit is 33 square meters and the studio is 30 sqm.

Surrounded by lush landscape and rolling hills but still in the eastern area of Phuket Town, Square Condominium makes a perfect base for people who want to escape but to still have all the local amenities at their doorstep.

The newer Square X condominium is the same sort of design but located in Cherng Talay. Square X has more room sizes to choose from – ranging from one-bedroom (37sqm) to three-bedroom (125sqm).

The project also offers a one-bedroom and two-bedroom duplex from 60 sqm to 90 sqm.

Square X provides the same facilities as its sister development in Phuket Town, and the two condominiums give owners the option to choose what area of Phuket they would like to live in.

Both condominium projects come with WiFi in all rooms and 24-hour-security.

Rooms come with modern designs and a white interior to help give them a bright and airy feel.

The more upmarket X Square comes with high-end furnishings and modern conveniences.

The condominiums offer owners a choice to fit their budget.

The Square X project came about because of the success of the original Square condominium in Phuket Town.

The Cherng Talay property boasts 72 units in a 7-storey structure.

The quiet but central locations of both condominiums add to their popularity. – *Phuket Gazette*

For more information visit: W:thesquarecondo-phuket.com.



MODERN LIVING: Inside one of the units a Square condominium. Units come with a wide range of mod-cons



INTERIOR: A look inside a bedroom at one of the units at Square condominium.

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PROPERTY

Obviously we didn't think this through



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

LIFE'S misadventures have found a whole existence of their own on a smattering of strange but true adventure television channels, which run show titles like *Banged Up Abroad*, *Don't Tell My Mother*, *Seconds from Disaster* and *Air Crash Investigation*.

I can tune back my memory to those 1970s disaster movies such as *The Towering Inferno* and *Poseidon Adventure*. Sure, some perished so that others could survive. Maybe we lived in more innocent times, as we all know what happened in the more latter day Perfect Storm. Yes they all died.

Hope does spring eternal, though I'm writing this at 32,000 feet in the air, and a series of bruising bumps just sent the big red flight attendant flying down the aisle. Never mind, as I play out a bizarre mid-air survival story, which could land me my very own episode in TV Land.

But I had started this article with purpose. Perhaps the turbulence has misplaced my mind for the moment. Yes, someone just turned on the bright reading light above me and brought me back to my senses.

Rarely does a succession of two weeks pass by when I don't receive a call, email or visitor in my office by a budding property developer who came upon a great notion and bought a piece of land. Sure, plans are often hatched in prison cells, smoky

bars or else by Richard Nixon types in dark suits.

Visual aids are often provided such as tattered copies of land title deeds, matrix like design drawings of a labyrinth maze (I can never tell exactly which side is up), or else PowerPoint presentations by the really sharp people.

Certainly I feel like the real-estate statue of liberty – welcoming those to America like the homeless, those without a country and some who really should seek some type of mental counseling.

But I digress and frankly speaking I do open my door to one and all, without favor or bias no matter how bizarre the scheme they may have plotted over the midnight oil.

In more cases than I can even recall with my age-shattered-memory and short attention span, oftentimes the dream project is located somewhere just south of Neverland. Obscure locations, unrealistic proportions and little business sense is involved – just going by gut feel.

As my eyes glaze over, punctuated by non-offensive terms like “that’s an interesting idea” (i.e. “Have you lost your mind?”) to “hmm, now you are really thinking out of the box” (i.e. “what box-like mental institution did you escape from recently?”).

In some cases, be they rare, the idea is a good one and it does go on to make money. But, for the most part, the closing door only cues my inner cynic who cries out, “obviously you didn’t think this one through”.

Property is not the only domain of the rash, spur of the moment



THINK ABOUT IT: Some real estate ideas are just plain crazy. Photo: bnlsen

businessperson who lands in paradise and expects to double down in the dream life. Some buy beer bars, others are budding entrepreneurs and, frankly speaking, I have more time for this whole lot who get off the couch than the legion of sniping internet forum grouchaholics.

But, please, if you are out there and reading this, just come to my office and give me all of your money. Don't buy that island agricultural property which will surely be upgraded any minute, or

entrust your life savings to a business nominee. Not only will you save all of the aggravation and torment of failure and an extended journey on the road to ruin, but you can enrich my life substantially.

What was it Nike said – do the right thing? Or was it the ‘right stuff’. I don't know, as even Lance Armstrong looks to be headed down a one-way street these days.

Anyway for those of you who do have great ideas, my best

advice is this. Study the market, learn the business and know there is no short cut to success. There is most likely a reason why your innovative idea was never brought to market before – because it makes no sense.

I'm sorry if I have offended anyone here, but I, unlike you, I did think this through.

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

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Market for condos looks bleak

COMMERCIAL banks are open to lending to small property developers, but they are more inclined to focus on medium to large-sized companies, which are more financially sound and less likely to default, bank executives say.

To be eligible for financing, small developers must have projects in prime locations and their presales should exceed 50 per cent of target revenue, they said.

Sarut Ruttanaporn, head of the commercial banking division at Siam Commercial Bank, said most banks chose to lend for condominium projects located in areas with high potential, and the developers must have sufficient capital of their own. In general, banks are ready to finance condominium developers when presale volumes are 50 per cent of total units, he said.

He noted that SCB provided financing to developers of all sizes, but would consider the project, the location and the marketing strategies before approving a loan. Most developers have their own sales offices and cash to buy land, he said. The bank has not seen any sign of a slowdown in the condominium market. Building-project financing represents 10 per cent of SCB's



Photo: Sarah Jane

commercial banking portfolio. Tinnakorn Boonyakalin, a senior vice president at Krung Thai Bank, said it was selective on lending to developers, taking note of the location of each project. Financing projects near mass-transit lines developed by medium to large sized firms is the comfort zone for KTB.

“To support such projects, we offer post-financing with special promotions to condominium buyers. This helps boost presales for the developers as well as bringing in new lending to the bank,” he said. New loans for condominiums in the first six months were 30 billion baht on a target of 40 billion for the entire year. However, the bank has not changed the full-year target.

For CIMB to be comfortable

with a project loan, presales should reach 50 per cent of total units on average. Vorakarn Dhepchalerm, head of corporate banking for CIMB, said the bank bases its lending decisions on the expertise of developers.

He said they prefer branded projects because these have enough capital to defend against unexpected situations. He said that the bank sets tight conditions for condominium developers because the market outlook is for oversupply, while growth of condo presales is slowing.

Property-project financing accounts for 9-10 per cent of the outstanding loans in CIMB's corporate banking portfolio, and condominiums account for 30 per cent of that. Vorakarn said loans to small developers who don't have sufficient cash flow could default if their projects do not sell well. According to a survey by Colliers International (Thailand), condominium projects launched in Bangkok in the first half of this year amounted to 24,100 units, up 7.1 per cent from the same period last year. More than half of these were launched by listed property firms. – *The Nation*

Minor Hotel Group buy Bundarika

THAILAND-based Minor Hotel Group is paying out 3 billion baht on the acquisition and remodeling of Bundarika Villas and Suites on, Phuket's northwest coast.

As reported by *Phuket Gazette* Property Columnist Bill Barnett in June, the Bundarika Villas Suites located on 23 rai of Phuket's northwest coast on Layan Beach, was purchased with "an adjoining 32 rai land parcel of undeveloped property allowing for a significant expansion".

The land is on an adjacent hillside with panoramic views of the Andaman Sea.

The 77 villas and suites of the Bundarika Villas and Suites are on 400 meters of secluded beach and will be re-branded to the

Minor Hotel Group's core brand as Anantara Phuket Layan Resort Spa in 2013.

Dillip Rajakarier, CEO at Minor Hotel Group, said, "We are very excited to announce this new addition to Minor's portfolio and what will become a second Anantara resort in Phuket."

Bundarika offers guests an exclusive retreat and is ideal to be re-branded to an Anantara next year, after renovation and an operational improvement program."

Minor Hotel Group has a number of developments in the Mai Khao area including: Anantara Phuket Villas, JW Marriot Phuket and the Turtle Village Shopping Plaza.



IN THE SWIM: Minor Hotel Group has a number of developments in the Mai Khao area. Photo: Bundarika Villas

On the move: Claude Baltes



BEYOND PHUKET: Claude is now based in Krabi.

KATA Group Resorts Thailand, the operator of the upmarket Beyond Resorts brand of hospitality destinations, has announced the appointment of Claude Baltes as General Manager of Beyond Resort Krabi.

Claude is responsible for the overall management of delivering ultimate guest satisfaction at Krabi's newest up-market resort, along with complete and rapid return on investment for Kata Group Resorts Thailand.

Born in Luxembourg and educated in France, Mr. Baltes is a graduate of the renowned Ecole Hoteliere de Lausanne hotel management school in Switzerland, and possesses over 20 years of top level International hospitality management experience.

Claude began his career with tenures at Shangri-La and Sheraton in Malaysia and Thailand, before deciding to settle in Phuket whilst working at the then-new Banyan Tree Phuket in 1995. Having held several positions at that hotel, Baltes moved to Bintan Island in Indonesia where he successfully opened the first

Angsana Resort & Spa for the Banyan Tree Group, first as Rooms Division Manager and then as Operations Manager after opening.

Returning to Phuket in 2002, he was appointed Resident Manager at the freshly rebranded Six Senses Evason Phuket where he remained as Resort Manager until 2008. After joining a mixed use hotel-property development project in the northern part of Phuket, Baltes worked with the international Golden Tulip Hotel group early 2009 for the rebranding of its first property in South East Asia, and later opened another Golden Tulip Hotel in Bangkok. In July 2012, he joined the Kata Group to launch the newest of their six hotels, the luxury 'Beyond Resort Krabi' on the shores of the Andaman Sea.

Beyond Resort Krabi is on the scenic Klong Muang Beach, 38 kilometres from Krabi International Airport. The resort integrates nature's elements with its own lush greenery and hillside location, offering simple luxury within a most natural environment.



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Top operators hedge bets



GREAT GREETINGS: L to R: Climbing vine *argyrea nervosa*, the delicate red *ixora coccinea* and white *plumeria* welcome visitors. Photos: Scott Zona, Ramesh NG and Peter Rowley

DRIVING around Phuket today, I was interested to see what plants were being utilized in new developments: as ornamental additions to reception areas, flanking boundary walls, or as borders and hedges.

It makes doleful reading, but it is sadly the case that almost all budget-priced condominiums and shop-houses – and there is a rash of new ones – simply ignore the need for shrubs or trees.

Having removed every vestige of greenery from the site, these developers clearly see no point in planting new trees or, in most cases, even adding a few container plants.

Instead, the front area of each new construction is concreted over, so space can be made for parking. Priority number one.

High-end developers seem to take more account of the natural envi-



Gardening
By Patrick Campbell

ronment. In some cases, it is admittedly no more than a few token pieces of topiary, a row of *wrightia*, or a clipped hedge or two of *ixora*.

In those resorts and commercial projects that genuinely care about their ecological and artistic image, however, the results are gratifying.

Indeed, I was delighted to write recently about the Movenpick Resort, which not only has graceful columns of palms and star apple trees to greet new arrivals, but acres of lawns, lakes and woodland sporting hundreds of arboreal varieties.

Such first impressions are, of course, very important. The

Evason Resort, recently much in the news, has long been a Phuket landmark. As you approach the resort, you travel down a mature avenue of over-arching oil-palms, many festooned from ground to crown with ferns of various kinds. A soothing and relaxing introduction.

In contrast, Siam Niramit, is a new complex, aimed at providing a Thai style “spectacular”. Built in an area of the Bypass Road on which the developers’ gaze has begun to focus, the Niramit is entered past high white walls, already flanked by rows of bamboo, tall, graceful and vividly green.

Bamboo looks great when it is young and healthy: it is, however, a heavy feeder, produces dense root structures and lots of falling leaves. I wonder how it will look in a few years’ time.

Festooned over the walls of the parking area was an unusual climber. The wooly morning glory (*argyrea nervosa*) is not a common sight in Phuket, but here it was being given a chance to show off its large, pink, trumpet-shaped blooms.

Back in Rawai, a peek at the familiar Friendship Resort revealed the aesthetic benefits of low-rise chalets – a style less favored in nearby developments – and the soothing charms of a green environment where coconut palms and alstonias were much in evidence.

This old/new pattern is repeated elsewhere: the established Rawala complex in Rawai has lots of trees, including a row of white-flowering *plumerias* along



ACHIEVING THE EASTHETIC: *Clerodendrum speciosum* helps Chalong Chalet Village heighten its natural advantage. Photo: Tropic-7

the entire frontage.

Just down the road, the newly completed Rawai Palm Beach Resort – a massive affair – continues the theme of palms and plumerias in its impressive entrance area, but lets itself down at the business end, where only a few token potted evergreens, and a solitary mature tree soften the overwhelming impact of concrete.

But wait. Another newish resort is bucking the trend. Admittedly, the Chalong Chalet Resort occupies an enviable position on rising ground with panoramic views. But everything has been done to heighten this natural advantage. The rotunda car park has a mature neem tree (*azadirachta*) smack in the middle, encircled by

a low evergreen hedge.

Such attention to aesthetic and natural detail is everywhere in evidence: pleasant single-storey chalets are set amid acres of terraced and manicured lawns and an imaginative range of trees and shrubs.

Yuccas, screw pines, fern-clad palms, low hedges and borders of *duranta*, *ixora*, *clerodendrum*, even a few indigenously rubber trees.

And beyond every green vista, the sea, the sea...

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



MODEST MODIFIERS: *Duranta* (left) and *wightia antidysenterica* bring added range and depth to any corporate greening process. Photos: Arria Belli, Suresh Aru

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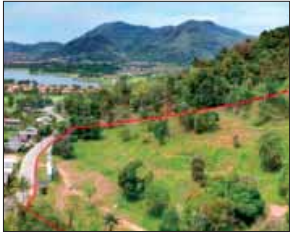
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Flat land near Dowroong School in Phuket Town. Tel: 081-691 2526.

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

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4 million baht, bypass road, 9m x 27m. Tel: 089-729 6244. Email: ninaphuket@hotmail.com

PHUKET VILLA CONDO PATONG



New condo. 1km to beach, near Bangla Rd and Jungceylon, 1 bed, 1 bath, fully furnished. 3.9 million baht for 42sqm and 3.8 million baht for 44.5sqm Tel: 081-541 2025. Email: c.junlarat@gmail.com

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LAND FOR SALE

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

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1-2 bedroom, furnished houses, beautiful garden, Chalong area 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 4311.

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400sqm or more. Rent: 30,000 baht per month. Suitable for living, business or warehouse. Tel: 083-052 6696, 086-689 3289.

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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).

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Single house (74sq.wah) with lovely garden for long term rent in Soi Parichart, Land & houses Park. It has 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, 24 hrs security + clubhouse facilities. Price: 25,000 baht per month or special price of 20,000 baht per month without furniture. Contact the owner. Tel: 081-867 6466 (English & Thai). Email: bow.jariya@gmail.com

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Large house, 7-aircon bedrooms, swimming pools, golf view. Quiet area. 5 minutes to Tesco Lotus, QSI. 10 minutes to Central, Head Start International School. Please e-mail or call for more info. Tel: 081-271 3228. Email: info@procarpen tering.com

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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>

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2-BEDROOM HOUSE, BANG TAO



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1 + 2-bed luxury quiet apartments. Big pool, cable, WiFi. Rent: 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-279 0837. Email: bricothailand@hotmail.com

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HOUSE IN CHALONG

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Locations Kvik is also looking for vacant locations, approximately 400-500 m².

For more information, please contact:

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Tel: +66 (0) 2654 0300
Email: andersl@pacific2000.com

Mr. Thomas E Sorensen
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Phuket Gazette

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- ▶ Graphic-design skills and knowledge of Adobe Illustrator, PageMaker, Photoshop required
- ▶ Freehand drawing and web-design skills a plus
- ▶ Responsible, hard-working, attention to detail
- ▶ Able to work in a fast-paced environment and meet deadlines
- ▶ Good communication skills, team player
- ▶ Thai-English speaker

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Khun Anna (General Manager), by email, fax or post to:

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79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, T. Koh Keaw, A. Muang Phuket 83000
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Swedish speaking female 20-30 years old staff wanted. Tel: 089-874 8929. Please send your CV and photo to Email: rainforestjob@gmail.com

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Write in brief about travelling . Tel: 087-7053662 (English) .Email: happygecko.thai@gmail.com

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Maid for apartment needed. Full day. Salary 14,000 baht per month. English preferable. Tel: 083-640 0616 (English), 084-734 0122 (English). Email: ikhovroman@mail.ru

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Customer service agents needed for expanding internet fashion retailer. Are you CS experienced, Thai, hard working, computer savvy and fluent in English? Salary of 17-27,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-289 472. Email: graham@holyclothing.com. For full details click here: www.holyclothing.com/htmlx/work.html

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Sales and Marketing. Male/Female. Experience in event sales in luxury hotel & hospitality. Fractional ownership or real estate. Tel: 076-318 400. Email: hotel@bangtaotropicalresidence.com

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Looking for Russian of speaking manager with good English knowledge and experienced in restaurant. Kathu waterfall wake park opened 12.00-5.00 pm. Tel: 082-415 4546.

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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

IT OR AV ENGINEERS

Thai nationality, can speak English. Please send CV to Email: info@techworx-project.com

PRIMARY TEACHER

International School in Chalong is looking for a native English speaking primary teacher to join our dynamic team. Tel: 082-323 1188. Please send your CV to Email: phuketinternational@asia.com

BARISTA/CAFE MANAGER

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

MANAGER IN FOOD SHOP

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



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We are growing and looking for the following talented individuals to join our dynamic team:

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- Bachelor's Degree or higher in Human Resources Management or other related field
- Previous experience in similar position in a 5 star hotel
- Excellent interpersonal and leadership skills
- Good command of spoken and written English
- Strong problem solving and decision making skills

Accounting Manager**Qualifications:**

- Bachelor's degree or higher in Accountancy
- Solid background in hotel accounting
- Excellent computer skills and results-driven
- Good attention to detail, strong leadership and highly organized
- Good command of spoken and written English

Human Resources Officer**Qualifications:**

- Bachelor's Degree, good computer skills
- Good command of spoken and written English
- Previous experience preferred

Guest Service Officer**Qualifications:**

- Bachelor's Degree, fresh graduates are welcome
- Customer oriented, motivated
- Good command of spoken and written English

Purchasing Officer**Qualifications:**

- Diploma or higher
- Previous experience preferred

Spa Receptionist**Qualifications:**

- Female with pleasant personality
- Diploma or higher with previous experience
- Good command of spoken and written English

Sports and Beach Attendant**Qualifications:**

- Male with previous experience
- Able to communicate in English
- Customer oriented

General / Operation Technician**Qualifications:**

- Male with previous experience
- Committed to work

Waiter & Barman**Qualifications:**

- Basic knowledge in F&B
- Customer oriented with pleasant personality
- Able to communicate in English



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Siam Real Estate requires a web design and developer competent with PHP, MySQL, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, jQuery, XML. Must be capable of quality work and be able to meet deadlines. Can be company or individual. Tel: 076-288 908. Apply to jobs@siamrealestate.com. For further details, see our website at www.siamvilla.rentals.com

OAKMEADOW INT'L SCHOOL

We are looking for a qualified Thai female teacher. Tel: 076-521 550, 084-847 0732 (English). Email: info@oakmeadowphuket.com

PROPERTY NEGOTIATION/SALES/ RENT**Qualifications:**

- Bachelor / University.
- Woman Thai nationality.
- Preferably 20-35 years old.
- Excellent command of written and spoken English.
- Minimum 1-2 years experience in selling property is an advantage.
- Good negotiation.
- Pleasant personality, positive attitude, energetic.
- Motivated and hard working to achieve results.
- Service minded with attention to detail.
- Active and well organized-pro.
- Computer literacy.
- Workplace at Rawai-Nai Harn.

Interested candidates please send full resume, expected salary and enclose a recent photo by email to Khun Patrice: phuket.employment@gmail.com

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Wanted for the Ao Chalong Yacht Club.

- An English speaking chef. Must be Thai national.

- Would prefer a young person experienced in Thai cooking and willing to learn Western style.

- Great opportunity for right person to learn from award winning Australian chef.

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Please contact Kim Mitchell. Tel: 090-705 9466, or email resume to kim_a_mitchell@hotmail.com

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Previous experience in -

- Managing a Kitchen
- Staff Management
- Budget Management including rolling wastage and stock storage
- Setting Menus and Food Pricing
- Ordering & Monitoring Supplies
- Create Specials on a regular basis
- Prepare and deliver Menus for Functions, Kitchen and Team Preparation and Quality Standards
- Time and Skill Management for busy periods on day to day basis

Salary depends on experience and attitude.

If you possess all of the above, please send a resume and cover letter, including references of previous employment to:

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SENIOR TEACHER

Phuket Has Been Good To us require a senior teacher for the English education program. Leading a small, dynamic team of ESL teachers in 2 Thai schools in Phuket, you will be an experienced educator with strong leadership and ESL skills. Experience in the Thai educational system and the ability to communicate in Thai is advantageous. Salary 65,000-70,000 baht/month. Full position descriptions at www.phukethasbeengoodtous.org. Please submit a 1 page letter of application, CV and a recent photograph by August 31st to info@phukethasbeengoodtous.org

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER WANTED

We are looking for a native English kindergarten teacher to join our team to teach 10 -12 children aged 3-6 years. Must have a minimum Bachelor's Degree or equivalent. Tel: 076-383150, 084-520 4978. Fax: 076-383150. Email: info@cravensnurseryphuket.com

ACCOUNTING (1)

Tax compliance, WHT, VAT, Financial statement, Rev.& Exp. (Excel), Update receivables, WHT (1,3,53), SSO, Payroll. Tel: 076-314 345, 080-147 2468 (English & Thai). Email: manager@phuketadventureminigolf.com

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Safeway - Main Highway Thalang (next to Shell gas station). Tel: 081-125 1873, 081-892 4804.

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PATONG BAR
FOR SALE

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BAR FOR SALE

Soi Tiger, Bangla road, 2 units, few months left on contract, possibility to renew, fully furnished. Tel: 080-521 1521 (English). Email: mor ganphuket@hotmail.com

BAR FOR SALE

At Patong, new Tiger pub. Price: 4.5 million baht. Tel: 081 448 7631, 082-805 7931.

BAR FOR SALE

No key money. Rent: 22,500 baht (easy). Take on a new 3 years rolling contract. Great condition (new build) top of the range pool table, sound system, 50" HDTV and good stock (fantastic looking bar). Must see! 1.6 million baht (neg). Calls only. Tel: 080-530 7798 (English), 090-072 0150 (Thai). Email: lyntoncraig@gmail.com

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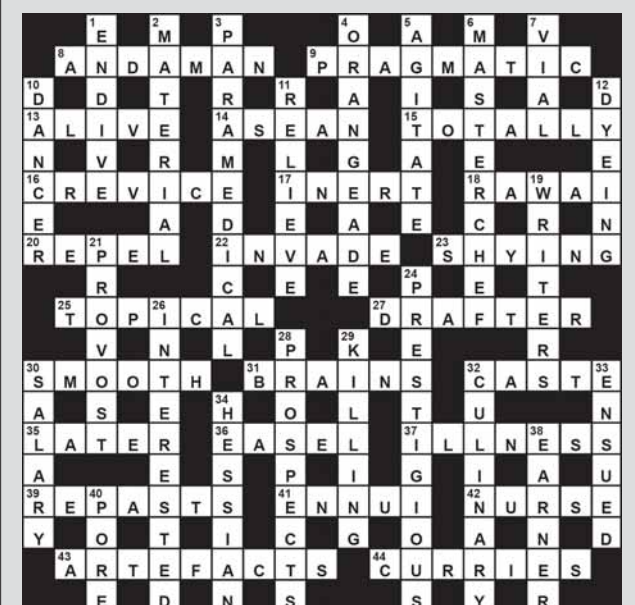
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Kaew Pongprayoon. Photo: The Nation

Thai Olympic anguish

DESPITE winning no gold medals, Thailand still did well by Asean standards, with bosses calling for bigger teams to be sent to Rio in 2016.

After 17 action-packed days at the Olympic Games in London, Thai athletes returned with just three medals, no golds, in a result below expectations and a far cry from their previous Games.

Thailand first participated in the Olympics in the 1952 Helsinki Games and since then has won a total of 21 medals, mostly in boxing.

The Kingdom had to wait until Atlanta in 1996 to win its first Olympic gold when featherweight Somluck Kamsing made his mark in the ring and captured Thai hearts.

From then, until this year, Thai athletes returned from every Games with at least one gold. The 2004 Games in Athens was the most successful. Thais fought

hard to win eight medals, including three gold.

However, things turned sour for Thailand in London this year, which saw only 37 athletes from 16 sports associations test their mettle against the world's best. The size of the Thai team was well down from the 51 athletes who went to Beijing four years ago.

Results were down too. Thais left Beijing with their heads high after winning four medals, two of them gold. In London, Thailand claimed three medals, one silver apiece from light-flyweight boxer Kaew Pongprayoon and weightlifter Pimsiri Sirikaew, plus a bronze from Chantip Sonkham in

taekwondo.

With the weight of past success at the Games becoming a heavy burden, the boxing team faced an uphill task to extend the country's proud record of winning at least a bronze from the sport in every Games.

Preparation was far from ideal. In fact Thai boxing had just come through one of its most turbulent periods, with a new national body set up following a row with the sport's ruling organization, the Amateur International Boxing Association (AIBA).

These distractions were cited as a major reason why Thailand had only three fighters in London. With the early exit of Sailom



Thai weightlifter Pimsiri Sirikaew. Photo: SiamSport

Ardee and Chatchai Butdee, only Kaew Pongprayoon, 32, from Kamphaeng Phet, was left to fly the flag. He doggedly forced his way into the men's 49kg final against three-time world champion Zou Shiming of China.

Despite losing the showdown in controversial circumstances, Kaew produced a display that encapsulated a rugged, fighting spirit against an accomplished fighter. His silver was hailed as remarkable success for Thai boxing, given the circumstances.

In taekwondo, with in-form athletes such as Guangzhou Asian Games silver medalist Pen-Ek Karaket, the Thai squad had high hopes of some glory.

Pen-Ek and world champion Rangsiya Naisom put up good fights but suffered first-round losses. Only Chantip saved pride by taking bronze.

— The Nation

EPL season kicks off

FINALLY, the English Premiership 2012-2013 season kicks off this weekend, but it has a hard act to follow after the success of the London Olympics.

The Olympics made new sporting heroes, and allowed old sporting legends to finish on a high. The number of athletes who endeared themselves to the hearts of those who followed the games shows how popular the games were.

The Olympics had something for everyone and the number of empty seats at the Community Shield match between Manchester City and Chelsea on Sunday showed where the British public's hearts were.

But with the games now finished, the focus will swing back to football.

Chelsea and Manchester City squared off in the Community Shield and shared five goals and a red card between them, Manchester City winning the game 3-2, in what many deem to be one last training session before the season starts.

The Champions league winners and Premiership winners put on a good show for those who did watch it, but with the world suffering from an Olympic hangover where humility and grace went hand in hand with sporting excellence, nine months of football and putting up with those who play

it, seems like an awful proposition to some after what we witnessed in London.

Premiership teams have once again had a busy summer in the transfer market spending the sort of money other leagues can only dream of. Arsenal have surprisingly been extremely busy bringing in world class talent such as Lukas Podolski, Olivier Giroud and Santi Cazorla for a combined fee of 40 million pounds sterling. Liverpool, Manchester City and Manchester United have made a couple of expensive signings but nothing like Arsenal. Chelsea have spent over 60 million pounds sterling but their spending is not really as surprising as Arsenal's.

The vast sums of money Premiership teams spend on players tends only to be matched by Real Madrid and Barcelona; The French side Paris Saint Germain are now owned by a Qatari family and have been spending money like there is no tomorrow, but generally the big two from Spain tend to compete financially with English teams.

The Italian league is normally a frugal league and a few teams will splurge on a marquee signing, but overall, teams in the league don't overspend. Silvio Berlusconi, who sold Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Thiago Silva to PSG, has stated that AC Milan's days of spending big are behind them and the club



Edin Hazard skips past a lumbering James Milner during Community Shield. Photo: AFP

will be run in a more astute manner.

The amount of money spent in English football doesn't really fit into Uefa's financial fair play rule which insists clubs are not allowed to spend more than they earn.

The rule was brought in to stop clubs across Europe getting into financial difficulty and to help protect the long term future of clubs.

With two weeks left until the transfer window closes, many clubs across Europe still have time to splash the cash. And in

this time of financial uncertainty, and after witnessing sporting excellence by athletes who can only dream of the money footballers receive, Premiership and European football needs to take a long hard look at itself and take a leaf out of the Olympics' book.

The football season kicks off in England and Spain this weekend, with the German and Italian leagues starting the following weekend.

— Andrew Scott

SPORTS briefs...

FOOTBALL: Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo will go head to head for Uefa's Best Player in Europe award.

Last year's winner Messi is joined in the final three by Barcelona teammate Andres Iniesta and for the second year running, Ronaldo.

The winner will be announced on August 30 in Monaco, on the same day as the Champions League group stage draw. Messi is also the current holder of the Fifa Ballon d'or award for the world's best player.

NFL: The Miami Dolphins released their receiver, Chad Johnson, after he was arrested for domestic battery when his wife accused him of head-butting her.

The confrontation came barely a month after Johnson married Evelyn Lozada, who is on the reality TV show Basketball Wives.

The incident happened when the two were seated in the back of their car talking about a shopping receipt with a dubious item on it.

Supposedly, Johnson got upset and head-butted his wife.

CRICKET: Kevin Pietersen has been dropped for the third test against South Africa after a turbulent week for the cricketer.

Earlier this week he threatened to quit international cricket altogether and he was alleged to have sent derogatory texts about England players to members of the South African team.

The England selectors made it clear with Pietersen that no player is bigger than the team.

England play South Africa in the third test at Lords August 16-20.

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The noble art of Muay Chaiya

By Nanthapa Pengkasem

MUAY Chaiya, or Chaiya-styled Thai Boxing, is part of the martial arts that are collectively known as Muay Boran, literally the ancient art of fighting. It's the ancestor of the ever-popular Thai boxing, Muay Thai, which has been heavily adapted and modified into the fast and furious stage fight that we know today.

Originating in Chaiya, a town in Surat Thani Province, Muay Chaiya has kept its philosophy and forms intact, probably one of the few fighting disciplines that has managed to do so today. It is practiced by a handful of people who are in the know and who are lucky enough to have a club or a teacher nearby.

Muay Chaiya prides itself on being graceful in movement and style, an agility that demands one-pointed concentration. "It's more of a martial art than boxing; it is a fighting style that relies on self-defense and the clever deflection of the attacker's strength," says Kru Pong, a young master who teaches Muay Chaiya from a gym at the Sukho Cultural Spa on Chao Fah Road.

Muay Chaiya is a traditional martial art used by the guards of the Thai Kings in ancient

times. Forbidden to carry weapons in proximity of the Royal Family, these warriors trained to ward off assailants using their bare hands and other parts of the body as weapons, and as a protective shield.

But Muay Chaiya also makes full use of swords, lances, clubs and other fighting apparatus. In addition, anything can be turned into a weapon in times of emergency – even a pha khao mah or loincloth, can be used.

"The philosophy of Muay Chaiya is to turn yourself into a durian with deadly thorns, upon which attackers can hurt themselves," says Tachapon Tephabut, Muay Chaiya enthusiast and MD of Sukho Cultural Spa. Indeed, Muay Chaiya fighters make full use of their body extremities such as elbows, knees, knuckles, heels, ankles and even the side of the skull, to hurt opponents.

Sometimes referred to as Muay Kart Chuak or hand-bound boxing, Muay Chaiya fighters tightly wrap their hands in cotton strips turning their fists into stiff gloves.

"Hand binding is an art form in itself and some fighters create knots that upon impact can actually hurt opponents," says Rat Puanrak, another enthusiast who practices with Kru Pong on a regular basis. A professional photographer, Rat is working on a photo documentary book on the subject.

The beautiful and mesmerizing dance-like styles of Muay Chaiya mimic movements made by animals, real and mythical, and are named as such. "Crocodile's Tale Swipe" refers to a back kick produced after a fast turn by the boxer, and "Hanuman Proffering Ring" is a powerful punch under the opponent's chin.

Muay Chaiya was made famous by the

Tai blockbuster film *Ong Bak*, in which the main protagonist, played by Tony Jaa, used Muay Chaiya to defeat evil.

Before filming, Tony Jaa underwent rigorous training with Kru Laem, a senior Muay Chaiya master working in Bangkok, who also choreographed many of the film's fighting scenes.

A typical class of Muay Chaiya consists of a series of exercises, which include: developing correct stance, footwork, body movements, and guarding yourself with arms and legs. Then comes the training with a long cane, a graceful but fast movement that requires alertness and concentration.

"It's a great sport that combines workout, concentration and self-defense; it can be practiced by people of all ages. I'd love to see more young people, especially girls, taking up Muay Chaiya. Some parents report that their children have become calmer and more focused in school after a few months of practice".

Muay Chai Classes are held 5:30 – 7:30 pm, Tuesday – Friday and 10 – 12 am, Saturday – Sunday at Sukho Spa on Chao Fah West Road. Tel +66 7626 3222



ON GUARD: Two of only a handful remaining Muay Chaiya fighters go through their strict regime in a forest. The man on right uses his elbow to deflect left body kick. Photo: Rat Ruanrak

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Bangla bouts a bash

PATONG'S Bangla Stadium was the sight of fierce action last Sunday evening with six Muay Thai championship bouts staged in honor of HM Queen Sirikit's 80th birthday celebration.

Drawing much attention was the WMC female 112-pound (50.8kg) class fight. Kwanjai Pabaijaturat from Thailand won, by decision, over her fearsome challenger from Sweden, Teresa Sinbi Muay Thai. Complimenting her triumph, Kwanjai was subsequently awarded the "Most Out Standing Boxer" prize.

Here are the results of the other fights:

In the 118-pound WMC female class, Sunantha Rawai Muay Thai from Finland out-boxed Tanyakorn Sor Tammajak from Thailand.

In the 154-pound WMC male class, Rolex Dragon Muay Thai from Thailand beat Charlie Sing Patong from England by a knock out in the third round. Nong Nan Jor Nguan Gym from Thailand was knocked out in the third round by Clair Tiger Muay Thai from Luxembourg in the 153-pound WMC female class. Wanmarilo Gaewsamrit from Spain lost her fight against Munggonepetch Dragon Muay Thai from Thailand by a decision in the 135-pound WMC male class. In the 147-pound WMC male class, Jerry Sinbi Muay Thai from England beat Tracy Tiger Muay Thai from New Zealand, winning by decision.

See pictures on panel to the right.

Thai Futsal season set for October start

REPRESENTATIVES from the 16 teams set to compete in the Thailand Futsal League's (TFL) 2012-2013 season, including Phuket United, were told to prepare for an unofficial season opener by October.

The team reps recently held a meeting with Tirachai Wuthitham, President of the National Futsal Development council, to discuss the commencement of this year's season.

Initially planned for July, the three month delay follows the entertainment and multimedia firm, Grammy pulling out as primary league sponsors.

The indefinite delay had sparked concern among fans, players and team reps that TFL's star players would choose to play 11-a-side football instead, or even play in other leagues outside of Thailand, lowering the league's standard.



BRAZILLIAN FLAIR: Phuket United's Rogerio Moreira (in red) helped the team get promoted to the TFL.

Mr Tirachai said that the unofficial start will comprise just a few matches aimed at creating futsal buzz leading up to the start of the FIFA Futsal World Cup, which is set to be hosted in Thailand from November 1-18.

League play will break just

before the World Cup to allow national squad players ample time to prepare. The official beginning of the TFL 2012-2013 season will then commence in December, the meeting was told.

Mr Tirachai was also adamant that the TFL FA Cup will also be organized and held at an as of yet undetermined date, allowing at least 64 qualifying teams, including the 16 TFL squads, a chance to compete.

"We have sponsors for the FA cup already. We still need to discuss when and how to organize this year's cup.

"There are two options. We can have a lottery draw for all the teams that apply, including the 16 TFL teams, and hold it knockout style. Or, we can give the 16 TFL teams a bye to later rounds, and have the other sides in a knock-out bracket," he said. - *Steven Layne*



Participants register at Amarin Plaza in Bangkok. Photo: Quiksilver Thailand

2012 Quiksilver Surf Competition makes media buzz

AS WE continue into one of the driest wet seasons in recent history, Phuket has been getting national attention at a press conference in Bangkok.

The event was designed to create 'media hype' for the upcoming Quiksilver tournament that will take place from September 12-15 at Patong Beach. This year's competition will feature five-time women's World ASP surf champion from Australia Stephanie "Happy" Gilmore. A similar conference is scheduled in Phuket over the next week. - *Phuket Gazette*



ACCOMPLISHED FIGHTER: Kwanjai Pabaijaturat was awarded "Most Outstanding Boxer" following her victory on Sunday.



WHITE WARRIOR: Sunantha Rawai Muay Thai from Finland beat Thailand's Tanyakorn Sor Tammajak by decision.

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Clear of relegation – for now

By Steven Layne

BACK-TO-BACK wins last week helped to finally pull Phuket FC out of the dreaded relegation zone, where they have lingered for much of the 2012 season.

In their latest triumph, last Sunday evening, a single goal by Watcharakorn "Bird" Klaithin was enough for the islanders to prevail 1-0 over Chanthaburi FC.

That away match, the season's 22nd fixture, was played in front of a humble crowd of 420 at Chanthaburi's Central Stadium in Chanthaburi town in Eastern Thailand.

Though Phuket were heavily favored, there was a clear difference on the Chanthaburi side, who were in better form than the side that were trampled by Phuket 8-1 in June.

The second encounter's only goal came in the final moments of the first half when striker Bird took a long range shot from outside the left corner of the penalty box, beautifully hitting its mark at the far post.

Scoring his fourth of the season, Bird, a transfer from Suphanburi FC, is currently the Islanders' top scorer.

The result leaves Chanthaburi, who have yet to win a game this season, in dead last of the 18-team Yamaha One

(Division 1) league.

Phuket, on the other hand, climbed up into 11th place, clear of the five team relegation zone – at least for now.

The win follows another single goal victory by Phuket several days earlier against Royal Navy FC.

Recently signed Defender, Nontaphan "Berm" Jiensathawong, scored from a free kick in the second half in that game.

Just over 2,000 fans turned up for the match, which was played in perfect conditions at Phuket's Surakul Stadium.

Favored with a mid-table ranking, Navy dominated play at the start of the first half. Slowly but surely, Phuket started to find their rhythm, enjoying several scoring chances before the half-time break, though the score remained 0-0.

The stalemate was finally broken on 76 minutes, when Nontaphan took a free kick from 20 yards out, a shot which found its way over the defensive wall and past the outstretched arm of the Navy keeper.

With seven points from their last three matches, the Islanders now head to the capital to take on 12th placed, Bangkok FC. Kickoff for the match, to be played at Chalerm Phrakiet Stadium in Bang Mod,



MOVING ON UP: Recent signing, Nontaphan Jiensathawong (above, center) celebrates his goal (left, inset) in the Islander's recent victory over Navy. Photo: courtesy of Phuket FC Fanclub

Thonburi, will be at 5pm.

Phuket's next home match will be on August 26, against league leaders Ratchaburi Mitrphol FC, who beat Phuket 3-0 in Ratchaburi in May.

The Islander's star Brazilian keeper, Alonso Goleiro, told the *Gazette* that he

expects to play in that match. Goleiro was dismissed with a red card mid-way through the first meeting. Leading up to the controversial ejection, the score was level 0-0.

Kickoff for the highly anticipated rematch, to be played at Surakul Stadium in Phuket Town, is set for 6:30pm.

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